



The Indian Panorama Endorses Kamala Harris for President and Tim Walz for Vice President



As one of the leading voices in the Indian American community, The Indian Panorama has always prided itself on making objective and impartial assessments of political situations and candidates. Our endorsement process is driven solely by the eligibility and value of a candidate for a position, with the overarching goal of supporting leaders who can best guide the future of America.

The forthcoming U.S. Presidential election is, in our view, one of the most consequential in recent years. America today is divided and wounded, struggling with deep social, economic, and political rifts that threaten the very fabric of our nation. The need for unity and healing has never been more urgent. At a time when America is losing its influence in the global arena, it is imperative that we choose leaders who can restore our credibility and leadership on the world stage.

In this context, we believe that Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Governor Tim Walz, stand out as the candidates most capable of guiding the destiny of America and its people.

Vice President Kamala Harris has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and the welfare of all Americans. Her tenure as Vice President has been marked by her steadfast advocacy for marginalized communities, her dedication to addressing climate change, and her leadership in navigating complex global challenges. Her experience as a former U.S. Senator and California Attorney General has equipped her with a

deep understanding of the law, policy, and governance, making her uniquely qualified to lead the nation in these turbulent times.

Governor Tim Walz, with his extensive experience as a leader in Minnesota, brings a pragmatic and compassionate approach to governance. His record as a governor speaks volumes about his ability to bridge divides, whether they be political, economic, or social. Governor Walz has consistently prioritized the needs of working families, education, and healthcare-issues that are at the heart of the American experience. His military service and background as a teacher further underscore his commitment to service and his understanding of the diverse needs of the American people.

Together, Kamala Harris and Tim Walz represent a partnership that embodies the values of empathy, inclusivity, and forward-thinking leadership. They have the vision to address the pressing challenges of our time, from economic inequality to racial justice, and the experience to execute that vision effectively.

In a time when America must rebuild both at home and abroad, we are confident that Kamala Harris and Tim Walz possess the qualities necessary to lead our nation towards a brighter, more united future.

It is with great pride and conviction that The Indian Panorama endorses Kamala Harris for President and Tim Walz for Vice President in the upcoming election. We believe they are the leaders America needs to heal, grow, and reclaim its standing in the world.

Punishment given for crimes against women should be publicized, says PM Modi in his address to the Nation on 78th Independence Day

THANKS WORLD LEADERS FOR GREETINGS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing from the rampart of the Redfort on the 78th Independence Day Celebration in New Delhi on Thursday, August 15, 2024

Photo Credit: R.V. Moorthy/ The Hindu



AUGUST 16, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 11th address to the nation from the Red Fort, highlighted the achievements and plans to lay down the roadmap for a 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047.

PM Modi gave a renewed push to the BJP's ideological aim of a Uniform Civil

Code, reframing the idea as a "secular civil code" enshrined in the Constitution and a way of ensuring equality before the law for all.

PM Modi also thanked several world leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

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Kolkata doctor rape-murder: AIIMS-Delhi doctors to continue protest; CBI begins probe



Doctors of Government Medical College and Hospital stage a protest against the rape and killing of post-graduate trainee doctor in Kolkata, in Nagpur on August 13, 2024. PTI

AUGUST 14, 2024

KOLKATA (TIP): A team of senior CBI officers reached Kolkata on Wednesday, August 14 morning to investigate the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor at a state-run hospital

in West Bengal, sources at the Central agency said. The CBI team, which comprises medical and forensic experts, will visit the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's seminar hall where the

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COMMENT

India Celebrates 78th Independence Day



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

As India celebrates its 78th year of independence, it is natural to reflect on the long and arduous journey that led to this momentous occasion. India's struggle for freedom is a story that spans thousands of years, marked by resilience, sacrifice, and an unyielding desire for self-determination. This narrative is not just about the last few centuries but stretches back to a time when India was subjected to invasions and foreign rule for over a thousand years.

India's history is one of both glory and subjugation. Before the 7th century BC, the Indian subcontinent saw invasions by figures like Alexander the Great, who came, conquered, and left. These early invaders did not stay long enough to leave a lasting imprint on the subcontinent's socio-political fabric. However,

beginning in the 7th century AD, India began to experience a series of invasions by Muslim rulers from Central Asia, the Middle East, and Persia. Unlike their predecessors, these invaders did not merely come to plunder; they came to stay.

The first significant

16th century, it had consolidated much of the Indian subcontinent under its rule. The Mughals, unlike their predecessors, became an integral part of India's cultural and political landscape, blending their traditions with the indigenous ones.

The Mughal Empire's decline in the 18th century opened the door for the British to establish their control over India. The British East India Company, initially a trading entity, gradually became a political power, exploiting the fractured state of the subcontinent. By 1858, after the failure of the Indian Rebellion of 1857, India officially became a British colony, ushering in over 200 years of British rule.

British rule in India was characterized by economic exploitation, social discrimination, and cultural subjugation. The British systematically dismantled India's traditional industries, such as textiles, to serve their economic interests, leading to widespread poverty and famine. The infamous Bengal Famine of 1943, which resulted in the deaths of millions, was a direct consequence of British policies that prioritized war efforts over the welfare of the Indian people.

Socially, the British implemented policies that deepened existing divisions in Indian society, particularly along caste and religious lines. The policy of "divide and rule" was used to prevent a unified resistance against British rule. This period also saw the introduction of English education, which, while creating a new class of educated Indians, also alienated them from their own culture and traditions.

Culturally, the British sought to impose their values and norms on Indian society, often dismissing India's rich heritage as inferior or backward. Indian art, literature, and traditions were either appropriated or marginalized, leading to a sense of cultural inferiority among many Indians.

Despite the oppressive nature of British rule, India was not a passive victim. The Indian struggle for freedom is a unique and unparalleled story of resilience and sacrifice. From the early resistance movements of the 19th century to the mass movements of the 20th century, India's freedom struggle was characterized by a diverse range of approaches and ideologies.

The first significant resistance to British rule came in the form of the Indian Rebellion of 1857, also known as the First War of Indian Independence. Although the rebellion was ultimately unsuccessful, it marked the beginning of a long and determined struggle for freedom. In the late 19th century, leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale began to demand greater political rights for Indians, laying the groundwork for the Indian National Congress, which was established in 1885.

The early 20th century saw the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as the

leader of the Indian freedom movement. Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, or "Ahimsa," became the cornerstone of the Indian struggle for independence. Unlike other freedom movements around the world, which were often characterized by violent uprisings, the Indian freedom movement under Gandhi's leadership remained largely non-violent, even in the face of brutal repression by the British.

The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922), the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934), and the Quit India Movement (1942) were some of the major mass movements led by Gandhi that mobilized millions of Indians from all walks of life. These movements were marked by widespread boycotts of British goods, non-payment of taxes, and peaceful protests. The Salt March of 1930, where Gandhi and his followers marched 240 miles to the Arabian Sea to make salt in defiance of British laws, became a symbol of India's resolve to achieve freedom through non-violence.

However, the Indian freedom struggle was not without its sacrifices. Thousands of Indians were imprisoned, tortured, and killed by the British for their participation in the freedom movement. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, where British troops opened fire on unarmed protesters, killing hundreds, remains one of the darkest chapters in the history of British rule in India. Despite these atrocities, the Indian people remained steadfast in their commitment to achieving freedom.

On August 15, 1947, India finally achieved its hard-earned freedom. The joy of independence, however, was tempered by the tragedy of partition. The British decision to divide India into two separate nations, India and Pakistan, led to one of the largest mass migrations in history. Millions of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were displaced from their homes, leading to widespread violence and the loss of countless lives. The wounds of partition remain a painful memory for many, even as India celebrates its independence.

Despite the challenges of partition, India set out to build a new nation based on the principles of democracy, secularism, and social justice. The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, enshrined these principles and provided a framework for the country's development.

One of the most remarkable aspects of India's post-independence journey has been its economic progress. At the time of independence, India was an impoverished nation with a predominantly agrarian economy. The early years of independence were marked by efforts to build a self-reliant economy through policies of import substitution and industrialization.

In the 1990s, India embarked on a path of economic liberalization, opening up its economy to global markets and foreign investment. This shift marked the beginning of India's transformation into one of the world's fastest-growing

economies. Today, India is the fifth-largest economy in the world, and it is poised to become the third-largest within the next decade.

India's economic progress is not just about GDP growth; it is also about the empowerment of its people. The country has made significant strides in reducing poverty, improving healthcare and education, and expanding access to basic services like electricity and clean water. The rise of the Indian middle class, coupled with advancements in technology and innovation, has positioned India as a global leader in various sectors, including information technology, pharmaceuticals, and space exploration. Over the past 78 years, India has made significant strides in various fields, from science and technology to education and healthcare.

India's rise on the global stage is not just limited to its economic achievements. The country's rich cultural heritage, which spans thousands of years, has earned it respect and admiration worldwide. Indian art, music, dance, and literature are celebrated across the globe, and Indian traditions like yoga and Ayurveda have gained popularity in many countries.

India's philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which means "the world is one family," reflects its commitment to peace, harmony, and coexistence. This principle has guided India's foreign policy, which emphasizes diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect. India's role as a leader in the Non-Aligned Movement, its contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, and its active participation in global climate initiatives are a testament to its commitment to these values.

As India celebrates its 78th Independence Day, it is clear that the country has come a long way since 1947. Despite the challenges and setbacks, India has emerged as a resilient and dynamic nation, with a bright future ahead. The country's young and vibrant population, coupled with its rich cultural heritage and economic potential, positions India as a global leader in the 21st century.

However, the journey is far from over. India still faces numerous challenges, including poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The path to becoming a truly developed and inclusive nation requires continued efforts to address these issues and ensure that the benefits of progress reach all sections of society.

As India marches forward, it must also remain true to the values and principles that have guided its journey so far—democracy, secularism, non-violence, and social justice. These values are the foundation of India's identity and its greatest strength. As the country celebrates its 78th Independence Day, it is a moment to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future filled with hope, promise, and possibility.



Muslim invasion was by Muhammad bin Qasim in 711 AD, who conquered Sindh. This was followed by a series of invasions by rulers like Mahmud of Ghazni and Muhammad Ghori, who laid the foundations for Muslim rule in India. By the 12th century, these invaders had established several Sultanates, with the Delhi Sultanate being the most prominent. Over time, the Mughal Empire rose to power, and by the



GUEST COMMENT

Crave to be the best as consolations are illusionary

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

A nation of 1.4 billion people, claiming itself to be a world economic power, ended its campaign in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games without getting anywhere near showcasing a world champion in sports.

Why are we not able to produce world champions in sports? It is a million-rupee question that the country is either reluctant or refuses to answer.

India tally of six medals - a silver and five bronze medals - even fails to equal what the country achieved in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. In the past four years, we lost the only World champion title - Neeraj Chopra in javelin throw - we had.

India lost it to its neighbor that is torn by strife, has its economy shattered and struggling to survive.

Compared to 117-strong squad sent by

India, Pakistan's contingent comprised of only seven people, of which only two - the new Olympic champion in javelin Nadeem Ashraf and his coach - were financed by the Pakistan Sports Control Board.

India has a population of 1.4 billion that is spread across states that are larger than many countries. About 200 million people live in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Pakistan is much smaller, but is still the world's fifth most populous country, with more than 230 million people.

Geographically, India is almost four times bigger than Pakistan.

Since Independence, India has won hockey gold five teams, including the last it won from a depleted field in Moscow in 1980 while Pakistan has won three times.

India has won only two individual gold medals in Olympic Games. The first of which came in shooting - Abhinav Bindra - in 2008 Beijing Olympic games and second in the Tokyo Olympic Games through javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

Many other Asian nations are far

ahead of India. China shared the top spot with the USA with 40 gold medals each. Japan and Korea are other Asian superpowers in sports. They continue to be among top eight sporting nations of the world.

Other than them, Islamic Republic of Iran, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, Philippines and Indonesia had two gold medals each in the just concluded Olympic Games. Countries like Israel, Thailand and Pakistan also ended on the medals tally with a gold medal each.

India, however, draws its consolation that 21 of its 117 athletes that went to Paris came back with medals hanging around their necks. Sixteen of these medals - bronze - came from hockey and three from shooting. Only other medal won by India was a bronze in wrestling.

India feels contended with consolatory medals, generally bronze and sometime with silver, and probably lack the will or capability to win gold medals. As a true sporting nation, we keep gold for others and feel content with silver and bronze.

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EVER TRUTHFUL

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Buch's probity: Erase all doubts

Hindenburg allegations against Madhabi Puri Buch may be wholly baseless, but need to be shown as such by an independent probe

The Opposition has demanded that Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chair Madhabi Puri Buch step down over alleged conflict of interest issues raised by Hindenburg Research - and that a joint parliamentary committee inquiry be launched. Over the weekend, Hindenburg released a raft of allegations against Puri Buch: that she and her husband, Dhaval Buch, held stakes in "the exact same" offshore funds "in the same complex nested structure, used by Vinod Adani", the brother of Gautam Adani, the head of the Adani Group; that there is a conflict of issue between Puri Buch's role at Sebi and her husband's involvement with private equity firm Blackstone; and that Puri Buch held an active stake in a Singapore-based consultancy firm even as she occupied the post of Sebi chair, and transferred this to her husband two weeks after her appointment.

While the Buchs' point-by-point rebuttal of the Hindenburg allegations shows that all required disclosures were made to Sebi and are available for scrutiny by the relevant authorities if needed, that Puri Buch recused herself from matters where there was even a hint of a conflict of interest, and that the Adani linkage the research firm sought to make was a bit of a stretch, a regulator should not only be above suspicion but also seen to be such. Even though a probe may well reaffirm what the Buchs have said, it may still be in order, if only to shut down the politicization of the Hindenburg reports that have roiled India Inc over the past year-and-a-half.

The Opposition's other demand, of a joint parliamentary committee probe, will amount to little except prolonged political jousting. Meanwhile, the allegations will likely continue to be used as fodder to undermine trust in the regulator. Perhaps, the Supreme Court should consider setting up a panel of independent experts to look into the allegations, though it had decided against monitoring an investigation of the previous set of Hindenburg allegations in January, and later rejected a petition to review this decision. This will help preserve the image of the regulator as being fair and unbiased, prevent rabble-rousing by interested parties, and ensure that the Indian stock market isn't manipulated by forces inimical to the interests of investors.

(Hindustan Times)

Kolkata horror

The rape-murder of a post-graduate trainee doctor at a state-run medical college and hospital in Kolkata has shocked the nation and triggered countrywide protests by doctors and medical students. The chilling brutality of the crime has led to comparisons with the 2012 Nirbhaya case, which had shaken our collective conscience and served as a catalyst for tightening rape laws. The resident doctor was sexually assaulted and killed in a seminar hall, where she had gone to take a short break from her strenuous duty. The college principal has resigned, while two security guards have been expelled for dereliction of duty. Nothing less than a high-level probe is needed to get to the bottom of this horrifying matter.

The need to ensure the safety and security of healthcare professionals cannot be overemphasized. What makes life-savers and healers vulnerable to violence and harassment? Grueling timings, especially odd hours, excessive workload due to staff shortage, the entry of unauthorized or undesirable persons and undue pressure from some patients' families are key factors. During the Covid-19 pandemic, countless doctors had put their lives on the line to save patients; around 1,600 of them didn't survive. Yet, the medical community remains unappreciated and unprotected.

Doctors and paramedics simply cannot discharge their duties to the best of their ability if the fear of being attacked or accosted hounds them at every step. A Bill seeking to safeguard healthcare personnel and the property of medical institutions remains in limbo. Practically nothing has changed on the ground since Kerala doctor Vandana Das was stabbed to death by a drug addict at a hospital in May last year. And not many remember the case of Aruna Shanbaug, a nurse who was sexually assaulted in a Mumbai hospital in 1973 and spent the next four decades in a vegetative state before she breathed her last. Will the Kolkata horror pave the way for much-needed reforms? Let's see.

(Tribune, India)

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Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra
Ambassador of India
To Guatemala,
Honduras, El Salvador

Message

It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my heartfelt greetings to the esteemed readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day. As we celebrate this momentous milestone in our nation's history, I am delighted to acknowledge the invaluable role that Indian Panorama plays in connecting the Indian diaspora with their roots.

The Indian Panorama stands as a distinguished beacon of Indian culture and heritage within the vibrant landscape of New York. Its dedication to presenting a wide array of news, insights, and narratives not only strengthens the bond between the Indian community abroad and their homeland but also enriches the cultural tapestry of our diaspora.

India's remarkable journey of development over recent decades has had a profound impact globally, including in Central America. India's transformation into one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies is not just a testament to its own progress but also serves as a catalyst for positive change in regions like Central America. In Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, India's development story has inspired significant collaboration, particularly in areas such as technology, infrastructure, and healthcare. Indian investments in infrastructure projects are creating new opportunities and enhancing local economies. Furthermore, India's expertise in technology and healthcare is contributing to advancements in these sectors, improving quality of life and fostering growth. This growing partnership underscores India's commitment to global development and highlights the potential for continued collaboration and mutual prosperity in the Central American region.

On this special occasion, I commend The Indian Panorama for its unwavering commitment to highlighting the stories and achievements that reflect the spirit and dynamism of India. May your publication continue to inspire and inform, bridging the gap between communities and fostering a deeper understanding of our shared heritage.

Congratulations on your special issue, and here's to many more years of impactful journalism that celebrates our collective journey and achievements.

Warm regards,

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

August 5, 2024



MESSAGE

On the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, I convey my warmest greetings to all readers of The Indian Panorama. People across the world, Indians, India-Americans and friends of India, eagerly await for this day each year. The zest and fervor with which Independence Day is celebrated in the United States is very special. When we visit Long Island, Edison or any other part of the United States where the tricolor is being unfurled, the atmosphere is so vibrant and colorful that it almost appears as if one is in India! And it is so because of the very deep emotional connect that the people of Indian origin in this country have with their motherland. We are also celebrating an ever-deepening partnership between India and the United States which is cemented by the highly successful Indian-American community.

We had celebrated 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and participated in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' program last year in large numbers. As India embarks on the journey through the Amrit Kaal towards Viksit Bharat or Developed India by 2047, we commit to leaving no section of society behind in our development journey. I urge one and all to wholeheartedly embrace these initiatives so that we can make the 78th Independence Day celebrations a grand success.

For many of us, the day when India's tricolor was first unfurled at the Red Fort, remains an ever-lasting font of inspiration. May the same feelings and emotions permeate us all as the tricolor is unfurled once again this 15th August.

Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind!

(Binaya S. Pradhan)

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Message

I am delighted to learn that 'The Indian Panorama' will be publishing an illustrated special issue to mark India's 78th Independence Day. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes on this joyous occasion.

India is undergoing transformative changes. Advancements in technology, manufacturing, and sustainable energy drive robust GDP growth, with a focus on digital transformation positioning India as a global tech leader. Healthcare improvements, including expanded telemedicine, enhance accessibility, while infrastructure development, led by the National Infrastructure Pipeline, modernizes transportation and urban areas. India's renewable energy push aims for 500 GW by 2030, and education initiatives foster critical thinking and innovation.

Globally, India strengthens strategic partnerships and addresses challenges like climate change and cybersecurity, demonstrating its commitment to collaborative solutions. These developments reflect India's dedication to progress, inclusivity, and sustainability, promising a brighter future for its citizens and a positive global impact.

A nation's strength comes from the dedication and contributions of its people, both domestically and abroad. The Southeastern USA's 450,000 Indian Americans excel in various fields, enriching American society and strengthening India-US relations, especially in trade and investment.

The India-US partnership, rooted in democratic values and mutual interests, has evolved into one of the most significant relationships of the 21st century. Prime Minister Modi's State visit to the USA in June 2023, including a meeting with President Biden, address to a Joint Meeting of US Congress, and interactions with business leaders, underscored the importance of this relationship. Economic ties have strengthened, with bilateral trade at USD 190 billion in 2023 and a goal of USD 300 billion by 2027.

I take this opportunity to congratulate 'The Indian Panorama', its office bearers and other members for their commitment and hard work in successfully bringing out this edition of the special issue. I wish Team 'The Indian Panorama' a great success in their endeavours.

(Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan)

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MESSAGE

It is a privilege to greet all the readers of *The Indian Panorama* on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day.

At the November 2023 New York UN Summit to assess the implementation of Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all world leaders unanimously agreed that the SDGs have been derailed by "numerous crises".

The unprecedented Covid pandemic pushed as many as 100 million people, mainly in the Global South, back into extreme poverty, widening the gap between the rich and poor within, and between, countries. Protectionist barriers, including unilateral sanctions, are increasingly restricting the Global South's access to global markets. A dysfunctional UN Security Council has allowed its core function of maintaining international peace and security to be usurped by armed alliances and sectarian conflicts, mainly affecting the Global South.

The principle of international cooperation which is essential for the transformation of India is severely challenged. Today, India has to lead the efforts of the Global South for an equitable world, in which the priority is our agreed commitment to meet the targets of the SDGs, and not to engage in a "new Cold War".

It was in New York on 19 September 1947 that an independent India declared that "ideology is less important than practice. We cannot eat an ideology; we cannot brandish an ideology, and feel that we are clothed and housed. Food, clothing, shelter, education, medical services-these are the things we need."

That is the vision before us as our leaders meet next month in New York for the Summit of the Future.

I wish the readers of *The Indian Panorama* success in their individual and collective endeavours on this significant occasion.

JAI HIND!

Asoke Mukerji
Former Ambassador/Permanent Representative
of India to the United Nations in New York



Representative
(D-NY 3rd District)

Message

"Happy Indian Independence Day, to everyone celebrating. Throughout my career in public service, I have worked to elevate the US-India partnership and believe it to be one of our most important relationships for the next 50 years. Our relationship is driven, in part, by our vibrant Indian American community, one of the most industrious and successful diaspora populations in the world. Today, we also celebrate their contributions to our communities here on Long Island and in Queens. I am a proud member of the Indian Caucus.

This month introduced House Resolution 1394 which celebrates the principles of democracy, religious pluralism, human rights, and the rule of law shared by both the United States and India. I wish all my friends in the Indian community happy, healthy, and safe celebrations. Jai Hind!"

Tom Suozzi



Ashok Mago
Founding Chairman
US INDIA Chamber of
Commerce (DFW)

Message

On the occasion of India's Independence Day Indian Americans wish the entire nation of India a wonderful 78th independence day. We congratulate the accomplishments of our country of birth for its tremendous growth particularly in the last ten - 15 years,

There is so much in common between US & India. The needs and concerns of India are not any different than those of USA: Elimination of terrorism, global warming, inflation, need for better educated, scientific thinking, healthy and hardworking people; to provide opportunities of good education to everyone; extensive use of nuclear technology for energy needs and better industrial production; and concern for the future generations. It seems like the largest democracy and the oldest democracy working together can help the world to be a better place. India just had it's elections and now USA will have its in the next three months. Indian Americans will play a vital role in that. Wish India will consider granting Dual Citizenship.

Best Wishes
Ashok Mago



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August 9, 2024

The Indian Panorama
124 Dean Street
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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my best wishes of the Indian Panorama on the publication of its special issue celebrating India's 78th Independence Day!

On this important holiday, we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and join in festivities with friends, family and our community. Special thanks to the Indian Panorama as it continues to bring its readers the latest news and important information so that our community can stay abreast of current news and events. Since the newspaper's inception in 2006, the Indian Panorama has rapidly come to occupy a central place for the South Asian community and serve as an essential resource in this multicultural, multireligious contemporary American society.

On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend all of the correspondents and staff of The Indian Panorama for their service. My sincere thanks to Chief Editor Professor Indrajit S. Saluja for his hard work and dedicated leadership. I look forward to continuing to work as your State Senator on behalf of our community in the future, and I would like to express my best wishes for a joyous Independence Day!

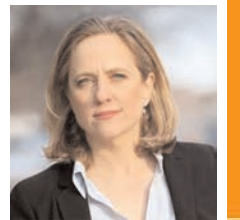
Wishing you and your loved ones a most joyous holiday during this 78th Independence Day!

Sincerely,



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



August 5, 2024

The Indian Panorama
P.O. Box 190067
South Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Dear Professor Saluja,

It is my great privilege to send greetings to my neighbors and friends on the 78th Independence Day of India. Queens is home to one of the largest and most influential Indian diaspora communities in the world.

Since 2006, the Indian Panorama has provided a tremendous service by documenting the strong connection that holds families and culture together over time and great distance between India and many places in the Indian diaspora, none more vibrant and vital than Queens. I am hopeful today will be an opportunity for celebration and positive dialogue.

As I enter my second term as District Attorney, I am encouraged that the work of ensuring justice in this borough is always on behalf of its amazing people.

In Friendship,

Melinda Katz
Queens County District Attorney



Harry Singh Bolla
CEO Bolla Oil Corporation 11530



809 Stewart Ave,
Garden City, NY

Message

It gives me a great pleasure to write a message on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of India. Nothing could have pleased me more than to have been asked by Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja, publisher/ editor of The Indian Panorama to write a Message on the historic day of the birth of democracy in India where I come from. It is a proud occasion for 1.45 billion Indians in India and millions of Indians abroad across the world. I am delighted also to know that the Indian Panorama has been publishing a special edition on the historic occasion since 2006 with a view to familiarizing the readers of The Indian Panorama with the history of the freedom struggle, the sacrifices of the heroic soldiers of freedom and the growth story of India.

I have seen the rising graph of The Indian Panorama for the last several years and the struggles it underwent in accomplishing itself in the US under the Chief Editor, Prof. Indrajit Saluja. Its extraordinary leadership has enabled The Indian Panorama to have an image of journalism without fear or favor. I congratulate Prof. Saluja and his team of dedicated workers.

As India and the world celebrates the 78th year of its Independence it's time for all Indians whether living in India or emigrated abroad with citizenship of other countries to look back at India's journey so far, and at the same time look forward to building a new India that is without inequality, poverty or any other issue that works as a roadblock to its progress.

As an Indian origin American citizen, I look with pride at India's significant achievements in the area of food security, creation of infrastructure, space and defense sector, educational progress and I.T. prowess. However, there is much more to be done, particularly for the common people and their rights, in particular human rights which successive administrations have often trampled underfoot. Let India, the land of sages and saints, patriots and martyrs stand for humanity and peace and help create a world without injustice in any form, without violence in any form and without wars.

Once again, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the readers of The Indian Panorama, to the Indian origin citizens of the USA and to the Indian Panorama for their progress in the future.

Harry S Bolla



Amit Verma
Country Head, US Operations
State Bank of India
460 Park Avenue, New York



Message

As we celebrate India's 78th Independence Day of India, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the readers of Indian Panorama. It is a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought our nation from struggle to triumph. Each year, August 15th serves as a reminder of the vision and sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the values of liberty, unity, and resilience that define us.

For Indians, living far from their homeland, this day carries a special significance. You embody the spirit of India wherever you are, contributing to global communities while keeping the essence of our heritage alive. Your successes and the pride you take in your roots enrich our collective identity and strengthen the bonds between our homeland and its diaspora.

On this Independence Day, let us renew our commitment to the values that shape our nation. May we continue to celebrate our rich cultural legacy and advance the principles of justice and equality. Though miles apart, our hearts remain deeply connected to the motherland. Here's to cherishing our past, celebrating our present, and working together for a brighter future.

Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind!



Prasanta Kumar Tripathy
Chief Executive Officer
State Bank of India
460 Park Avenue, New York



Message

On the momentous occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, we would come together to celebrate the spirit of freedom that defines our great nation. We honor the sacrifices and struggles of countless individuals who paved the way for our sovereignty and shaped the India we cherish today.

The story of our independence is not just a chapter in history but a living testament to our nation's strength and unity. As we reflect on the journey from colonial subjugation to self-rule, we must also embrace the responsibilities that come with freedom. Our diverse culture, rich heritage, and democratic values are the pillars upon which we continue to build our future.

As we wave our tricolor flag and sing our national anthem with pride, let us also renew our commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and inclusivity. India is a mosaic of cultures, languages, and traditions, and it is our collective strength and unity that make us a formidable and resilient nation. Each of us, regardless of our background, has a role to play in shaping the future of our country.

This Independence Day, let us celebrate not just our past achievements, but also our ongoing journey toward progress and prosperity. Let us honor our rich heritage while embracing innovation and positive change. Together, let us work towards a brighter future where every citizen can thrive and contribute to the continued growth and success of our incredible nation.

Happy Independence Day to every Indian back home and abroad. May our nation's spirit of freedom and unity continue to inspire and uplift us all. God bless America! Jai Hind!



K D Sharma
Chief Executive
Bank of India, New York
277, Park Avenue



India is an incredibly diverse nation. Built on a vibrant tapestry of linguistic groups, religions, culture and heritage, India has emerged as one of the leading democracies of the 21st century. Bank of India joins in the celebration of "Viksit Bharat" to commemorate 78 glorious years of Independence of India.

The path to freedom was a long cherished dream for India. We as Indians stand together united, and echo in our voice for the national anthem to celebrate ancient values and heritage that stood firm against the gnaw of time.

We at Bank of India, New York are contributing by helping the Indian diaspora and corporates for their banking requirements in India and US. We are pleased to inform you that the New York branch is active in the banking industry for over the past four decades. We would like to thank our numerous happy clients for their trust in our service and lasting relationship.

As Ambassadors of India in the United States, let us come forward to step on the path of prosperity and glory. The largest democratic nation in the world, India shares democratic ethos with the United States of America. On the auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day celebration, Bank of India extends greetings and felicitations to the Indian diaspora, Indian American Community and friends of India.

May the Tricolour fly high and India reaches the zenith of success. Jai Hind!





V.K. Raju, MD,
FRCS, FACS

Ophthalmologist, Regional Eye Associates
President and Founder,
Eye Foundation of America
President and Founder, Goutami Eye Institute
Clinical Professor, West Virginia University
Director, International Ocular Surface Society
Adjunct Professor, GSL Medical School
Adjunct Professor, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University
Author: Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History-India's Legacy



Message

We are proud to celebrate the 77th birthday of India. Successive governments imposed mindless socialism on the nation which held in thrall the peoples' endeavor and enterprise (We the nation, the last decades by Nani Palkhivala, 1984). The extraordinary economic liberalization took place in 1991 with incredible changes in policy that prevented collapse of the Indian economy. The economic reforms have led to significant economic growth, increased trade and investment and reduced poverty. Above all it proved that India is second to none in entrepreneurial skills and innovation. Until then, a rich country was kept poor by mindless socialism as well as wrong policies.

Today different parts of India still live in different centuries as far as the basic amenities and cultural awareness are concerned. It is no exaggeration to say that India is a highly developed country -sent mission to Mars in the first attempt and launched 400+ foreign satellites for many countries. People from all over the world flock to India for advanced organ transplant surgeries. Yet 35% of children under five years of age are stunted; 19% are wasted and 32% are underweight (December 2023.) This can change with the change in mindset. Prime Minister Modi in his

address to the nation on the 75th Independence Day of India, launched an attack on Bhrashtachar (corruption) and nepotism. With political will, professional will and peoples' will, India can shed its developing country image in no time. India has the unquestionable potential to become an economic juggernaut and number one economy in the world.

After all, India was the richest country in the world before foreign exploitation. The roots of India are strong, founded on Vedas and Upanishads. The Chandogya Upanishad emphasizes moral conduct and ethical precepts that include truthfulness, nonviolence, non - hypocrisy, and charity to others.

The values of Vedas and Upanishads can only flourish when they are upheld with uncompromised integrity.

V.K. Raju



Sheila Chaman
Media - TV News, Author &
Columnist
Communication Skills Expert

Happy 78th Independence Day Message

Happy 78th Independence day, India - our Bharat in as we honor the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom and celebrate the strength and resilience of our Nation! Let us also celebrate our rich Heritage, unity in diversity and the relentless spirit of freedom that continues to inspire us all. As we reflect on our journey, let us commit to building a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Jai Hind !



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SEBI-Hindenburg-Adani row shows mishandling of credibility crisis



BY SUCHETA DALAL

The manner in which India's market regulator, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has gone about investigating the astounding rise in share prices of the Adani Group has been troubling for independent observers, even before Hindenburg Research released its explosive report in January 2023. This harks back to the tenure of another chairperson who is now associated with the industry group, but it was always assumed that SEBI's reluctance was primarily due to political compulsions.

Having ignored the inexplicable price run-up, SEBI, under the present chief, framed its post-Hindenburg investigation primarily on short-selling activities. Even a novice investor understands that short-selling opportunities emerge only when stock prices soar far beyond a company's fundamentals or future prospects. The explosive new 'whistleblower' documents released by Hindenburg Research on August 10 give a new twist to the issue and have led to a full-blown credibility crisis at the market regulator. They question chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's (MPB) integrity and disclosure with a set of facts and documents.

As one of the top five capital markets in the world and a key resource mobiliser for the Indian economy, restoring confidence in the independence of our regulatory mechanism is of paramount importance today. What we are witnessing instead is a textbook example of how not to handle such a situation. In the 36 hours since Hindenburg released its sensational allegations, there has been silence from the government and the finance ministry, which oversees SEBI. Instead, we have seen a series of statements from those involved, which raise more questions than they answer.

Late on Sunday night, SEBI decided that Hindenburg's allegations "warrant an appropriate response". When serious allegations are made against the chairperson and the regulator, an appropriate response cannot be anonymous. It is unclear who is taking responsibility for the press release or whether the issue was even discussed by the board or with the ministry. Exhibiting a complete lack of understanding of the situation, SEBI issued an unsigned press release listing its actions in the Adani matter and defending the chairperson without any semblance of inquiry. It claims that MPB had "recused herself in matters of potential conflicts of interest"; whether she did so in the Adani investigation is not answered.

Meanwhile, there seems to be a concerted attempt to question Hindenburg's credibility and silence or discredit anyone attempting a serious analysis. Unless the government comes up with a nuanced response, these actions will only harm India's credibility.

Despite the clarifications offered by various parties, many issues require further scrutiny. It is now an indisputable fact that MPB and her husband had investments in an offshore entity (Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Ltd), which was part of the same nested entities used by Vinod Adani (Gautam Adani's brother) that were under SEBI's investigation. This warranted a clear disclosure.

SEBI has a precedent of the chairperson (CB Bhavé) being ring-fenced from issues, even when they did not involve personal investments. Even if the investment was redeemed, MPB ought to have recused herself and created a board-monitored committee, perhaps comprising the three whole-time members, to handle the Adani investigation, in consultation with the government. Since this did not happen, it raises questions about MPB's two meetings with Gautam Adani while the investigations were ongoing. No

INDIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST IS NOT SERVED BY DEFENDING ONE BUSINESS GROUP. WITH A MARKET CAPITALIZATION OF SEVERAL LAKH CRORES OF RUPEES AND THE SAVINGS OF COUNTLESS ORDINARY PEOPLE RIDING ON THE MARKET, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SEBI REMAINS CREDIBLE AND IS SEEN TO ADHERE TO THE RULES AND COMPLIANCE STANDARDS IT IMPOSES ON ALL STAKEHOLDERS.



disclosure or recusal happened even when the matter reached the Supreme Court and an expert committee was appointed, specifically to examine if there were regulatory lapses in investigating the Adani Group.

MPB's dealings with Trident Trust Company are perplexing. On the one hand, a letter from her husband Dhaval Buch states that their "accounts be registered solely in his name", yet the email registered to the account remains that of MPB, who continues to receive investment details. Why did she send a redemption request from her email in 2018 when the funds were solely held by Dhaval? In India, this would have fallen foul of compliance requirements and attracted penal action by SEBI. It now raises red flags about the real ownership of funds.

MPB and her husband have confirmed their holdings in two separate consultancy companies. MPB says she transferred her entire holding in the Singapore entity, Agora Partners, to her husband, who became a 100 per cent shareholder in March 2022. This was two weeks after being appointed chairperson in her second stint at SEBI. She continues to hold a 99 per cent stake in the India-registered Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd. While the couple says the two entities "became immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI" in 2017, Hindenburg has released documents showing that the Indian entity is active and generating revenue.

The clarificatory statement by MPB and Dhaval itself seems contradictory. It says that Dhaval started his own consultancy practice through these companies after

retiring from Unilever. This confirms that the company is not dormant, so it is unclear if 'prominent clients in the Indian industry' that it does business with are SEBI-regulated entities, since the SEBI chairperson remains a 99 per cent owner of the firm.

Another disclosure by 360 One Wam Ltd (formerly IIFL Wealth Management) revealed investment details of MPB and her husband, raising a crucial question posed by MP Mahua Moitra: if foreign portfolio investment records down to the last natural person were made available so quickly by one entity, why did SEBI "hit a wall" in its investigation, as noted by the Supreme Court?

An independent, time-bound investigation leading to credible action, one way or another, alone will restore SEBI's credibility. Rather than a politically motivated joint parliamentary committee, a suggestion by former Revenue Secretary EAS Sarma seems a better option. Since the apex court has not yet closed the Adani cases, Sarma suggests that the Chief Justice could nominate a senior member of the judiciary to head an inquiry commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

India's national interest is not served by defending one business group. With a market capitalization of several lakh crores of rupees and the savings of countless ordinary people riding on the market, it is imperative that SEBI remains credible and is seen to adhere to the rules and compliance standards it imposes on all stakeholders.

(The author is a senior journalist)



The top court as custodian of liberties



BY ASHWANI KUMAR

THE MANISH SISODIA CASE RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER THE LIBERTY OF INDIVIDUALS CAN BE HELD HOSTAGE TO THE BENEVOLENCE OR SENSE OF FAIRNESS OF THE PROSECUTOR ALONE

"IN EVENTUALLY RESTORING MR. SISODIA'S LIBERTY, PENDING THE FINAL DECISION IN HIS CASE, THE APEX COURT HAS REDEEMED ITSELF OF THE CHARGE OF AMBIVALENCE IN THE EARLIER ROUNDS DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR BAIL. IT NEED NOT NOW 'TRUDGE ON THE DEBRIS OF CONSCIENCE'. THE JUDGMENT WOULD HAVE SERVED ITS PURPOSE IF UNDERTRIALS ARE NOT MADE TO LANGUISH IN CUSTODY ENDLESSLY, WITH THEIR FREEDOM, REPUTATION, PRIVACY AND DIGNITY IRRETRIEVABLY LOST WITHOUT APOLOGY OR RECOMPENSE. AND, THE NATION MUST REPURPOSE ITS POLITICS AWAY FROM PERSONAL ANIMOSITIES IN AN ENNOBLING PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR ALL, THEREBY REVITALIZING A DEMOCRACY UNDER STRESS."

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's enlargement on bail by the Supreme Court of India, after an unconscionably long incarceration, is a welcome vindication of the apex court's remit as custodian of individual liberties. In an eloquent exposition of its mandate, the Court reiterated that 'a constitutional court has to lean in favor of constitutionalism and the rule of law of which liberty is an intrinsic part...'

Citing its judgment in *Arnab Manoranjan Goswami vs The State of Maharashtra and Ors.* (2020), it reaffirmed that 'liberty across human eras is as tenacious as tenacious can be'. Reiterating the salutary constitutional principle expounded as early as 1977 by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, that bail is the rule and jail an exception, the Court reaffirmed that the right to fair and speedy trial was implicit in the right to life under Article 21. It concluded that this right was denied to Mr. Sisodia.

EARLIER OBSERVATIONS

In arriving at its conclusions, the Court relied on the observations of the Court in its first order of October 30, 2023 (*Manish Sisodia vs Central Bureau of Investigation*), and also the submissions advanced before it in the first round, advertent particularly to the 56,000 pages of documents and 456 witnesses (at that stage which, numbers were subsequently increased) in the two cases - and which the Court felt could delay the trial and conclusion of the case inordinately. It also referred to and relied upon several of its judgments, from *Kashmira Singh* (1977) till the later decisions- (in *P. Chidambaram* (2020) and *Satender Kumar Antil* (2022) - on the accused's right to speedy trial. To these could be added the Court's decision in *Sheikh Javed Iqbal* (2024).

Stating further that the constitutional mandate must prevail as the higher law, the apex court ruled, in *Manish Sisodia vs Directorate of Enforcement*, purposively that 'the right to bail in cases of delay, coupled with incarceration for a long period, depending on the nature of the allegations, should be read into Section 439 Cr.PC and Section 45 of the PMLA [Prevention of Money Laundering Act]'.

In its entirety, the judgment must gladden the hearts of libertarians, considering the troubling and persistent apprehensions about the weaponizing of the stringent penal laws in the country, and concerns about the oppressive application and implementation of the PMLA. Taking



In its entirety, the judgment must gladden the hearts of libertarians'

cognizance of the information furnished to Parliament recently, the Court noticed that out of the over 5,000 cases brought under the PMLA in the last 10 years, only 40 cases resulted in convictions. In his statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Finance disclosed that 'the ED filed 15 enforcement case information reports (ECIRs) in 2019, followed by 28 in 2020, 26 in 2021, 34 in 2022, 26 in 2023 and three in 2024 as on July 31. Only one conviction in the cases was reported to have been made in 2020.

Clearly, the processes of our criminal justice system, leading to endless delays, are oppressive, with procedure itself being the punishment. The reality of the technicalities of procedural laws defeating justice has been judicially recognized and eloquently summed up as 'the mortality of justice at the hands of law' - *Sushil Kumar Sen* (1975); *Rani Kusum* (2005).

A CAVEAT

Notwithstanding its unexceptionable constitutional merit, the judgment begs a troubling question. Was it right for the Court, consistent with its other observations in the first round, to condone the custodial confinement of the accused based on the statement of the prosecution that the trial would be completed within six to eight months? Or to extend the detention of the accused on the basis of the prosecuting counsel's statement recorded in the Court's second order of June 4, 2024 that the complaint/charge sheet would be filed on or before July 3, 2024? In a sense, does this not make the prosecutor a judge in its own cause, contrary to the first principles of natural justice and vitiating at its core the procedural imperatives of fair trial?

THE GUARANTEE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

In our constitutional scheme, the liberty of individuals cannot be held hostage to the benevolence or sense of fairness of the prosecutor alone. It must stand on the unbreachable foundation of justice anchored in inalienable rights 'born in flesh, carried in our bodies from birth to death'. We know that sacrosanct rights 'undergrid' the law; that there is no virtue in legal processes that are unjust and laws that fail to render justice must be changed. Denial of freedom is denial of humanity itself. Therefore, its preservation against excesses of the executive is the first charge on the apex Court's constitutional and moral authority. Although the ultimate guarantee of civil liberties lies in the faith and assertion of the people, as Justice Robert Jackson of the United States reminded us in *Douglas vs City of Jeannette* (1943), the courts' auxiliary protection against encroachment of human rights is the crucial test of a vibrant democracy.

In eventually restoring Mr. Sisodia's liberty, pending the final decision in his case, the apex court has redeemed itself of the charge of ambivalence in the earlier rounds despite the existence of legal and factual basis for bail. It need not now 'trudge on the debris of conscience'. The judgment would have served its purpose if undertrials are not made to languish in custody endlessly, with their freedom, reputation, privacy and dignity irretrievably lost without apology or recompense. And, the nation must repurpose its politics away from personal animosities in an ennobling pursuit of justice and dignity for all, thereby revitalizing a democracy under stress.

(Ashwani Kumar is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice.)



Justice delayed is Justice denied



Kolkata doctor rape-murder case: Doctors at government hospitals stage nationwide protests; outpatient services, surgeries hit

Justice delayed is justice denied. We stand proud as strong and dynamic women of Indian origin, but our heads hang in shame today. Shame that we need to raise a voice, a war cry, for something so heinous that it sends a chill right to our bones. We all qualified as doctors, mostly in India, and now work as leaders in our own fields all across the globe. We are respected and stand tall and proud as daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and friends of South Asian origin. We were once that hard working young doctor trying to establish ourselves and further ourselves. But not at the cost of what one young doctor had to pay on the grim night. She was brutalized and barbarically raped and killed in a place where people go to heal. She worked in Kolkata, India considered by most as the cultural capital of beautiful India. There is nothing cultural or beautiful that has now revealed itself in front of us and we feel moved and compelled to say something. When did the doctor who has worked for 36 hours straight, agree in her oath, that she could be used, abused and disposed of. We take center stage to present some of our views here. The space where we can pen this is but small, and the names mentioned are only few. However, our feelings have no bounds, we weep at what is happening and on the eve of the 78th year of Independence of our young and dynamic country we implore that every person that can think for themselves, do that, and say something, and thus join us to raise our roar in protest ...says Dr Gauri Batra Consultant Pediatric and Perinatal Pathologist Manchester UK

We have worked in those spaces fearlessly just 30 years ago. The shield of white clinical apron was like a "Lakshman Rekha "where everyone called us "Daktar Didi " How did the

attitudes change so drastically that no space is deemed safe for kids and women now More needs to be done by each and every member of our fraternity We stand in solidarity for our fraternity, for sisterhood for our future generations safety .. comments Dr Dipti Jain Geriatrician; Lead for Pan UK Asian Doctors; Chairperson, Medicos Women Charity Organisation; and Chairperson, British Women in Sarees, Brighton UK.

A few small words from our community: "Rabindranath said- Rekhecho Bangali kore Manush koroni Eibaar to Manush hou. Let us please be human for once!Dr Soumita Adhikary, Pediatrician, Sutton Coldfield

"??Goddess ??? In the land of goddess, a goddess stays slayed! In the land of shakti she lies powerless, be it doctor, engineer, housewife or any girl in society today. Wake that anger to destroy the evil Laments Dr Vinita Shrivastava, Developmental pediatric Dubai /UK"

"Justice for the victim and for the safety of young professionals and young women at work! Debjani Banerjee, New Jersey, USA"

"United we shall fight and we will win the evils ...until then there is no justice for Abhaya...remember Mahabharata happened for Draupadi's cheerharan says Dr Sudipta Sen, Pediatrician London".

It highlights the erosion of morality and values. It shows how little care and concern is shared about the most hardworking section of our health service. It is time for the Government, Medical Societies and the Medical Council to take a deep look at how leaders are held accountable, establish a transparent governance process,

overhaul all corrupt influences and start afresh, says Professor Suparna Dasgupta, Manchester

"How many nights I have spent in the hospital "alone" while being on call or travelled home "alone" in the deepest, darkest hours of night but never felt unsafe. We need investment into changing the infrastructure to ensure workspace safety", says Dr Sonela Basak from Cambridge, UK.

"If this is not investigated on a war footing and justice dealt out appropriately and swiftly, then the whole nation has failed womenkind all over. This is a crime not just against a doctor, but against humanity. In this age of technology, a leading government hospital needs to think beyond just a temporary CCTV." Dr Chetana Sen, Specialist in Stroke and Neurology, University Hospital of North Durham, UK, says.

"No more silence, no more fear. We demand safety here for our female physicians. Safety is our right . Accountability for all! Find the perpetrators and punish them. Her voice was silenced, but ours will roar for justice!", says Dr Panchali from New Jersey

" May justice prevail and every demon responsible for this heinous crime be named , shamed & strongly punished . Let's remember this beautiful soul as a hero who bravely battled injustice and crime till the end . Respect !" Dr Kiran Chitale Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, London.

"OUR DOCTORS' COMMUNITY IN California stands resolutely against all forms of violence, and we are determined to honor the memory of our colleagues by fostering an environment of safety and support for everyone. We will not rest until justice is served and



BY DIPTI JAIN

our community is safe from such senseless violence", Dr. Salma Khan, Associate Professor Loma Linda USA said.

"Pray that Mahisasuramardini (Goddess Durga) appears on earth to punish the culprits", says Dr Tina Dutta Gupta, GP/Psych, London.

" Let there be systems in place how young 18-year-olds entering the profession can raise their voice against injustice and feel safe in workplace", says Dr Sulagna Chakrabarti, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, London.

"The recent unfortunate incident in RG Kar hospital Kolkata has once again raised the ever-persisting issue of pathetic working conditions and safety and security of junior doctors", says Dr Sarmistha Gupta, Consultant Radiologist, Dubai, UAE. "The heinous crime brutally raped and killed is a reflection of worsening conditions for physicians working in India. "

"I support the movements by medical trainees in India." Dr Deepu Mirchandani, Retired medical oncologist and clinical researcher (BC Cancer, Canada) said.

"The city that once gave me so much has become a place where monsters are harbored, nurtured, and even empowered within the very institutions meant to protect us-our educational centers Their negligence is a tragic betrayal. I pray that those monsters responsible for her death are found and face the full weight of justice", says Dr Queenie Decosta, USA.

" Let us all raise our voice in strong protest. My sincere condolences and apologies to the parents of the young lady... we failed you all", laments Dr Chandrani Biswas, ENT specialist, Birmingham.

"History repeats itself, goes the saying..... well, it does men are literally going back to barbarism I am sure postmortem report would be evidence enough for any appropriate capital punishment", says Hima Hoskote, London.

"I never felt unsafe in the hospital when I used to work but times have changed which demands in-depth understanding and bringing in the change to secure our girls in India", Dr. Garima Agrawal MD, Peoria, IL USA said.

"Kolkata, once the city of joy is today turned into city of pain and crime. We need to protest in one voice and continue to protest till change occurs. May the deceased young lady's soul find peace and may her family find the strength and courage to bear their irreparable loss" said Dr Rina Mukherjee, Germany.

(Dr Dipti Jain is a Geriatrician. She is Lead for Pan UK Asian Doctors, Chairperson, Medicos Women Charity Organisation, and Chairperson British Women in Sarees Brighton UK)



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A Conversation with Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York



Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India, on July 23, 2024 sat with The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for an interview

Photo: Jay Mandal- on assignment

Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India, on July 23, 2024 sat with The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for an interview. It was the day when the Interim Budget was presented in the Indian Parliament by India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Our conversation began with my request for the Consul General's comment on the budget. And the Consul General obliged with his comments, saying that he had not studied the budget in detail yet. But since the interview is being published on the eve of the Independence Day of India, I am omitting a large part of conversation on the Budget, as such, only retaining the part dealing with budgetary provisions for students, at home and abroad.

The long interview has been edited, but the spirit of the comments made by the Consul General has been kept intact.

HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW.

TIP: YOU HAD EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT INDIAN STUDENTS HERE, SOME OF THEM COMMITTING SUICIDE, SOME OF THEM DYING UNNATURAL DEATHS, AND YOU WANTED THE INDIAN AMERICAN DIASPORA HERE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. WHY I SAID THAT BECAUSE THAT IS INDICATIVE OF YOUR CONCERN FOR THE YOUTH AND THE STUDENTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE INTERIM BUDGET HAS OFFERED OUR YOUTH IN INDIA, OUR STUDENTS IN INDIA? WHAT IS THERE FOR STUDENTS IN THE BUDGET?

CG: In the recent budget

announcement, a new provision has been introduced aimed at encouraging students to pursue higher education within the country. The scheme includes an incentive for students to take loans for their higher education in India, thus motivating them to stay within the country for their academic pursuits. This initiative is seen as a significant move to retain talent within India and reduce the financial burden on students who choose to study domestically.

Now, we are talking about a different issue here. At the moment, we have about 350,000 Indian students in the U.S., a dramatic rise from approximately 200,000 just two years ago. This surge has brought attention to several issues, including unfortunate incidents involving accidents and other causes of death among the student population. The consulate has been actively working with the families of the affected students, American authorities, and Indian community leaders to address and prevent such incidents.

Efforts have been made to connect Indian student communities with the broader Indian diaspora in the U.S. The consulate has launched a portal specifically for Indian students, providing access to resources such as a list of doctors offering free consultations, internship opportunities with over 30 companies, and legal experts who can assist in case of any legal requirements. With 113,000 Indian students under the jurisdiction of the consulate, there is a significant responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being.

The consulate has been engaging with universities and student communities to

raise awareness about the local laws, culture, and job market, emphasizing the importance of navigating the initial months in a new country with caution. The consulate has also organized various events and visits to university campuses to interact with students and university authorities. Notable Indian figures, including Indra Nooyi, have been involved in initiatives to guide and support new Indian students in the U.S.



With 113,000 Indian students under the jurisdiction of the consulate, there is a significant responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being

TIP: DID YOU DURING YOUR INTERACTION WITH THE ACADEMICIANS AT THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND THE STUDENTS COME ACROSS ANY COMPLAINT THAT INDIAN STUDENTS ARE TAKING DRUGS ?

CG: Indian students are generally viewed as disciplined and responsible. Concerns raised by students tend to be more related to their lack of awareness about the legal system, job market challenges, and access to internships, rather than issues like drug use or lack of medical insurance.

TIP: IS THERE ANY PROVISION HERE FOR THEM THAT THEY ARE PROVIDED HEALTH INSURANCE?

I'm not having great expertise on this particular issue. I have come across students who are here with insurance. Many universities are providing those facilities. So, I really don't know in great detail, but I understand that that is not a major issue that the students are facing in terms of not having access to medical care, that is not an issue.

TIP: LET ME THEN TAKE YOU TO ANOTHER QUESTION. IF AT ALL, MEDICAL INSURANCE IS NOT PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, WHERE THEY ARE STUDYING, OR WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO BUY THEIR MEDICAL INSURANCE, DO YOU THINK GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COULD EVER THINK OF TAKING ON THE BURDEN OF PROVIDING THEM THE REQUIRED MEDICAL CARE?

CG: That's a theoretical question. Let me not get into that because we have over 4 million strong Indian community over here. Out of which about 2 million are Indian passport holders. Are you suggesting that anybody who is coming to US, if they don't have access to medical care, they should be provided medical care at government of India expense?

TIP: NO. ONLY THE STUDENTS I'M TALKING ABOUT.

CG: I think, let me not make a comment. Like I said in my six months having interacted with a large number of Indian students community, this is not one among the concerns I have come across. I have come across, you know, their access to let's say, the internship, their access to job. These are the concerns that I come across. The legal challenges they face at times when they don't know and violate a law, unintentionally or unknowingly. Those are the challenges, I'm yet to come across a case where an Indian student is not having access to medical care. I can assure you that if we come across such a case, we'll take care of that as a Consulate. So, rather than getting into a policy issue of whether government of India is having a provision or not, let me assure that if there is a case like that, we are there to find a solution that is so crucial. So that is that.

TIP: SO, YOU HAVE A PANEL OF LEGAL ADVISORS?

CG: The consulate has established a panel of legal advisors available through the student portal, ensuring that students have access to legal support if needed. The overall message is one of ongoing efforts to support Indian students abroad, ensuring they are well-prepared, safe, and able to succeed whether they choose to stay in the U.S. or return to India with the skills they have acquired.

TIP: WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS SCHEMES AVAILABLE FOR INDIAN NATIONALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE? THERE IS A LACK OF WIDESPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT THESE SCHEMES.

CG: I acknowledge the importance of publicizing these initiatives and efforts have been made to reach out to the public, including holding a press conference when the consulate announced it would remain open 365 days a year to provide emergency services. There is a need for consistent communication to ensure that the wider Indian community is aware of these services, even though these initiatives have already received some media coverage in both the local and Indian media.

CONTD ON PAGE 13



CONTD FROM PAGE 12

TIP: YOU MAY UTILIZE THE ROBUST LOCAL MEDIA IN THE U.S., WHICH INCLUDES VARIOUS COMMUNITY-SPECIFIC NEWSPAPERS AND TV CHANNELS, TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION MORE EFFECTIVELY.

CG: I appreciate this suggestion and, also understand the importance of continuous engagement with the media to keep the community informed. In fact, we have plans for another press conference in August to brief the media about new initiatives and services offered by the consulate.

TIP: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS YOU HAVE BEEN HERE?

CG: As you know we have ten states under New York Consulate's jurisdiction. It is a large constituency. And it has to be served well. The consulate's primary functions include consular duties, promoting trade and commerce, and engaging in political, cultural, and media activities. One of the important tasks is a smooth operation of consular services, highlighting the positive feedback received through reviews and the proactive approach in addressing complaints, particularly with the involvement of VFS, the outsourced agency handling visa and passport services.

The Consulate plays a significant role in fostering trade and economic relations between India and the U.S. The ten states covered by the consulate account for about \$43 billion in trade, a substantial portion of the overall India-U.S. trade. There has been an active participation of business delegations from both countries, with numerous economic events organized to promote trade and investment opportunities. I am satisfied with an increasing interest among American stakeholders in engaging with India economically.

TIP: WHAT OTHER AREAS OF INDIA-US RELATIONSHIP DO YOU SEE?

CG: The political, cultural, and media engagement are other key areas. There is a strong and evolving relationship between India and the U.S. The bilateral ties have reached a point where they are irreversible and poised for continued growth. And the Consulate plays a significant role in maintaining this relationship through regular interactions with elected representatives and media outlets. The consulate's efforts to engage with both mainstream and Indian-origin media are essential for providing accurate information about India and its developments.

TIP: HOW DO YOU LOOK AT THE BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US?

CG: The trade between the two countries is growing on both sides, with the trade balance becoming more balanced over time. The increasing volume of energy imports from the U.S. to India is an example of new trade segments being developed.

I welcome feedback from the Indian-origin community in the U.S. Their input helps a lot in strengthening India-U.S. economic relations. There have been instances in the past where community

feedback led to successful initiatives. The Consulate is committed to openness in receiving ideas and suggestions for future collaborations.



The trade between the two countries is growing on both sides, with the trade balance becoming more balanced over time

TIP: THERE IS A GROWING SENTIMENT AMONG THE INDIAN DIASPORA THAT NOW IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR INDIA TO BECOME A GLOBAL MANUFACTURING HUB FOR VARIOUS SMALL-SCALE PRODUCTS THAT CHINA PREVIOUSLY DOMINATED. GIVEN THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL CLIMATE, ESPECIALLY WITH THE STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA, INDIA COULD STEP IN TO FILL THIS GAP. INDIA COULD CAPITALIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY, PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO ITS VAST WORKFORCE BY MANUFACTURING AND EXPORTING GOODS LIKE JUTE PRODUCTS AND CARPETS, WHICH ARE ALREADY IN DEMAND IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

CG: Yes, manufacturing is indeed a priority for India. India initiated the "Make in India" campaign, which has been instrumental in promoting this sector. The recent budget documents highlight the government's ongoing efforts to boost manufacturing across various sectors, particularly by supporting the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector with credit facilities. It is important not just creating manufacturing capabilities but also ensuring market access, which is crucial for sustaining growth in international trade.

In order to achieve the ambitious goal of \$500 billion in trade, India must explore and tap into new areas of trade, including those smaller but essential products that can be manufactured domestically and exported globally. It is equally important to diversify supply chains, a lesson reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic. India is increasingly being seen as an attractive alternative for sourcing not only smaller goods but also more complex products like semiconductors and electronics.

TIP: LOOK AT THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY. CLOTHES AVAILABLE IN AMERICAN MARKETS ARE OFTEN FROM COUNTRIES LIKE BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, AND INDONESIA. INDIAN TEXTILES, KNOWN FOR THEIR SUPERIOR QUALITY, COULD CAPTURE A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF THIS MARKET IF INDIA REFOCUSSED ON REVITALIZING ITS TEXTILE MILLS AND EXPORTING THESE PRODUCTS.

CG: I agree. Indian handloom and handicraft products are already widely available in U.S. markets and are recognized for their high quality. During a recent Indian Handloom Fair in the U.S., most exhibitors were already exporting their products to the country, indicating a strong market presence. However, while Indian products are already well-received in the U.S., there is still room to expand and increase exports, thereby generating more foreign exchange and contributing to India's economic growth. There is potential for India to enhance its manufacturing capabilities, tap into new markets, and address rural unemployment by turning this potential into reality.

TIP: INDIA COULD BENEFIT FROM FEEDBACK FROM THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE U.S. TO ADDRESS ISSUES LIKE UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY IN INDIA. MANY PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE U.S. HAVE VALUABLE IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS THAT COULD HELP INDIA DEVELOP, AND THEY WANT THESE IDEAS TO BE COMMUNICATED BACK TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

CG: While there is progress, more acceleration is needed. Indian exporters and government bodies are actively working to increase exports and tap into new markets, but trade is a competitive field, not one of charity.

TIP: HOW DO YOU VIEW THE INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

CG: Recently, I was going through the report that was prepared by the Boston Consultancy Group, which highlighted the significant contributions of the Indian community in various sectors, including public office. The Indian-American community is increasingly holding elected positions and contributing to mainstream governance in the U.S., which reflects the healthy relationship between the community and the broader American society.

The Indian-American community plays a vital role in strengthening the India-U.S. relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently acknowledged that the Indian-American community is the "main engine" driving this relationship. This sentiment was echoed by President Biden, who described the India-U.S. relationship as one of the most consequential of the 21st century.



Today, India is held in respect; India is looked upon as a growing country and doing well. It is because of the effort of the Indian American community.



It's a true honor to be working in this country very closely with the Indian American community.
Photos: Jay Mandal- on assignment

The fact that when we meet the elected Congressmen, Senators, or governors, the kind of goodwill they express when they talk about the Indian community, the warmth with which they kind of appreciate the contribution of our community, it shows there is wider acceptance and appreciation of our community by the government here, and I am sure, going forward, we are going to see that increasing. Today, India is held in respect; India is looked upon as a growing country and doing well. It is because of the effort of the Indian American community.

TIP: HOW FAR, DO YOU THINK, INDIAN CULTURE HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN BUILDING THIS RELATIONSHIP OR STRENGTHENING THIS RELATIONSHIP?

CG: I met somebody who is a professor from India, who, after studying at prominent universities in the U.S., is writing a book on how the Indian value system contributes to the success of the Indian-American community. This professor suggests that the emphasis on education, strong family values, and support within the community are key factors behind the Indian-American community's success, including their higher per capita income compared to the mainstream American population. These cultural values likely play a significant role.

TIP: WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE CONSULATE LEVEL TO PROMOTE INDIAN VALUES AND INDIAN CULTURE?

CG: We work with the Indian community. Besides, there are events that we do ourselves. Recently, we celebrated International Yoga Day across all ten states under the consulate's jurisdiction, which involved not only the Indian community but also many Americans. A survey reveals that 10% of Americans practice yoga, with 36,000 yoga studios across the country. This in itself is illustrative of how Indian cultural practices have been embraced in mainstream America.

The same goes for the Indian art forms within the Indian-American community. For example, during a visit to New Jersey, I witnessed 700 young Indian kids dancing together on one stage, a sight I hadn't even seen in India.

CONTD ON PAGE 58



Indian American Sivasankaran Somasundaram wins GRIT Lifetime Achievement Award

AUGUST 9, 2024

AUSTIN, TX (TIP) : Indian American Sivasankaran "Soma" Somasundaram, president and chief executive officer of ChampionX, is one of the three winners of the 2024 GRIT Lifetime Achievement Awards given by ALLY Energy, leveraging AI to power the energy workforce of the future.

These awards recognize people who have made significant and sustained contributions to the energy industry through leadership, scholarship, administration, or mentoring, according to a media release. "They represent the most influential minds in energy, sustainability, and climate."

The other two winners are Vicki Hollub, president and chief executive officer of Occidental and Jan E. Odegard, consultant and former executive director of Ion, the hub of Houston's innovation ecosystem.

"This year's winners are those who have spent many years transforming the energy and climate sectors in big companies and building ecosystems to address the energy transition," says Katie Mehnert, founder and CEO of ALLY Energy. "We were overwhelmed



Sivasankaran "Soma" Somasundaram, president and chief executive officer of ChampionX, is one of the three winners of the 2024 GRIT Lifetime Achievement Awards

with submissions. The committee of judges had its work cut out!"

The Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Mehnert said, "have worked steadily to move us forward in the marathon to reaching net zero. They have also shown crucial leadership in helping organizations tap into the most important resource of all: the minds and skills of people. There's nothing

more powerful in energy than human capital."

The awards will be presented at the GRIT awards ceremony on Oct 30 at the House of Blues in Houston.

Somasundaram's career in the energy sector spans over two decades. He currently serves as president and CEO of ChampionX Corp, where he spearheads initiatives that foster

innovation and sustainability within the energy field.

Prior to his current role, Somasundaram served in multiple leadership roles including as president and CEO of Dover Energy, where he oversaw the development of engineered products and solutions for the global energy market.

His contributions to the energy industry have been recognized by the Energy Workforce and Technology Council who named him the 2022 recipient of its DEI Champion Award for his commitment and advocacy for diversity, equity and inclusion in the energy services and technology industry.

In 2023, he was named as a member of the National Petroleum Council, a federally chartered advisory committee whose members are selected and appointed by the US Secretary of Energy.

Somasundaram holds a master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Anna University in Chennai, India.

7 INDIAN-ORIGIN MEN CONVICTED OF VIOLENCE AT KABADDI EVENT IN ENGLAND'S IN DERBY



7 Indian origin men have been arrested been convicted for their role in a violent disorder involving guns and machetes at a kabaddi tournament in Derby

Photo for representation only

AUGUST 9, 2024

LONDON (TIP):Seven Indian-origin men aged between 24 and 36 years have been convicted for their role in a violent disorder involving guns and machetes at a kabaddi tournament in Derby, in the East Midlands region of England.

Derbyshire Police said several people were injured when violence broke out between two groups who attended the tournament at Alvaston in August last year. While five of the men arrested and charged had pleaded guilty, two others - Parminder Singh and Malkeet Singh - were convicted of violent disorder and possession of a firearm by a jury last week. All five men will be sentenced at Derby Crown Court at a later date.

"What should have been a pleasant day out for people attending a sporting event turned into a huge violent disorder in which multiple people were injured," said Detective Chief Inspector Matt Croome, Senior Investigating Officer at Derbyshire Police.

Police were called to the scene off Elvaston Lane on August 20 last year after reports of shots being fired and people fighting with weapons. They discovered that the fight had been pre-planned with a group meeting at Brunswick Street, Derby, beforehand.

Three Indian American Congressmen urge to end to violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

AUGUST 9, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Three prominent Indian American Congressmen-Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, and Ro Khanna-have called for an immediate end to the escalating violence in Bangladesh, particularly the targeting of the Hindu minority.

In a statement released earlier this week, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi expressed deep concern over the ongoing turmoil in Bangladesh. "As Bangladesh prepares to swear in its interim government, I urge all government officials, the new administration and police chief, and the people of Bangladesh to do all they can to end the violence that has emerged across the country, including the brutal targeting of the country's Hindu minority, their homes, businesses, and their temples," Krishnamoorthi said. He further emphasized the need for accountability, urging that "those responsible must be brought to justice to help the people of Bangladesh move forward as a nation." Krishnamoorthi assured his constituents that he would continue to closely monitor the situation in coordination with the U.S. State Department.

Congressman Shri Thanedar also condemned the violence, describing it as a "horrific" threat to Bangladesh's democracy. In his statement, Thanedar highlighted the recent civil unrest, which began with student-led protests and has since spiraled into widespread violence, leading to the deaths of hundreds and the persecution of minority populations, including Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. "I am especially concerned about reports of attacks targeting the country's Hindu minority. Accounts of temples destroyed, homes leveled, and individuals targeted are as disturbing as they are



Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, and Ro Khanna have called for an immediate end to the escalating violence in Bangladesh, particularly the targeting of the Hindu minority.

File photo

reprehensible," he said. Thanedar called on all Bangladeshis, from leadership to the general populace, to work towards ending the violence and restoring peace.

Thanedar also noted the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 6th and her subsequent flight to India, leaving Bangladesh in disarray and under military control. He urged the new interim government to prioritize peace and stability, pledging to remain vigilant in coordination with the U.S. State Department.

Congressman Ro Khanna echoed similar sentiments, acknowledging the legitimacy of student-led protests against the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government but condemning the subsequent violence. "Bangladeshi students had just human rights concerns against PM Hasina. It's good she is gone. But the violence now targeting Hindus is wrong," Khanna stated. He called on the newly appointed Prime Minister Yunus to uphold the rule of law and protect all citizens, regardless of their political or religious affiliations.



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Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar officially announces run for 46th Comptroller of New York City

AUGUST 12, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar (D-38) officially announced she is running to become the 46th Comptroller of New York City in 2025. If elected, the Assemblywoman will become the first woman of color elected to the post in the 225-year history of the post's existence.

Upon announcing her campaign, Rajkumar said: "Every win I have ever had has been against all odds. I live for this; public service is my passion."

Watch Jenifer's Announcement Video https://youtu.be/-b8MGT_tmmY

Jenifer's mom was born in a mud hut in India. Her parents immigrated to the United States with just \$300 and a suitcase. To honor the promise of a country that gave her family so much opportunity, Jenifer decided to dedicate her life to public service. An ivy league educated attorney, she graduated from Stanford Law School and the University of Pennsylvania. She later spent evenings teaching as a Professor at CUNY's Lehman College in the Bronx to help sculpt the young minds of the City.

Speaking of the Comptroller role, Rajkumar said: "Traditionally, the Comptroller is a man in an office crunching numbers, but I will make it so much more. I am on the ground with the people in every corner of this City hearing firsthand how government is and isn't working for them. Together, we will implement 'the people's audits' of City government. Government inefficiency costs lives, and we will fix it. Ours is the largest municipal budget in the world, and I have the experience, passion, and energy to make sure that every New Yorker is getting what they pay for."

Speaking of the Comptroller's role as a fiduciary to New York City's 5 public pension funds, totaling nearly \$270 billion in assets, Rajkumar said: "As Comptroller, I will first and foremost be the guardian of the hard-earned retirement money of our city workers, firefighters, teachers and police officers. I will be laser focused on maximizing pension returns and performance. New Yorkers who worked hard their whole lives deserve a healthy pension and a



Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar announced running for NYC Comptroller

Comptroller with the passion, dedication, and experience to guard their money."

A record-breaking State Legislator, Rajkumar made history as the first South Asian American woman ever elected to a New York State public office in 2020, ousting an 11-year incumbent and winning by the largest margin of any insurgent that year. In less than 4 years, she passed landmark legislation- including the SMOKEOUT Act enabling New York City to close down over 800 illegal smokeshops already, the historic bill establishing Diwali as a School Holiday in New York City after a 20-year struggle by the community, and a nationally recognized bill giving domestic workers the full protections of New York State's Human Rights Law.

Her other legislative wins include several pieces of legislation to make government work faster and better- including passing her bill to speed up the City's procurement process to build capital projects more quickly, legislation making our Courts work more efficiently, and a bill to support crime victims.

A Stanford Law educated attorney who studied accounting, law and economics, Rajkumar has a record of taking on multinational corporations. She has already saved millions of taxpayer dollars in her career. Collaborating with the U.S. Department of Justice, she held multinational corporations accountable for defrauding and overcharging the federal government. Her resulting wins saved millions in taxpayer dollars and preserved the integrity of our medicare and medicaid programs.

She was also notably part of the legal team of Velez v. Novartis, a class action on behalf of 5,000 women workers labeled by the U.N. as one of the top 10 cases advancing women's rights.

Rajkumar said, "My experience as a lawyer equips me well to be the Chief Auditor of the City of New York who will dig into the performance of our city agencies. As a former labor attorney, I know how to effectively execute the Comptroller's role of protecting workers by enforcing wage violations on public works projects. As a lawyer I know how to settle legal claims against the City and oversee City contracts, two other critical functions of the Comptroller."

The Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo appointed Jenifer as the Director of Immigration Affairs & Special Counsel for New York State in 2017. In this role, Jenifer built and led the Liberty Defense Project, a historic, first-in-the-nation \$31 million dollar state-led project. In this capacity, she created a successful governmental program from scratch, oversaw government contracts with nonprofits, and allocated taxpayer dollars for maximum impact.

The Assemblywoman has been known as "omnipresent" throughout the 5 boroughs, often appearing by the side of her ally Mayor Eric Adams who has described her as "a beast" and "a close friend." Showing up across the City in her signature red dresses, she is a fixture of public service known as the Lady in Red.

About her strong partnership with the Mayor, Assemblywoman Rajkumar stated: "True change happens by collaboration. The way to make historic change that will outlive us for generations to come is through partnerships across government. It is a joy working with my colleagues at all levels of government from the Mayor to the Governor to the state legislature to the city council. The greatest moments in government- the historic moments that we live for- happen by working together. Together, we will take our City to the next level."



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Proposed Display of Replica of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya in the India Day Parade on August 18 Prompts Hate-Filled Bigotry

AUGUST 14, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Four Decade Old Annual celebration of New York City - the 42nd Annual India Day Parade has been targeted with Hate-Filled Bigotry for including Ram Mandir (Hindu Religion's place of worship) miniature float, says Ankur Vaidya, Chairman of Federation of Indian Organizations NYNJCTNE (FIA).

Mr. Vaidya expressed his anguish in a statement released to the media that as a five-decade-old, 100% volunteer-run non-profit, we find ourselves under heavy scrutiny for organizing a peaceful community celebration that our dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to prepare. This malicious and hate-filled scrutiny, spread on social media, has resulted in the loss of sponsorships-the lifeblood of our event-and in fear-mongering, causing law-abiding citizens to worry about potential unruly conduct due to the hateful messages circulating online.

Ironically, the theme for this year, set long before the inclusion of the Ram Mandir float was decided, was "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which translates to "the world is one family", the note said. For over four decades, the parade has been a celebration of community, growing due to its display of



The replica of the temple would be 18 feet long, nine feet wide and eight feet in height

inclusion and diversity, allowing participants to display their expressions respectfully and peacefully without diminishing or disrespecting others. Despite our longstanding tradition of celebrating diversity, we are now the target of communal hate and bigotry.

Efforts are being made to dissuade the Mayor's and Governor's offices from attending or supporting the celebration, and harmful rhetoric is being spread on social media platforms. Our inclusion of a float that celebrates inauguration of a sacred landmark, significant to

hundreds of millions of Hindus has been insulted by derogatory name calling and the officials and the mainstream is radio silent. I respectfully ask, would such name-calling be tolerated if directed at any other community's place of worship? The answer is unequivocally no.

Mr. Vaidya urged the entire Hindu community to peacefully yet resolutely oppose the bigotry displayed by distorting facts, misleading the public, and creating a hateful distraction for reasons unknown. As we celebrate what we consider a vital aspect of our faith

through the celebration of this landmark, we unequivocally reject violence and hate in any form, including any damage to any religion's place of worship. We stand for peaceful coexistence and encourage everyone to embrace this value.

Let us avail ourselves of the opportunities this great nation, the United States of America, has generously provided-cherish the freedom to peacefully express ourselves, practice our religion, and uphold the value of mutual respect. We invite you to join us in a celebration that fosters peaceful harmony and coexistence among diverse cultures, religions, genders, and more. Let us embody the values championed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and be recognized by the content of our character, not by the color of our skin or the faith we follow.

A proud American from the proud origins of my native motherland of India who proudly practices the Hindu faith while loving, caring and being respectful towards all religions and faith.

The Indian Panorama spoke with a number of Indian Americans following different faiths about the situation and all invariably condemned the false narrative being floated on the social media.

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Kamala Harris gains ground in key battleground states, continues her fundraising spree

AUGUST 14, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has voiced confidence in winning the November 5 general elections against her Republican rival Donald Trump, as she gained ground nationally and in several key battleground states.

US Vice President Harris, who is of both Indian and African origin, continues to be on a fundraising spree, taking her campaign coffers to an unprecedented level.

The 59-year-old Democratic leader has also been attracting a record crowd in her rallies.

"We will win this election," Harris told a fundraiser in San Francisco on Sunday, August 10 in which she amassed USD 12 million more for her presidential bid.

The fundraiser was attended by around 700 donors, including several prominent Indian-Americans.

In less than a month of her being on top of the Democratic Party ticket, after incumbent President Joe Biden decided to withdraw from the race, Harris has nearly wiped out the national lead of her Republican rival and former president Trump.

According to Real Clear Politics, which monitors all the major national and state polls, Harris is now leading Trump by 0.5 percentage points in an average of all the national polls.

Harris has also surged ahead in two



"We will win this election," Harris told a fundraiser in San Francisco on Sunday, August 10 in which she amassed USD 12 million more for her presidential bid. -File photo

battleground states, Wisconsin and Michigan, where Biden was trailing earlier, as per Real Clear Politics.

The latest poll by The New York Times said that Harris is leading in three key states - Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan - by four percentage points.

Harris told the donors in San Francisco that she is not taking any chances.

Speaking about the enthusiasm behind her campaign, Harris said she's "never been one to really believe in the polls, whether they're up or they are down."

Still, "what we know is the stakes are

so high. And we can take nothing for granted at this moment," she said.

"It's really been a good couple of weeks, but we have a lot of work to do," Harris said.

"The people are ready to use their power," she said.

The energy around the country is "undeniable," she added, arguing, "The press and our opponents like to focus on our crowd size, and, yes, the crowds are large." But even better is that attendees are signing up for volunteer shifts in the thousands, she noted.

On Saturday, Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

addressed more than 12,000 Nevadans - one of the largest political rallies in modern Nevada political history.

The rally marked the final stop on a weeklong tour of battleground states launched after she picked Walz to be her running mate.

Harris picked Walz as her running mate for the presidential elections last week. She formally secured the Democratic presidential nomination a day before that, becoming the first Indian-American to win the nomination from a major political party.

"Thousands of people showed up here to Thomas and Mack and Harris explained to them why she should be the next president of the United States. A rock star's welcome as Kamala Harris walked out to the podium," local TV station KVVU-LV said.

"At one of the largest political rallies in modern Nevada political history, Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz continued their barnstorming tour as the new Democratic presidential ticket on Saturday - one of the clearest signs yet of Democrats' renewed hopes in the swing state," the local news portal Nevada Independent reported.

Starting on Tuesday, Harris and Walz blitzed the battlegrounds, drawing crowds of fired-up supporters, including more than 14,000 in Philadelphia, over 12,000 in Eau Claire, and 15,000 plus in both Detroit and Arizona.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra arrives in Washington to assume charge as India's Ambassador to US



Vinay Mohan Kwatra succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu as India's Ambassador to the US

AUGUST 14, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP):

India's Ambassador-designate to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra arrived here on Monday, August 12 to assume charge as India's Ambassador.

Kwatra, 61, till recently was India's

Foreign Secretary. He succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who retired from the foreign service early this year after serving as India's top diplomat in the US from 2020 to 2024.

"Delighted to welcome Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new Ambassador of India to the United States of America. All of us (at the Indian Embassy) are excited to work under his leadership," Charge D'Affaires Sripriya Ranganathan said in a post on X.

A group of eminent Indian Americans from the Greater Washington DC area had gathered at the Dulles International Airport to welcome the new Indian Ambassador. However, they could not meet him.

Kwatra, who previously served as Minister of Commerce in the Indian Embassy here is expected to present his credentials to the US President Joe Biden shortly.

He was also India's Ambassador to France and Nepal, after which he was appointed as the foreign secretary.

He retired from the foreign service on July 14.

National Cricket League USA Launches Game-Changing Sixty Strikes Tournament in North Texas

NEW FRONTIER OF CRICKET: NCL USA AND UT DALLAS PARTNER UP TO REDEFINE CRICKET



Left to Right: Stakeholders Arun Agarwal (middle in glasses)(Chairman of NCL Cricket League), and UT Dallas President Richard Benson



Arun Agarwal and UT Dallas President Richard Benson



Kyle Edgington, UT Dallas VP for Development and Alumni Relations

AUGUST 12, 2024

DALLAS, TX (TIP): The National Cricket League (NCL) USA is set to revolutionize the sports landscape in North Texas with the inaugural Sixty Strikes Tournament. This new 60 ball cricket format will feature a star-studded lineup of international cricket icons and will take place from October 4-14, 2024, at UT Dallas. Think of this as the premier league of cricket, on par with the biggest names in sports. The NCL USA is establishing a professional cricket league with American teams that will bring a unique and dynamic brand to the sport, creating a new legacy in the world of cricket while honoring its rich origins.

The Sixty Strikes Tournament will feature six world-class teams of international stars. Leading the teams will be cricketers icons such as Muhammad, Sunil Narine, Dwayne Bravo, Mohd Amir, Angelo Mathews, Jason Roy,

Muhammad Nabi, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Shahid Afridi, and Kamran Akmal. Mentoring these players will be legendary figures like Dilip Vengsarkar, and Zaheer Abbas, with coaching provided by cricket greats Vivian Richards and Sanath Jayasuriya. These elite players and mentors represent international cricket, making for powerful matches.

"Cricket's popularity in the U.S. is on the rise, and this tournament will bring world-class cricket to American shores," said Arun Agarwal, Chairman of the NCL USA. "Our collaboration with UT Dallas is a perfect match, combining our expertise in cricket with their facilities to create an unforgettable experience."

"UT Dallas, home of many international students, is the perfect site for NCL USA's inaugural season," said James B. Milliken, chancellor of The University of Texas System.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

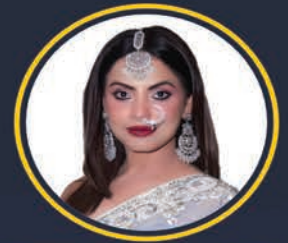


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HON. BINAYA SRIKANTA PRADHAN AND INDIAN ACTRESS AND FILM PRODUCER, NEETU CHANDRA
IN CELEBRATION OF INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2024



HON. BINAYA SRIKANTA PRADHAN
Consul General of India, New York



NEETU CHANDRA
Indian Actress and Film Producer

WHO : Hon. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India, New York
Neetu Chandra, Indian Actress and Film Producer

WHAT : Hon. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and Neetu Chandra will participate in the ceremonial lighting of the Empire State Building to celebrate India Day on Thursday, August 15th, 2024.

WHERE : Empire State Building
350 5th Ave
Following ceremony, photo opportunities to take place in the Observatory Entrance and on the Grand Staircase

WHEN : Thursday, August 15th, 2024
Media Check-In: 12:45 p.m. ET
Photo Opportunity: 1:30 p.m. ET

CONTACT : RSVP@fianynjct.org / info@fianynjct.org
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The Empire State Building, the "World's Most Famous Building," owned by Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. (ESRT: NYSE), soars 1,454 feet above Midtown Manhattan from base to antenna. The \$165 million reimagining of the Empire State Building Observatory Experience creates an all-new experience with a dedicated guest entrance, an interactive museum with nine galleries, and a redesigned 102nd Floor Observatory with floor-to-ceiling windows. The journey to the world-famous 86th Floor Observatory, the only 360-degree, open-air observatory with views of New York and beyond, orients visitors for their entire New York City experience and covers everything from the building's iconic history to its current place in pop culture. Learn more at www.esbnyc.com. Declared "America's Favorite Building" by the American Institute of Architects, the world's most popular travel destination by Uber, the #1 Attraction in the United States in TripAdvisor's 2022 Travelers' Choice Best of the Best, and the #1 New York City attraction by Lonely Planet, it welcomes more than 4 million annual visitors from around the world.

Since 2011, the building has been fully powered by renewable wind electricity, and its many floors primarily house a diverse array of office tenants such as LinkedIn and Shutterstock, as well as retail options like STATE Grill and Bar, Tacombi, and Starbucks. For more information and Observatory Experience tickets visit esbnyc.com or follow the building's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Weibo, YouTube or TikTok.

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Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. (NYSE: ESRT) is a REIT that owns and manages office, retail and multifamily assets in Manhattan and the greater New York metropolitan area. ESRT owns the Empire State Building, the World's Most Famous Building, and TripAdvisor's 2022 Travelers' Choice Best of the Best Awards #1 attraction in the U.S. and #3 attraction in the world, the newly reimagined and iconic Empire State Building Observatory. The company is a leader in healthy buildings, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality and has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions per square foot of any publicly traded REIT portfolio in New York City. As of June 30, 2022, ESRT's portfolio is comprised of approximately 9.2 million rentable square feet of office space, 700,000 rentable square feet of retail space and 625 residential units across two multifamily properties. More information about Empire State Realty Trust can be found at esrtreit.com and by following ESRT on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Doda encounter: Indian Army captain killed in J-K, operations underway

A captain of the Indian Army from the 48 Rashtriya Rifles was killed, and four terrorists were believed to be gunned down during an ongoing encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, August 14.

According to officials, the captain was leading the charge at Shivgarh Dhar in Assar in Doda.

The encounter broke out around 7:30 am in a thickly forested area during a cordon and search operation (CASO) launched by a joint team to track down a group of foreign terrorists hiding in the Shivgarh-Assar belt, reported PTI, citing officials. The terrorists, who are holed up in a riverine in Assar, crossed into Doda from a forest near Patnitop in adjacent Udhampur district after a brief exchange of fire with the security forces.

The encounter first began around 6 pm in Udhampur on Tuesday. It was paused after a while and a cordon was established overnight, officials said.

However, the search operation resumed on Wednesday.

The security forces have recovered four blood-soaked rucksacks and M-4 carbines from the encounter site.

SC says no immediate interim bail to Kejriwal, issues notice to CBI

KOLKATA (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, August 14, observed that it cannot grant immediate interim bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is seeking release from jail in connection with a corruption case filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the excise policy case.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also issued notice to the CBI on the pleas filed by Kejriwal in which he has challenged the August 5 decision of the Delhi high court affirming his arrest and denying him bail.

"We are not granting any interim bail. We will issue notice," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who was appearing for Kejriwal, according to PTI. The case will be heard next on August 23.

In his plea, filed two days after the top court granted bail to former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in a related probe by CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief has challenged his arrest and subsequent remand orders, while also pressing for bail.

Kejriwal, in the petitions filed on Monday, assailed

the Delhi high court's August 5 judgment, which ruled that his arrest was neither illegal nor without justifiable grounds because CBI presented "evidently enough evidence" to warrant his detention and remand. His plea relied heavily on the Sisodia verdict, in which the top court held that the former deputy CM's long incarceration of 17 months and his continued detention in a case where there was no hope of trial ending anytime soon impinged on his fundamental right to liberty and speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The AAP chief's petition argued that the grounds on which the court found it appropriate to release Sisodia on bail should equally apply to him.

Kejriwal has been in custody since March 21 following his arrest by ED, apart from a 21-day interim bail in May granted by the top court for Lok Sabha election campaigning.

On July 12, the apex court granted him interim bail in the ED case, acknowledging that he had spent over 90 days in incarceration. Still, he continued to remain in custody due to his arrest by CBI on June 26 in the same matter.



Lights worth over Rs 50 lakh installed on Ayodhya's Bhakti Path and Ram Path stolen

AYODHYA (TIP)

As many as 3,800 bamboo and 36 projector lights worth over Rs 50 lakh installed on Bhakti Path and Ram Path, located in a high-security area in Ayodhya, were allegedly stolen, according to police. An FIR was lodged at the Ram Janmabhoomi police station following a complaint on August 9 from a representative of the firm—Yash Enterprises and Krishna Automobiles—which set up the lights under a contract awarded by the Ayodhya Development Authority, police said on Tuesday, August 13.

"As many as 6,400 bamboo lights were installed on Rampath and 96 projector lights were installed on Bhakti Path. Till 19 March, all the lights were there but after an inspection on May 9, it was found that some lights were missing.

"Till now around 3,800 bamboo lights and 36 projector lights have been stolen by some unknown thieves," Shekhar Sharma, a representative of the firm, said in the complaint. According to the FIR, the firm became aware of the theft in May but filed the complaint on August 9. The police said that an FIR has been registered in the matter and a probe is on. Ayodhya was refurbished under a major project ahead of the January 22 Ram temple consecration ceremony in the holy city. *Source: PTI*



Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim gets 21-day furlough again

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the chief of Sirsa's Dera Sachcha Sauda, has been granted a 21-day furlough again. This will be the second time this year that he was granted a break from his jail sentence. During the time he would be out of jail, the rape-convict godman would stay in his Dera ashram in Barnawa in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat.

The Sirsa-headquartered Dera sect chief was granted the temporary release days after the Punjab and Haryana high court disposed of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's (SGPC) petition against Singh's temporary release.

On August 9, the Punjab and Haryana high court observed that his petition for a temporary release should be decided by the competent authority without any "arbitrariness or favouritism".

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insan moved the court in June seeking release for 21 days.

In February this year, the high court had told the Haryana government to not grant him further parole without its permission. This was after he was granted a 50-day parole on January 19.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was sentenced to 20 years for raping his two disciples. He is serving his sentence in the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak.



Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was sentenced to 20 years for raping his two disciples. He is serving his sentence in the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak. He has been in jail since 2017.

He has been in jail since 2017.

The Dera chief and three others were also convicted in 2019 for the murder of a journalist more than 16 years ago. In May, the high court acquitted Singh and four others in the 2002 murder of the sect's former manager Ranjit Singh, citing "tainted and sketchy" investigations in the matter. The Dera chief's stay in jail has been peppered with several furloughs. *Source: PTI*

India confident of working with whoever will be next US President: Jaishankar

As the US presidential election draws near, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday, August 13, expressed confidence that India will successfully work with the next President of the United States, regardless of who occupies the Oval Office.

Responding to a question during a panel discussion at an event in New Delhi, Jaishankar remarked, "We generally don't comment on other people's elections, because we also hope others don't comment on ours."

"But, the American system will throw up its verdict, and I am not saying just as a formality, but if you look at the last 20 odd years, maybe a little bit more, for us, we have every confidence that we will be able to work with the President of the United States, whoever he or she will be," PTI quoted Jaishankar as saying.

When asked how he views the current global situation, predicting a "very grim forecast, for the next five years," Jaishankar stated, "If you ask me my view of the world, I am an optimistic person and generally tend to think of the solutions to problems rather than problems which come out of solutions. But, I would say with a great deal of sobriety that we are going through an exceptionally difficult period."

The Minister highlighted various global challenges, including ongoing issues in the Middle East, Ukraine, South East Asia, and East Asia, as well as the lingering impact of COVID-19.

He also noted economic difficulties, trade issues, foreign exchange shortages, and disruptions like those seen in the Red Sea.

'Bail is rule, jail exception' principle applies even to special statutes: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Tuesday, August 13, ruled that "bail is the rule and jail is an exception" principle was applicable even to special laws, including anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, which contains stringent provisions making it difficult for an accused to get bail.

"Bail is the rule and jail is an exception" is a settled law. Even in a case like the present case where there are stringent conditions for the grant of bail in the relevant statutes, the same rule holds good with only modification that the bail can be granted if the conditions in the statute are satisfied," a Bench led by Justice Abhay S Oka said granting bail to an accused under the UAPA.

"The rule also means that once a case is made out for the grant of bail, the court cannot decline to grant bail. If the courts start denying bail in deserving cases, it will be a violation of the rights (including right to speedy trial) guaranteed under Article 21 of our Constitution," said the Bench, which also included Justice Augustine George Masih.

"When a case is made out for a grant of bail, the courts should not have any hesitation in granting bail. The allegations of the prosecution may be very serious. But, the duty of the courts is to consider the case for grant



of bail in accordance with the law," it said.

It ordered the release of accused Jalaluddin Khan, saying: "There is nothing in the chargesheet which shows that the appellant has taken part in or has committed unlawful activities as defined in the UAPA. There is no specific material to show that the appellant advocated, abetted or incited commission of any unlawful activities...The trial has not made any progress."

The verdict came weeks after another SC Bench led by Justice JB Pardiwala ruled that a terror accused facing trial under the stringent provisions of the UAPA can be released on bail, if the trial moves at snail's pace.

"This court has, time and again, emphasised that the right to life and personal liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India

is overarching and sacrosanct. A constitutional court cannot be restrained from granting bail to an accused on account of restrictive statutory provisions in a penal statute if it finds that the right of the accused-undertrial under Article 21 of the Constitution has been infringed," the top court had said on July 19.

"In that event, such statutory restrictions would not come in the way. Even in the case of interpretation of a penal statute, howsoever stringent it may be, a constitutional court has to lean in favour of constitutionalism and the rule of law of which liberty is an intrinsic part," it had said.

On Tuesday, August 13, the top court said the Special Court and the High Court did not consider the material in the chargesheet objectively, perhaps because the focus was more on the activities of PFI, and therefore, the appellant's case could not be properly appreciated.

Khan, a retired police constable, was arrested on July 12, 2022 for allegedly harbouring suspected terrorists, a day after the Bihar Police raided the first floor of Ahmad Palace, owned by his wife, and recovered/seized certain incriminating articles and documents relating to Popular Front of India (PFI). There was no reason to reject Khan's bail application, the top court said, allowing his appeal.

Source: TNS

Patanjali ads: Relief for Ramdev, Acharya Balakrishna as Supreme Court closes contempt case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday, August 13, closed the contempt case against yoga guru Ramdev and Acharya Balakrishna, accepting their undertakings to stop issuing misleading advertisements and other claims regarding Patanjali Ayurved Ltd products.

A petition filed by Indian Medical Association which approached the Supreme Court in 2022 against disparaging remarks by Ramdev and Patanjali against modern medicine. The petition showed that Patanjali's advertisements promising miracle cures for lifestyle disorders and other illness violated the law under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1954.

The court had issued contempt notices to Ramdev and Balakrishna after the



advertisements continued to appear in newspapers in violation of an undertaking given by the company in November last year.

On August 6, the Supreme Court asked IMA Ppresident Dr RV Asokan to publish apologies in all prominent newspapers

that carried his interview over his controversial remarks regarding the hearing on misleading advertisements in the top court.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta also made it clear that Asokan would bear the expenses for the

same from his own pocket and not to be done on the IMA's behalf. The court then adjourned the matter.

The court also expressed unhappiness with Asokan for the nature of the apology tendered by him in the matter.

Earlier, Asokan's lawyer apprised the court that an apology for his controversial remarks regarding the Patanjali hearing has been published in the various media platforms and its website too. When the IMA website is opened, there is a pop-up of this apology. He also apprised the court that the IMA president expressed regret and furnished an unconditional apology for such statements, news agency ANI reported.

The court was dealing with the IMA's plea seeking to frame guidelines for prohibiting false and misleading advertisements in relation to allopathy and modern medicine. Source: HT



India in history this Week

AUGUST 16 TO AUGUST 22

16 AUGUST

1886 Ram Krishna Paramahansa Dev breathed his last at the Twilight Vela.

1946 The Muslim League declared a direct action day, during which around 5000 people were killed and



15,000 were injured in Kolkata during the violence.

2018 Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died at the age of 93.

17 AUGUST

1909 Madan Lal Dhingra was hanged in the Pentonvilli prison in connection with the murder of Vayali and Lalkaka.

1947 After the independence of India, the first British troops left home.

1941 Bimal Jalan, the 20th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, was born on 1941.

2011 Lokpal movement: Anna Hazare continued his fast in Tihar, despite his release in 2011, till he got written permission to continue his fast in JP Park.



2009 On the issue of internal security, the one-day conference of all the Chief Ministers of the country was held in New Delhi on 2009 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

18 AUGUST

1900 Vijayalakshmi Pandit, sister of former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born.

1934 The film director, lyricist and poet Gulzar was born.

1940 For the first time, the weather map was broadcast on television.

1945 The great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chand Bose was badly injured in a plane crash in Taihoku, Taiwan, later died in a military hospital.

1951 Indian Institute of Technology was established in Kharagpur.

1872 Birth of Pandit Vishnu Digambar, the great musician of Maharashtra. Despite being blind, he achieved memorable achievements in the field of music.

1800 Governor General Lord Vallejali established Fort William College in Calcutta.



1956 Indian cricketer Sandeep Patil was born in Mumbai. He scored 1588 runs in 29 Test matches.

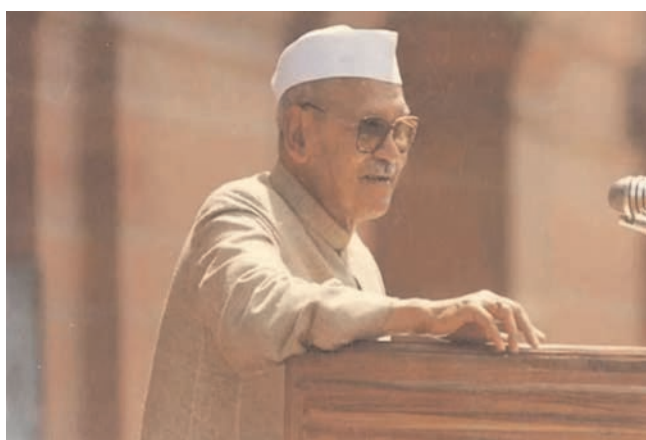
2008 The Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh announced the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in 2008.

2010 In 2010, TVS Electronics included a rupee symbol just above the tab in its new key board called 'TVS Gold Bharat'.

1700 Bajirao I, the great general of the Maratha Empire, was born on 1700.

19 AUGUST

1757 The first one rupee coin of the East India Company was made in the Calcutta mint.



1918 Birth of Dr. Shankardayal Sharma, 9th President of India.

1666 Shivaji escaped from Aurangzeb's captivity by hiding in a fruit basket in Agra.

1949 Bhubaneswar became the capital of Odisha.

1999 Angered by India's draft nuclear policy, the G8 announced a ban on all kinds of aid.

1600 Mughal Emperor Akbar captured Ahmednagar.

1964 The communication satellite Cincom 3 was launched.

1939 Guruvar Ravindra Nath Tagore laid the foundation stone of Subhash Chandra Bose Mahajati Sadan in Calcutta in 1939.

1907 Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, essayist, novelist, critic, thinker and researcher was born in 1907.

20 AUGUST

1597 Dutch East India Company's first ship returned from East Asia.

1944 Former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi was born.

1921 Start of Mopala Rebellion in Malabar, Kerala.

1979 Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh resigned from his post.

2011 India's famous historian Ram Sharan Sharma died.

1828 The first session of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Brahma Samaj was held in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1897 Ronald Ross identified malaria-causing anopheles mosquito while working at the Presidency General Hospital in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1988 A magnitude 6.5 earthquake in India and Nepal killed a thousand people.



2018 Vinesh Phogat of India won the gold medal in the 50 kg category of the Jakarta Asian Games women's wrestling competition. She became the first woman wrestler in the country to achieve this feat.

21 AUGUST

1790 The British army, led by General Meadows, captured Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

1988 One thousand people died due to the severe earthquake that hit the Indo-Nepal border.

2005 The ceasefire agreement between Bangladesh and India's Border Security Force concluded.

2006 Renowned Shehnai player Ustad Bismillah Khan passed away.

2008 The Caravan-e-Aman bus service plying between Muzaffarabad, the capital of Srinagar and 'Pakistan-occupied Kashmir', resumed.

1931 Pandit Vishnu Digambar died.

1972 The Wildlife Protection Act was passed in India.

2008 In 2008, India joined hands with NASA on the Moon mission.

2009 The Indian Navy's fighter aircraft 'Sea Harrier' crashed in the Arabian Sea after flying from Goa in 2009. Take the pilot. Commander Saurabh Saxena died.

22 AUGUST

1639 The British East India Company established Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu (erstwhile Madras).

1818 Warren Hasting, the first Governor General of India, died.

1921 Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi lit Holi of foreign clothes.



2012 Pranab Mukherjee was elected the 13th President of India.

1918 India's first proficient pilot Indralal Rai was killed in an air battle with Germany in London during the First World War.

1996 The state government changed the name of Madras to Chennai.



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India's struggle for Independence

INDIA IS PREPARING TO COMMEMORATE ITS 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ON AUGUST 15, 2024, WHICH WILL REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN ITS HISTORY. INDEPENDENCE DAY IS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT FANFARE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND AMONG INDIANS WORLDWIDE. IT SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE EFFORTS THAT LED TO OUR FREEDOM FROM BRITISH COLONIAL DOMINATION AFTER NEARLY TWO CENTURIES, AS WELL AS THE SACRIFICES MADE BY LEADERS AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO ACHIEVE AN INDEPENDENT INDIA.

Independence Day is celebrated annually on 15 August as a public holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947, the day when the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, which transferred legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly, came into effect. India retained King George VI as head of state until its transition to a republic, when the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950 (celebrated as Indian Republic Day) and replaced the dominion prefix, Dominion of India, with the enactment of the sovereign law Constitution of India. India attained independence following the independence movement noted for largely non-violent resistance and civil disobedience led by Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Independence coincided with the partition of India, in which British India was divided into the Dominions of India and Pakistan; the partition was accompanied by violent riots and mass casualties, and the displacement of nearly 15 million people due to religious violence. On 15 August 1947, the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi. On each subsequent Independence Day, the incumbent Prime Minister customarily raises the flag and gives an address to the nation.

The Indian Independence Movement was a series of historic events in South Asia with the ultimate aim of ending British colonial rule. It lasted until 1947, when the Indian Independence Act 1947 was passed.

In ancient times, people from all over the world were keen to come to India. The Persians followed by the Iranians and Parsis immigrated to India. Then came the Moghuls and they too settled down permanently in India. Chengis Khan, the Mongolian, invaded and looted India many times. Alexander the Great too, came to conquer India but went back after a battle with Porus. He-en Tsang from China came in pursuit of knowledge and to visit the ancient Indian universities of Nalanda and Takshila. Columbus wanted to come to India, but instead landed on the shores of America. Vasco da Gama from Portugal came to trade his country's goods in return for Indian spices. The French came and established their colonies in India.

Lastly, the Britishers came and ruled



over India for nearly 200 years. After the battle of Plassey in 1757, the British achieved political power in India. And their paramountcy was established during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie, who became the Governor-General in 1848.

He annexed Punjab, Peshawar and the Pathan tribes in the north-west of India. And by 1856, the British conquest and its authority were firmly established. And while the British power gained its heights during the middle of the 19th century, the discontent of the local rulers, the peasantry, the intellectuals, common masses as also of the soldiers who became unemployed due to the disbanding of the armies of various states that were annexed by the British, became widespread. This soon broke out into a revolt which assumed the dimensions of the 1857 Mutiny.

The Indian Mutiny of 1857

The conquest of India, which could be said to have begun with the Battle of Plassey (1757), was practically completed by the end of Dalhousie's tenure in 1856. It had been by no means a smooth affair as the simmering discontent of the people manifested itself in many localized revolt during this period.



Marking the historic day in 1947, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, Jawaharlal Nehru, delivered a speech on the eve of Independence—Tryst with Destiny.

However, the Mutiny of 1857, which began with a revolt of the military soldiers at Meerut, soon became widespread and posed a grave challenge to the British rule. Even though the British succeeded in crushing it within a year, it was certainly a popular revolt in which the Indian rulers, the masses and

the militia participated so enthusiastically that it came to be regarded as the First War of Indian Independence.

Introduction of zamindari system by the British, where the peasants were ruined through exorbitant charges made from them by the new class of landlords.



The craftsmen were destroyed by the influx of the British manufactured goods. The religion and the caste system which formed the firm foundation of the traditional Indian society was endangered by the British administration. The Indian soldiers as well as people in administration could not rise in hierarchy as the senior jobs were reserved for the Europeans. Thus, there was all-round discontent and disgust against the British rule, which burst out in a revolt by the 'sepoys' at Meerut whose religious sentiments were offended when they were given new cartridges greased with cow and pig fat, whose covering had to be stripped out by biting with the mouth before using them in rifles. The Hindu as well as the Muslim soldiers, who refused to use such cartridges, were arrested which resulted in a revolt by their fellow soldiers on May 9, 1857.

The rebel forces soon captured Delhi and the revolt spread to a wider area and there was uprising in almost all parts of the country. The most ferocious battles were fought in Delhi, Awadh, Rohilkhand, Bundelkhand, Allahabad, Agra, Meerut and western Bihar. The rebellious forces under the commands of Kanwar Singh in Bihar and Bakht Khan in Delhi gave a stunning blow to the British. In Kanpur, Nana Sahib was proclaimed as the Peshwa and the brave leader Tantya Tope led his troops. Rani Lakshmi Bai was proclaimed the ruler of Jhansi who led her troops in the heroic battles with the British. The Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs and all the other brave sons of India fought shoulder to shoulder to throw out the British. The revolt was controlled by the British within one year; it began from Meerut on 10 May 1857 and ended in Gwalior on 20 June 1858.

End of the East India Company

Consequent to the failure of the Revolt of 1857 rebellion, one also saw the end of the East India Company's rule in India and many important changes took place in the British Government's policy towards India which sought to strengthen the British rule through winning over the Indian princes, the chiefs and the landlords. Queen Victoria's Proclamation of November 1, 1858 declared that thereafter India would be governed by and in the name of the British Monarch through a Secretary of State.

Non-Cooperation Movement

The Non-Cooperation Movement was pitched in under leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress from September 1920 to February 1922, marking a new awakening in the Indian Independence Movement. After a series of events including the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Gandhiji realised that there was no prospect of getting any fair treatment at the hands of British, so he planned to withdraw the nation's co-operation from the British Government, thus launching the Non-Cooperation Movement and thereby marring the administrative set up of the country. This movement was a great success as it got massive encouragement to millions



of Indians.

Quit India Movement

In August 1942, Gandhiji started the 'Quit India Movement' and decided to launch a mass civil disobedience movement 'Do or Die' call to force the British to leave India. The movement was followed, nonetheless, by large-scale violence directed at railway stations, telegraph offices, government buildings, and other emblems and institutions of colonial rule. There were widespread acts of sabotage, and the government held Gandhi responsible for these acts of violence, suggesting that they were a deliberate act of Congress policy. However, all the prominent leaders were arrested, the Congress was banned and the police and army were brought out to suppress the movement.

Meanwhile, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who stealthily ran away from the British detention in Calcutta, reached foreign lands and organized the Indian National Army (INA) to overthrow the British from India.

The Second World War broke out in September of 1939 and without consulting the Indian leaders, India was declared a warring state (on behalf of the British) by the Governor General. Subhash Chandra Bose, with the help of Japan, preceded fighting the British forces and not only freed Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the Britishers but also entered the north-eastern border of India. But in 1945 Japan was defeated and Netaji proceeded from Japan through an aeroplane to a place of safety but met with an accident and it was given out that he died in that air-crash itself.

"Give me blood and I shall give you freedom" - was one of the most popular statements made by him, where he urges the people of India to join him in his freedom movement.

Partition of India and Pakistan

At the conclusion of the Second World War, the Labour Party, under Prime Minister Clement Richard Attlee, came



to power in Britain. The Labour Party was largely sympathetic towards Indian people for freedom. A Cabinet Mission was sent to India in March 1946, which after a careful study of the Indian political scenario, proposed the formation of an interim Government and convening of a Constituent Assembly comprising members elected by the provincial legislatures and nominees of the Indian states. An interim Government was formed headed by Jawaharlal Nehru. However, the Muslim League refused to participate in the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly and pressed for the separate state for Pakistan. Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, presented a plan for the division of India into India and Pakistan, and the Indian leaders had no choice but to accept the division, as the Muslim League was adamant.

Thus, India became free at the stroke of midnight, on August 14, 1947. (Since then, every year India celebrates its Independence Day on 15th August). Jawaharlal Nehru became the first

Prime Minister of free India and continued his term till 1964. Giving voice to the sentiments of the nation, Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said,

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.... We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again.

Earlier, a Constituent Assembly was formed in July 1946, to frame the Constitution of India and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected its President. The Constitution of India which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949. On January 26, 1950, the Constitution was came into force and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the first President of India.



Freedom fighters of India

Hundreds and thousands left everything, and many sacrificed their life for one common goal - freedom of India from foreign rule! These freedom fighters, activists and revolutionaries came from different backgrounds and philosophies to fight one common enemy - the foreign imperialists! While we are aware of several freedom fighters and revolutionaries, many have remained unsung heroes. We have made best efforts to present some of the most prominent freedom activists and revolutionaries who made immense contribution towards India's struggle for freedom.

Tantia Tope

Tantia Tope was one of the Indian rebellions of 1857. He served as a general and led a group of Indian soldiers against the British. He was an ardent follower of Nana Sahib of Bithur and continued to fight on his behalf when Nana was forced to retreat by the British army. Tantia even forced General Windham to retreat from Kanpur and helped Rani Lakshmi of Jhansi to retain Gwalior.



Rani Lakshmi Bai



One of the key members of India's first war of independence, Rani Lakshmi Bai went on to inspire thousands of women to join the fight for freedom. On 23 March, 1858 Lakshmi Bai defended her palace and the entire city of Jhansi when it was threatened to be captured by British troops led by Sir Hugh Rose.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the most prominent freedom fighters of India who inspired thousands with the slogan - "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". As a form of protest against the British, Tilak established schools and published rebellious newspapers. He was famous as one of the trios - Bal, Pal and Lal. People loved him and accepted him as one of their leaders and so, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.



Mangal Pandey



Mangal Pandey is said to have played a key role in inspiring Indian soldiers to start the great rebellion of 1857. Working as a soldier for the British East India Company, Pandey started firing at English officials and caught them unawares. His attack is regarded as the first step of the Indian rebellion that started in 1857.

Ashfaqulla Khan

Ashfaqulla Khan was a firebrand among the young revolutionaries, who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. He was an important member of the Hindustan Republican Association. Khan, along with his associates, executed the train robbery at Kakori for which he was arrested and executed by the British.



Bipin Chandra Pal

Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the key members of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter. He advocated the abandonment of foreign goods. He,

along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, spearheaded many revolutionary activities. For this reason, he is called as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts.'

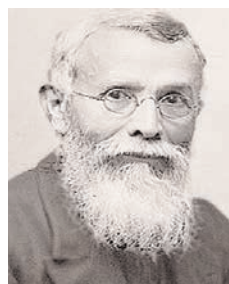


Chandra Shekhar Azad

One of the close associates of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad is credited for reorganizing Hindustan Republican Association. Azad, as he was popularly called, is known as one of the bravest freedom fighters of India. At the time of being surrounded by British soldiers, he killed many of them and shot himself to death with the last bullet of his Colt pistol. He did so, as he never wanted to be captured alive.

Birsa Munda

Principally a religious leader, Birsa Munda used the religious beliefs of his tribe in order to revolt against the government of British. He implemented guerrilla warfare techniques to upset the rhythm of the British troops. In 1900, Birsa, along with his army, was arrested by the British soldiers. He was later convicted and was lodged in a jail in Ranchi.



Dadabhai Naoroji

Credited with establishing the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji is remembered as one of the most prominent members to have participated in the independence movement. In one of the books published by him, he wrote about the colonial rule of the British which was precisely aimed at looting

wealth from India.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the most important freedom fighters of India, who went on to become the first Prime Minister of free India. He was also the author of the famous book - 'Discovery of India'. Nehru was extremely fond of children and was fondly called as 'Chacha Nehru'.



It was under his leadership that India embarked on the planned pattern of economic development.

Khudiram Bose



Khudiram Bose was one of those young revolutionaries and freedom fighters whose deeds of bravery went on to become the subject of folklore. He was one of those brave men who challenged the British rule and gave them a taste of their own medicine. At the age of 19, he was martyred, with 'Vande Mataram' being his last

words.

Lakshmi Sahgal

A doctor by profession, Lakshmi Sahgal, popularly known as Captain Lakshmi, encouraged women to join the troop led by Subhas Chandra Bose. She took the initiative of forming a women's regiment and named it 'Rani of Jhansi regiment'. Lakshmi fought vigorously for the Indian independence before she was arrested by the British government in 1945.



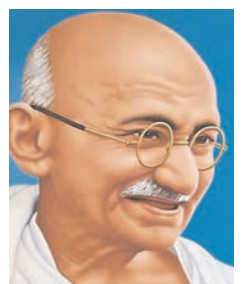
Lala Lajpat Rai



One of the most important members of the Indian National Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai is often revered for leading a protest against the Simon Commission. During the protest, he was assaulted by James A. Scott, the superintendent of police, which ultimately played a role in his death. He was a part of the famous triumvirate called 'Lal Bal Pal.'

Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian independence movement and was successful in freeing India from the clutches of the British. He employed non-violence and engaged in various movements as part of his inspiring protest against the British rule. He went on to become the most significant freedom fighter and hence is called as the 'Father of the Nation.'



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a great freedom fighter. Maulana Azad took part in most of the important movements. He presided over the special session of Congress in September 1923 and at the age of 35 he became the youngest man to be elected as the President of the Congress.

Ram Manohar Lohia

One of the founding members of the Congress Socialist Party, Ram Manohar Lohia was an active member of the Indian independence movement. Lohia was a key member in organizing the Quit India Movement, for which he was arrested and tortured in 1944. He even worked for the Congress Radio which operated secretly, propagandizing anti-British messages.



Ram Prasad Bismil

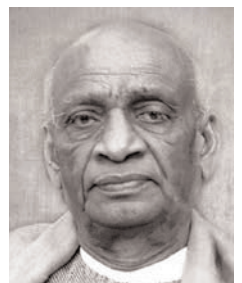


Ram Prasad Bismil was one of those young revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. Bismil was one of the most important members of the Hindustan Republican Association and also a prominent member of the group that was involved in the Kakori train robbery. He was sentenced to death by the British

government for his involvement in the famous train robbery.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

His brave deeds earned Vallabhbhai Patel the title, 'the iron man of India.' For his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel came to be known as Sardar. Though he was a famous lawyer, Sardar Patel gave up his profession in order to fight for the freedom of the country. After the independence, he became the deputy Prime Minister of India and played an important role in the integration of India by merging numerous princely states with the Indian Union.





Bhagat Singh



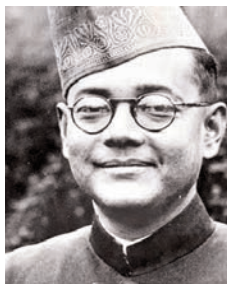
The name Bhagat Singh is synonymous with sacrifice, courage, bravery and vision. By sacrificing his life at the age of 30, Bhagat Singh became an inspiration and a symbol of heroism. Along with other revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. To remind the British government of its misdeeds, Bhagat Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. By embracing death at a young age, Singh became a symbol of sacrifice and courage, thereby residing forever in the hearts of every Indian.

Shivaram Rajguru

A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Shivaram Rajguru was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Shivaram is mainly remembered for his involvement in the assassination of John Saunders, a young British police officer. With an intention of killing James Scott, the police superintendent who had assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai just two weeks before his death, Shivaram mistook John for James and shot him to death.



Subhas Chandra Bose



Popularly known as Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose was a fierce freedom fighter and popular leader on the political horizon of pre-independent India. Bose was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1937 and 1939. He founded the Indian National Army and raised the famous slogans, 'Delhi Chalo' and 'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do main Tumhe Ajadi Doonga.'

For his anti-British remarks and activities, Bose was jailed 11 times between 1920 and 1941. He was the leader of the youth wing of Congress Party.

Sukhdev

One of the key members of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Sukhdev was a revolutionary and a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. He too, was involved in the killing of John Saunders, a British police officer. Sukhdev was captured, along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru, and was martyred at the age of 24.



Aruna Asaf Ali



An active independence activist and member of the Congress Party, Aruna Asaf Ali is remembered for her participation in various movements including Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. During the Quit India Movement, she risked being arrested by hoisting the INC flag in Bombay. She was arrested on many occasions for her revolutionary activities and

was lodged in jail until 1931 when political prisoners were released under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

Udham Singh

Udham Singh was one of the most important and famous revolutionaries who took part in the Indian independence movement. He is remembered for avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by brutally murdering Sir Michael O'Dwyer on March 13, 1940. For his



act, Udham Singh was convicted and was eventually sentenced to death.

Annie Besant

Being a British, Annie Besant advocated Indian self-rule and eventually became a prominent freedom fighter. After becoming a part of the Indian National Congress, she was made the President of INC in 1917. After acting as one of the key members in establishing 'Home Rule League', she even founded a Hindu school in Benares to achieve her goal of freeing India from the clutches of her countrymen.



Kartar Singh Sarabha



Kartar Singh Sarabha was one of the most famous revolutionaries who sacrificed his life at the age of 19. Sarabha joined the Ghadar Party, an organization formed to protest against the British rule, at the age of 17. He, along with his men, was arrested when a member of the Ghadar Party betrayed them by

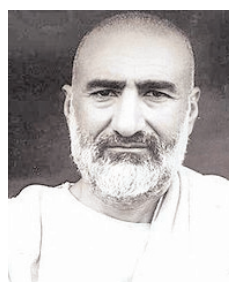
informing the police about their hiding place.

Batukeshwar Dutt

Batukeshwar Dutt was a firebrand revolutionary who is often remembered for his association with Bhagat Singh. Batukeshwar was involved in the serial blast that took place in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929. A member of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Batukeshwar is also remembered for his hunger strike that secured a few rights for the Indian political prisoners.



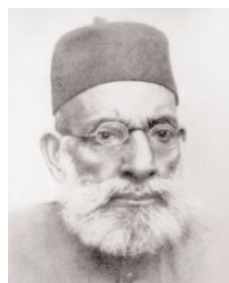
Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan



Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was one of those independence activists who opposed the partition of India at the time of its independence. Popularly known as Bacha Khan, he advocated non-violence and wanted a secular country. In 1929, he initiated the 'Khudai Khidmatgar' movement, which gave the British a run for their money. Since his principles were similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi's, he worked closely with Gandhi in all his endeavours.

Hasrat Mohani

At the Ahmedabad Session of Indian National Congress, Hasrat Mohani became the first person to raise his voice against the British rule in India. An eminent writer and poet, Hasrat was arrested on multiple occasions for propagating anti-British policies through his articles that were published in the magazine, 'Urdu-e-Mualla'. He was also a co-founder of Communist Party of India.



Bhagwati Charan Vohra



An associate of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagwati Charan Vohra too, was an important revolutionary. In 1929, he rented a house in Lahore and turned it into a bomb factory. He planned to assassinate Viceroy Lord Irwin by blowing up the train he was travelling in. Lord Irwin escaped the

attack unhurt.

Bina Das

Bina Das was one of the bravest women revolutionaries who attempted to murder Stanley Jackson, the then Bengal



Governor, by firing five rounds at him at the Convocation Hall in the University of Calcutta. Unfortunately, she missed her target and was imprisoned for over nine years. She was once again arrested for participating in the Quit India Movement.

Jatin Das

Jatindra Nath Das died at the age of 25 after a hunger strike that lasted for 63 days. Jatindra Nath Das, also remembered as Jatin Das, was a revolutionary and was lodged in jail along with other revolutionaries. He began his hunger strike when the political prisoners had a strikingly different environment when compared to that of their European counterparts.

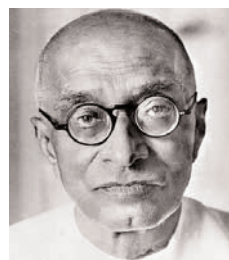


B. R. Ambedkar

Fondly remembered as Baba Saheb, B. R. Ambedkar was a key figure in empowering Dalits. The British had used the Indian caste system to their advantage and were firm believers in the divide and rule policy. Ambedkar understood this motive of the British and ensured their downfall by inspiring the Dalit Buddhist Movement among many other movements.

C. Rajagopalachari

A lawyer by profession, C. Rajagopalachari joined the Indian National Congress in the year 1906 and then successfully defended a revolutionary named P. Varadarajulu Naidu. He went on to become an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Rajagopalachari was an important representative of Congress in Tamil Nadu.



Baba Gurdit Singh



Baba Gurdit Singh understood that India must take its fight for freedom overseas as well in order to truly succeed. But a law prevented the entry of Asians into countries like Canada and the United States. In order to change this law, Baba Gurdit Singh embarked on a journey to Canada and thus became actively involved in the 'Komagata Maru incident'.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

The founder of Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was an activist and was popularly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar. Also an eminent writer, Savarkar published a book titled 'The Indian War of Independence' that spoke about the struggles of the Indian mutiny of 1857.



Rash Behari Bose



Rash Behari Bose was one of the most important revolutionaries who tried to assassinate Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy of India. Along with other revolutionaries, Bose is credited for organizing Ghadar Mutiny and the Indian National Army. He was also involved in persuading the Japanese to help the Indians in their struggle for freedom.



India's achievements at 78

From a primarily an agrarian economy, India has transformed into one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies. The IT and service sectors, in particular, have positioned India as a global leader in technology and innovation. Significant improvements in education have led to a dramatic rise in literacy rates. Initiatives like the Right to Education Act have made education accessible to millions of children across the country. India has made considerable progress in healthcare, with improvements in life expectancy and reductions in infant mortality rates. The country's pharmaceutical industry is now a major player on the global stage. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has achieved notable successes, including the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions, showcasing India's capabilities in space exploration. Modern infrastructure projects, such as the construction of highways, airports, and metro systems, have bolstered connectivity and economic growth.

Economy

The economy of India is a developing mixed economy with a notable public sector in strategic sectors. It is the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP); on a per capita income basis, India ranked 136th by GDP (nominal) and 125th by GDP (PPP).

From independence in 1947 until 1991, successive governments followed the Soviet model and promoted protectionist economic policies, with extensive Sovietization, state intervention, demand-side economics, natural resources, bureaucrat driven enterprises and economic regulation. This is characterized as dirigism, in the form of the License Raj. The end of the Cold War and an acute balance of payments crisis in 1991 led to the adoption of a broad economic liberalisation in India and indicative planning. Since the start of the 21st century, annual average GDP growth has been 6% to 7%., India has about 1,900 public sector company, Indian state has complete control and ownership of railways, highways; majority control and stake in banking, insurance, farming, dairy, fertilizers & chemicals, airports, nuclear, mining, digitization, defense, steel, rare earths, water, electricity, oil and gas industries and power plants, and has substantial control over digitalization, Broadband as national infrastructure, telecommunication, supercomputing, space, port and shipping industries, among other industries, were effectively nationalized in the mid-1950s.

Nearly 70% of India's GDP is driven by domestic consumption; country remains the world's fourth-largest consumer market. Apart from private consumption, India's GDP is also fueled by government spending, investments, and exports. In 2022, India was the world's 10th-largest importer and the 8th-



largest exporter. India has been a member of the World Trade Organization since 1 January 1995. It ranks 63rd on the Ease of doing business index and 40th on the Global Competitiveness Index. India has one of the world's highest number of billionaires and extreme income inequality. Economists and social scientists often consider India a welfare state. India is officially declared a socialist state as per the constitution. With 586 million workers, the Indian labor force is the world's second-largest.

According to HSBC Flash India PMI report, business activity surged in April to its highest level in about 14 years as well as sustained robust demand. The composite index reached 62.2, indicating continuous expansion since August 2021, alongside positive job growth and decreased input inflation, affirming India's status as the fastest-growing major economy.

As of July 5, 2024, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 657.15 billion.

In May 2024, India saw a total of US\$ 6.9 billion in PE-VC investments.

Merchandise exports in June 2024 stood at US\$ 35.20 billion, with total merchandise exports of US\$ 109.96 billion during the period of April 2024 to

June 2024.

India was also named as the 48th most innovative country among the top 50 countries, securing 40th position out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023. India rose from 81st position in 2015 to 40th position in 2023. India ranks 3rd position in the global number of scientific publications.

In June 2024, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) stood at highest monthly revenue collection at Rs. 1.74 lakh crore (US\$ 20.83 billion) vs Rs. 1.73 lakh crore (US\$ 20.71 billion)

Between April 2000–March 2024, cumulative FDI equity inflows to India stood at US\$ 97 billion.

In May 2024, the overall IIP (Index of Industrial Production) stood at 154.2. The Indices of Industrial Production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors stood at 136.5, 149.7 and 229.3, respectively, in May 2024.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation reached 5.08% (Provisional) for June 2024.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) inflows between April-July (2023-24) were close to Rs. 80,500 crore (US\$ 9.67 billion), while Domestic Institutional Investors

(DII) sold Rs. 4,500 crore (US\$ 540.56 million) in the same period. As per depository data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) invested (US\$ 13.89 billion) in India during January- (up to 15th July) 2024.

The wheat procurement during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2024-25 (till May) was estimated to be 266 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) and the rice procured in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25 was 400 LMT.

India remains world's fastest growing major economy globally: World Bank

The World Bank on June 11, 2024, predicted that India is set to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally, though its growth rate is expected to slow. The June 'Global Economic Prospects' report maintained the GDP growth forecast for India at 6.6 per cent for FY25.

"This moderation is mainly due to a slowdown in investment from a high base. However, investment growth is still expected to be stronger than previously envisaged and remain robust over the forecast period, with strong public investment accompanied by private investment," the report said.

In April, the global agency increased its projection for India's GDP growth by 20 basis points to 6.6 per cent for the current financial year.

After a robust performance in FY24, the World Bank projected an average growth rate of 6.7 per cent (6.7 per cent in FY26 and 6.8 per cent in FY27) annually over the three fiscal years starting from FY25, as outlined in its Global Economic Prospects for June 2024.

In the January-March quarter, India's GDP growth surpassed expectations, reaching 7.8 per cent, although this was a decline from 8.4 per cent in the third quarter. For the entire fiscal year 2023-24, GDP growth has been revised upwards to 8.2 per cent from the second advance estimate of 7.6 per cent, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released on May 31.

India, the largest economy in South Asia, has significantly contributed to regional growth, particularly through its manufacturing and services sectors, the World Bank report noted. The country's growth rate for FY24 is estimated at 8.2 per cent, a notable increase of 1.9 percentage points from earlier projections, the report said.

India's economic growth has been driven by its industrial and services sectors, which have offset a slowdown in agricultural production caused by monsoon disruptions. Domestic demand remains strong, buoyed by infrastructure investments, even as post-pandemic pent-up consumption demand eases, the World Bank report noted. Inflation in India has remained within the Reserve Bank's target range of 2-6 per cent since September 2023, contributing to a stable economic environment, the report added.



Evolution in health & development

The trajectory of India's development in health and well-being from 1947 to 2023 showcases a remarkable evolution. The nation's endeavours to tackle some of the deadliest diseases and enhance the quality of life for its citizens reflect a story of transformation and growth.

A triumph in death rate reduction

One of the most remarkable accomplishments India has achieved post-independence is the substantial reduction in death rate. In 1947, the average life expectancy for an Indian citizen was a mere 32 years.

Fast forward to 2024, and this figure has risen significantly to an impressive 70.62 years, a 0.29% increase from 2023. This transformation, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), underscores the progress in human development.

Infant mortality and child health:

A striking improvement

The United Nations' data sheds light on India's commendable strides in child health. The infant mortality rate, which stood at 145.6 per 1000 live births in 1947, has seen a remarkable improvement and dropped to 27.695 per 1000 live births in 2023. This splendid improvement underscores the nation's commitment to ensuring a healthier start for its youngest citizens.

National initiatives and disease eradication

India's post-independence journey has been punctuated by the initiation of numerous national-level campaigns aimed at combatting various diseases. From AIDS to tuberculosis and malaria, the Indian government has championed initiatives that have not only saved lives but also demonstrated the nation's proactive approach to public health challenges.

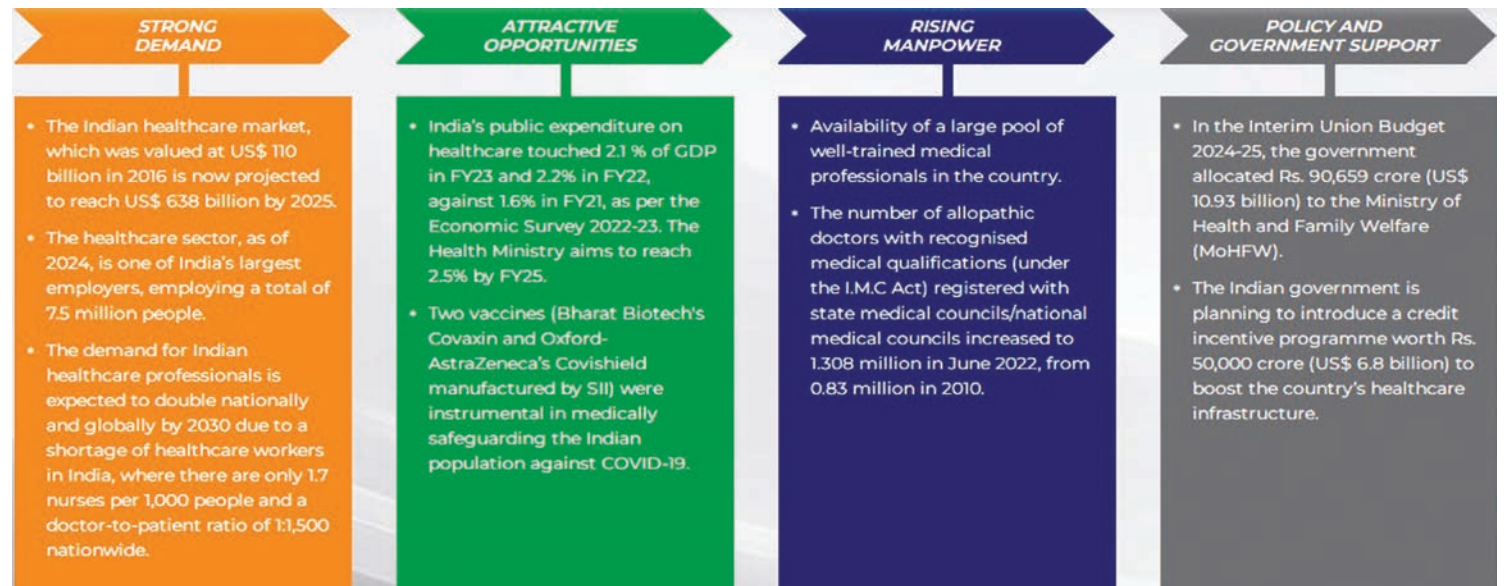
Empowering health through national schemes

The launch of transformative schemes such as the National Health Mission and the National Rural Health Mission has bolstered India's commitment to enhancing child and maternal health. These initiatives have played a pivotal role in ensuring accessible healthcare services and reducing health disparities across different regions of the country.

India's progress in the field of medical education is another testament to its journey of transformation. There were mere 28 medical colleges in the 1950s but the current count of 612 medical colleges speaks volumes about the nation's dedication to nurturing a skilled healthcare workforce.

India's evolution in the realm of health and development over the years serves as an inspiring example for developing nations across the globe.

Healthcare has become one of India's largest sectors, both in terms of revenue and employment. Healthcare comprises hospitals, medical devices, clinical trials,



outsourcing, telemedicine, medical tourism, health insurance and medical equipment. The Indian healthcare sector is growing at a brisk pace due to its strengthening coverage, services, and increasing expenditure by public as well as private players.

India's healthcare delivery system is categorised into two major components - public and private. The government, i.e., the public healthcare system, comprises limited secondary and tertiary care institutions in key cities and focuses on providing basic healthcare facilities in the form of Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in rural areas. The private sector provides the majority of secondary, tertiary, and quaternary care institutions with a major concentration in metros, tier-I, and tier-II cities.

India's competitive advantage lies in its large pool of well-trained medical professionals. India is also cost-competitive compared to its peers in Asia and Western countries. The cost of surgery in India is about one-tenth of that in the US or Western Europe. The low cost of medical services has resulted in a rise in the country's medical tourism, attracting patients from across the world. Moreover, India has emerged as a hub for R&D activities for international players due to its relatively low cost of clinical research.

In the past few decades, India's healthcare sector has undergone significant transformations marked by advancements in infrastructure, technology, and accessibility. This journey towards enhancing public health has been propelled by focused efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a commitment to bolstering healthcare infrastructure. While commendable achievements have been made, challenges persist, including fragmentation across various dimensions of healthcare delivery. However, concerted efforts by the Government of India, supported by state governments and various stakeholders, have successfully addressed many of these challenges.

Strategic government-led initiatives like the National Health Policy, which aims to shape the country's health



systems through government interventions, the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), providing a sum insured of INR 5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 104 million beneficiary families, and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, aiming to develop an integrated and interoperable digital health infrastructure, have played a pivotal role in shaping the healthcare landscape. Digital healthcare initiatives such as CoWIN, e-Sanjeevani, Arogya Setu, e-Hospital, etc. have accelerated progress, enhancing healthcare accessibility and delivery.

These initiatives aim to build robust healthcare ecosystem and ensure healthcare reaches every doorstep. Additionally, regulatory reforms and supportive policies have boosted the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors, driving economic growth and innovation. These efforts are enhanced by collaborations with the private sector, non-profits, healthcare startups, and international partners. They have been pivotal in expanding access to advanced medical services, fostering innovation in healthcare delivery, and promoting health equity nationwide.

The fragmentation in health service financing has been substantially reducing over the years because of increased penetration of government health insurance scheme and other

social security initiatives. The transition from the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to PM-JAY has been particularly impactful, contributing to a significant reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 47.1% in 2019-20. This improvement signifies enhanced affordability and accessibility of healthcare services for the population.

Key achievements

Improving health indicators: The remarkable progress and achievement of National Health Policy targets of key health indicators such as infant mortality, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality rates is a testament to India's efforts in enhancing healthcare delivery and maternal and child health services. These improvements signify a brighter future for generations to come, with better health outcomes and reduced disparities.

Healthcare financing: India's recognition of the importance of healthcare funding is evident from the upward trend of healthcare expenditure as a percentage of GDP, reaching 2.1% in 2022-23 from 1.2% in 2014-15. This trend signifies a positive step towards fulfilling the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, which proposed that public health expenditure of Union and State Governments together should be increased in a progressive manner to reach 2.5% of the GDP by 2025.



Development of education in India

Since gaining independence, India has placed significant emphasis on education as a means of fostering national development, social progress, and economic growth. Post-independence educational policies have aimed to expand access, promote equity, and enhance the quality of education across the country.

India, a land steeped in rich cultural heritage, has a vibrant history of imparting knowledge and education dating back to ancient times. This nation has witnessed a massive transformation in its education system, evolving from traditional Gurukuls to modern schools and now to online colleges.

The first education system in India, dating back to 5000 BC, was the 'Gurukula' system. In this model, a student (shishya) would approach a teacher (Guru) for admission. If accepted, the student would stay with the Guru, assisting with household chores while learning practical skills, science, mathematics, philosophy, and metaphysics. This holistic education system emphasizes the development of human values and the practical implementation of knowledge to solve real-world problems.

However, the Gurukula system was eventually replaced by the modern school system introduced to India in 1830 by Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay. This system prioritized science and mathematics, with less emphasis on philosophy, ethics, moral values, and metaphysics. The medium of communication was also changed to English.

Current State of Education in India: Facts & Figures

Under the 2020 amendment to India's Right to Education Act, free and compulsory education is ensured for every child aged 3-18. Here are some statistics related to India's education system:

26% of the Indian population, approximately 1.39 billion, falls within the primary education sector (0-14 years).

18% of the Indian population, roughly 500 million, fall within the secondary and higher education sector (15-24 years).

The adult (15+ years) literacy rate in India is 69.3%, with male literacy at 78.8% and female at 59.3%.

Kerala boasts the highest literacy rate in India.

University of Delhi is the most popular higher education institution in India, followed by IIT Bombay.

In the 2019 English Proficiency Index, India ranked 34th among 100 nations.

Future Prospects for India's Education System

India's future aims for its education system are ambitious and progressive. Initiatives such as the United Nation's E9 Initiative, launched in April 2021, aim to encourage digital learning, specifically targeting marginalized groups,



particularly girls. The Union Budget of 2021-22 allocated \$7.56 billion for school education and \$5.28 billion for higher education. It is estimated that by 2030, more than 20 Indian higher education universities will rank among the top 200 universities globally.

In 2022, the degree of literacy in India was about 76.32 percent, with the majority of literate Indians being men. It is estimated that the global literacy rate for people aged 15 and above is about 86 percent. The overall prediction of literacy rate in 2024 is 85.95%.

Higher Education in Post Independence India

This period has witnessed the establishment of universities, colleges, and specialized institutions, the diversification of academic disciplines, and the implementation of policies aimed at democratizing higher

education opportunities for all citizens.

Key Developments in Higher Education

Expansion of Higher Education Institutions: Post-independence India has witnessed a significant expansion of higher education institutions, including universities, colleges, and technical institutes. The establishment of institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and central universities has played a crucial role in promoting excellence in higher education and research.

Diversification of Academic Disciplines: Higher education in post-independent India has witnessed the diversification of academic disciplines, with the introduction of new fields of study and interdisciplinary approaches.

Alongside traditional disciplines such as arts, science, and commerce, emerging areas such as engineering, management, information technology, and biotechnology have gained prominence.

Promotion of Science and Technology: Recognizing the importance of scientific and technological advancements for national development, post-independent India has invested in the establishment of research institutions, engineering colleges, and scientific laboratories. Initiatives such as the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have played a pivotal role in fostering innovation and human capital development.

Affirmative Action and Social Inclusion: Post-independent India has implemented affirmative action policies such as reservations and scholarships to promote social inclusion and equity in higher education. Initiatives aimed at providing opportunities to historically marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), have contributed to increased access and representation in higher education.

Internationalization and Global Collaboration: Higher education institutions in post-independent India have increasingly embraced internationalization, forging collaborations with foreign universities, research institutions, and industry partners. International student exchanges, joint research projects, and academic partnerships have enriched the learning experience, promoted cross-cultural understanding, and facilitated knowledge transfer.

Challenges and Reforms

Despite significant progress, higher education in post-independent India faces several challenges, including issues related to access, quality assurance, curriculum relevance, employability, and equity. Reforms focusing on infrastructure development, faculty training, curriculum revision, research funding, and industry-academia collaboration are essential to address these challenges and enhance the effectiveness and relevance of higher education in India.

In conclusion, post-independence education in India has undergone significant transformations, driven by the goals of equity, access, and quality. While considerable progress has been made in expanding educational opportunities and improving literacy rates, persistent challenges remain, including disparities in access, unequal educational outcomes, and curriculum relevance. By addressing these challenges through inclusive policies, innovative pedagogies, and strategic investments, India can realize its vision of a robust and equitable education system that empowers individuals, fosters social cohesion, and drives sustainable development.



Achievements of India in science and technology

Advancements in technology have been the major cause for the development of a country as well as human civilization. India, recognised globally for its scientific rigour and potential, has been contributing to the fields of science and technology since ancient times as evident from the discovery of zero to the research in particle physics. Continuing striving towards science and technology in ancient and medieval times, India has been able to gain pace in scientific discoveries and innovations after independence. Indian scientists have won the most prestigious Nobel prize in all three areas of Science.

Today, India is making progress in more advanced technology such as tokamak, neutrino, gravitational waves, scramjets, sending human missions into space, and emerging technologies.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, great strides were made by Indian scientists. The innate ability to perform creatively in science came to be backed by institutional setups and strong state support after the country's independence in 1947.

India's Contribution to Physics

Since the early 20th century, many physicists of India have contributed to Physics.

Jagdish Chandra Bose: He pioneered the study of radio and microwave optics, and electro-physiology. He was the first person to detect radio signals, thus demonstrating wireless communication for the first time. He invented the crescograph, through which he measured plant response to various stimuli and hypothesised that plants can feel pain, understand affection, etc.

CV Raman: He is known for his work on the scattering effect of light. His finding is called 'Raman Effect' for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics, in 1930.

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar: He was an Indian-American astrophysicist awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize for Physics for his theoretical studies of the structure and evolution of the stars.

Satyendra Nath Bose: He was an Indian physicist specialising in quantum mechanics and provided a new derivation of Planck's law. He is best known for providing the foundation of Bose-Einstein statistics and developing the theory of Bose-Einstein condensates.

Contribution to particle physics:

International Neutrino Observatory (INO): The INO project broadly aims to create an outstanding underground laboratory in India for non-accelerator-based high energy and nuclear physics research.

CERN's: Indian scientists at CERN



contributed to the construction of a large hadron collider and other experiments such as ALICE and CMS experiment.

Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) - India: It is a mega-science project in Astronomy and the scientific goals of the project are in the area of fundamental physics.

India's Contribution to Chemistry

Prafulla Chandra Ray: He was regarded as the 'Father of Chemical Science in India and contributed to inorganic and organic nitrites and organic thio compounds.

Sir Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar: He played an immense role in the constitution of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and did considerable work in applied and industrial chemistry.

CNR Rao: He is well-known for his work in structural and solid-state chemistry. He has made contributions in chemical spectroscopy, surface chemistry, molecular structure and high-temperature superconductivity.

India's Contribution to Life Sciences

Cell Biology: Work at the cellular level using modern molecular genetic tools started in India with the initiation of Molecular Biology at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Several model systems such as *E. coli*, fruit fly (*Drosophila*), and *C. elegans*, had

been established, to significantly enhance knowledge of complex biological problems. The most outstanding contributions were the discovery of exotoxins and the atomic structural model of collagen.

DNA Fingerprinting: DNA fingerprinting in India came into existence in 1988. Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology scientists developed the technique and made it available for use, making India the third country to develop its own DNA fingerprinting probe.

Famous personalities:

Har Gobind Khorana: He was a Nobel Prize-winning Indian American biochemist who showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell's synthesis of proteins.

G.N Ramachandran: He contributed to molecular biophysics, particularly in the field of protein structure research. He created a three-dimensional picture of organic material which is known as the Ramachandran plot.

His discovery of collagen's triple helical structure was important for the understanding of peptide structure.

Venkataraman Ramakrishnan: He is a Nobel Prize-winning biochemist who works on the atomic structure of the ribosome as well as the structure of chromatin and histone. He demonstrated how ribosomes react to various chemicals

using a 3D technique.

Achievements of India in Space

India's space journey started with the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) in 1962, later renamed the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969. Key highlights of India's space endeavours:

First Satellite: Aryabhata was India's first satellite which was launched on April 19th, 1975 using Russia's Kosmos-3M launch vehicle.

Launch Vehicles: Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle, launched in 1980. Its success paved the way for advanced launch vehicle projects including the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), and LVM3.

Chandrayaan Missions:

Chandrayaan-1 was India's first moon mission, launched in 2008.

Chandrayaan-2 was India's first attempt to soft-land on the Moon which was launched in 2019 by GSLV MkIII-M1.

With the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, India became the first country to successfully land a spacecraft near the lunar south pole.

Mars Orbiter Mission: MoM, India's first interplanetary mission, was launched in 2013.

After Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency, India became the fourth space agency in the world to reach Mars orbit. It also made India the first country in the world to reach Martian orbit in its maiden attempt.

104 Satellites in a single flight: PSLV-C37 successfully launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites in 2017.

Aditya-L1 Mission: In September 2023 India launched the Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.

Gaganyaan: The Gaganyaan Mission is an ongoing project in India to send a three-person crew to a 400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD): It is one of ISRO's most technologically challenging projects aimed at developing critical technologies for a fully reusable launch vehicle to enable low-cost access to space.

Cryogenic Technology: In 2003, the Indian space agency successfully tested its first cryogenic engine. India is now one of only six countries to have developed their own cryogenic engines.

Scramjet Engines: A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion.



India fast emerging as a defense powerhouse

The Indian Armed Forces are under the management of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India. With strength of over 1.4 million active personnel, it is the world's second-largest military force and has the world's largest volunteer army.

Post-independence in 1947, India restructured its defense system. The partition of India led to the creation of Pakistan, and both nations inherited a divided armed force. India established the Indian Armed Forces, consisting of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. This period marked the inception of a comprehensive and autonomous defense structure.

Defence Setup and Structure:

Indian Army: The Indian Army, with its extensive infantry, artillery, and armored regiments, is one of the largest in the world. It is primarily responsible for land-based military operations and safeguarding India's borders.

Indian Navy: The Indian Navy secures the maritime interests of the nation, safeguarding coastal borders and ensuring maritime security. It operates surface ships, submarines, and aircraft carriers.

Indian Air Force: The Indian Air Force is responsible for aerial defense, protecting Indian airspace and supporting ground operations. It operates fighter planes, transport aircraft, and helicopters.

Defence Reforms in India

Over the years, India has undertaken various defense reforms to modernize its armed forces, incorporating sophisticated weaponry, technology, and training programs. The establishment of defense research institutions, such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is aimed at indigenous development and innovation in defense technology.

Contemporary Defence Challenges

India faces multiple defense challenges, including territorial disputes, cross-border conflicts, terrorism, and internal security threats. The complex geopolitical landscape in the region, especially the border issues with Pakistan and China, demands a robust and responsive defense mechanism.

International Defence Collaborations of India

India has entered into strategic partnerships and defence agreements with various countries to enhance its defense capabilities. The country engages in joint military exercises, technology collaborations, and military exchanges with several nations globally.



The history of India's defense system reflects a continuous evolution from ancient times to a modern, independent nation. The defense apparatus has significantly evolved to adapt to various geopolitical changes, technological advancements, and national security challenges. India continues to fortify its defense system by adopting progressive reforms, modernizing its armed forces, and fostering international collaborations to ensure its territorial integrity and national security.

The journey of India's defense system is an amalgamation of historical legacies, colonial influences, and contemporary advancements, shaping a robust structure committed to securing the nation's sovereignty and integrity.

The Indian Armed Forces have been engaged in a number of major military operations, including: the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1947, 1965 and 1971, the Portuguese-Indian War, the Sino-Indian War, the 1967 Cho La incident, the 1987 Sino-Indian skirmish, the Kargil War, and the Siachen conflict among others. India honors its armed forces and military personnel annually on Armed Forces Flag Day, 7 December. Armed with the nuclear triad, the Indian armed forces are steadily undergoing modernization, with

investments in areas such as futuristic soldier systems and missile defense systems.

The Department of Defense Production of the Ministry of Defense is responsible for the indigenous production of equipment used by the Indian Armed Forces. It comprises 16 Defense PSUs. India remains one of the largest importers of defense equipment with Russia, Israel, France and the United States being the top foreign suppliers of military equipment. The Government of India, as part of the Make in India initiative, seeks to indigenise manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports for defense.

Boosting defence exports and enhancing Atmanirbharta

Previously, India was known as an arms importer. However, the country has now risen from its comfort zone, securing a place among the top 25 arms-exporting nations.

Just 7-8 years ago, defence exports barely touched Rs 1,000 crore. Today, they have surged to Rs 16,000 crore.

Projections suggest that by 2028-29, annual defence production will reach Rs 300,000 crore, with defence exports hitting Rs 50,000 crore.

While the government supports major corporations, it also encourages young minds to join the defence sector through startups, considering it a crucial step for the long term. Recent measures, including liberalising procurement from startups, payment terms, and eligibility criteria, were adopted during a Defence Acquisition Council meeting.

The Department of Defence Production issues authorisations for exporting Munitions List items covered in Category-6 of Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies (SCOMET), following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the DDP.

Major defence equipment exported in the last five years includes weapon simulators, tear gas launchers, torpedo loading mechanisms, alarm monitoring and control systems, night vision monoculars and binoculars, lightweight torpedoes, fire control systems, armoured protection vehicles, weapons locating radar, high-frequency radios, and coastal surveillance radar systems, among others.

India's Nuclear Doctrine

India has possessed Nuclear Weapons. The first nuclear test was carried out in 1974, under the operation named "Smiling Buddha". Once again India tested Nuclear weapons in the year 1998, under the name "Operation Shakti". It would not be right to call India a Nuclear superpower as 90% of the world's nuclear weapons are in the possession of Russia and USA.

What type of Nuclear bomb does India have?

India has neutron, fission and thermonuclear weapons which yields up to 200 Kilotons. Pokhran-II had 5 detonations, one was a fusion bomb and the remaining 4 were fission bombs. The bombs can be launched via land, air and sea, thus making India to be one of the few nations of the world who are nuclear triads.

How many land-based Nuclear Missiles does India have?

Strategic Forces Command controls and deploys 68 nuclear warheads (estimated) of land-based nuclear weapons of the country. It uses both vehicles and launching silos varieties.

How will the air-based missiles be launched?

In addition to their ground-attack role, it is believed that the Dassault Mirage 2000s and SEPECAT Jaguars are able to provide a secondary nuclear-strike role. The SEPECAT Jaguar was designed to be able to carry and deploy nuclear weapons.



Infrastructure development in India

The Government of India has embarked on an ambitious journey to revolutionize the country's infrastructure landscape, aiming to bolster economic growth, enhance connectivity, and improve the quality of life for its citizens. With a focus on modernizing transportation networks, upgrading urban amenities, and expanding digital infrastructure, the government has launched several transformative initiatives. From the development of highways, railways, and airports to the promotion of waterways and ropeway systems, these efforts are aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable development across the nation. India has achieved significant milestones in infrastructure development, including the inauguration of the world's longest highway tunnel, the Atal Tunnel, and the construction of the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge. Additionally, India has set records by unveiling iconic landmarks like the Statue of Unity – the world's tallest statue and embarked on transformative projects like the Zojila Tunnel, Asia's longest tunnel, for all-weather connectivity in Ladakh. Further, from the architectural excellence of the Atal Setu in Mumbai, Bogibeel Bridge over Brahmaputra, Jaiswal Bridge and Dhola-Sadiya Bridge in the northeast, the infrastructure landscape in New India is reaching unprecedented heights.

REVOLUTIONIZING INDIA'S ROADWAYS

Revolutionizing India's roadways entails a comprehensive overhaul of the country's transportation infrastructure, encompassing modernization, expansion, and connectivity. Through strategic planning and substantial investments, India is transforming its road network into a robust and efficient system.

EXPANDING NH NETWORK

The progress of national highways in India has been remarkable in the last 10 years, reflecting a significant increase in budget allocation and construction pace. Since 2014, there has been a 500% increase in the road transport and highway budget allocation, leading to a substantial enhancement in infrastructure development. The speed of highway construction reached an impressive 37 km/day in 2020-21, marking a record for the fastest highway construction in India.

Moreover, the National Highway (NH) network has expanded by 60% from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,145 km by the year 2023. The length of 4-laned NH has increased by 2.5 times, from 18,387 km in 2014 to 46,179 km, as of November 2023. The average pace of NH construction has also seen a remarkable increase, rising by 143% to 28.3 km/day from the baseline 12.1 km/day in 2014.

With a comprehensive network spanning 1,46,145 km, national highways play a crucial role in connecting regions



and spurring economic growth across the country, complementing the extensive state highways spanning 1,79,535 km and other road infrastructure spanning 65,45,403 km.

TRANSFORMING RURAL CONNECTIVITY THROUGH PMGSY

India has witnessed significant progress in rural road infrastructure, with an impressive 3.74 lakh km of roads constructed since 2014 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). This achievement has resulted in over 99% of rural habitations being connected, demonstrating the government's commitment to enhancing accessibility and connectivity in rural areas. As of now, a staggering 7.55 lakh km of rural roads have been completed as compared to 3.81 lakh km of roads in 2013-14.

BHARATMALA: EXTENSIVE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Bharatmala Pariyojana was launched with the primary focus on optimizing the efficiency of the movement of goods and people across the country. The key components of the Pariyojana are Economic corridor development, Inter-corridor and feeder routes development, National Corridors Efficiency Improvement, Border, and International Connectivity Roads,

Coastal and Port Connectivity Roads and Expressways. 25 Greenfield high-speed corridors have been envisaged for development under Bharatmala Pariyojana. Out of which, 20 are completed or under various stages of implementation. 34,800 km of National Highway length was planned for development under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana. As of Dec-2023, 26,418 km (i.e., 76% of 34,800 km) have been awarded for construction with completion of about 15,549 km.

ADVANCEMENTS IN INDIA'S RAIL NETWORK

India's railway development reflects a remarkable stride towards modernization and improved connectivity, showcasing the Government's commitment to enhancing transportation infrastructure for the nation's progress. The Vande Bharat trains represent a significant advancement in India's railway infrastructure, boasting enhanced safety features, faster acceleration, and improved passenger amenities. Equipped with Automatic Plug Doors, Reclining Ergonomic Seats, and Mobile charging sockets for every seat, these trains offer a comfortable and convenient travel experience. As of January 31, 2024, more than 100 Vande Bharat train

services are operational across the Indian Railways, with an impressive overall occupancy rate of 96.62% during 2022-23.

Further, on March 12, 2024, Prime Minister flagged off 10 new Vande Bharat trains. During his address, he informed that not only most of the states have got Vande Bharat trains but the century of Vande Bharat Trains has also been hit.

INDIA'S METRO RAIL EXPANSION

The expansion of India's Metro Rail system has revolutionized urban commuting, with the network set to increase from 248 km in 2014 to an impressive 945 km by 2024. This significant growth reflects the vital role of Metro Rail in providing ease of transportation to urban populations, with approximately 1 crore passengers benefiting from the system daily. From just 5 cities in 2014, the Metro Rail network has expanded to serve 21 cities across the country, with 919 km of lines under construction in 26 additional cities. Additionally, the introduction of India's first State of Art Namo Bharat train, operating on the Delhi-Meerut RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) corridor, further underscores the nation's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and modernizing its transportation infrastructure.

ENHANCING INDIA'S AVIATION LANDSCAPE

India's aviation landscape transformed with the launch of UDAN Scheme and the operationalization of greenfield airports, contributing to enhanced connectivity and accessibility across the country.

India's aviation sector has witnessed significant expansion with 545 routes operationalised under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), aimed at improving air connectivity to underserved regions. Alongside route expansion, 21 Greenfield Airports have been identified for development in the country, out of which 12 have been operationalised reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing air travel infrastructure. With 158 operational Airports and the construction of 84 airports over the last decade, India's aviation network is rapidly evolving and over 1.36 crore people have already travelled till March 13, 2024.

HARNESSING INDIA'S WATERWAYS

India's waterways have seen significant development, with 111 waterways designated as National Waterways (NW) under the National Waterways Act, 2016, showcasing the nation's commitment to enhancing inland water transportation infrastructure. This recognition aims to boost connectivity, promote trade, and facilitate smoother transportation of goods and passengers across diverse regions of the country.



India @78: Challenges & opportunities

India's per capita net national income (NNI) for 2022-23 stands at Rs 1.7 lakh. Despite this impressive growth, the perceived increase in wealth is not universally experienced due to persistent disparities in wealth distribution.

Workforce Struggles

“Despite growing towards lower levels of poverty, India is alarmingly moving towards a struggling working class at risk of falling into poverty. The latest joint report of ILO and IHD indicated that between 2012-2022, the average monthly real earnings of regular salaried workers declined by 1 percent each year, pointing towards poor-quality employment,” Chandra Shekhar, Partner, Posterity Consulting said.

Consumption Patterns and Inflation

The consumption pattern of India is similar to that of the US in the 1960s. The share of India's domestic consumption to GDP was around 60% in 2022. As per the report, the Indian population spent nearly 30 percent of their income on food, followed by transportation, housing, and then on clothing, education, health, etc. In comparison, the US spends nearly 50 percent of their income on services, followed by healthcare, housing, and then food.

“India has one of the most affordable and subsidized healthcare and education systems in Asia, hence the low expenditure. However, the Indian consumption share is highly skewed towards basic necessities like food. Even with a growing economy, an average Indian consumer still spends more on necessities and less on surpluses, comfort, and luxury. With the NNI increasing, it is expected that the priorities of the population will differ as well, but that is not the case,” Chandra Shekhar said.

Workforce and Unemployment Trends

The national minimum salary of Rs 176 per day in India varies across states, industries, and skill levels. In terms of numbers, as per the NSO payroll report, 2023, younger age brackets consistently contribute the most to new EPF subscribers, with approximately 20% in the age group of 18-25 years, underscoring the dynamic nature of its workforce. A variance analysis indicates varying growth patterns within age groups, with younger cohorts showing more consistent growth than older ones. However, a single statistic does not showcase the complete picture. As per the India Employability report (2024) by ILO, the proportion of unemployed youth with an education grew from 54.2 percent in 2000 to 65.7 percent in 2022. Additionally, the report highlighted that the unemployment rate among graduates in India stands at 29.1% compared to uneducated individuals at 3.4%, with women facing higher levels of unemployment.

Job Creation Initiatives and Sectoral



Challenges

While initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) have been launched to incentivize job creation, providing crucial support during the COVID-19 recovery phase, the private sector has been unable to keep up with the growing demand for formal jobs in India. “As indicated in the ILO report, post-2019 there has been a significant fall in non-agriculture employment, with manufacturing being the worst offender. For all the harping about Make in India by the private sector, the employment percentage of the manufacturing sector has stagnated around 13-14 percent, and even then, a majority of the blue-collar workforce was not provided salaries to sustain a decent livelihood in the current economy,” Chandra Shekhar said.

Gig workers are at even worse with no socio-economic security rendering them skeptical to move to cities given inconsistent wages are not enough to sustain life in major cities where cost of living is much higher than rest of India and tier 2 and 3 cities usually don't offer higher wages for same work.

Gender Disparity and Employment Support

Among the trends is the growing concern of low female participation in the Indian job market. Males have consistently dominated the new EPF subscribers over the years, making up 81.9% of the total new subscribers in 2017 compared to 18% women. It is worth noting that during the peak COVID period, the percentage of male new EPF enrolments rose to 90.7%, an all-time high in 2020, while the number for women fell to 9.3%. Even during the



fiscal year of 2022-23, males comprised 90.2% of total new enrolments, while women made up only 9.8%.

The complex interplay between economic growth, social security engagement, and workforce dynamics underscores the need for targeted policies. “While the economic landscape has witnessed impressive growth, persistent disparities and demographic trends necessitate nuanced strategies to bridge wealth gaps, enhance gender inclusivity, and optimize employment support programs for sustained economic well-being. India urgently needs to address the issues of low innovation, fewer female participation in the formal workforce, and poor quality of jobs if it wants to become a true economic powerhouse in the next few decades. A high GDP may make other countries envy India, but this jobless growth will certainly create discontent

and dystopia within Indian society,” Chandra Shekhar, highlighted.

Key challenges Facing India's Foreign Policy

India's foreign policy faces several key challenges as it navigates a rapidly changing global landscape. Some of these challenges include:

Border Disputes

India has long standing border disputes with neighboring countries like China and Pakistan. These disputes have led to occasional tensions and conflicts, demanding diplomatic efforts to find peaceful resolutions.

China's Rise

China's growing economic and military power presents a complex challenge. India needs to manage its relationship with China, balancing



economic interests with strategic concerns, while also addressing territorial disputes.

Regional Rivalries

India's relationships with neighboring countries, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, can be complex. Maintaining stable and cooperative relations in the region is a challenge, given historical and political factors.

Economic Inequality

Addressing economic disparities within India is essential for its foreign policy. Economic inequality can lead to social unrest and impact India's image on the international stage.

Multilateral Diplomacy

India's role in international organizations, including the United Nations and G20, requires it to balance its interests with global priorities and navigate complex multilateral negotiations.

India's foreign policy endeavors to address these challenges while advancing its strategic interests, promoting economic growth, and upholding its commitment to a multipolar world order and global peace. Adaptability, diplomacy, and a clear sense of national interest are crucial in meeting these challenges effectively.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

1. EDUCATION SYSTEM: The education system of India is blamed every now and then for being too theoretical but not practical and skill-based. Students study to score marks, not to gain knowledge. This so-called modern education system was introduced by the colonial masters to create servants who could serve but not lead, and we still have the same education system. Most of the person thinking present time to become employee instead of become employer.

2. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: It is true that world's the most populous democratic country cannot provide proper healthcare facilities to its entire population. India is becoming a hub for medical tourism but all these facilities are not available to local residents, who are poor. Healthcare is a neglected issue in India, as major attention drawers are agriculture, infrastructure and IT. Lack of resources in rural India is a major concern of the day, leading to most of the problems. 50% of all villagers have no access to healthcare providers; 10% of babies die within a year of their birth; lack of nutrition caused stunted growth in 50% of all the babies. If you want to see the practical example just go for one day visit for Govt. hospital and also Pvt hospital, you will see how peoples are suffering in Govt hospital and how much money private hospital are making

3. CORRUPTION: The most widely spread endemic in India is corruption, which must be handled quickly and wisely. There is hardly any office, in both private and public sector, that is untouched from this disease. There is no telling how much loss has the economy



suffered because of this. Though most of us are concerned, when the time comes to act, we, the people of India, are found lacking.

4. POVERTY: A third of the world's poor live in India, and 37% of the total population in India lives below the international poverty line. 42% of children under five years of age are underweight. Most of the poor in India live in villages. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal have the poorest areas. High level of illiteracy, lack of healthcare facilities, and limited access to resources are some of the basic problems in poor areas.

5. SAFETY OF WOMAN: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals that there were 3,09,546 incidents of crime against women in 2013 in India. Crimes against women have only shown an increase in the last five years. Safety is definitely one of the growing concerns in our country, particularly with regard to woman. Technology and access to it can solve many issues that women face in their day to day lives. Many startups have already taken the initiative to introduce products in the form of apps to ensure safety for women. They utilise features like GPS tracking, safe and unsafe areas on maps, ways to send alerts to emergency contacts, and scream alarms. But the main problem this thinking of the men behind it.

6. AIR, SOUND AND WATER POLLUTION: India has four of the five most polluted cities in the world. It's not just the air – we are badly polluting our rivers and agricultural land through the excessive use of chemicals, plastic and careless disposal of waste. Pollution has the ability to reach massive proportions and destroy the ecosystem if we do not stop abusing natural resources before it is too late. Along with that, planning for the optimal utilisation of water needs to be on top of the list because water



pollution and wastage can leave our country dry and barren in the next decade.

7. UNEMPLOYMENT: Unemployment is the major problem in India. This problem is not unsolvable. In India 92% people are in unorganized sector. Some people are doing small works like porter, pulling a cart etc, they earn very small amount of wages. This could be solved if we youths unite and gain support of government and start some cottage and small scale industries, where people could work for their welfare. This makes Indian youths a role model to all the people in the world. So, government should give the opportunities to all the citizens by establishing factories, schools, hospitals then i thick unemployment will be reduced in India

8. CHILD LABOUR: This is the worst social evil in India. Children are exploited and are made to work in dangerous places like cracker factories. They are not treated properly. Like other social evils there are rules and laws made to stop the child exploitation but nothing has been ever properly implemented in India and hence you can still see teenagers and children working in the shops and factories.

9. ILLITERACY: The illiteracy level is well below the world average literacy rate of 84%, and of all nations, India

currently has the largest illiterate population. Despite government programs, India's literacy rate increased only "sluggishly," and a 1990 study estimated that it would take until 2060 for India to achieve universal literacy at then-current rate of progress. The 2011 census, however, indicated a 2001–2011 decade literacy growth of 9.2%, which is the slower than the growth seen during the previous decade. On one hand, India has a state like Kerala that boasts of 93.91% literacy in its state alone, while on the other hand there is a backward state like Bihar with 68.8% literacy rate.

10. POPULATION: Today, India's population is 1.3 billion, and it is increasing, is the second most populous country in the world. The figures show that India represents almost 17.31% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India. With the population growth rate at 1.58%, India is predicted to have more than 1.53 billion people by the end of 2030. It is a curse that hampers development and harms society. According to sources, India has about 33 births a minute; 2,000 an hour; and 48,000 a day. The availability of resources is unable to meet the increase in population. With a rapidly increasing population, the resources per person will decrease further, leading to the next two major challenges that India faces.



India celebrates its 78th I-Day; know about the theme, significance and celebrations

India celebrates its Independence Day every year on August 15. This year, the nation will observe its 78th Independence Day, also known as Swatantrata Diwas, on Thursday. In this article, we explore the theme for this year, delve into the history and significance of Independence Day, and discuss the celebrations that mark this important occasion.

As India steps into its 78th year of independence, the government has chosen "Viksit Bharat" or "Developed India" as the theme for 2024. This theme reflects the country's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047, which will mark 100 years of India's independence. The theme underscores the government's commitment to transforming India into a prosperous and self-reliant nation.

Independence Day commemorates India's liberation from British colonial rule, which lasted for over two centuries. The struggle for independence began in earnest with the Revolt of 1857 and gained significant momentum under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in the 1920s. The Indian Independence Bill was introduced by the British House of Commons on July 4, 1947, leading to India's eventual freedom on August 15, 1947.

On the eve of India's independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, the nation's first Prime Minister, delivered his iconic "Tryst with Destiny" speech, marking a new chapter in Indian history. On August 15, 1947, Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi, a tradition continued by every Prime Minister since, with a national address on Independence Day.

Independence Day serves as a reminder to all Indians of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the country's liberation. It is a day to honour their contributions and reflect on the dawn of a new beginning for India. The day is observed as a national holiday across the country.

How India Celebrates Independence Day 2024

Independence Day is marked by the hoisting of the national flag and an address to the nation by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver his 11th consecutive Independence Day speech, the first of his third term in office.

The celebrations are not limited to the national capital; citizens across India commemorate the day with various



Helicopter showers flower petals on participants of the Dress Rehearsal for Independence Day(Photo: PTI)

activities. Flag hoisting ceremonies, parades, cultural programs, and patriotic songs are an integral part of the festivities. Schools and colleges organize events where students deliver speeches, recite poems, perform dances, and pay tribute to freedom fighters through various cultural expressions.

Independence Day is a time to reflect on the nation's journey, celebrate its achievements, and renew the commitment to building a better future for all citizens.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host the national flag and deliver his annual address from the historic Red Fort. This address will mark his 11th consecutive speech as the Prime Minister, and his first after securing a third consecutive term in office. By delivering this address, PM Modi will join the ranks of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, becoming the third prime minister to have addressed the nation from the Red Fort for multiple terms. His speech is expected to commence at approximately 7:30 am.

The live broadcast of Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech will be available on Doordarshan, ensuring that millions of viewers across the country can tune in to witness the event. The speech will also be aired on NDTV, offering another option for those preferring a different channel.

For those who prefer to watch the event



online, the speech will be streamed live on several platforms. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) will stream the event on its YouTube channel, and updates will also be available on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) through the official handle @PIB_India. Additionally, the official YouTube channel of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will provide a live feed of the address.

Independence Day is a time to reflect on India's journey to freedom, achieved on August 15, 1947, after a prolonged struggle against British colonial rule. This day is

dedicated to honouring the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who played a crucial role in securing the nation's independence. Across the country, significant buildings and landmarks are illuminated in the tricolours of the Indian flag, creating a festive atmosphere. The day is marked by flag-hoisting ceremonies, the singing of the national anthem, and various cultural programs. Additionally, seminars and events are organized to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom.



FREEDOM RINGS AND MEDALS SWING
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE
Day





Taapsee in a happy space

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu is happy with the response her latest film *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba* is getting and said she is already looking forward to what all can be done in the next part. Taapsee said, "Doing a sequel is always tricky because the first one comes with no expectations and if people like it, it becomes a hit. But with sequels come expectations, which are always tricky to meet."

The actress said she is glad people have loved her character of Rani and the film more than the first one. "I knew how much people loved Rani from part one, so I kept those expectations in mind when I approached the next part," she said.

Looking forward, the actress said, "This response has been so validating that I'm already looking forward to what all we can possibly do in the next part."

The first part, which was titled *Haseen Dillruba*, is a romantic thriller directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon. It stars Taapsee, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane.

Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba has been directed by Jayprad Desai. Taapsee and Vikrant reprise their characters, and Sunny Kaushal joins the cast.

The film opens in Agra, where Rani is living as a small-time makeup artist, while Rishabh is hiding in disguise, trying his best to get the arrangements made for the couple to move abroad and start afresh. With the Uttar Pradesh police somehow still hung up on the case, the two toxic lovebirds cannot be seen together. They now exchange coy glances like forbidden high school lovers across the street, talk on hours-long phone calls, and meet in secret.

And oh, like always, they speak fluent Dinesh Pandit – the crime novelist whose works gave them the perfect exit plan last time. You'll see the crazy couple painting quotes from his books on walls or even garbage vans to send messages to each other. Okay, admittedly, however painful the rest of the film might be, this laureate exchange is quite impressive. It might not have an ounce of practicality, but the almost Sherlocky idea is in alignment with the kind of madness that had taken over our protagonists towards the end of the first film.

Javed Akhtar announces new collaboration with Salim Khan: 'We will write one more film together'

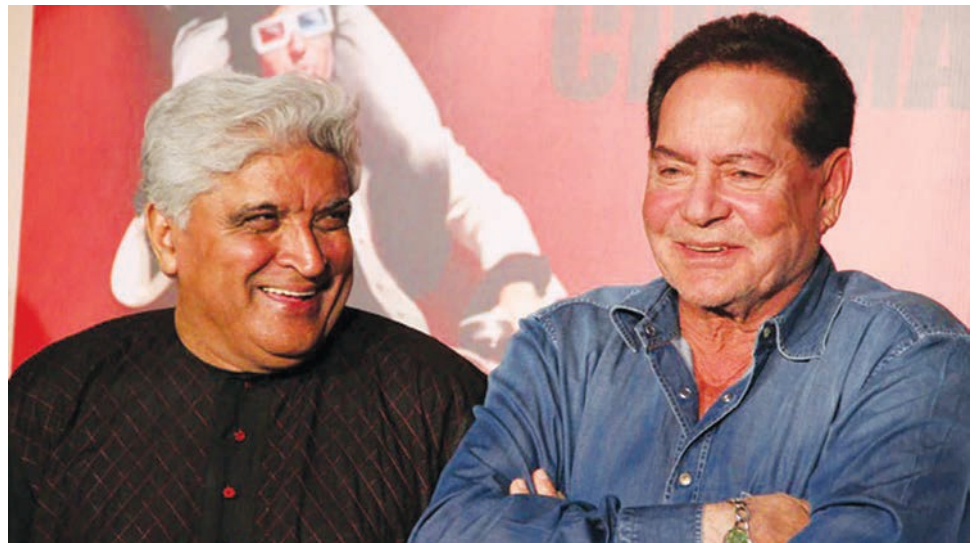
Salim-Javed, the legendary screenwriters who revolutionised Indian cinema in the 1970s with films such as 'Zanjeer', 'Sholay' and 'Deewar', will reunite to pen a new feature project, Javed Akhtar, one-half of the duo, announced on August 13.

The industry stalwart made the announcement during the trailer launch of the upcoming Prime Video docuseries 'Angry Young Men', which explores the formidable creative partnership and legacy of Salim Khan and Akhtar.

"Now, let me tell you that we are going to write. I've spoken to him (Salim Khan). 'Bas ek aur picture hum likhenge saath mein' (We will write just one more film together).

"Uss zamane mein bhi humari price zyada thi, iss zamane mein toh bohot zyada hogi, woh dekh lijiyega (In the earlier days, we used to charge a premium price for our work. It will be even higher in today's time, so please see to it)," Akhtar told reporters here.

Salim-Javed are credited for reinventing the Bollywood blockbuster format through their films, playing to the gallery but also chronicling the angst of



their times. The duo was also noted for being the first Indian screenwriters to achieve star status.

After collaborating on 22 Hindi films and two Kannada movies, the duo decided to end their partnership in 1982.

The title of the docuseries, 'Angry Young Men', refers to the angry young man hero-type they created in the '70s, which became a cinematic representation of the era and also gave birth to Amitabh Bachchan's stardom.

The three-part series will stream on Prime Video on August 20.

'Angry Young Men' is a joint venture produced by superstar Salman Khan's Salman Khan Films; Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment; and Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's 'Tiger Baby Films'.

Namrata Rao, known for her work as an editor on movies such as 'Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!', 'Ishqiya', 'Band Baaja Baaraat' and 'Kahaani', is the director.

I'm sitting in Locarno because of Yash Chopra: Shah Rukh Khan

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Sunday credited late filmmaker and frequent collaborator Yash Chopra for bringing him to the 77th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland, where he was honoured with the gala's prestigious Pardo alla Carriera award-Locarno Tourism award.

A day after he became the Indian film personality to receive the award for his contribution to cinema, the 58-year-old sat down for a Q&A session with Giona A Nazzaro, the artistic director of the Locarno Film Festival.

It was his late mother, Shah Rukh said, who took him to a cinema hall to watch a film for the first time.

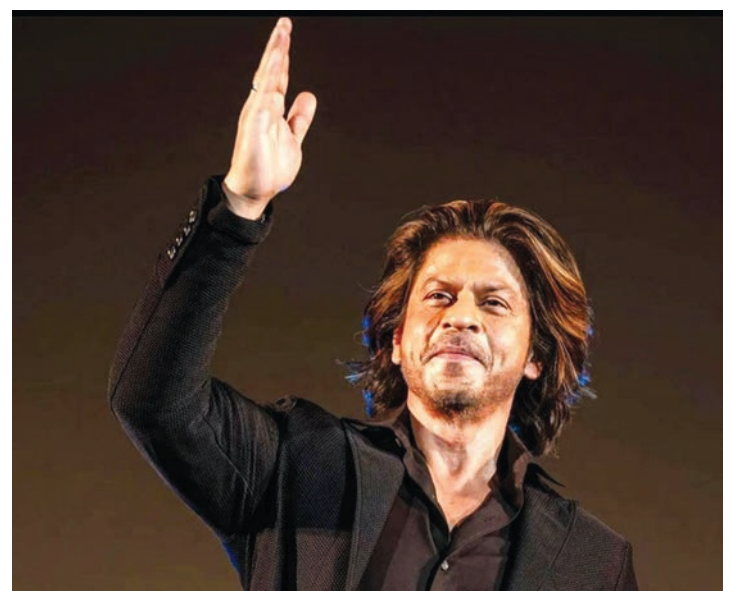
"In school, Hindi (language) was not my strongest point. My mom said, 'I'll take you to a movie hall to watch a film if you get 10 on 10 in Hindi dictation'. I think I copied one answer from a friend, but I did get 10 on 10, and then my mother took me to watch a film in a theatre for the first time," he said.

Coincidentally, the film was Chopra's 1973 thriller "Joshila", added the actor.

"It was called 'Joshila', which was of the director with whom I did maximum number for my films later on in my life. So life is connected. Mr. Yash Chopra, it was his film. I'm sitting here in Locarno, Switzerland because of him, because of that movie I saw."

Veteran filmmaker Chopra directed Shah Rukh in "Darr", "Dil To Pagal Hai", "Veer-Zaara", and his swansong "Jab Tak Hai Jaan".

Chopra shot his mega hit directorials "Chandni" and "Darr" in Switzerland. His son Aditya Chopra also filmed his directorial debut "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge", starring Shah Rukh and Kajol, in the picturesque locales of the European country.



In 2016, a bronze statue of Chopra was installed by the Switzerland government as a tribute, near the Congress Centre in Interlaken, a popular tourist spot.

Shah Rukh, who was last seen in 2023's "Dunki", said after his parents died he wanted to leave New Delhi, his hometown, and come to Mumbai.

"I thought, I'll get some roles. Then I thought I'd work in front of television, then I came into films, so I got little bits and pieces roles. And then one thing led to the other.

"I came to Mumbai for a year in 1990 and I said, 'I'll work for a year, earn Rs 1 lakh, buy myself a house, and then go back and become a scientist or a mass communication journalist. And, I hadn't gone back yet,'" he added.



George Clooney won't collaborate with David O Russell again

Hollywood star George Clooney has vehemently ruled out a future collaboration with David O Russell, the director of his 1999 hit "Three Kings". In a joint interview with frequent collaborator and friend Brad Pitt for GQ Magazine, the two stars discussed their ideal working environment in terms of colleagues.

"The older you get, time allotment is very different. Five months out of your life is a lot," Clooney said.

The 63-year-old actor then talked about how he would not collaborate with Russell, even if it means letting go of an opportunity to make a "really good film".

"And so it's not just like, 'Oh, I'm going to go do a really good film, like 'Three Kings', and I'm going to have a miserable f*** like David O Russell making my life hell. Making every person in the crew's life hell. It's not worth it. Not at this point in my life. Just to have a good product," Clooney said.

Joaquin Phoenix threatened to leave Napoleon unless makers met this condition

Todd Haynes' queer drama may not be the first project Joaquin Phoenix has walked out of at the last minute. In fact, The Hollywood Reporter suggests he threatened to do so even on Ridley Scott's period drama Napoleon last year, in which he played the titular role.

Joaquin's demand on Napoleon

The report states, "The actor is indeed known to get cold feet ahead of filming on various projects. Two sources tell THR that he threatened to leave Ridley Scott's Napoleon unless his The Master filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson was brought in to do rewrites. Placated, he stayed aboard the project, and it arrived in theatres late last year."

Written by David Scarpa and directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ridley Scott, Napoleon starred Joaquin as the French ruler and Vanessa Kirby as his wife Josephine. It earned \$221 million worldwide and fetched 3 Oscar nominations in technical categories.

Joaquin's recent exit

Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix's sudden departure from Todd Haynes' upcoming film has led to the project's cancellation. Phoenix dropped out of the queer drama film, about two men in love and fleeing to Mexico, just five days before filming was set to begin in Guadalajara.



The Joker actor reportedly got "cold feet" over the project, for which he had developed the screenplay with Todd and Jon Raymond. Joaquin was scheduled to co-star with Top Gun: Maverick actor Danny Ramirez in the 1930s-set love story featuring "explicit sexual content." The film was intended to receive an NC-17 rating due to its graphic sex scenes. The role will not be recast for the movie.

During the press tour for his 2023 Netflix film May December, director Todd Haynes told IndieWire that Phoenix was the driving force behind

the project. "The whole experience was prompted by Joaquin. It was prompted by his daring, his desire to push through barriers and to really get into the uncomfortable places about this relationship. And yet it felt like a very organic process," the filmmaker had said.

Joaquin will next feature in Joker: Folie a Deux, the sequel to his 2019 movie Joker, which had earned him a maiden Oscar trophy for best actor. Also starring Lady Gaga, the movie is directed by Todd Phillips and is slated to release in October. *Source: HT*

Brad Pitt's girlfriend Ines offers an olive branch to Angelina Jolie



While Brad Pitt's professional career continues to thrive, with him now gearing up for his film 'F1', his personal life is a tumultuous journey at the moment. While he is in a happy relationship with jewellery executive Ines de Ramon, he is also fighting an ugly legal battle with wife Angelina Jolie over some disputed property and many other issues. A part of this world is also the six children that Pitt shares with Jolie and the stories about them that have been surfacing online. Now it turns out that Ines wants to find common ground in all this turmoil and bring peace between the former couple so that they can all live a more sorted life.

According to reports, Ines de Ramon wants to hear out Angelina Jolie and see how she could help bring peace between the two. She knows Brad Pitt loves his children and doesn't want to distance him from them at any cost. So now she wants to declare a truce and move on peacefully with their lives so everyone can live in

harmony. Read on to know everything you should about this situation.

According to a source who spoke to 'OK' magazine, Ines de Ramon is ready to do her best to convince Brad Pitt to give Angelina Jolie whatever she wants. "Ines' loyalty is obviously with Brad, but she's savvy enough to know there are two sides to every story. Pitt and Ines have been dating for over a year now. She's prepared to hear Angie out and do her best to convince Brad to give her what she wants to finally end their ongoing war."

This is, however, not the first time that reports have claimed that Ines de Ramon wants to meet Angelina Jolie and have a conversation. The last time these reports surfaced, they were refuted by a spokesperson. But this time, we even know her motive. "Brad is very much in love with Ines and wants to make her happy. She knows that and is prepared to use that to help them declare a truce," the source further alleged.

Source: Mid-Day



SPOKEN WORD APEX AS CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience a transformative performance poetry concert encompassing a visual performance artist, dj, live band and many of the world's top spoken word artists: Taalam Acey, K-Love the Poet, Narubi Selah, Ed Mabrey, Mr. Food4Thought, RADI, Kween Moore, Obbie West, Georgia Me, Positive Gunter, Black Chakra, James C. Ellerbe and DJ Doughboy. This happens on August 24 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) Victoria Theater at 8 PM.

TAALAM ACEY, with his 17 albums and 8 books, is considered the "Godfather" of Spoken Word's digital age. Acey has been featured at the Essence Music Festival and the Black Congressional Caucus. He has won awards in the US, UK and Germany, and his work has been covered on BET, the Documentary Channel, TV One and two Sundance Award winning films.

K-LOVE is one of the most viral poets of our time. Few other Spoken Word artists have garnered her level of social media celebrity, internet influence and live emotional impact.

NARUBI SELAH has written and co-directed plays as well as starred in a number of off-Broadway productions. She was the first NJ Poetry Slam grand champion and her work has been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, New Jersey Network (NJN) and at the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.

ED MABREY is an Emmy nominated actor and the most winningest poet in the history of poetry slam, earning several world championships and hundreds of other slam wins. Mabrey has been featured on ABC, FOX, HBO, CNN and TV One.

OSHEA LUJA, creatively known as MrFood4Thought, is an acclaimed poet, spoken word artist, and cultural architect, captivating audiences for over two decades with his profound expressions. Honoring the legacy of greats such as the Watts Prophets, The Last Poets, Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, and Kamau Daaood, he has bestowed lifetime achievement awards upon each of them at his production he founded in 2007, StillWaters.

RADI is an artist and award-winning writer specializing in spoken word & slam poetry. Her work covers topics such as Civil rights, body positivity, sex positivity, colorism, sexism and more, all while reflecting her real life experiences as a proud Black Fat Lesbian. She reigns as the 4x Poetry Slam Champion & now Coach of one of the top ranked Poetry Slam Teams in the Nation; New Jeru Slam Team.

KWEEN MOORE, Curator, Interdisciplinary Artist, Poet and Arts Educator, leads a life dedicated to the arts and its communal impact. As a Cooperative Arts & Humanities Magnet High graduate, with a B.A. in Art

Therapy Psychology from Albertus Magnus College, Moore serves Newark and surrounding communities through creative arts programming, poetry, performance art and visual arts with specific content for all creatives.

EDWARD WILSON, A.K.A. OBBIE WEST is an international spoken word artist, advocate, and author. Originally from Los Angeles, California. Edward is a retiree from the United States Army. He began writing in 2011 and later published his first acclaimed book of poetry entitled 'Blossom.' He travels the world as an educator, trainer, and speaker using poetry to tackle tough topics such as sexual violence, prevention, and awareness.

TAMIKA 'GEORGIA ME' HARPER is a proud 'Ghetto Belle' and decorated verbal powerhouse known for starring in Russell Simmons' Tony Award winning, 'Def Poetry Jam on Broadway' and appearing in the box-

Enough Words LLC' founded in 2014. He has appeared on BET's 'Buy The Book' and Showtime at the Apollo showcase. He has also conducted workshops on writing poetry and self-publishing for students (and future authors). He is also the founder of NJPoetryEvents.com - a central hub for poetry events, festivals, and workshops in NJ.

DJ DOUGHBOY has toured Africa, Europe and Mexico (with some of the most popular names in the music industry) and been featured on BET, MTV and Showtime. He also holds a B.S. in Television and Radio Broadcasting Communications from Fairleigh Dickinson University and spins for 50 million listeners on Music Choice.

TICKETS

For tickets to the event, visit njpac.org/event/spoken-word-apex-2.



Spoken Words Artists - Credit: Courtesy njpac.org

office favorite, 'Madea Goes to Jail.'

POSITIVE GUNTER is a living example; not expert on life. Transforming her life experiences into performance art, poetry, and wisdom as she redefines what it means to grow. It is her daily intention to plant a seed of consciousness within every person that she encounters. Encouraging them to turn their shame into shine and reclaim the authority over their time and mind.

BLACK CHAKRA is a spoken word and hip-hop artist whose talents have been showcased on stages across America. He has been a national poetry slam champion, Texas Grand Slam champion, 4 Time Southern Fried slam champion, Rustbelt Slam Champion, Black Arts Matter Slam Champion, Exit 36 Slam Champion, and a plethora of others too long to list.

JAMES C. ELLERBE is a New Jersey native and resident along with his wife. The couple own 'Not

NJPAC and the Dodge Foundation will extend the footprint of Dodge Poetry across the entire city of Newark. The series of events are designed to engage and activate residents, young people, and community partners, and to highlight the intersection of poetry and social justice.

In 2024, Dodge Poetry will culminate with the 20th celebration of the Dodge Poetry Festival, an event that has to-date engaged more than 150,000 people including 45,000 high school students, on Oct 17-19, 2024. Learn more at grdodge.org.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at njpac.org.

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, Cuisine, Health & Wellness, Business, and Education)

THE GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION

The Dodge Foundation and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) launched Dodge Poetry - a new collaboration that celebrates poetry as a catalyst for communities to advance social change.

Through this initiative, Dodge Poetry will expand beyond the biennial festival to include year-long programming in Newark. Dodge Poetry events will have three goals to:

Mobilize communities and fuel movements for social change;

Amplify poet activists who challenge and reframe existing narratives and norms; and?

Create spaces for empathy, healing, and repair for individuals who have experienced systemic racism.?

Building on 40 years of poetry programming, the new collaboration between

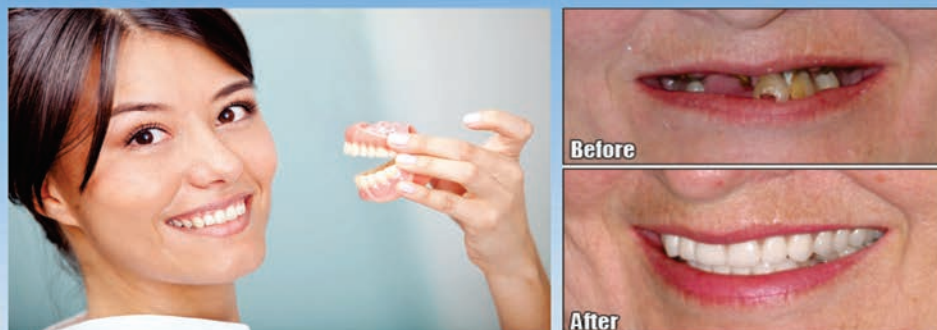


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Ingredients to avoid in your clean skincare routine

The beauty industry, long painted with brushes of glamour and artifice, is undergoing a shift. Clean beauty, as a movement, is rewriting the narrative, challenging conventional formulations with a potent blend of nature's wisdom and conscious practices. In India, with its rich Ayurvedic heritage and growing awareness, this transition resonates deeply, shaping the way consumers engage with their beauty choices.

The mindful movement extends beyond simply eliminating harmful ingredients, embracing ethical sourcing, eco-friendly practices, and minimalist packaging. Indian consumers are seeking brands that align with their values, prioritising transparency in ingredients, fair trade practices, and a deep respect for the environment. This informed demand is pushing the industry to innovate, not just in formulations but also in ethical sourcing and sustainable practices. The clean beauty wave has also given rise to a thriving ecosystem of homegrown Indian brands that are not only harnessing the country's natural bounty but also crafting products that cater to the specific needs and preferences of Indian consumers.

Some natural ingredients that are good for the skin include malai, curd, dal, besan, turmeric, nutmeg, clove and cinnamon. These help in keeping the skin nourished and hydrated. Before you use them though, do speak with a dermatologist.

If you are keen on using clean skincare products, make sure the items don't include the following



ingredients.

SLS (sodium lauryl sulfate)

SLS is responsible for the foam in your face wash, but more foam doesn't equate to better cleaning, contrary to popular belief. Instead, SLS can be harmful in multiple ways, from causing skin irritation and drying, to even hurting the environment. Other surfactants like sodium lauryl ether sulfate (SLES), ammonium lauryl sulfate (ALS), and sodium parath sulfate are often chosen for their cost-effectiveness, yet they pose similar risks in terms of harm to skin and the environment.

Glycerin

Glycerin is a glorified ingredient

in moisturisers. It actually dries out the skin in the long run. Its use can also result in weak collagen fibres. Some of the better natural alternatives are aloe vera, honey, shea butter, and jojoba oil.

Paraffin wax

Paraffin wax in lip products, derived from petroleum and other by-products, is non-biodegradable, contributing to environmental concerns during production and disposal. Beyond its ecological impact, it lacks additional nutrients or benefits for the skin. A more environmentally friendly alternative is beeswax, which not only provides similar protective and moisturising benefits but also supports a greener approach.

FOOD CORNER

Peach Almond Suji Halwa

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup almonds, 1/2 cup suji, 2 tsp ghee, 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups water, 8 peach halves, chopped, 1-2 peach halves, sliced for garnish

Method

- Blanch the almonds in boiling water for 5 minutes, peel, and slice. Reserve
- Place sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Stir to mix sugar. Simmer until suji is ready, 2-3 minutes
- In the meantime, roast the suji in a heavy bottom kadhai/wok over low heat until light golden brown. Reserve in a bowl
- Heat ghee in the same wok and add the almonds and roast for 2-3 minutes. Next add the suji and continue to roast for 1-2 minutes over low heat
- Gently pour in the boiling sugar syrup, keeping heat to low, and stir to mix
- Increase heat to medium, and stir until the water is absorbed and the halwa begins to thicken and leave the sides of the wok
- Add the peaches and stir well until the halwa leaves the sides, 1-2 minutes
- Transfer peach almond suji halwa to serving dish
- Serve hot garnished with peach slices and slivered almonds



Homemade scrubs with sugar for skin exfoliation

Sugar is one of the best natural beauty ingredients to exfoliate your skin. Sugar scrubs are mild and help remove dead skin. They also help rejuvenate the skin by cleaning all the dirt from the skin pores.

Honey, Green Tea And Sugar Scrub

Brew some green tea with leaves and not bags. Add 2 tablespoons of the tea with 2 tablespoons of honey. Then add 4 tablespoons of sugar to the mixture, adding 1 spoon at a time. Mix till you get a thick paste. Honey is naturally anti-bacterial. Apply this scrub 2 times a week to get the glow from honey and freshness from the green tea.

Peppermint And Sugar Scrub

This is a godsend for those suffering from perpetual dry skin. Mix together 3 tablespoons of warm coconut oil, 2 tablespoons of sugar, 2 drops of peppermint essential oil and half a tablespoon of Vitamin E oil. Your sweet, minty homemade sugar scrub is ready.

Banana And Sugar Scrub

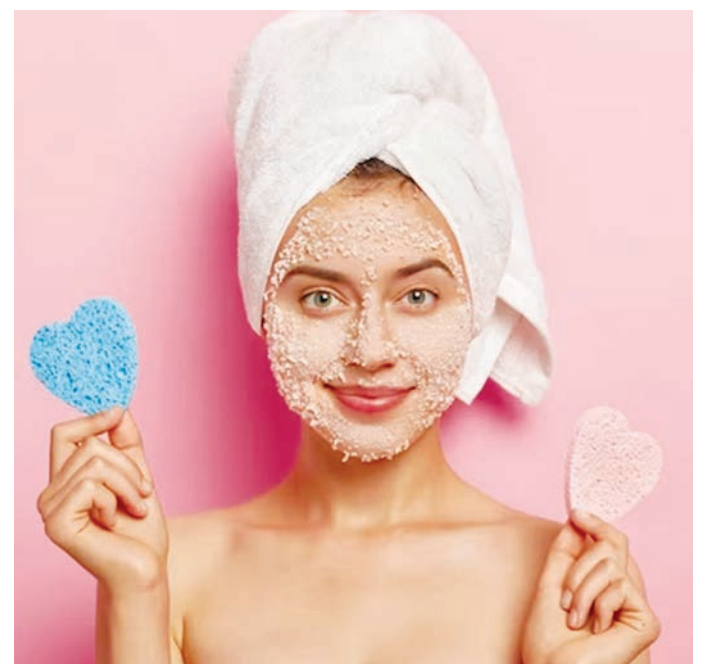
Banana contains essential vitamins and minerals that are highly beneficial for the skin. This magical scrub can be easily made by adding 2 tablespoons of sugar with 1 mashed banana. This paste will make skin softer and suppler with regular application.

Lemon And Sugar Scrub

Pour in the juice of 2 lemons to a mixture of 2 tablespoons of sugar and half cup of olive oil. Relieve your skin from sun damage, tanning and blemishes. This works just as well as a hand scrub for your manicure routine.

Beetroot And Sugar Scrub

This is the ultimate scrub for chapped and discoloured lips. It leaves the skin on lips soft and makes it appear naturally pink. Mix equal parts of beetroot juice and sugar and apply it on your lips. Rub gently for 1-2 minutes and wash it off with water.





Protein-rich diet may lower mortality risk in kidney disease patients: Study

Following a diet rich in proteins may help lower the risk of death among people with chronic kidney disease (CKD), claims a study.

About 850 million people worldwide are estimated to have kidney disease, and most live in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

The study led by researchers from Karolinska Institute and Stockholm University in Sweden showed that the benefits of proteins may outweigh the downsides in older adults with mild or moderate CKD, in whom disease progression may play a more limited role in survival.

For the study, the team included 8,543 community-dwelling adults 60 years and older between March 2001 and June 2017. They were followed up for mortality from December 2021 to January 2024.

The results, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, revealed “that a higher intake of total, animal, and plant protein was associated with lower mortality in adults 60 years and older with mild or moderate CKD”. Importantly, the associations were larger among participants without CKD, the team said.

The researchers explained that protein supplementation appears to reduce the risk of death in older persons, possibly by elevating branched-chain amino acid levels.

A higher protein intake can boost muscle mass and strength, slower rate of bone loss, higher bone mineral density, lower risk of frailty, and improved cardiovascular function and recovery from illness (including wound healing), said the researchers.

On the other hand, older adults with protein deficiency are at risk of “impairments of muscular, skeletal, and immune function”, they said.

Benefits of Eating Protein

Increases Muscle Mass: The importance of protein in the body can be linked to increased muscle mass. It helps you maintain your muscle mass and also



encourages muscular development during strength training. Hence, bodybuilders and weightlifters are advised to take the optimum amount of protein that aids them in their muscle growth journey. Consuming sufficient amounts of protein also prevents muscle loss during weight reduction.

Recovers the Body Post-Injury: Since protein is the major building block of muscles and tissues, eating the right amount of protein can have a major effect on healing. Athletes are recommended to eat enough protein to recover from injuries.

Reduces Hunger: A high-protein diet helps us feel fuller and less hungry. Our body makes more satiety hormones such as cholecystokinin and peptide YY, which gives signals of a full belly. Protein can also help us feel less hungry in between meals, which reduces our intake of junk food and calories.

Digestion: Most of the enzymes in our body are made of proteins. Having sufficient amounts of proteins aid in producing enzymes that help in digestion.

Improves Bone Health: Our body needs the appropriate amount of nutrients to function smoothly. Consuming these essential nutrients promotes bone health which prevents age-old bone diseases like osteoporosis. Thus, one should improve their protein intake to match their body's needs & functions.



Pre-approved by WHO, Qdenga dengue vaccine shows 50 pc efficacy, lasting effects: Study

The dengue vaccine Qdenga, pre-approved by the World Health Organization in May, has shown more than 50 per cent efficacy in reducing the number of cases, with lasting effects and a good safety profile, according to a review of 19 studies.

The “first comprehensive global” review, covering more than 20,000 participants, found that upon receiving the two-dose vaccine, over 90 per cent of adults and children elicited an immune response against all four variants (serotypes) of the dengue-causing DENV virus. Of the 19 studies analysed, 13 contained data from Asian and South American locations where the disease is endemic.

“Given the results in terms of safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy, the administration of two doses can undoubtedly be a key tool for dengue prevention,” said Maria Elena Flacco from the University of Ferrara, Italy, and the lead author of the study published in the journal Vaccines.

Developed by the Japan-based Takeda Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, the Qdenga vaccine—also called TAK-003 -- is a live-attenuated vaccine, containing weakened versions of the four serotypes of the DENV virus.

“TAK-003 showed an excellent safety profile, and the immunogenicity after two doses against the four DENV serotypes was higher than 90 per cent among both adults and children/adolescents who were either seronegative or seropositive at baseline,” the authors wrote. While seropositive indicates a prior dengue infection or exposure to DENV virus, seronegative indicates none of these.

The authors also found that among those receiving a single vaccine dose, more than 70 per cent of adults and over 90 per cent of children and adolescents developed antibodies against the viral infection.

Source: PTI

Mice study finds clues to age-related memory impairment

A new mice study may have found an association between an enzyme and memory loss in elderly people, an advance that can someday pave the way for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The brain's capacity to incorporate new information gets weaker with old age. The elderly can not only remember new information but also find it hard to modify their memories when new details emerge.

Researchers from the Pennsylvania State University (also called Penn State) in the US identified the enzyme histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3) as the major reason for this.

The findings, published in the journal Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience, showed that older



mice with the blocked enzyme were better able to incorporate new information and perform similarly to their younger counterparts.

Janine Kwapis, assistant professor of biology at Penn State said that research has not focussed on whether the “mechanisms behind memory formation and memory updating are identical or if

they are unique for memory updating. This is a step forward in figuring that out.”

Kwapis said to take on new information, the brain has to bring the existing memory out of storage and weaken it.

However, this process, called reconsolidation, becomes less effective with age, Kwapis noted.

HDAC3 has previously been shown to negatively affect memory formation and gene expression during memory consolidation but the researchers said its role in memory reconsolidation wasn't previously studied.

The study noted that when HDAC3 was blocked during the memory reconsolidation phase, it prevented the typical age-related deficits in memory updating.

Source: IANS

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Instagram testing new feature to let users keep friends updated on their location

Instagram is reportedly working on allowing users to share real-time updates with their friends on a map. The new feature, which has been in the pipeline since February, is being rolled out for testing in a few small markets, according to a report by The Verge.

With this feature, Instagram users can share text or video updates that will be pinned to the locations from where these updates are posted. However, they can only be viewed by users who you follow back or have added to your Close Friends. Similar notes uploaded by your friends will appear alongside each other on the same map. The feature will not be enabled by default for all Instagram users.

A similar feature has been available on Snapchat since 2017. But the key difference between the two is that Snap Maps lets users make their map updates public for everyone to see, whereas Instagram seems like it does not want to take that chance. "As always, we are building this feature with safety in mind," a Meta spokesperson was quoted as saying in the report. It is not yet clear for how long the updates shared on the map will remain there.

The Meta-owned social media platform has been down this road before. Back in 2012, the platform experimented with a feature that allowed users to view their uploaded photos on a map. But the feature was not popular as the photos on the map could not be shared with other users.

Mars may have enough underground water to form a global ocean: New study

A recent study indicates that Mars might hold vast amounts of water beneath its surface, potentially enough to form a global ocean.

The research, released on Monday, is based on seismic data from NASA's Mars InSight lander, which recorded over 1,300 marsquakes before ceasing operations two years ago.

According to lead scientist Vashan Wright from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, this water is likely located between seven to twelve miles (11.5 to 20 kilometers) deep in the Martian crust, ABC news reported.

Wright explained that this water probably seeped into underground cracks billions of years ago when Mars had surface rivers, lakes, and possibly oceans.

ABC News reports that researcher Wright tempered expectations about the discovery of water on Mars, saying, "The presence of water on Mars doesn't automatically mean it supports life. Rather, our findings suggest that there are environments on Mars that have the potential to be habitable."

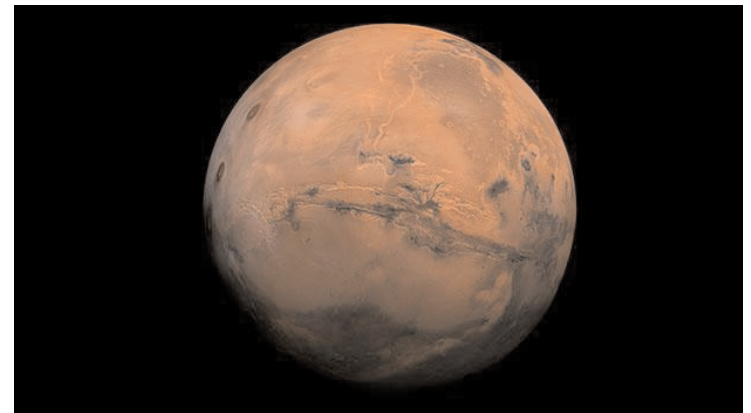
The team used computer models alongside InSight's seismic readings to conclude that underground water was the most plausible explanation for the observed data. The results were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Wright added that if the underground water near InSight's location at Elysium Planitia, close to Mars' equator, is representative of the entire planet, it could be enough to fill a global ocean up to two kilometers deep.

However, confirmation would require drilling and other equipment to explore further and search for any signs of microbial life.

Although the InSight lander is no longer operational, scientists are still analyzing data collected from 2018 to 2022, seeking more insights into Mars' interior.

Historically, Mars was wet almost all over more than 3 billion years ago, but as its atmosphere thinned, much of its surface water is believed to have either escaped into space or become buried underground.



Scientists propose warming up Mars by using heat-trapping 'glitter'

The idea of transforming Mars into a world more hospitable to human habitation is a regular feature of science fiction. But could this be done in real life?

Scientists are now proposing a new approach to warm up Earth's planetary neighbor by pumping engineered particles - similar in size to commercially available glitter and made of iron or aluminum - into the atmosphere as aerosols to trap escaping heat and scatter sunlight toward the Martian surface. The idea would be to augment the natural greenhouse effect on Mars to raise its surface temperature by roughly 50 degrees Fahrenheit (28 degrees Celsius) over a span of a decade.

This alone would not make Mars habitable for people, but the scientists who developed the proposal see it as a potentially doable initial step.

"Terraforming refers to modifying a planet's environment to make it more Earth-like. For Mars, warming the planet is a necessary, but insufficient, first step. Previous concepts have focused on releasing greenhouse gases, but these require large amounts of resources that are scarce on Mars," said University of Chicago planetary scientist Edwin Kite, who helped lead the study published this week in the journal Science Advances.

Right now, Apple Intelligence is limited to just the top-trim iPhones—the iPhone 15 Pro and the iPhone 15 Pro Max. It is expected to be available across the iPhone 16 series, which should help Apple democratise its AI efforts to more users. Now, a new report from Bloomberg suggests that Apple Intelligence is also coming to the next iPhone SE, speculated to launch by early 2025.

The last three generations of the iPhone SE have focused on providing the premium Apple experience at a lower price point. Despite their lower entry-level price and older design, Apple has included its latest chip, resulting in a fast and smooth experience that users expect from an iPhone.

The upcoming iPhone SE 4 is expected to undergo a design overhaul, taking cues from the iPhone 14. It is rumoured to be equipped with the A18 chip, which is expected to power the upcoming iPhone 16. This could make the iPhone SE 4 the most affordable iPhone to support Apple Intelligence.

Additional standout features of the iPhone SE 4 comprise a single 48 MP

iPhone SE 4 to surprise users with Apple Intelligence, a feature that's missing even on iPhone 15



primary camera and a Face ID system. Similar to the iPhone 14, it is expected to feature an OLED screen, marking a first for iPhone SE.

The iPhone SE 3, released in 2022, will be the final model to feature the classic design with a large notch, a home button

that also acts as TouchID, and a chin. According to leakster Revegnus, the iPhone SE 4 is expected to be priced around \$500, which translates to approximately Rs 50,000 in India.

And to make the deal sweeter for the iPhone SE buyers, the new model will

also support AI features from Apple, which suggests the new model could be powered by the A17 Pro or the A18 chipset. It remains to be seen if the high-end AI features will come to the device but people will surely find the rumoured iPhone SE 4 model appealing if it can pack the said features and offered in an iPhone 14-like design. The next SE model from Apple is expected to launch in Q1 2025 which is usually when the previous iPhone SE versions have been announced by the company.

We already know about AI and a premium design but there seems to be a lot more expected from the next SE model. The device could feature a 48MP main camera which will be a big upgrade on the 8MP unit. The iPhone SE 4 could come with 6GB RAM and also support USB C for charging which is now a given for all Apple devices in the market.



Hindenburg allegations: Sebi chief gets backing of REIT, industry bodies

Industry bodies representing the Real estate investments trusts (REITs) and alternate capital on Monday came in support of embattled Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch facing allegations by US short-seller Hindenburg Research of having stakes in obscure offshore funds linked to Adani group.

New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator — the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) — is compromised. In its latest tranche, Hindenburg has included emails and publicly available records of stakes held by SEBI Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in Adani Group-related entities through little-known offshore investment funds to allege a conflict of interest that aided the Adani Group to “syphon monies”.

Indian REITs Association (IRA) said that claims made by the US-based short-seller suggesting that the REIT framework made by markets regulator Sebi serves the interests of a select few are “baseless and misleading”.

In fact, the association has commended Sebi and its leadership for crafting a “rigorous regulatory environment” that includes comprehensive periodic reporting requirements, mandatory independent valuations, and strict governance standards.

Indexes rise as softer producer prices data boosts rate-cut bets

NEW YORK (TIP)

U.S. stocks hit a near two-week high on August 13 after softer producer prices data reinforced bets of an interest-rate cut by the Federal Reserve in September.

U.S. producer prices increased less than expected in July as a rise in the cost of goods was tempered by cheaper services, indicating that inflation continued to moderate. In the 12 months through July, the PPI increased 2.2% after climbing 2.7% in June.

Investors now await all-important consumer-price figures for July on Wednesday and retail sales data on Thursday to firm bets on an aggressive rate cut by the U.S. central bank.

“The core PPI number furthers the narrative that the Fed has done an excellent job of keeping inflation relatively under control and that the more likely move is going to be a rate cut sooner rather than later,” said Michael James, managing director of equity trading at Wedbush Securities.

“You have the CPI print tomorrow morning. Any data point is going to have an outsized influence on the market because people are so jittery right now.”

Traders now see a 55% chance of a 50-basis-point rate cut by the U.S. central bank, from less than 50% before the report, according to CME's FedWatch Tool.

Stocks wobbled on Monday with the S&P 500 nearly flat and the Nasdaq eking out modest gains, following a turbulent week marked by mixed economic reports and a rate hike by Japan's central bank.

At 2:30 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 342.66 points, or 0.87%, to 39,699.67, the S&P 500 gained 78.22 points, or 1.46%, to 5,422.61 and the Nasdaq Composite gained 370.83 points, or 2.21%, to 17,151.44.

Ten of the 11 major S&P sectors were trading higher, with information technology and consumer discretionary leading gains. Energy shares dipped on lower oil prices as OPEC's move to cut its forecast for demand growth in 2024 tempered fears of supply risks posed by widening conflict in the Middle East.



Starbucks was the top performer on the S&P 500, rising 21.71% and was on track for its biggest one-day percentage gain ever, after the coffee giant appointed Chipotle Mexican Grill's head Brian Niccol as chairman and CEO.

Home Depot reversed losses and climbed 1.7%. The home-improvement chain forecast a decline in annual profit and a bigger drop in its annual comparable sales.

BuzzFeed jumped 19.6% after the digital media company narrowed its net loss in the second quarter to \$6.6 million from \$22.5 million a year earlier.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 3.74-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 2.49-to-1 ratio on Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted 17 new 52-week highs and three new lows, while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 48 new highs and 115 new lows.

Source: Reuters

Starbucks replaces its CEO Laxman Narasimhan, names Chipotle chief to head the company

NEWPORT BEACH (TIP)

Starbucks, struggling with weak demand and disgruntled investors, said Tuesday that CEO Laxman Narasimhan is stepping down after a little more than a year in the job.

The Seattle coffee giant said Brian Niccol, the chairman and CEO of Chipotle, will become Starbucks' chairman and CEO on September 9.

Starbucks shares jumped more than 13 per cent before the market opened.

Narasimhan, a longtime PepsiCo executive who has also served as the CEO of Reckitt, a UK-based consumer health company, became Starbucks' CEO in March 2023. He succeeded Howard Schultz, the longtime Starbucks leader and chairman emeritus who came out of retirement in 2022 to serve as the company's interim CEO.



But investors quickly soured on Narasimhan as the company's sales weakened and it dealt with multiple

issues, including competition from lower-cost competitors in China and boycotts in the Middle East and

elsewhere due to its perceived support for Israel.

Melody Hobson, the chair of Starbucks' board of directors, said Niccol has transformed Chipotle since becoming its CEO in 2018 by focusing on menu innovation, operational excellence and digital transformation.

“Brian is a culture carrier who brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of driving innovation and growth,” Hobson said in a statement.

“Like all of us at Starbucks, he understands that a remarkable customer experience is rooted in an exceptional partner experience.”

Schultz said he has long admired Niccol.

“I believe he is the leader Starbucks needs at a pivotal moment in its history. He has my respect and full support,” Schultz said in a statement.



KING CHARLES HAILS COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMID UK VIOLENCE

LONDON (TIP): Britain's King Charles III has praised the "community spirit" of the peaceful counter-protesters in a call for unity after the "aggression and criminality" of the far-right riots that broke out across different cities in the country and have resulted in over 700 arrests. The disorder initially began in the wake of a mass stabbing attack in Southport that killed three little girls on July 29 and injured several others after misinformation about the immigration status of the suspect spread across social media. — PTI

NORTH KOREA RELEASING MORE TRASH BALLOONS TOWARDS SOUTH: SEOUL

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea is again flying balloons, likely carrying trash, toward South, South Korea's military says. This has added to a bizarre psychological warfare campaign amid growing tensions between the war-divided rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) today said that the winds could carry the balloons to regions north of the South Korean capital, Seoul. Seoul City Hall and the Gyeonggi provincial government issued text alerts urging citizens to beware of objects dropping from the sky and report to the military or police if they spotted any balloons. There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage. In what is being described as a retaliation toward South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border, North Korea has flown more than 2,000 balloons carrying waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts towards South in the recent weeks. Trash carried by at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound late last month, raising worries about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. The balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was injured, said South Korea's presidential security service. — AP

ISRAEL PM, DEFENCE MINISTER TRADE BARBS OVER GAZA

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu traded barbs with his defence minister on August 12, underscoring the deep internal splits that continue to plague the government as the war in Gaza risks spilling out into a wider regional conflict. Following Israeli media reports quoting Defence Minister Yoav Gallant dismissing Netanyahu's war aim of total victory against the Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza as "nonsense", Netanyahu's office put out a statement rebuking Gallant. — Reuters

In control of 1K sq km Russian land: Ukraine

KYIV (TIP) : Ukraine's army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi said on August 12 Kyiv controls around 1,000 sq km of Russia's Kursk region, in his first comment on the shock cross-border incursion.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy published a video excerpt of Syrskyi's report on Telegram. Zelenskiy said he ordered the preparation of a "humanitarian plan" for the area.

Meanwhile, Russian state media quoted the governor of the Kursk region, Alexei Smirnov, as saying that Ukrainian forces had used shells containing chemical weapons during their incursion there.

It was not clear if Smirnov had produced any evidence to support the accusation, which Reuters was unable to verify.

Ukraine's State Security Service (SBU) said Russia was trying to falsely accuse



Kyiv's military of war crimes.

The SBU said it had information

showing Russia might stage crimes for which it would blame Ukraine. — Reuters

'Unauthorised' helicopter flight ends with crash on hotel roof in Australia, killing pilot



WELLINGTON (TIP): A man died after an 'unauthorised' helicopter flight in Queensland, Australia, ended in a crash on a hotel roof early on August 12 morning, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of people from the building as flames engulfed the aircraft.

Authorities in the city of Cairns said that they had not confirmed the identity of the pilot, his reason for making the flight or how the tourist helicopter was able to take off from Cairns Airport.

A COUPLE STAYING AT THE HOTEL WAS HOSPITALISED SUFFERING FROM SMOKE INHALATION AND HAVE NOW BEEN DISCHARGED, QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE ACTING CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT SHANE HOLMES SAID. NO ONE ELSE ON THE GROUND WAS HURT.

HOLMES SAID IT WAS NOT KNOWN IF THE MAN FLYING THE HELICOPTER HELD A PILOT'S LICENSE OR IF HE WORKED FOR THE COMPANY THAT OWNED THE CRAFT, NAUTILUS AVIATION.

"There is no further threat to the community. We believe this is an isolated incident," Holmes said.

Nautilus Aviation said in an unattributed written statement that the flight was "unauthorised" but would not supply any further details.

Cairns Airport CEO Richard Barker said initial findings of a review on Monday showed "no compromise of the airport security program or processes".

About 400 people were evacuated from the hotel after the crash, which happened in the early hours of the morning in a busy tourist district of Cairns — a tropical city of 1,50,000 people in far north Queensland — where it is peak season for holidaymakers. Witnesses told local news outlets the crash sounded like a bomb exploding.

Smoke and flames billowed from the roof of the Doubletree Hilton and one of the helicopter's rotor blades landed in the hotel pool, the Australian broadcaster ABC reported.

The hotel remains cordoned off while its structural integrity is being examined. (Reuters)



Chinese air force jets endangered patrol plane with flares: Philippines

MANILA (TIP): The Philippine military chief, General Romeo Brawner, August 13 condemned the “provocative actions” of two Chinese air force jets that executed a dangerous manoeuvre and dropped flares in the path of a Philippine air force plane on routine patrol in the South China Sea.

Gen Brawner said all those aboard the Philippine air force, NC-212i, light transport plane were unharmed and returned safely to Clark Air Base (north of Manila) after the incident took place on Thursday morning over the Scarborough Shoal. A top Philippine security official said the Chinese jets flew at a “very close distance” to the Philippine air force turbo-prop plane and “put the lives of our pilots in real risk and danger”. Another security officer said at least eight flares came from the Chinese fighter jets.

There was no immediate reaction from Chinese officials. Beijing disputes sovereign control over the rich fishing atoll. In a statement, Brawner said, “The incident posed a threat to the Philippine air force aircraft and its crew, interfered with lawful flight operations in airspace within sovereignty and jurisdiction of



the Philippines and contravened the international law and regulations governing the safety of aviation.”

Gen Brawner said the incident had been reported to Manila’s Department of Foreign Affairs, which had filed numerous diplomatic protests against China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters. He said the incident would not stop the Philippines

from undertaking such patrols in the contested region.

Aside from China and the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand have overlapping territorial claims in the busy sea passage, but hostilities have particularly flared since last year between the Chinese and Philippine coast guard and navy forces in Scarborough Shoal. — AP

Japan's Kishida announces he will not run in September, paving the way for a new prime minister

TOKYO (TIP): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in a surprise move on August 14, announced he will not run in the upcoming party leadership vote in September, paving the way for Japan to have a new prime minister.

Kishida was elected president of his governing Liberal Democratic Party in 2021 and his three-year term expires in September. Whoever wins the party vote will succeed him as prime minister because the LDP controls both houses of parliament.

A new face is a chance for the party to show that it's changing for the better, and Kishida said he will support the new leader.

“We need to clearly show an LDP reborn,” Kishida told a news conference Wednesday. “In order to show a changing LDP, the most obvious first step is for me to bow out.”

“I will not run for the upcoming party leadership election,” he said.

Stung by his party's corruption scandals, Kishida has suffered dwindling support ratings that have dipped below 20%.

In order to achieve policies to tackle difficult situations in and outside Japan, regaining public trust in politics is crucial, Kishida said. He called on aspiring party lawmakers to raise their hands to run for leadership and have active policy debate during the



campaign.

“Once a new leader is decided, I hope to see everyone unite and form a dream team to achieve politics that can gain public understanding,” he said.

Kishida said he has been mulling his possible resignation for some time but waited until he could put his key policies on track, including an energy policy that calls for a return to nuclear power, a drastic military buildup to deal with security threats in the region, and improving ties with South Korea, as well as political reforms.

Speculation on potential candidates has landed on a number of senior LDP lawmakers, including party Secretary-General Toshimitsu Motegi, Digital Minister Taro Kono, Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi and Foreign

Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

A winner will replace Kishida as party president, and will be endorsed as the new prime minister in a parliamentary vote soon after. LDP executives are expected to decide next week on the date for the party election.

Since the corruption scandal broke, Kishida has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, dissolved party factions that were criticised as the source of money-for-favour politics, and tightened political fund control law.

Ten people—lawmakers and their aides—were indicted in January.

Despite Kishida's efforts, support for his government dwindled.

Local election losses earlier in the year eroded his clout, and LDP lawmakers have voiced the need for a fresh face ahead of the next general election. Major losses in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly by elections in July also added to the push. The scandal centres on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events. It involved more than 80 LDP lawmakers, mostly belonging to a major party faction previously led by assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The assassination surfaced a scandal over the LDP's decades-old, deep-rooted ties with the Unification Church, for which Kishida has also faced criticism. (AP)

UK RIOTS

FIVE ESSENTIAL READS ON WHAT TRIGGERED A WEEK OF VIOLENCE

The UK has experienced more than a week of violent rioting, during which white nationalists have marauded through towns and cities, fighting with police and calling for borders to be closed to keep out immigrants. Gangs have intimidated non-white citizens and laid siege to hotels housing vulnerable asylum seekers. Arrests are underway and some people have already been jailed.

1. THE MIDDLE-AGED RADICALS

A particular demographic was in evidence among the hordes of people clashing with police in English towns and cities in recent days. A surprising number of men in their 40s and 50s were filmed screaming unspeakable racism as though it were indisputable fact.

Researchers funded by the European Union say they've come across such people during their investigations into what is being called middle-aged radicalisation.

2. THE POLITICAL ELITES WHO ENABLED ISLAMOPHOBIA

Initially, the unrest was triggered by misinformation spread about the identity of a teenager who has been arrested over the deaths of three children in a mass knife attack in the northern town of Southport on July 29. It was incorrectly suggested that he was a Muslim and an immigrant. That night, a group descended on a local mosque and attacked.

3. THE PHONEY 'MASCULINITY' OF RACISTS

That the victims of the Southport knife attack were young girls provided an opportunity for nationalist extremists to paint themselves as defenders of women and children. Placards reading “save our kids” became a common sight at the far-right gatherings.

4. THE UNSPOKEN PROBLEM OF ENGLISH NATIONALISM

Those outside the UK should note that while we do refer to this as a British problem, it's technically the case that the riots have been almost exclusively confined to England. There were incidents in Northern Ireland but not in Scotland or Wales, the other two nations of the UK.

5. THE HYPOCRISY OF IN-GROUP LOGIC

The murder triggered no rioting whatsoever, which is key to our understanding of what's really going on in the UK, writes Nilufar Ahmed. While the white man was treated as an exceptional case, the Southport attacker was treated as representative of an entire group of people. (AP)



VIKRAM MISRI MEETS NEPAL DEPUTY PMS, FOREIGN SECRETARY; DISCUSSES BILATERAL TIES & ECONOMIC COOPERATION

KATHMANDU (TIP): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on August 12 met his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal and other senior political leaders of the Himalayan nation and discussed the steady growth of bilateral ties and ways to take it forward.

Misri's two-day visit is the first by the Indian foreign secretary to Nepal after the formation of the new government led by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli last month.

"Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri met his counterpart Ms. Sewa Lamsal @sewa_lamsal. They discussed the steady growth of India-Nepal cooperation and ways to take it forward. #IndiaNepalFriendship," the Indian embassy in Nepal said in a post on X.

Misri also called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Paudel at his office in Singha Durbar.

"They discussed various topics, including economic and development cooperation, expediting the construction of ongoing projects and the mutual relations between the two countries," The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

Misri met Deputy Prime Minister Singh, who also holds the Urban Development Ministry portfolio, and discussed various issues, including problems related to cross-border movement at the Nepal-India border. India's ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava was also present during the meeting.

They also discussed the possible cooperation between Nepal and India in the areas of city development, river cleaning, sanitation and solid waste management, according to sources close to Singh.

"Nepal and India are bound together not only by their common social and cultural values, but they also have collaboration on political fronts since the establishment of democracy in Nepal in 1950," the source said, quoting Singh.

With India being the largest democracy in the world, "Nepal wants to further intensify its collaborative efforts with India to move forward in its democratisation process," he said.

Singh also sought India's permission to construct suspension bridges in the Nepal-India border areas to ease the movement of people.

He thanked India for its assistance in infrastructure development, post-earthquake reconstruction, and COVID-19 response in Nepal.

Misri expressed India's commitment to continuously support Nepal's peace, stability, and prosperity. (PTI)

Bangladesh's ousted PM, sacked police chief face murder charges

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others, including two senior ministers of her cabinet and the sacked police chief, would face trial on murder charges, court officials said on August 13.

The murder case filed against 76-year-old Hasina is the first so far against her since she resigned and fled to India on August 5. She and six others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her government.

"In line with a case filed by a resident of (Dhaka's) Mohammadpur area, Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury has asked police to register it as an FIR," a court official said.

He said six others who were named in the case are: Awami League general secretary and former road transport minister Obaidul Quader, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and sacked inspector general of police (IGP) Abdullah Al Mamun, Dhaka's police commissioner Habibur Rahman, Additional IGP Harun-or-Rashid and additional joint commissioner Biplab Kumar.

While Hasina fled to India, the two ministers are believed to have secretly left the country hours before her resignation on August 5 while the



whereabouts of the police officers remained unknown to the media.

According to court officials, the magistrate asked Mohammadpur police station to record the case. A police official preferring anonymity said it was unclear which agency would be tasked to investigate the case.

The case against Hasina and six others was lodged on charges of killing a grocery shop owner in the Mohammadpur area in police firing on July 19 during a street march in

support of the students' movement for reforms in a controversial quota system for government jobs.

Amir Hamza Shatil, who filed the murder case, has received a death threat. Shortly after filing the case, a phone call was made to Shatil from France on Tuesday.

Showing the mobile number to the reporters, he said: "I got a call from a number in France and asked if I know the consequences of filing a case against Sheikh Hasina." — PTI

74% PAKISTANIS 'UNABLE' TO MEET EXPENSES; 10% 'DOING TWO JOBS'

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Amid economic distress, the financial difficulties faced by urban Pakistani households have soared by 14 per cent over the past year. As a result, a staggering 74 per cent of the urban population in the country being unable to meet their monthly expenses with their current income, a news channel reported. This represents a significant increase from May 2023, when 60 per cent of households reported financial struggles, according to the latest study by Pulse Consultant. Of those currently struggling to make ends meet, 60 per cent have had to cut back on essential expenses, including groceries, while 40 per cent have resorted to borrowing money from their acquaintances. Furthermore, 10 per cent of the people have taken on part-time jobs to supplement their income, as per ARY News. The survey of Pakistan, a country with roughly 240 million population, also highlighted that more than half, 56 per cent, of those who are just managing to cover their expenses, are unable to save any money after meeting their basic needs. The findings are based on a telephonic poll conducted from July to August, involving over 1,110 respondents from the 11 largest cities in Pakistan, the report said. (ANI)

PAKISTAN'S ANTI- TERRORISM COURT REJECTS A BAIL PLEA OF BUSHRA BIBI IN 12 CASES RELATED TO MAY 9 VIOLENCE

ISLAMABAD (TIP): An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has rejected the bail application of Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases related to the May 9 violence of last year which erupted when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was arrested in an alleged corruption case. Anti-terrorism court Rawalpindi Judge Malik Ejaz Asif on Monday after hearing the plea of Bushra Bibi, 49, said that a thorough investigation was required in her case and subsequently dismissed the bail application. The judge also ordered that the investigation in her case should be completed in seven days. Bibi was seeking bail in FIRs registered in various police stations in Rawalpindi. Khan and Bushra were present in the court along with dozens of other accused who have been named as suspects in the May 9 violence that left more than 100 people dead. "I will not strike any deal no matter how many cases they register against us," he said, adding that a deal is sought by those who had committed any wrongdoing. (IANS)

INDIA INKS PACT TO FUND NEPAL'S SATELLITE LAUNCH



NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian Government will fund a project to launch an indigenous satellite, Munal, for Nepal. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for 'grant assistance' of the satellite today. Munal has been developed in Nepal under the aegis of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). A Nepali space startup, Antarikshya Pratishan Nepal (APN), has assisted Nepali students in the design and fabrication of the satellite. The satellite aims to build a vegetation density database of the Earth's surface.

The satellite is expected to be launched on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle soon. The MoU was signed by Anurag Srivastava, JS (North) from MEA, and Arunachalam A, Director, NSIL. (PTI)



Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 16 TO AUGUST 22

16th August



1604 SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB first installed in Sri Harmandir Sahib

The Holy Sri Guru GRANTH SAHIB was ceremonially installed in Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar. Guru Arjan, shortly after Akbar's visit, early in 1599, began the project of compilation of Adi Granth. Bhai Gurdas was appointed amanuensis. Guru Arjan took five years to complete the project. Adi Granth was ready in 1604 when it was installed in Sri Harimandir Sahib. Baba Buddha Ji was appointed the first priest. Today is the actual date of the event, however, it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth.

1940 Gandhi wrote a nasty letter to Master Tara Singh. It contained some of his pre-conceived notions about Sikhs and the Akali movement. It was also influenced by the Punjab Congress's solid support of Subash Chandra Bose for the Presidentship of the Congress vis a vis Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Gandhi's nominee.

17th August

1931 The foundation stone was laid for Sri Guru Ram Das Sarai.

1947 Radcliffe Award decided the boundary between Pakistan and the Sikh Homeland.

1994 Principal Satbir Singh, a renowned scholar of GurSikhism passed away in Patiala.

18th August

1887 Sardar Thakur Singh Sandhwalia, the chief of Sri Guru Singh Sabha movement, and a chief proponent of Khalsa Raj, passed away. SINGH SABHA, a reform group of Amritdhari GurSikhs who objectively sought the eradication of the wrong practices in re-establishing the true traditions of GurSikhism. Their initial efforts for religious propagation and education resulted in the establishment of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Amritsar, in 1872. Sardar Thakur Singh Sandhwalia was the first chief, while the temporary offices and gathering facilities were organized at Guru Ka Bagh. The objectives of Singh Sabha, Amritsar, were to inculcate the principles of Sikh religion as preached by the Sikh Gurus among the Sikhs with a view to restoring Sikhism to its pristine purity, preach the principles of Sikh religion by word of mouth, by publication of historical and religious books, and through magazines and newspapers, encourage propagation of Punjabi, reclaim apostates and attract the sympathies of those highly placed in public administration to the educational progress of the Sikhs. The Singh Sabha was to shun politics.

1922 Karam Singh of Jhingar, Master Dalip Singh of Gossal and Kishan Singh Gargaj visit Montgomery jail to meet Master Mota Singh.

20th August

1922 Babbar call to plunder treasuries through the Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.

1942 Protection of Sikh interests again came up in British mind. British, while preparing to leave Indian subcontinent were conscious of the fact that the Sikhs have a rightful claim to a Sikh State but did not want to create one. Mr. Amery, Secretary of State, in his letter to Viceroy linked the Sikh concern for a degree of autonomy sufficient to protect them from Muslim domination in the context of Pakistan scheme and sought to explore the various possibilities they suggest in advance of any further constitutional discussions. He came to the conclusion that a separate Sikhdom is really unworkable without extensive transfer of population, and wanted the reform department to work out contingency plans in complete secrecy.

1944 All Party Sikh Conference passed resolution for the creation of an independent Sikh state.

1947 PEPSU established through a combination of eight regions.



1980 Harchand Singh Longowal was elected President of the Shiromani Akali Dal. Gently spoken and mild-mannered, he was assisted by a well-informed and sharp-witted writer and political commentator, of exactly his own age, Rajinder Singh, Editor of Kuami Ekta. Harchand Singh Longowal had chosen him to be his team-mate as one of the general secretaries of the party.

1982 Sardar Manjit Singh alias Musibat Singh was killed at Rajasansi airport, Amritsar. He was shot at a point blank range by D.S.P. Bachan Singh when Manjeet Singh surrendered and came out of the plane. Subsequently, D.S.P. Bachan Singh with all the members of his family was killed except his daughter.

1982 Gurmit Singh's nails pulled out and hands burnt by Indian Police.

Gurmit Singh of the village Dhulkot (Ludhiana) was arrested on by the police. He was taken to Rahon (Jullundur) police station where the nails of his hands and feet were pulled out by the police and both hands burned over candles. When police failed to get any information from him, he was killed in a fake encounter.

21st August



1664 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visits Kiratpur.

1982 Sardar Gurmit Singh of Dhudkot was martyred in a false police encounter.

1982 Gurmit Singh Rahon killed in fake encounter after a bomb attack on Darbara Singh, the terrorist Chief Minister of Punjab.

22nd August

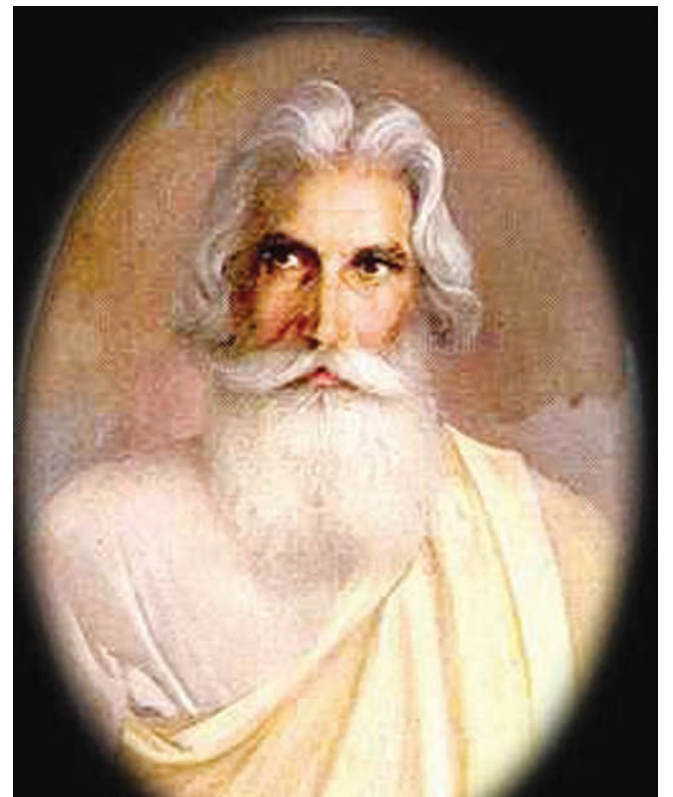


1922 Guru Ka Bagh Morcha was initiated. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affair. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

1922 Lamentation in Babbar Akali Doaba, over the arrest of Sikh leaders like Master Mota Singh.

1936 Gandhi labels the proposed conversion of 5 million untouchables to Sikhism as A Dangerous Proposal. He brought into recirculation the term Harijan, children of God, for depressed classes.

1986 Sobha Singh, the renowned painter, passed away.





Raksha Bandhan: Sublime bond between siblings

Raksha Bandhan is observed to acknowledge the sublime bond between siblings. Brothers promise to protect their sisters while sisters wish for their brothers' immortality while tying a sacred thread 'rakhi' around the wrist of their brothers. The festival is celebrated on the day of the full moon in the month of Shrawana, according to the Hindu calendar, which usually falls in August.

According to the Hindu Panchang, on 19 August, from 03.04 am to 11.55 pm, along with the full moon date, Bhadra will start, which will last till 01.32 pm. The auspicious time for tying Rakhi on 19th August is from 01.33 pm to 11.55 pm.

Raksha Bandhan is observed on the last day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Shrawana, which typically falls in August. The expression "Raksha Bandhan" (Sanskrit, literally "the bond of protection, obligation, or care") is now principally applied to this ritual. Until the mid-20th century, the expression was more commonly applied to a similar ritual, held on the same day, with precedence in ancient Hindu texts. In that ritual, a domestic priest ties amulets, charms, or threads on the wrists of his patrons, or changes their sacred thread, and receives gifts of money. This is still the case in some places. By contrast, the sister-brother festival, with origins in folk culture, had names which varied with location. Some were rendered as saluno, silono, and rakri. A ritual associated with saluno included the sisters placing shoots of barley behind the ears of their brothers.

Of special significance to married women, Raksha Bandhan is rooted in the practice of territorial or village exogamy. The bride marries out of her natal village or town, and her parents by custom do not visit her in her married home. In rural north India, where village exogamy is strongly prevalent, large numbers of married Hindu women travel back to their parents' homes every year for the ceremony. Their brothers, who typically live with their parents or nearby, sometimes travel to their sisters' married home to escort them back. Many younger married women arrive a few weeks earlier at their natal homes and stay until the ceremony. The brothers serve as lifelong intermediaries between their sisters' married and parental homes, as well as potential stewards of their security.

Let's take a look at some of the interesting stories around Raksha Bandhan in Indian mythology.

Krishna and Draupadi

Amongst the better-known legends around the origin of Raksha Bandhan is the story of Krishna and Draupadi. According to one version of the Mahabharata, Krishna slit his index finger in battle, while hurling his divine weapon, the Sudarshan Chakra, at his nephew, Shishupala. Another version says he cut his finger while reaping sugarcane from the fields. Both stories conclude with Draupadi tearing a piece of her saree and wrapping it around his finger to stop the bleeding. Pleased by this loving gesture from Draupadi, Krishna took a divine oath to protect Draupadi's honour in the future. This is also believed to be the reason why he came to her rescue during the infamous disrobing by the Kauravas.

King Bali and Goddess Lakshmi

Another legend about the festival revolves around the story of Goddess Lakshmi and King Bali.

When Bali selflessly gave everything that Vishnu had asked for disguised as Vamana, Vishnu became very impressed by Bali's devotion. He blessed Bali to be equal in status to Indra for as long as he lived. He also promised to protect Bali and his homestead and



disguised himself as a gatekeeper guarding Bali's palace. However, Vishnu's wife, goddess Lakshmi, missed her husband in Vaikunth. Unable to bear her husband's absence, she disguised herself as a poor Brahmin lady and went to Bali, and told him that she wanted a place to stay until her husband returned from the task he had set out to accomplish. Bali wholeheartedly welcomed her and protected her just like an elder brother.

With the arrival of the goddess, Bali's palace was filled with happiness and wealth. On the day of Shrawana Purnima, the poor Brahmin lady tied a coloured cotton thread around his wrist. Overwhelmed by the gesture, Bali granted her a wish. The Brahmin lady pointed at the gatekeeper and asked for her husband to be set free. In an instant, Vishnu and Lakshmi then returned to their true form. King Bali was touched by the love and care they had shown him and requested Vishnu to go back to his abode with Lakshmi. However, he requested Vishnu to visit him at least once every year. It is believed that lord Vishnu visits King Bali for four months every monsoon.

The legend in the Bhavishya Puran

The legend refers to a war between the Gods and the Demons. The demon King Brutra was advancing and the Gods lead by lord Indra, were on verge of defeat. The king of Gods, Indra approached Guru Brihaspati to find a solution to the situation. Brihaspati asked Indra to tie a sacred thread on his wrist, powered by the sacred mantras on the Shrawan Purnima. Lord Indra's Queen Sachi also called Indrani, empowered the thread

and tied it on to his hand on the decided day. The power of the sacred thread called Raksha helped the Gods to victory. The tradition of thread tying still continues. It is a gesture of goodwill.

Yama and the Yamuna

It is said that the Raksha Bandhan was a ritual followed by Lord Yama (the Lord of Death) and his sister Yamuna. Yamuna tied rakhi to Yama and bestowed immortality. Yama was so moved by the serenity of the occasion that he declared that whoever gets a rakhi tied from his sister and promised her protection will become immortal.

In the Epics

Raksha Bandhan finds a mention in Mahabharata when Lord Krishna advised Yudhishtir to perform the ceremony to protect himself and the army from the dangers of the war. It is said that Kunti, the mother of the Pandavas tied rakhi to her grandson Abhimanyu and Draupadi to lord Krishna.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save itRs "

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard itRs "

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

"Everyone thinks how to become a better son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister, husband or wife, and man or woman. But no one puts actual thoughts on that they are all HUMAN and how to become a better HUMAN. What can we do to learn how to be a better humanRs "

-- Arish K Sahani



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 19 TO AUGUST 25, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

15TH AUGUST HOROSCOPE : Independence Day commemorates India's independence from British colonial rule for over 200 years on August 15, 1947. The country began its struggle for freedom with the 1857 revolt. Later, around 1920, the freedom struggle gained momentum under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Eventually, on July 4, 1947, the British House of Commons introduced the Indian Independence Bill. India became an independent nation on August 15.

As India gears up to celebrate its 78th Independence Day on August 15, 2024, it is the perfect time to connect with family and express your heartfelt wishes. This year's celebration is not just about marking a historic moment but also about embracing the spirit of unity, pride, and patriotism that defines our nation.

ARIES : Ganesha says today can be a bit challenging for you. There can be a stressful environment at the workplace and you may face some differences with your colleagues. Maintain patience and restraint, as hasty decisions can be harmful. Be cautious in financial matters, avoid unnecessary expenses, and take thoughtful steps in matters of investment. Do not be careless about health, focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. It would be better to postpone any important decision today. Work with self-control and patience, circumstances will soon be favorable for you. Spending time with friends and family will give you peace of mind.

TAURUS : Ganesha says today will be a great day for you. All your work will be completed without any hindrance and success will kiss your feet. You will perform well in your workplace and your superiors will appreciate your hard work and dedication. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in your family today as well. You will get a chance to spend time with family members and sweetness will increase in mutual relations. The relationship with your spouse will become even stronger and understanding and love will increase between you two. Today will also be a great day in terms of health. You will feel full of energy and there will be no physical problems of any kind. Practicing yoga and meditation will give mental peace. Today will also be beneficial from the financial point of view. Your investments will give good results and new sources of inflow of money will open. You will be able to achieve your financial goals. Today you will make full use of your creativity and work on new plans. People will appreciate your ideas and ideology and you will create a new identity in your field. By participating in social activities, you will get a chance to meet new people and your social circle will expand. Today will be positive and successful for you in every way.

GEMINI : Ganesha says today can be a challenging day for you. You will not get immediate results from your efforts in the workplace, which can lead to disappointment. Be patient and focus on your work. You may also face some stressful situations in your personal life, so maintain communication with your family and friends and spend time with them. Be cautious in financial matters, and think well before making any big investment. Take care of your health, today you may feel tired and stressed, so take time to relax and resort to yoga or meditation. Maintain positive thinking and wait for better opportunities in the coming days.

CANCER : Ganesha says today will be a great day for you. Your efforts will be rewarded and you can touch new heights in

your field of work. There will be happiness and peace in family life and you will be able to enjoy spending time with your loved ones. The day will be beneficial from an economic point of view, investment opportunities can be found. In terms of health, you will feel freshness and energy, so you will be able to complete all your tasks on time. Sweetness will remain in love life and you will get an opportunity to spend some special moments with your partner. Your reputation will increase at the social level, and your friends and colleagues will appreciate your ideas and efforts. Today is also a good day for you to start new plans and projects. Today will be encouraging and successful for you from every point of view. Maintain your confidence and move forward with positive thinking.

LEO : Ganesha says today can be a bit challenging for you. Mental stress and anxiety can surround your mind. You may face some difficulties at the workplace, which may make you a little disappointed. Try to postpone any important decision today, as time is not in your favor. Do not promote any dispute, but work with peace and wisdom. If there is any problem, try to solve it through conversation. Be cautious in terms of health as well. Pay special attention to food and try to avoid excessive stress. Yoga and meditation can be beneficial for your mental and physical health. You may feel a little tight in financial condition. Avoid unnecessary expenditures and control your expenses. It would be better to avoid any new investment or big expenditure today. Everything will be fine with time, just maintain patience and restraint. Spend time with your loved ones and maintain a positive attitude. With every challenge comes a new opportunity, just need to recognize it.

VIRGO : Ganesha says today can be full of some challenges for you. There may be obstacles in your work and you may have to work harder in your efforts. It would be better to postpone any important decision today. Your colleagues or family members may not agree with your ideas, which can lead to a situation of discord. Today is also a day to be a little careful in terms of health. Take special care of food and try to avoid too much stress. Yoga and meditation can prove beneficial for your mental peace. Today is also not a favorable day from the financial point of view. Avoid investment or big expenses. Be cautious in any kind of financial transactions. There may also be some disagreement in love life. Talk openly with your partner and try to understand their feelings. This is the time to work with patience and understanding. Overall, today is the day to spend with restraint and caution. Maintain your confidence and face every situation patiently.

LIBRA : Ganesha says today will be a great day for Libra. There will be happiness in your life. Your hard work in work will pay off and you will get appreciation. New opportunities will be available in business and your financial position will be strong. Today you will enjoy spending time with your family and friends. You may meet an old friend, which will be a pleasant experience for you. Sweetness will also remain in love life. Spending time with your partner will add depth to the relationship. You will be full of energy in terms of health. Practicing yoga and meditation will bring mental peace. Overall, today will bring success and satisfaction for you in every field. Maintain your positive thinking and confidence, this will make all your work successful.

SCORPIO : Ganesha says today will be highly auspicious for you. Today can bring positive changes in your life and it is time to reap the fruits of your efforts. Your hard work and dedication will be appreciated at the workplace, which can give you new opportunities for progress. Today is a favorable day to invest in business, and you are likely to get benefits. Execute your plans properly and maintain patience. Today is a particularly fruitful day for students, maintain concentration in your studies and success will kiss your feet. From a health point of view, today you will be full of energy and freshness. Focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. You will get an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, which will give peace and satisfaction to your mind. Keep your thoughts positive and stay away from any kind of negativity. Today is full of new hopes and possibilities for you, live it to the fullest and move forward towards achieving your goals.

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says today can be full of some challenges for you. You may have to work extra hard in the workplace and will not get the expected support from colleagues. You may also have to face some stressful situations in your personal life. There may be a difference of opinion on some issues with a family member or close friends. In this situation, it will be necessary to maintain patience and restraint. The day is also not favorable from an economic point of view. Try to avoid investments or big expenses. Be cautious in any kind of financial transaction. There is also a need to be cautious in matters of health. Include yoga and meditation in your routine, this will give you mental peace. However, some positive news may be received at the end of the day which will boost your morale. Maintain patience and restraint, this time will also pass. Channel your energy in a positive direction and stay away from any kind of negativity. Have a good day!

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says today's

horoscope is not favorable for Capricorns. You may face challenges at the workplace today and need to be cautious of opponents. It would be better to postpone any important decision today. Maintain patience in family matters and avoid any disputes. There may be some tightness in the financial situation, so control expenses. Resort to meditation or yoga for mental peace. Students may find it difficult to concentrate on their studies today, so spend time on a favorite activity for a while. Take care of your health and try to keep yourself stress-free.

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says today's horoscope has brought very auspicious signs for Aquarius people. Today will be an excellent day for you. Your hard work and dedication will be appreciated in the workplace today. Your senior officers may be impressed by your work, which can open up new opportunities for advancement in your career. Today will be a day full of happiness in your personal life as well. You will get a chance to spend time with family and friends, which will bring sweetness to relationships. Your social circle will expand and new friends can be made. From the health point of view, today you will be full of energy. There will be no major health problems, still take care of your diet and routine. Take the help of yoga and meditation to maintain mental peace. In business, today you will get an opportunity to work on new projects and plans. Your financial condition will improve and new sources of income will be obtained. Today is also beneficial for investment. Overall, today is a great day for you in every respect. With your positive thinking and hard work, you will achieve success in all areas.

PISCES : Ganesha says today is going to be a very auspicious day for you. You will get the fruits of your efforts and you will be praised in the workplace. Today you may be successful in an important project, which will increase your confidence. The day will also be excellent from the financial point of view, there is a possibility of good profits from investment. There will be happiness and peace in your family life as well. Spending time with family members will give you mental peace. Relationships with spouses will be sweet and understanding between you two will increase. In terms of health, today you will be full of energy, but it is necessary to take care of food. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help in maintaining your health. Today you may meet an old friend, which will be a pleasant experience for you. Participating in social activities will keep the mind happy and new contacts will be made. In summary, today will be excellent for you in every respect. Move forward with your confidence and positive attitude, success will kiss your feet.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES : Ganesha says this week you will get support from family. You will plan to travel somewhere with the family. There will be ups and downs in family life. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people. People living a love life will be successful in giving time to each other. The financial situation will be good. People doing business in partnership will have to be careful. People working will get promotions in jobs. Students will not be able to concentrate on their studies due to distractions here and there. Your health will be better than before. Think carefully before making any investment. You will get support from brothers and sisters. Time is good for higher education. An auspicious program will be organized at home. You may have more family responsibilities, which you will fulfil with complete honesty. A new job offer will also come, in which the income will be higher.



TAURUS : Ganesha says this week is going to be mixed for students. Some of your friends will try to divert your attention. Time is good for higher education. There will be ups and downs in life. People in love will express their feelings to their beloved. The financial situation will be good. People doing business will get new opportunities. People working will get support from senior colleagues. There will be opportunities for progress. Will get support from family. Everyone will come together to attend a party where everyone will meet. People who are working away from home will miss their families. You will get good news from a distant relative. You will help your friend with money. This week you will get a good opportunity, which will bring you financial benefit.



GEMINI : Ganesha says married people will seem happy in their domestic life. You will make a new plan to advance your career. Sweetness will remain in love relationships also. A good relationship will come for single people. An auspicious program will be organized at home. You will be seen sharing your happiness and sorrow with your friends. Your house will be full of guests in the evening. Your financial condition will be good. People who work in property dealing will get a good deal. People doing business will also go on a trip to further their business. Working students will get opportunities for job advancement. Health will gradually improve. Time is good for higher education. Students will participate in sports competitions, in which they will

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 19 TO AUGUST 25, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

win. You are also likely to get financial benefits from government sectors.



CANCER : Ganesha says this week you can go out somewhere with your lover, where both of you will tell each other everything that is on your mind. You will get support from your spouse. All the family members will be seen working together. You will spend time with your family and learn to save money. You will spend some time from your busy day with your children. Will achieve success in politics. There will be opportunities to meet leaders. Students will be seen working hard to prepare for the competition. The financial situation will be good. You will do some shopping for yourself. Working people will have to face problems on the job. Will be full of confidence. People doing business will get the desired profits in business. The economic situation will be strong.



LEO : Ganesha says this week seems to be common, you can make it better for yourself with your actions. Just work hard without thinking too much and avoid arguing with any family member. Married people will feel tension in their domestic life. Your spouse's health may deteriorate and tension in your relationship with them may also increase. This week will be no less than a gift for you and your loved one. Your love will progress a lot. You will be seen romancing each other. You can also go somewhere together. You will have trust in your lover and your relationship will progress beautifully.



VIRGO : Ganesha says this week students will have to concentrate a lot on their studies, only then they can achieve good results. Will get support from family. You will achieve success in the field of education. You will get income opportunities through friends. People who are working will get a new job offer. There is also a possibility of job change. People doing business will be successful in taking the business forward. The financial situation will be good, but some expenses will also remain. Friends will talk to you on the phone for a long time today. You will get support from brothers and sisters. Will spend some time in religious programs for mental peace. Will achieve success in politics. There will be opportunities to meet leaders. Health will improve. It will be better for you if you include morning walks, yoga, and meditation in your daily routine.



LIBRA : Ganesha says this week will be special for you. If you were trying to advance your business, you will get success in it. You will achieve success in the field of education. There will be happiness and peace in family life. You will go on a romantic dinner with your spouse.

This week will not be anything special for love relationships. Students will be seen studying with full concentration. You will suddenly incur some expenses which you will have to bear even if you do not want to. You will also get the pleasure of a new vehicle. Today you will receive your pending money, through which you will complete your pending work. If you have borrowed money from someone then you will return it also. Will get support from family. You will also spend time in religious programs for mental peace. Take blessings by touching the feet of senior members.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says this week will be good for students. Your hard work will be successful. There will be an opportunity to get an education from abroad also. The tension that was going on in love relationships will end. Married people will maintain harmony in their domestic life. Will work together with your spouse for the welfare of the family. More family responsibilities will be assigned to you, which you will fulfil. You will talk to your acquaintances about the higher education of your siblings. Employed people will get opportunities for promotion in the job. People doing business will also go on a business-related trip, which will be beneficial for them. Worship will be organized at home. Everyone will keep coming and going. People who are working away from home will miss their families.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says this week married people will try their best to improve their lives. You will also go on a romantic dinner with your spouse, where you will be seen talking about love. There will be weakness in love relationships. Will get benefits from government schemes. The economic situation will be strong. There is a possibility of financial gain from ancestral property. You will get the pleasure of a new vehicle. Parents will seem happy if their child gets a job. Students will be seen studying with full concentration. Time is favorable for higher education. Health will gradually improve. People doing business will be seen making efforts to take the business forward. It would be better for employed people to stick to their old job, only here you will get good opportunities. You will take your children to shopping malls and picnics.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says your financial condition will be good this week. You will move forward to help all people. People who are working will get a new job offer. In which income will be more. Businesspeople will resume their stalled business plans. Will get support from family. Your love life will be better. You can start some new work with your spouse, which will increase your income. You will achieve success in the

field of education. You will get support from friends. Time is good for higher education. There will be ups and downs in health. Those who work for the betterment of the society will get respect. You will also spend a lot of money on repairing your house. There can be talk of relationships among bachelors. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says this week will be mixed for love relationships. There will be tension due to giving time to your lover. Married people will feel tension in their domestic life. The financial situation will be fine. There is a possibility of getting financial benefits from ancestral property. You can get your spouse to start some new work, which will increase your income. You will achieve success in the field of education. Students pursuing higher education will get a chance to study the subject of their choice. Worship will be organized at home. People doing business will involve some people to take the business forward. People working will complete the tasks given in the job. There will be opportunities for promotion from higher officials. There will be ups and downs in health due to changing weather. You will share your thoughts with your parents.



PISCES : Ganesha says this week you will get support from family. You will get a chance to visit some religious places with family members. Where everyone will look very happy. You will get full support from your spouse. There will be sweetness in love relationships. Students will be seen studying with full concentration. Time is good for higher education. The economic situation will be strong. Working students will get opportunities for job promotion. Businesspeople will finalize a new deal. If you touch the feet of senior members and take their blessings, all your work will be completed. The obstacles coming in the way of the brother's marriage will be removed. An auspicious program will be organized at home. Everyone will keep coming and going. There is also a possibility of you going on a business-related trip. Happiness will also increase. Health will be better than before.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 19 TO AUGUST 25
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA****VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

AUGUST 19 : Ganesha says the task you undertake this time will provide you with a lot of satisfaction. They would be supportive, and some of them would end up being your closest friends. You would make good money from your job, but it would be difficult for you to keep your profits. There will be nice romantic entanglements and good opportunities to form a marriage union. Expect to get gifts and treats in both cash and kind. Some of you have plans to travel abroad for business.

AUGUST 20 : Ganesha says for your efforts, you can anticipate receiving fantastic benefits. You would spend extra on comforts and amusement to mark your triumph especially. Your income would increase, and you would make some wise long-term investments. Better communication between you and your partner would make every time you share truly special. Your parents' health could be a source of worry and concern.

AUGUST 21 : Ganesha says for best results, make your plans far in advance. Long-term gains will be attained as a

result of your efforts during this time when investing in real estate is advantageous. Your priority list will include romance. A new arrival also appears to be a possibility. As you take a job with more responsibility and position, your financial situation will get better. The entire family's spirits will rise if some exciting news comes in from distant relatives.

AUGUST 22 : Ganesha says although there will be financial improvements, the increase in expenses will prevent you from being able to save. Your professional improvement should have your whole attention because it will rapidly produce the necessary effects. Businesspeople will establish useful contacts. Children and spouses will be extremely demanding but supportive. Minor health conditions like backaches, stiff necks, or body aches will cause issues. If you get out and participate in clubs and social gatherings, your social life will go smoothly.

AUGUST 23 : Ganesha says to achieve the clear goal of success; you are likely to take advantage of all the

opportunities that come your way as soon as possible. You keep up the good effort and attempt to imitate it constantly. It will be successful if you make an effort to change your sour attitude. Sometimes you became lost in pleasant ideas that gave you a boost. Messy situations could make you feel anxious, yet supportive grins from your loved ones can make you feel better. You always have the best of intentions for your family members.

AUGUST 24 : Ganesha says you must examine your vacillating and spreading modes. You have a wide range of skills. Wherever you go, people will notice you. Because of your bewilderment trait, you successfully attempt to recover your former appeal. When you are a channel anchor, you will eventually have well-planned interactive sessions with some well-known individuals. Your knowledge will be needed to do that. You are modern and a strong follower of Western culture where there is no room for superstitions.

AUGUST 25 : Ganesha says you enjoy going to events and parties,

mixing with people, and being around a large number of people. You will have an enjoyable time with your family, which will make you feel better. You'll be blessed on all fronts. Without many hassles or delays, you will get whatever you want. You always decide to choose to work on your projects before doing anything materialistic. You are a guy of your word. Gather all of your thoughts and sift out the most significant issues.

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When overseas Indians enjoyed their moments of glory



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

Prabhjot Singh, a senior sports journalist, in his career spanning 40 years, has witnessed, and reported on six summer Olympic games, one winter Olympic games, seven World Cups in Hockey, FIFA World Cup in 2006, besides three World Cups in Cricket, and two editions of Pan Am Games (Toronto and Lima). He has also covered Asian Games (New Delhi and Jakarta) and Commonwealth games in Melbourne and New Delhi.

He was in Paris from July 23, 2024 till August 13, 2024 to cover the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris which has the distinction of hosting the Olympic Games for a third time. Earlier, Paris hosted the Olympic Games in 1900 and 1924. The only other city to host Olympic Games three times is London which hosted Olympic Games in 1908, 1948 and 2012.

Readers of THE INDIAN PANORAMA will get to read Prabhjot Singh's special reports on Olympic Games 24 straight from Paris on a daily basis at www.theindianpanorama.news besides selected reports in the weekly editions. Prabhjot Singh can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com

Led by veteran Rajeev Ram, sportspersons belonging to the Indian Diaspora representing different nations in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games have every reason to feel pleased about their performance in the 2024 Paris Olympic games.

After Rohan Bopanna, the oldest tennis player to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, made an early exit from his favorite men's doubles event, his long-time arch-rival and friend, Rajeev Ram, finished on the podium. Though a gold medal eluded Rajeev Ram for the second time since the Rio Olympic Games in 2016, he doubled his silver medal tally of the Olympic Games. In partnership with left-handed Austin Krajicek, he lost the men's doubles final to the Australian pair of Mathew Ebden and John Peers at 7-6, 6-7, 8-10.

Incidentally, Mathew Ebden is a long-time doubles partner of Rohan Bopanna.

Rajeev Ram has become the second player of Indian origin to win two Olympic medals in different editions. Earlier, hockey player, Kulbir Bhaura, representing Great Britain had won two Olympic medals - a Brown in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and a gold in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

Rajeev won his first Olympic medal, a silver, in partnership with Venus Williams in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. In the semi-final, Rajeev and Venus defeated Indian pair Rohan Bopanna and



Rajeev Ram, Austin Krajicek win silver medal in men's doubles tennis.

Sania Mirza.

The only tennis medal that has come India's way was a bronze won by Leander Paes in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. He lost to the ultimate winner, Andre Agassi, in the semi-finals. Since then, India has not won any medal in tennis while Rajeev Ram, a player of Indian origin, has won two silver medals in 2016 and 2024. Rajeev Ram has represented the USA in three consecutive Olympic Games since 2016.

Another player of Indian origin who represented the USA in the third consecutive Olympic Games has been

Kanak Jha, a table tennis player. Kanak Jha had a credible tournament as he qualified for the pre-quarterfinals, his highest finish since his Olympic debut in Rio in 2016.

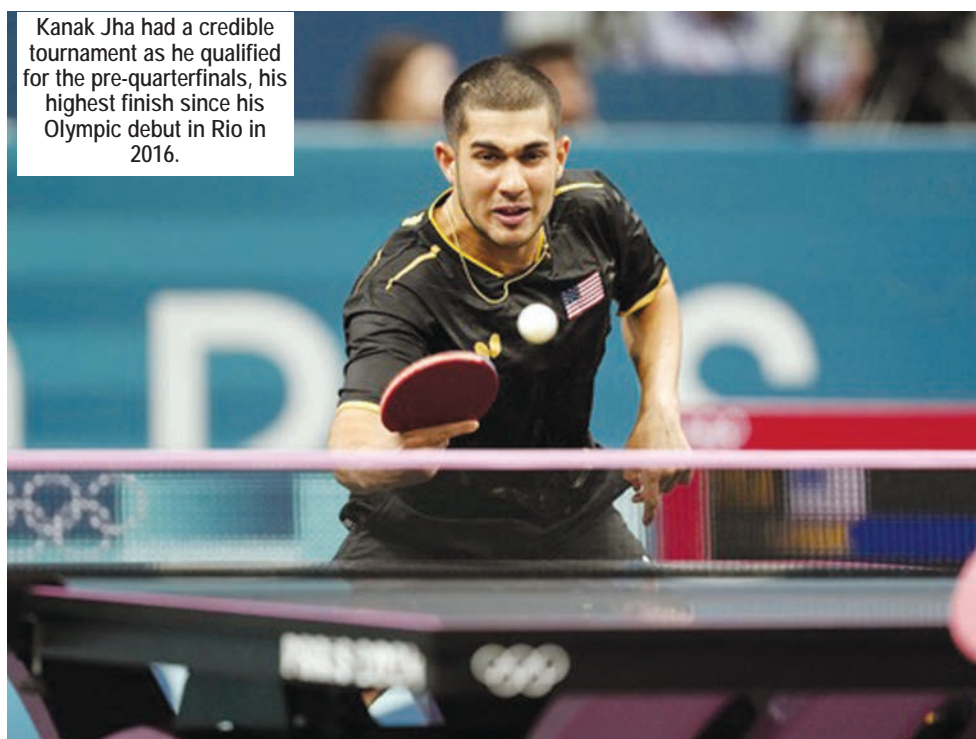
Besides Rajeev Ram and Kanak Jha, who represented the USA in three Olympic Games each, wrestler Amarveer Singh Dhese donned Canadian colors in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He made his Olympic debut in the 125 kg category at Tokyo. He finished 13th. This time, he won his pre-quarter-final encounter but lost the quarter-final and also the repechage to end among the top

eight.

Another athlete of Indian origin who represented Canada has been Jasneet Nijjar, a runner. She was a part of the Canadian 4x400 m women's relay quartet that finished sixth.

The third player of Indian origin to represent Canada was water polo player Jessica Gaudreault, a goaltender. Canada finished eighth in the women's water polo event.

A player of Indian origin represented France in table tennis. Prithika Pavade competed in women's singles. She lost to Manika Batra.



Kanak Jha had a credible tournament as he qualified for the pre-quarterfinals, his highest finish since his Olympic debut in Rio in 2016.



India's medal winners and near misses

India ended its campaign at the Paris 2024 Olympics with six medals and no gold, one less than the previous Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Neeraj Chopra, Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale, Aman Sehrawat, and the Indian hockey team contributed to the six medals, including a silver and five bronze, that India won in the Paris 2024 Olympics, ranking the country in the 71st place on the medals tally.

While the six medals gave many reasons to celebrate, India's campaign at the Olympics was also filled with many near misses including that of Lakshya Sen in Badminton, Saikhom Mirabhai Chanu in Weightlifting, and Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the wrestling final.

Neeraj Chopra

While India rested its hope of a gold medal on reigning Olympic and Javelin Throw world champion Neeraj Chopra, it was ultimately not to be as he lost to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem who bettered an Olympic record that had stood for 16 years, not once but twice.

Nadeem's first — a throw of 92.97m in his second throw of the competition secured his gold medal. The second of 91.79m in his final attempt put the final exclamation mark on a near-flawless performance. Chopra produced his biggest throw of the season in the qualification throw with 89.34m. He improved on that in his second throw of the final with 89.45m which netted him a silver medal.

During his performances, Chopra has been careful about the injury he has been carrying for some time. He agreed that it affected his focus. "Despite that I performed well and got my season best throw."

Following his performance, Chopra became the second male athlete post-independence to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.

Chopra, who is yet to cross the 90m mark, wanted to improve the technical side of the game. "Javelin is a technical sport. You always have some scope for improvement."

Manu Bhaker

Manu Bhaker registered several firsts for Indian shooting, but most importantly, became the first Indian ever to win twin medals in a single edition of the Games. Manu Bhaker won her first bronze medal at the women's 10m air pistol event, becoming the first Indian woman shooter to be on the Olympic podium.

After qualifying for the final in third place, Manu hit the ground running. Of the 22 shots she took, just 7 were in the '9' ring. She was never out of medal contention and was in silver medal place until her final shot of the competition where she was pipped by the narrowest of margins — 0.1 — by South Korea's Kim Yeji. She next won another bronze medal in the mixed 10m air pistol event with Sarabjot Singh, having beaten South Korea 16-10.

Men's Hockey Team

In the last half a century, the Indian hockey team had not secured two consecutive medals in the Olympics. When it retained its bronze medal in Paris on August 8, 2024, it was time for celebrations and overflow of emotions in the stands of the Yves du Manoir Stadium in Paris. India's fourth bronze and 13th Olympic medal was a fitting farewell for goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, who closed his glorious two-decade long international career and served India with distinction, and deserved every bit of the dream swansong.

In captivating action under the hot afternoon sun, India, which switched to coach Craig Fulton only three months prior to the Asian Games last year and adapted quickly to a defence-first style, rallied to pip a never-say-die Spain 2-1 in the bronze medal match. It last won back-to-back Olympic medals way back in 1972 in Munich. The committed Indian fans broke into



Flagbearers and Indian Olympic Medallists Manu Bhaker and P.R. Sreejesh at the Paris 2024 Olympic closing ceremony. | Photo Credit: Reuters



Neeraj Chopra became the second male athlete post-independence to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.



Swapnil Kusale clinched his first Olympic bronze and third medal for India in the 50m rifle 3 positions event



Grappler Aman Sehrawat has become India's youngest-ever Olympic medallist after winning the bronze medal in the 57kg freestyle wrestling category less than a month after his 21st birthday.

celebrations as the players stacked over a grounded Sreejesh paid their tribute to the legendary 'God of Indian hockey.'

Sarabjot Singh

World No. 14 Sarabjot Singh has added a bronze Olympics medal into his kitty when he, along with Manu Bhaker, defeated South Korea in the 10m air pistol mixed team Bronze Medal Match.

Swapnil Kusale

Swapnil Kusale clinched his first Olympic bronze and third medal for India in the 50m rifle 3 positions event, a highly demanding category that requires shooters to compete in three different positions across three stages — 20 shots each in kneeling, prone and standing positions.

Aman Sehrawat

Grappler Aman Sehrawat has become India's youngest-ever Olympic medallist after winning the bronze medal in the 57kg freestyle wrestling category less than a month after his 21st birthday. Aman notched up a commanding 13-5 win over Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in a high-intensity third-place contest. After shaking off a loss in the semifinals, he went through the rigmarole of making the weight by losing 1.5kg before dominating Cruz for the bronze

Medals that were missed by a whisker

There's a difference between finishing seventh and fourth. Any athlete will tell you which is worse. When you are seventh, you really were not in contention for a medal. A fourth-place finish is a reminder that you are just the first of the guys outside the podium. For India, there were six such medals that were missed.

Arjun Babuta - Men's 10m Air Rifle Shooting

Arjun Babuta had to swallow a bitter defeat in the 10m air rifle individual final when he flirted with the chance to make Indian sporting history before eventually finishing fourth, missing the bronze medal

by just 1.4 points.

Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat - Archery

Indian archers Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat made a bit of history by making it to the mixed team bronze medal match, but fell short of cornering Olympic glory by placing fourth. However, they have given Indian archery a big morale-boosting push.

Manu Bhakar - Women's 25m Pistol Shooting

Manu Bhaker narrowly missed out on a 3rd shooting medal, finishing 4th in the women's 25m pistol final. "The fourth position definitely does not feel amazing but there is always a next time and certainly it is going to be there for me," Bhaker said.

Lakshya Sen - Men's Badminton Singles

Hopes for India's first-ever Olympic gold in badminton will be dashed after Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-game defeat to reigning champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals. Lakshya fought gallantly against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze medal match but missed out on securing a medal there as well.

Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan - Skeet mixed team shooting

India's skeet mixed team of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan lost the bronze medal match to China 44-43. The Indian team struck a total of 43 targets out of the possible 48. China managed one better, hitting 44 of the 48 pellets to finish third.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu - Women's Weightlifting 49kg

Trying to replicate her heroics from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Saikhom Mirabhai Chanu needed a cumulative total of over 200kg going into her final clean and jerk attempt to secure her medal. Unfortunately, she failed to complete the 114kg lift and fulfilled a cumulative total of 199kg, missing the medal bracket by 1kg.

Source: The Hindu



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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: AIIMS-Delhi doctors to continue protest; CBI begins probe

body of the trainee doctor was found on August 9, they said.

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, August 13, ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the Central agency.

A source in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said that the agency has filed an FIR under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in New Delhi in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the doctor.

"Today, our officers will seek the call details of the deceased woman and those on duty on that day. They may submit the FIR in a local court," another central agency source said.

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Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA) told PTI that their stir would continue until a Central law to curb attacks on medical personnel is implemented and a concrete solution found. (Source: PTI)

Punishment given for crimes against women should be publicized, says PM Modi in his address to the Nation on 78th Independence Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the national flag for the 11th time in a row at the Red Fort. Security was tightened across India with over 10,000 cops, facial recognition cameras and snipers deployed in Delhi and security camps set up in 13 villages in Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Bastar region where the Tricolor will be hoisted for the first time to celebrate Independence Day.

Snipers, elite SWAT commandos, kite catchers and sharpshooters were positioned at strategic locations for the security of the Prime Minister and other VVIP guests at Red Fort in New Delhi. Additionally, 700 AI-based facial recognition CCTV cameras have been installed in central and New Delhi. These cameras have high-resolution pan-tilt-zoom features, allowing identification of a person from a distance, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Modi recalled the sufferings of people impacted by India's partition and reiterated the commitment to always protecting the bonds of unity and brotherhood in the nation on August 14. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition in 1947, saying a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful country.

President Droupadi Murmu addressed

the nation on the eve of Independence Day on August 14 and emphasized the need to strengthen affirmative action as a tool for inclusion while urging the rejection of divisive tendencies rooted in perceived social hierarchies. She also said that India's successful conduct of elections strengthens democratic forces around the world.

The Indian contingent from the Paris Olympics, student beneficiaries from the Atal Innovation Mission, workers of the Border Roads Organisation and sarpanches were among the 6,000 special guests who attended the 78th Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi on August 15.

(With inputs from The Hindu)

CONTD FROM PAGE 13

A Conversation with Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York

The consulate actively collaborates with Indian community groups to ensure that cultural heritage is passed down to younger generations, including teaching them their mother tongues and keeping them connected to Indian cuisine, costumes, and traditions.

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TIP: HOW DOES THE CONSULATE SUPPORT VARIOUS INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ORGANIZING PARADES AND OTHER EVENTS?

CG: The Consulate offers support to all Indian community organizations that request assistance, though most large-scale events, like parades, are primarily funded and organized by the communities themselves. The consulate works in partnership with these organizations, providing modest support when needed.

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CG: This is the first time I will be part of the Independence Day celebrations here. Besides the celebration we do at the Consulate, we do celebrate Independence Day at prominent places in multiple states. This year, events will take place from August 10th to August 17th, with invitations already received from seven states and 15 cities. The consulate plans

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CG: There is a need of a better connect of Indian students with the broader community to provide them with support in emergencies. While most students are doing well, there is a need for stronger ties between them and the established Indian-American community. 6% of the Indian-American community is not as privileged and requires assistance, particularly women facing legal and economic challenges.

There is a need to raise awareness about the available support systems. Media and community organizations play a crucial role in bridging the gap between those in need and the resources available. I was pleased to know about Indian-American doctors providing scholarships for distressed women to attend community colleges, thereby upgrading their skills and improving their employment prospects. There should be a better collaboration between the consulate, media, and community organizations to ensure that those in need receive the help they require.

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CG: I would say it's a true honor to be working in this country very closely with the Indian American community. The contribution you have made , not only to the American society , American nation building, , and also the contribution you have made in terms of cementing the relationship between India and the US is exemplary. So, we look forward to work with you very closely. Like the Prime minister said, our relationship with you is not a passport. So, it's a different relationship. And I remain committed to work in that spirit with the Indian American community for the larger end, objective, of bringing a win win proposition and cementing the relationship between the two nations.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

APPLICATIONS INVITED

from Indian Diaspora Youth Members for 77th Edition of the KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

Dates: 15 September - 4 October 2024

Last Date to Apply : 20 August 2024

Diaspora India Connect | diaspora_india | knowindiaprogramme_mea



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: AIIMS-Delhi doctors to continue protest; CBI begins probe

body of the trainee doctor was found on August 9, they said.

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, August 13, ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the Central agency.

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Homage paid to victims of partition on 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'

protect the bonds of unity and brotherhood in our nation."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition in 1947, saying a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful country.

"On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day my homage to the millions who suffered inhumane pains, lost lives, turned homeless during this most hideous episode of our history," Mr. Shah wrote on 'X'.

He said observing this day is a foundational exercise in the process of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Modi government has been observing August 14 as the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' since 2021 in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the country's partition.

While making the announcement about the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in 2021, PM Modi had said the day would be observed in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people as the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

Mr. Modi had also noted that millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition. (Source: TIP)

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Well known for its juicy strawberries, lush evergreen forests, breezy weather, and picturesque vistas, Mahabaleshwar is the most popular hill station in the Sahyadri Mountain Ranges. Flocked by locals and tourists alike, it is just 285 kilometers from Mumbai and 120 kilometers from Pune. Bound by valleys, this verdant picnic spot is a nature lover's paradise located in the Western Ghats, in the Satara district of Maharashtra.

Mahabaleshwar is a hill station located in the Western Ghats, in Satara district of Maharashtra. Known for its captivating beauty and the beautiful strawberry farms, the city comprises of ancient temples, boarding schools, manicured and lush green dense forest, waterfalls, hills, valleys. The city is definitely among the most sought after weekend getaways from Mumbai. Charming views, enticing valleys, serene lakes and a refreshing delight for your taste buds - the best way to summarize this nature's gift.

Elephant's Head point

Elephant's Point is famous for the beauty and peace that one gets by being there. The greenery around is worth appreciating, and nature around is stunning and gives one a sense of comfort away from the fast moving life of the city. The rock formations at the site are present in a way that forms the trunk of an elephant. It is one of the most visited and famous attractions of Mahabaleshwar which is flocked in by tourists from near and far.

Elephant's Point got its name from the age prevalent during the British Raj and the Governor of Bombay at the time, Sir Mount Elphinstone. It is believed that it was founded in the year 1930 by Dr Murray who also has an old mansion present nearby.

Today, only the ruins of this hotel are present in the place of which a picnic shed for the tourists is being constructed by the local authorities. The elephant's point justifies its name and give one a picture of an elephant's head and trunk. One must surely not miss out on the place.

Chinaman's falls

A visit to Mahabaleshwar is less or more incomplete without witnessing the tantalizing descend of the Chinaman's fall, one of the most significant falls in the state.

The place is named after the Chinese prison located in the vicinity. It serves as a perfect holidaying spot enthralling a bewitching experience.

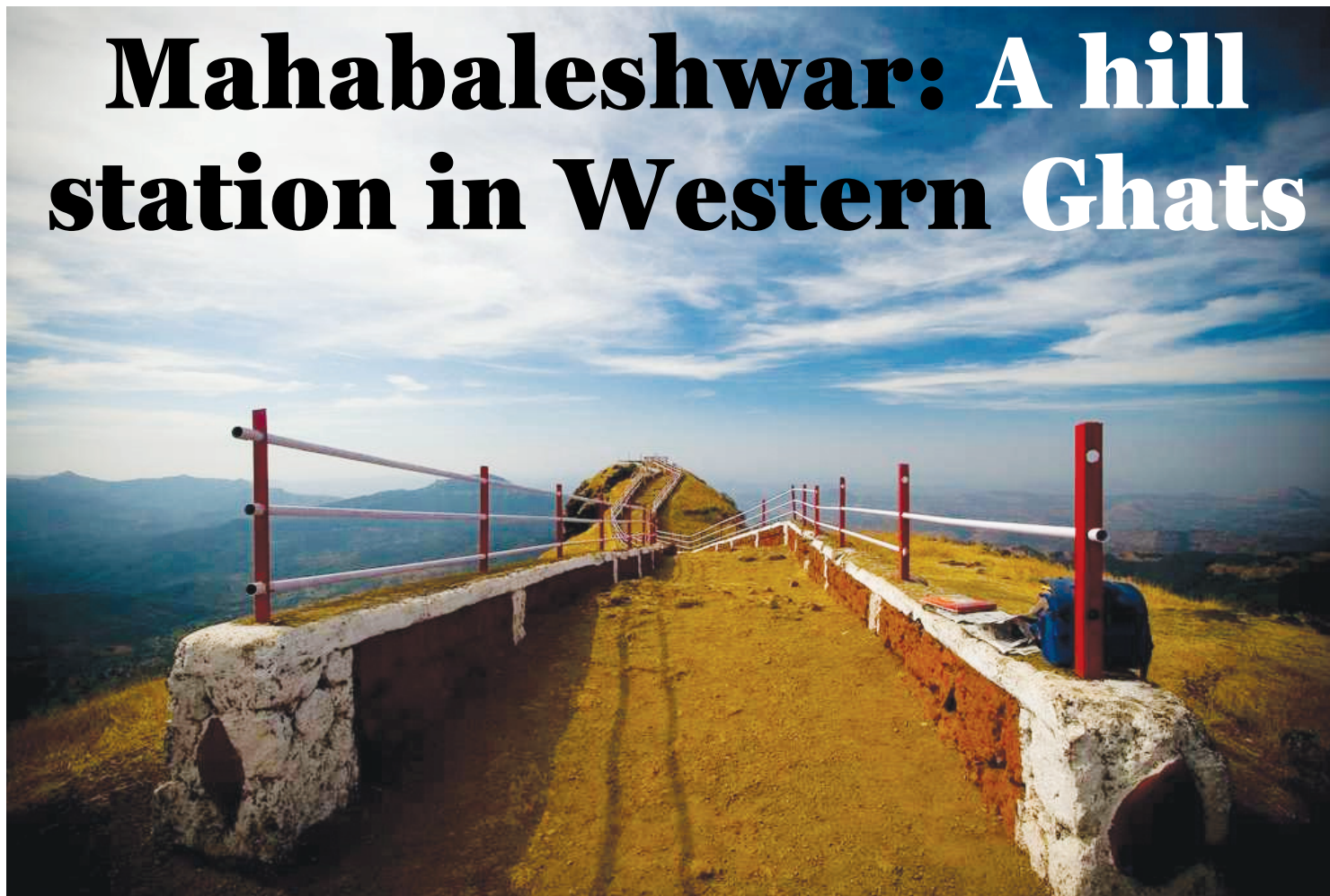
Dhobi waterfall

These set of fascinating waterfalls connect Lodwick and Elphinston point and further join petit road with Old Mahabaleshwar road. Surrounded by greenery and rocks, these are ideal for a surreal experience amidst nature.

Arthur's seat

Arthur's seat or Suicide point is also known as the Queen of all points. It offers the most mesmerizing and fascinating view of the dense valleys of

Mahabaleshwar: A hill station in Western Ghats



Brahma-Arayana and the Savitri river.

The point is a huge table that stands on a natural pillar. On the way up, one can also see window point and Tiger's spring.

Venna Lake

Venna Lake is a beautiful and scenic lake in Mahabaleshwar and is frequently flocked by visitors from all over India. It is one of the most famous tourist attractions of Mahabaleshwar, and its serenity is what speaks for the place. The lake is covered with tall trees and grass all over. Venna Lake is a man-made lake and is not a natural one. It surely is one of the most eye-catching places and is a must-visit for all nature lovers out there.

Venna Lake was built by Shri Appasaheb Maharaj who was the ruler of Satara and a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, in the year 1942. Appasaheb was the leader in the 19th century, and the ancient tower which is present in the centre is a mark of the history surrounding the place. The lake is spread over an area of 28 acres with a periphery of 7 to 8 km. It was initially built with the aim of catering to the water needs of the city of Mahabaleshwar. The lake has one or two thirds (place of pilgrimage) submerged to nearly 1 to 2 km. Chhatrapati Pratapsihn Garden is present on the banks of the lake.

The lake offers exciting boat rides to the visitors and hence is usually very crowded. Tourists can even opt for horse rides nearby, which are mainly liked by children. People prefer to take a brisk walk to reach here from the market area and bus stand nearby. There are some eateries and restaurants nearby Venna Lake that attracts even more travellers.

Wilson Point

A wide plateau by the name of Wilson Point, tends to be one of the best places in the town to start your day. Catch a



breathtaking view of the sunrise from any of the three watch points here. Enjoy the wide sceneries here as this also happens to be the highest points in the town.

Mahabaleshwar Temple

Located at a distance of 6 km from the city of Mahabaleshwar; Mahabaleshwar temple is an ancient shrine and an ideal example of the Maratha heritage. Popularly known as the Mahabali, the temple is flocked by tourists and devotees throughout the year to bask in the serenity and tranquillity offered here. The temple is extremely popular among the Hindus, as Lord Shiva is the presiding deity here. Set up amidst the hilly terrain, this picturesque temple glorifies the Maratha Empire and its rule during the 16th century.

The Mahabaleshwar temple near Satara is one of the ancient temples of Maharashtra. It was built by Chanda Rao More dynasty in the 16th century. The

magnificent temple is guarded by a five feet wall and has two sections- the inner area and the outer area. The inner part, known as the sanctum sanctorum, has Shiva as the presiding deity. There are many belongings of Lord Shiva in the premises of this temple, like his bed, damru, Trishul, carvings of his sacred bull and Kalbhairav (his bodyguard); that aptly defines his presence here.

The main and central attraction of this temple is the 6 feet long Shiva lingam of which only the tip is visible, depicting the stone incarnation of Lord Shiva. The Mahabaleshwar Temple has a very serene and spiritual environment. Devotees visit the temple around the year to witness the calm and peaceful aura of Lord Shiva. The site has two more temples nearby, namely the Atibaleshwar temple and the Panchganga temple. Mahabaleshwar Temple is quintessential of the authentic Hemadant architectural style of South India.



History This Week AUG 16 - AUG 22

AUGUST 16

August 16, 1777 - During the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.



August 16, 1780 - The Battle of Camden in South Carolina occurred during the American Revolutionary War. The battle was a big defeat for the Americans as forces under General Gates were defeated by troops of British General Charles Cornwallis, resulting in 900 Americans killed and 1,000 captured.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

August 16, 1977 - Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42.

Birthday - T.E. Lawrence 'of Arabia' (1888-1935) was born in Tremadoc, North Wales. He led an Arab revolt against the Turks during World War I and served as a spy for the British. He was killed in a motorcycle accident at Dorset, England, on May 19, 1935.



Birthday - Israeli leader Menachem Begin (1913-1992) was born in Brest-Litovsk, Poland. He fought for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine in the 1940's, serving as the leader of a militant Zionist group. In 1977, he became Prime Minister of Israel, and is best known for signing the 1979 Camp David Peace Accord between Israel and Egypt with President Jimmy Carter and President Anwar el Sadat of Egypt.

AUGUST 17

August 17, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Allies completed the conquest of the island of Sicily after just 38 days. This gave the Allies control of the Mediterranean and also led to the downfall of Benito Mussolini and Italy's

eventual withdrawal from the war. However, the Germans managed to evacuate 39,569 troops, 47 tanks, 94 heavy guns, over 9,000 vehicles and 2,000 tons of ammunition back to the Italian mainland from Sicily.

August 17, 1978 - The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans; Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman, all from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Starting from Maine on August 11th, they traveled in Double Eagle II over 3,000 miles in 137 hours, landing about 60 miles west of Paris.



August 17, 1998- Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to give testimony before a grand jury in which he, the President, was the focus of the investigation. This resulted from a sweeping investigation of the President by Independent Counsel Ken Starr as well as a private lawsuit concerning alleged sexual harassment by Clinton before he became President. In the evening, President Clinton appeared on national television and gave a speech admitting he had engaged in an improper relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The admission occurred several months after a much publicized denial.



Birthday - American frontiersman Davy Crockett (1786-1836) was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee. He was a farmer, scout and politician who perished at age 49 during the final heroic defense of the Alamo in Texas.

AUGUST 18

August 18, 1920 - The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote.



Birthday - American explorer Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) was born

near Charlottesville, Virginia. Along with William Clark, he explored the American West, and in 1805, after a journey of over 18 months, reached the Pacific Ocean.

AUGUST 19

August 19, 1934 - In Germany, a plebiscite was held in which 89.9 percent of German voters approved granting Chancellor Adolf Hitler additional powers, including the office of president.

August 19, 1991 - Soviet hard-line Communists staged a coup, temporarily removing Mikhail Gorbachev from power. The coup failed within 72 hours as democratic reformer Boris Yeltsin rallied the Russian people. Yeltsin then became the leading power in the country. The Communist Party was soon banned and by December the Soviet Union itself disintegrated.



Birthday - Aviation pioneer Orville Wright (1871-1948) was born in Dayton, Ohio. In 1903, Orville and his brother Wilbur achieved the world's first successful sustained and controlled flight of a motor-driven aircraft, following years of experimentation with kites and gliders.

Birthday - Bill Clinton, the 42nd U.S. President was born in Hope, Arkansas, August 19, 1946. He was the first President elected who was not alive during World War II.

AUGUST 20

Birthday - Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) the 23rd U.S. President was born in North Bend, Ohio. He was the grandson of William Henry Harrison, the 9th President.

AUGUST 21



August 21, 1863 - During the American Civil War, William Quantrill led 450 irregular Confederate raiders on a pre-dawn terrorist raid of Lawrence, Kansas, leaving 150 civilians dead, 30 wounded and much of the town a smoking ruin. In 1862, Quantrill had been denied a Confederate commission by the Confederate Secretary of War, who labeled Quantrill's notions of war as 'barbarism.'

August 21, 1959 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.



August 21, 1983 - Filipino opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., was assassinated at the Manila airport while leaving his plane. Public outcry over the killing ultimately led to the collapse of the government of Ferdinand E. Marcos and the inauguration of Corazon C. Aquino, widow of the slain man, as president.

AUGUST 22



August 22, 1986 - Deadly fumes from a volcanic eruption under Lake Nios in Cameroon killed more than 1,500 persons.



Birthday - French composer Claude Debussy (1862-1918) was born in St. Germain-en-Laye, France. His unusual chords, based on the whole-tone scale, laid the groundwork for a new style of music called impressionism.



Indian Diaspora Council International
Salutes

India's 78th Independence Day



The people of India and the Indian Diaspora take much pride in this annual celebration to joyously validate their progress, confidence, national unity, commitment and resilience.

India's enduring vitality is strong and vibrant



Ashook Ramsaran, President

Indian Diaspora Council International
www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org

Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.



Nick Rajpal

Kajol Bishnoi

**Freedom in mind, Faith in our heart,
Memories in our souls.
Let's salute the Nation on
Independence Day!**

**Together we can win the world,
together we can conquer our fear and
together we can be a happy place.
Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!**




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**ON THE 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA,
WE THANK READERS, CONTRIBUTORS, ADVERTISERS
AND PATRONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

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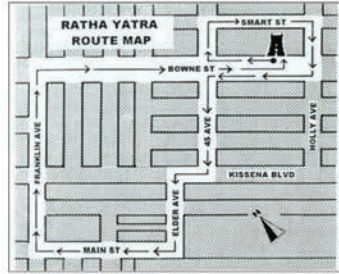
THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Śrī Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam
45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355
Tel: (718) 460-8484 ext. 112 • Fax: (718) 461-8055
Email: hts@nyganeshtemple.org




GRAND RATHA YATRA

Sunday, September 8th, 2024

YATRA ROUTE MAP



The Ratha will start from the Temple at 12:30 PM after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block (covering 45th Ave, Smart St. and Holly Ave.) and will reach Main Street approximately at 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM. The Ratha will return to the Temple by approximately 2:30 PM.



- Don't Miss This Grand Event! -

For Further Information Please Call the Temple at (718) 460-8484 ext. 112



Curtain closes on Paris 2024 as Olympic flame passes to Los Angeles



CAS postpones verdict on Vinesh Phogat's Olympic silver medal appeal further, next update on August 16

The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) postponed the verdict on Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal for a joint Olympic silver medal in women's 50kg wrestling at the Paris Olympics 2024 till August 16.

"The CAS ad hoc division president has allowed Hon. Dr Annabelle Bennett, Sole Arbitrator in the Vinesh Phogat vs. United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) matter, an extension until 6-00 p.m. (Paris time) on Friday, August 16, 2024," a release from the IOA said.

This was the second time the CAS postponed its decision on the matter.

The hearing took place on Friday (August 9). CAS initially promised a decision by Saturday night (August 10) but then deferred it until August 13.

This was after the CAS ad-hoc division, set up especially for dispute resolution during the Games, accepted Vinesh's appeal against her ouster for being 100gm overweight on the morning of her final against eventual gold-winner Sarah Ann Hildebrandt of USA.

The United World Wrestling (UWW), the parent body of world wrestling, stripped Vinesh of a podium finish according to the game rules.

"Indian Olympic Association remained hopeful of a positive resolution of wrestler Vinesh Phogat's application before the Ad hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against her failed weigh-in," the IOA said in a statement.



In the summit clash, Vinesh was replaced by Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who lost to her in the semifinals on Tuesday.

In her appeal, the Indian has demanded that she be given a joint silver

with Lopez as she was within the prescribed weight limit during her bouts.

Vinesh was represented by high-profile senior advocates Harish Salve and Vidushpat Singhania.

"Since the matter is sub-judice, IOA can only state that the Sole Arbitrator Dr. Annabelle Bennett AC SC (Australia) heard all parties applicant Vinesh Phogat, the respondents United World Wrestling and the International Olympic Committee as well as IOA as an interested party over three hours," the IOA stated.

All concerned parties were given an opportunity to file their detailed legal submissions prior to the hearing and then present oral arguments.

"It was indicated by the Sole Arbitrator that the operative part of the order may be expected soon, with a detailed order with reasons to follow thereafter," the IOA said.

The body's head PT Usha thanked Salve and Singhania as well as the Krida Legal team for their assistance and arguments during the hearing.

"IOA deems its duty to back Vinesh and would like to reaffirm its steadfast, unflinching, and unwavering support to her, regardless of the outcome of this matter.

"We are proud of her countless achievements on the wrestling mat throughout her stellar career," Usha said.

Earlier, the ad-hoc division said that a decision can be expected before the end of the Games.

Vinesh went on to announce her retirement from the sport after challenging her disqualification, saying she does not have the strength to continue.

Source: HT



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.