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EVER TRUTHFUL

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# Historic Prisoner Swap with Russia brings home 3 Americans



President Biden with family members of the freed prisoners at the White House on August 1, 2024

Screen shot

AUGUST 1, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States and Russia completed their biggest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history on Thursday, August 1, with Moscow releasing journalist Evan Gershkovich and fellow American Paul Whelan, along with dissidents including Vladimir Kara-Murza, in a multinational deal that set two dozen people free, says an AP report.

Gershkovich, Whelan and Alsu Kurmasheva, a journalist with dual U.S.-Russia citizenship, arrived on American soil shortly before midnight for a joyful reunion with their families. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were also there to greet them and dispense hugs all around.

The trade unfolded despite relations between Washington and Moscow being at their lowest point since the Cold War after Russian President Vladimir Putin's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

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## Kamala Harris seals her Democratic presidential nomination

The lone Democrat to qualify for presidential race, as many as 3,923 delegates petitioned to put Harris on the ballot for the Democratic nomination



An upbeat Kamala Harris

File Photo

July 31, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris has sealed her Democratic presidential nomination. She has emerged as the only candidate to

qualify for virtual roll call votes from the party's delegates from across the country.

As many as 3,923 delegates from across the country petitioned to put Harris, 59, on the ballot for the Democratic nomination, and she secured the support of 99 per cent of the participating delegates, the Democratic Party announced Tuesday, July 30 night, after the official deadline.

In a joint statement, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Jaime Harrison and the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) Chair Minyon Moore said no other candidate met the threshold of 300 delegate signatures to qualify for the ballot.

CONTD ON PAGE 37

## Calls for revenge echo at Haniyeh's funeral; Tehran vows 'punishment'



Iranians attend the funeral of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday, August 1

AUGUST 1, 2024

TEHERAN (TIP): Iran held a funeral ceremony on August 1 with calls for revenge after the killing in Tehran of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in a strike blamed on Israel.

Thousands of mourners paid respects to Haniyeh as the Israeli military

confirmed that an air strike in Gaza last month killed the Hamas military chief, Mohammed Deif. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a "harsh punishment" for his killing.

CONTD ON PAGE 37



Lakshmi Puri answers a question from Muhammad Naciri

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

## Lakshmi Puri speaks about her novel "Swallowing the Sun" at the United Nations

NEW YORK (TIP): In an event at the United Nations on July 27, Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, a former ASG at the United Nations spoke about her novel "Swallowing the Sun". The one-and-a-half-hour event at ECOSOC Chamber was led by the Permanent Mission of

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## COMMENT

## America needs to review its policy on supporting regimes given to violating human rights

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, where he was a guest of the Iranian government for the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian president, demands universal condemnation. This act is not only a gross violation of human rights but also a blatant infringement on the sovereignty of a nation. Israel, in its relentless pursuit to eliminate its enemies, both real and perceived, has continuously disregarded international norms and laws. This recent incident is part of a broader pattern of Israeli actions that defy legal and ethical boundaries.

Israel's actions over the decades have been marked by numerous violations of international law. Here is a chronological overview of some of the notable incidents.

1956 Suez Crisis: Israel, alongside the UK and France, invaded Egypt to regain control of the Suez Canal. This invasion was condemned by the international community and marked the beginning of a pattern of aggressive Israeli military actions.

1967 Six-Day War: Israel launched preemptive strikes against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, occupying the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Golan Heights. The occupation of these territories continues to be a point of contention and a violation of numerous UN resolutions.

1982 Lebanon War: Israel invaded Lebanon to drive out the PLO, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians. The Sabra and Shatila massacre, where Israeli-allied militia killed hundreds of civilians, remains a dark chapter in this conflict.

2006 Lebanon War: Israel's bombardment of Lebanon in response to Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers led to significant civilian casualties and widespread destruction of infrastructure, drawing criticism for disproportionate use

of force.

2008-2009 Gaza War: Operation Cast Lead resulted in over 1,400 Palestinian deaths, many of them civilians, and extensive destruction in Gaza. The UN and human rights organizations condemned Israel for excessive and indiscriminate use of force.

2014 Gaza War: Operation Protective Edge caused over 2,200 Palestinian deaths, including many women and children, and left tens of thousands homeless. The UN Human Rights Council accused both Israel and Hamas of possible war crimes.

2021 Gaza Conflict: The eleven-day conflict in May resulted in over 250 Palestinian deaths, including 67 children, and severe damage to Gaza's infrastructure. The international community criticized Israel for its heavy-handed response.

These incidents illustrate a pattern of Israeli actions that not only violate international law but also inflict severe humanitarian crises on the affected populations.

Israel's audacious actions are significantly bolstered by unwavering support from the United States. The US has provided Israel with extensive military aid, diplomatic backing, and political support, enabling Israel to carry out its operations with relative impunity. The US has consistently vetoed UN Security Council resolutions critical of Israel, shielding it from international accountability.

The US provides Israel with approximately \$3.8 billion annually in military aid, ensuring that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge in the region. This aid includes advanced weaponry, missile defense systems like Iron Dome, and funding for military research and development.

In the UN, the US has vetoed numerous resolutions aimed at holding Israel accountable for its actions. For instance, in 2018, the US vetoed a resolution calling for the protection of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Successive US administrations have maintained strong political ties with Israel, often at the expense of a balanced

approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the relocation of the US embassy to Jerusalem exemplify this bias.

The human toll of Israeli actions on Palestinians has been devastating. Thousands of Palestinians have been killed, many of them civilians, including women and children. Hundreds of thousands have been rendered homeless due to the destruction of homes and infrastructure. The blockade of Gaza has led to a humanitarian crisis, with severe shortages of food, medicine, and essential services.

The international community, including human rights organizations, has repeatedly condemned the Israeli occupation and its treatment of Palestinians. Reports by organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented widespread violations of human rights, including unlawful killings, arbitrary detention, and collective punishment.

It is imperative for the United States, as a leading global power, to reassess its unwavering support for Israel. The US must uphold the principles enshrined in its Constitution, including the promotion of human rights, justice, and the rule of law. Supporting a nation that consistently violates these principles undermines America's credibility and moral standing in the world.

The US should lead by example in advocating for peace and justice. This includes holding Israel accountable for its actions, supporting legitimate peace efforts, and ensuring that US aid is not used to perpetuate conflict and human suffering.

History will not judge the US kindly if it continues to support policies and actions that result in widespread human suffering and violations of international law. It is time to stop this war and all wars. The US should focus on addressing its own domestic challenges rather than acting as the world's policeman.

## GOD BLESS AMERICA!

## GUEST COMMENT

## Wayanad calamity: Landslides expose lapses on ecological front

A massive rescue operation is in progress in Kerala's Wayanad district, which has been ravaged by a series of landslides triggered by heavy rain. The death toll has crossed 150, even as the immediate priority is to evacuate and rehabilitate as many people as possible. Though it is being conveniently described as a natural calamity, the impact of factors such as climate change, an eco-sensitive terrain and the loss of forest cover cannot be discounted.

As per the landslide atlas released by the

Indian Space Research Organisation's National Remote Sensing Centre last year; 10 out of the 30 most landslide-prone districts in India are in Kerala, with Wayanad ranked 13th. According to a 2021 study, all landslide hotspots in Kerala are in the Western Ghats region, concentrated in Idukki, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi has asked the Central Government to prepare an action plan to address the growing frequency of natural disasters in the ecologically fragile region of the Western Ghats. No less important is the need to assess the preparedness of various states and work out ways to make them better equipped to handle such catastrophes. The

loss of lives and property can be minimized through an efficient early warning system, which doesn't seem to have happened in Kerala's case.

India's approach to disaster management has improved from reactive to proactive as well as pre-emptive in recent years, but there are still some gaps to be plugged. A major stumbling block is the unwillingness of state governments, industries and local communities to pay heed to experts' warnings about the ramifications of infrastructure development and promotion of tourism in ecologically sensitive zones. As the nation extends support to a battered Wayanad, there should be a renewed commitment to using natural resources judiciously and sustainably. (Tribune, India)

# Lakshmi Puri speaks about her novel "Swallowing the Sun" at the United Nations

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

St Lucia, and co-sponsored by the Diwali Foundation USA, UNAOC and UN Women. The Permanent Mission of India supported the event.

'Swallowing the Sun' tells the story of Malati, a young girl growing up in Maharashtra caught up in the freedom movement's fervor, and how she navigates sisterhood, friendships and revolution.

As a young girl, Malati fights and defeats the school bully of her village school in Maharashtra. From then onwards, backed by her progressive father, she and her sister Kamala push the boundaries constantly. After an eventful girlhood, the sisters become the first women in their family to go to college.

I am tempted to carry here Rajiv Dogra's critique of the book before I return to the description of the event. The canvas Lakshmi sketches on is large, with multiple players. Yet, there is no distraction in its gripping narrative. Its plot transports us back to the times between the early and the mid-20th century.

It was an age when feudals were still the lords of all that they survey, and the poor were in the depths of misery. This was also the time of shuttered dreams; of a nation in chains, of vast masses in slotted misery from birth and of the girl child whose dreams died young. This in effect was a time of stasis, where no movement and contentment confusedly merged into each other.

The British rule was all-pervasive and so was the fear of its retribution. In a long-delayed response by the Indian people (after 1857, of course), the first faltering attempts at revolt began to incubate. It fired at least some of the young with rage, often singeing them with the consequences of being found out by the system. Against this background, Lakshmi Puri's novel is about the eeriness of transformative change. 'Swallowing the Sun' transports us back to this era when despite the odds, a few dared to break new ground.

The first among these was Baba, a simple peasant with lofty ideas and loftier courage, who dreams big for his three daughters. The eldest Surekha is one of the most eligible among young girls in Ratnagiri. Naturally then, there is no shortage of suitors and it is just a matter of time before she is married to Malak Vilas Rao, the finance minister in Vaishali Maharaja's court. When, after their marriage, Baba and his other two daughters are about to depart from the opulence of Malak's palace, Surekha implores, "Baba, you all will go back and I will have to stay and sort out the illusion from reality."

Remarks like this illuminate the narrative and shake you up with their unexpectedness. And, as later events reveal, Surekha largely sails through life successfully, with dignity and aplomb.

Malak comes across as a self-assured



The dignitaries with the book "Swallowing the Sun"



Lakshmi Puri signs the book for Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Editor of The Indian Panorama

and dignified aristocrat who stands by her and her family like a rock. But in this cast of strong characters, it is Baba who impresses the most with his courage while facing dacoits, with his pioneering spirit in transforming a barren land and above all, by defying the conservative society and sending off his two younger daughters, Kamala and Malati, to Ahilya Ashram, a boarding school for orphans.

This is followed by another bold step when Baba takes them to Bombay for admission into the male-dominated Elphinstone College. Even more daringly, he puts them up as paying guests with a couple. Bombay becomes their karmabhoomi, the cause of their agony and ecstasy in life. It is here that the impetuous Malati flowers into adulthood. Lakshmi is at her descriptive best. Again and again, details come back reframed or reanimated, as the reader becomes one with Malati, admiring her for her gumption, decisiveness and her conviction that she had chosen the man she wanted to live with.

Kamala and Malati had already broken society's glass ceilings by going to a boarding school and then to college in big Bombay. But there is more. Malati's teaching spell at Banaras Hindu University, her brush with the revolutionaries and the descriptions of the hauntingly charming Banaras pockmarked with filth remind the reader of an ancient but flawed city.

The many splendored book is epic in proportion, spread over 412 pages. Yet, there is not an extra word, nor an unnecessary twist to the narrative. In fact, the characters stay with you long



Lakshmi Puri poses for a photograph with the gathered admirers

after you have read about them.

The book brings forth subtly the trials of a nation in bondage, and reveals the human side of the families who otherwise seem to be blessed with plenty. Above all, it is a story about Malati, who dared to dream. That Lakshmi Puri should have used a rancorless pen to write this magnificent book is only to be expected. And that she should have written about women breaking glass ceilings was also natural. After all, she herself has broken many, including when she went on to lead 'UN Women'.

Swallowing the Sun is an epic feat of remembering and storytelling. Through the eyes of its feisty young heroine, Malati, the novel recreates one of the most tumultuous periods in modern Indian history—the struggle for Independence. Malati's steeliness and fearlessness enable her to defy the constricting patriarchal traditions of her time and take on all those who try to cow her down. As a young girl, Malati fights and defeats the school bully of her village school in Maharashtra. From then onwards, backed by her progressive father, she and her sister Kamala push the boundaries constantly. After an eventful girlhood, the sisters become the first women in their family to go to college. They end up in Bombay, a hotbed of political ferment, where, even as she is whirled along by the irresistible current and excitement of the battle for Independence, she negotiates the small and big aspects of everyday life—love, loss, failure, and compromise.

Coming back to the event, Lakshmi Puri sat with Muhammad Naciri of UN Women to answer a couple of questions.

The dignitaries who spoke on the



Lakshmi Puri speaks with the media



The Sutrardhar, as Lakshmi Puri described Ravi Batra, the master of Ceremonies, in a post on X

All photos / Jay Mandal-on assignment

occasion included President, General Assembly Dennis Francis, Amb. Rambally, PR of St. Lucia, Paula Narvaez Ojeda, President of ECOSOC, Amb. Mher Margaryan, PR of Armenia, Amb. R. Ravindra, Cd'A, PMI, and Ranju Batra, Chair the Diwali Foundation USA. DSG Amina J. Mohammed, Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, Head of UNAOC, and Amb. Sima Bahous, ED, UN Women addressed via video.

Attendees included many diplomats and guests from various walks of life.

# Indian-origin UK schoolgirl wins silver for Team India at European Informatics Olympiad



17-year-old Aanya Goyal has won a silver medal for Team India in the European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics (EGOI) in the Netherlands

**JULY 30, 2024**

**LONDON (TIP):** A 17-year-old schoolgirl from London has won a silver medal for Team India in the European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics (EGOI) in the Netherlands, where the Indian squad registered its best-ever performance with 2 bronze medals and one honorable mention.

Aanya Goyal, a pupil at Alleyn's School in Dulwich, was up against the top coders from across 50 countries at the prestigious international competition for young women interested in computer science which concluded in Veldhoven over the weekend.

The mathematics enthusiast used her problem-solving mindset to come up with innovative solutions to crack a series of challenges set for the teams.

"I feel very proud to have won a silver medal for India at the Girls' Olympiad in Informatics at a time when competitive programming is emerging as one of the most popular sports all over the world, but especially in India," said Goyal.

"The contest consisted of two sessions of five hours each and in each session, we were given four problems to solve; each containing several sub-tasks. The problems are complex algorithmic design and coding implementation challenges. Five hours go by very quickly and is not quite enough time," she shared.

As per the EGOI rules, the implemented code has to get through a set of sub-tasks within two to four seconds. This means the participants must be really good at math, and creative in problem design and solutions to deliver super-efficient coding while operating at an incredibly fast pace.

"Once I made the team, I was fortunate to be part of the best team in the world. My teammates; two Nehas and Mansi, and our team leader Sonia ma'am

ndash; are the most amazing people," said Goyal, who dedicated her medal to Team India's coaching and support staff.

The team was mentored by Paras Kasmalkar, an International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) silver medalist.

"When you have such support, then there is no choice but to prepare well and to fight for the full 10 hours, from the first minute to the last," added Goyal.

A problem solver at heart who loves crosswords, Kakuro puzzles and chess, the schoolgirl first tasted Olympiad success with mathematics but has also participated in the Linguistics Olympiad.

She trained for many years to be able to solve the hardest combinatorics and number theory problems and to decipher all kinds of languages applying the same problem-solving mindset. With EGOI, she felt ready for a new challenge that went beyond problem-solving to problem design and implementation.

"I want to study mathematics and computer science at university. While math remains the primary interest, computing and other applications of math offer an opportunity to use my problem-solving skills to make the world a better place," she said of her future

plans.

"That is serious business for me and not a cliché. I am keen to have a career where I can utilize my skills to make a real impact. I also feel a certain weight of responsibility as a girl doing well in math and computing Olympiads because sadly when it comes to elite competitions in these subjects, men still comprise 95 per cent of the field; that needs to change," she added.

The math and computer whiz strongly believes that more girls should be involved in designing the technologies of the future and hopes to be role models to help override unconscious societal bias.

As a "proud Indian" living in the UK, she turns to tunes like 'Chak De India' and 'Ziddi Dil' from sporty Bollywood biopics 'Chak De! India' and 'Mary Kom' have motivated her through her competitive journey.

her silver medal in the bag, she is now keen to see Team India double their medals haul at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024.

"People can dismiss me as being over-optimistic but if you cannot dream big, then you cannot win big," she declared.

## Indian American philanthropist acquires 500 acres for Hindu temple and center of excellence in Georgia



Shashi Bhushan Mocherla has secured 500 acres of land in Warrenton, Georgia to preserve and promote Sanatana Dharma

**JULY 28, 2024**

**WARRENTON, GA (TIP):** Shashi Bhushan Mocherla, an Indian-origin US citizen and the Founder, Trustee, and CEO of Siddhashram of North America, has secured 500 acres of land in Warrenton, Georgia to preserve and promote Sanatana Dharma. This expansive project aims to establish a Hindu Temple and Center of Excellence.

Mocherla's vision includes the construction of a 108-foot-tall statue of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, along with 108 havan kunds (sacred fire pits), Vedic farming, gurukuls (traditional educational institutions), a Vedic library, a Gaushala (cow shelter), and various other facilities.

The statue of Adi Shankaracharya is expected to be a major attraction, symbolizing human equality and the teachings of the revered philosopher. The statue's construction is estimated to

cost around 200 crore rupees (approximately \$27 million), and research is underway to ensure its successful completion.

The Siddhashram of North America (Shangri-La) aims to be a world-class Spiritual Retreat Center, guiding individuals on the path of righteousness through mantra sadhana, meditation, Ayurveda, yoga, ancient sciences, wellness, and spiritual retreats, according to its website. With the blessings of His Holiness Paramahansa Parivrajakacharya Courtallam Sankaracharya Sri Sri Sri Siddheswarananda Bharati MahaSwamiji and Her Holiness Sri Sakthi Peethadeeswari Mantra Maheshwari Mataji Sri Sri Sri Ramyananda Bharati Swamini, the center aspires to preserve, propagate, and promote Sanatana Dharma.

The project includes temples, yoga centers, traditional agricultural fields, healthcare facilities, a museum promoting ancient wisdom, and Vedic educational institutions. The vision extends to creating a self-sufficient energy farm utilizing geo-thermal, wind, and solar sources, along with commercial retail shops, tools workshops, and storage.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian-origin 22-year-old daycare worker arrested in Alpharetta for molesting 4-year-old

**JULY 30, 2024**

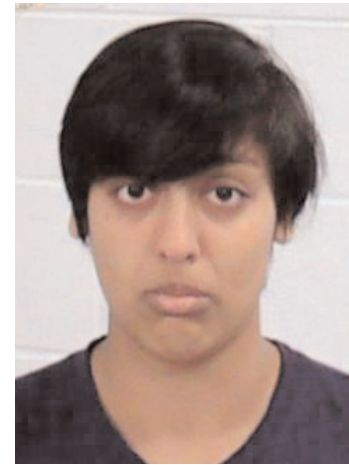
**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** Tulsi Patel, a 22-year-old daycare worker, was arrested by the Alpharetta Police Department for allegedly molesting a 4-year-old at Kids R Kids on Webb Bridge Road.

The incident came to light on July 25th when the dad of the 4-year-old victim went to pick her up last Thursday and she was upset, complaining of pain, as per a report. So, he went to the staff at the school. The victim reportedly pointed toward Patel as the one who did it.

Later, blood was discovered in the little victim's underwear, following which she was taken to the hospital. Patel was arrested the next day and charged with child molestation.

"This behavior is completely unacceptable and goes against everything we stand for as an educational institution with a mission of ensuring every child in our care feels safe, loved, and inspired. We take that responsibility, and the trust that each family places in us, very seriously," a statement released by Kids R Kids said on Monday.

The statement also alludes to the fact that there might have been more victims.



Tulsi Patel, a 22-year-old daycare worker has been charged with child molestation.

"Kids R Kids has cooperated fully with the authorities, providing all available video evidence to the police and contacting the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to self-report the matter. The affected families were notified, and all parents within the school community were informed of the situation."

The school is prioritizing the safety and well-being of the

children and families impacted by this incident. Counseling and support services have been made available to assist those involved.

The statement also addressed potential concerns about the safety of the children in their care, assuring parents that comprehensive measures are being taken to prevent future incidents. A thorough review of policies and procedures is already underway to strengthen safeguards and ensure a secure environment for all students, the statement said.

According to Patel's LinkedIn profile, she is an alumna of Georgia State University, holding a BA in Psychology. She has expressed aspirations of becoming a social science teacher or school counselor in secondary schools.

# Indian American scientist Mani Skaria, the Lime King of Texas, has a new mission to revolutionize India's citrus industry

JULY 29, 2024

**HARGILL, TX (TIP):** Growing up in the 1970s in Amayannor, a small village in Kerala's Kottayam district in southern India, Mani Skaria aspired to be a civil servant, like many bright students of his generation. However, a teaching job in the Kingdom of Jordan after his master's degree in botany set him on a serendipitous journey that ultimately established him as a revolutionary figure in Texas's citrus industry.

Today, Skaria oversees a citrus orchard spanning hundreds of acres in Hargill, Texas, spearheading changes in the Lone Star State's citrus industry through innovative crop production and protection. U.S. Citrus Company, which he founded in Hargill more than a decade ago, runs the largest operation of specialty citrus crops in Texas.

His production practices are based on organic principles, respecting mother nature and honoring the next generation of fruit growers.

Hargill is located in the southernmost region of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, roughly 35 miles north of the U.S.-Mexican border, separated by the Rio Grande River. The region is known for its fertile



Mani Skaria is known as "Lime King of Texas".

agricultural land, including citrus orchards, vegetable farms, and sugarcane fields.

Skaria introduced pioneering micro-budding technology, which accelerates

fruit production and increases fruit yield per acre, resulting in record-breaking yields in less than half the conventional time. "My innovations and technologies produce citrus fruit quickly and with a

higher yield," he says.

Skaria is also credited with establishing the clean citrus program in Texas. His decades-long career is marked by high-impact contributions, such as his 2010 discovery of Sweet Orange Scab (SOS), the first in the nation, and the discovery of the Diaprepes root weevil in 2000, which had a \$15 billion impact on Texas agriculture as per the Texas Department of Agriculture.

## THE US CITRUS COMPANY

Skaria started the US Citrus Company in 2012, a year before he retired from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. It took several years to build the infrastructure on about 550 acres of land the company purchased in Hargill.

He built the citrus enterprise through innovations in tree production, planting density, and soil and water conservation.

One of his pioneering innovations was the micro-budding technology for higher-density planting, inspired by a conversation with Fucik about increasing profitability in citrus orchards.

The technology helped US Citrus become the nation's largest domestic producer of limes and Skaria earn the moniker "Lime King of Texas."

## Indian American technocrat Dr. Naga Chandrasekaran to lead Intel foundry manufacturing and supply chain



Dr. Naga Chandrasekaran is joining Intel Corporation as chief global operations officer, executive vice president, and general manager of its Foundry Manufacturing and Supply Chain organization on Aug 12.

JULY 30, 2024

**SANTA CLARA, CA(TIP) :** Indian American technocrat Dr. Naga Chandrasekaran is joining leading computer component maker Intel Corporation as chief global operations officer, executive vice president, and general manager of its Foundry Manufacturing and Supply Chain organization on Aug 12.

The Madras University alumnus Chandrasekaran joins Intel from Micron, where he served as senior vice president for Technology Development. He will be a member of Intel's executive leadership team and report to CEO Pat Gelsinger, according to a company press release.

Chandrasekaran succeeds Keyvan

Esfarjani, who is retiring from Intel after nearly 30 years of service. He will remain with Intel through the end of the year to ensure a seamless transition.

Chandrasekaran will be responsible for Intel Foundry's worldwide manufacturing operations, including Fab Sort Manufacturing, Assembly Test Manufacturing, strategic planning for Intel Foundry, corporate quality assurance and supply chain.

"Naga is a highly accomplished executive whose deep semiconductor manufacturing and technology development expertise will be a tremendous addition to our team," Gelsinger said. "As we continue to build a globally resilient semiconductor supply chain and create the world's first systems foundry for the AI era, Naga's leadership will help us to accelerate our progress and capitalize on the significant long-term growth opportunities ahead."

During more than 20 years at Micron, Chandrasekaran served in various senior leadership roles. Most recently, he led Micron's global technology development and engineering efforts related to the scaling of current memory technologies, advanced packaging technology and emerging technology solutions.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## India American financial executive Akhil Shrivastava named Estée Lauder Executive VP and CFO

JULY 30, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American financial executive Akhil Shrivastava has been appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of cosmetics major Estée Lauder Companies Inc effective November 1.

Shrivastava, a Delhi University alumnus, will report to William P. Lauder, Executive Chairman, and Fabrizio Freda, President and Chief Executive Officer, according to a company press release.

"With over 25 years of extensive financial and leadership experience, Akhil is an exceptional and capable leader whose financial and strategic expertise and insights have been important in supporting the Company over the past several years, and he will be instrumental in driving forward our strategic direction and decisions," said Fabrizio Freda. "I look forward to partnering with Akhil as we continue to rebuild stronger, more sustainable profitability and sales growth acceleration across the business."

In his new role as Chief Financial Officer, Shrivastava will be responsible for the Company's Global Finance, Accounting, Tax, Treasury, Investor Relations and New Business Development organizations, according to the release. He will lead ELC's Global Finance & Strategy



Akhil Shrivastava has been appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of cosmetics major Estée Lauder Companies Inc effective November 1.

(F&S) organization and will continue to cultivate and strengthen the tremendously talented Finance & Strategy Team, continuing to imbue agility and consumer-focus across the organization to drive sustainable value creation, governance, and strategic business objectives and priorities for the long-term.

Since joining ELC in 2015, Shrivastava has held several senior finance roles within the Company. He was recently named ELC's Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller, a role that oversees Corporate Accounting and Financial Planning & Analysis, the International and Online Finance organizations, Pricing and Value Chain Finance, serving on both the Finance & Strategy Leadership Team and Executive Leadership Team.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Sriniketan Foundation Organizes a Musical Performance in Celebration of Guru Purnima



Sriniketan Foundation Founder / President Smt. Purnima A. Desai welcomes guests

**JULY 29, 2024**

**FLUSHING, NY (TIP):** Sriniketan Foundation celebrated Guru Purnima in fashion with scintillating performances of dance and music at Ganesha Mandir in Flushing on July 28.

The artists excelled in their performances to the joy of the gathered audience who all were lovers of Indian classical music.

The artists who performed included Pranab Kumar Biswas - an internationally renowned vocalist, a disciple of Ustad Rashid Khan, Pandit Rajan & Sajan Mishra. He has sung in 18



Narinder Mani Kapur gives the opening remarks and offers traditional prayers

Bollywood movies. He was accompanied on Tabla by a renowned tabla player Aditya Narayan Banerjee and on harmonium by Sri Rohan Prabhu Desai.

Thakur Chakrapani Singh, an excellent slide guitarist from India, gave a spellbinding performance. He was accompanied on Tabla by Rabi Sankar Bhattacharya.

Narsinha Kamath played Flute. Raj Dhingra sang bhajans Suresh Ketwaroe sang devotional songs which were superb. Smt. Purnimaji sang two devotional songs and spoke about the



Lamp lighting



Thakur Chakrapani Singh plays slide guitar. He is accompanied on Tabla by Rabi Sankar Bhattacharya



Narsinha Kamath playing Flute. He is accompanied on Tabla by Rabi Sankar Bhattacharya.



Raj Dhingra is singing a bhajan



Smt. Purnima Desai Sang bhajans. Suresh Ketwaroe accompanied on guitar and Rabi Sankar Bhattacharya on Tabla



Sanjib Bhattacharya gave a mesmerizing performance of Manipuri Dance

importance of Music as one of the greatest therapies and the supreme form of Yoga.

The finale was a mesmerizing and greatly appreciated Manipuri dance by Sanjib Bhattacharya ji. The dance performance was dedicated to all Gurus in the universe. The dance was based on "Guru Ashtakam" and "Kabir Vani" and presented "Guru Tattva" to celebrate Guru Purnima in the most befitting manner.

The Sriniketan Foundation arranged mouth-watering refreshments and dinner (Prasad) after the performances.

The Guests of Honor were Professor Indrajit Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama, Minesh Chimanbhai Patel of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan USA & Baldev Grewal, publisher of Shere-e-Punjab.

Smt. Purnima A. Desai, Founder/President of Sriniketan Foundation, who is also a Vidushi and a Reiki Grand Master Thanked the artists and guests for their presence and participation.

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# Gov. Hochul announces \$350 million in financial assistance for low-income families

JULY 31, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Thousands of low-income families across the state will soon be receiving as much as \$350 per child as part of the Empire State Child Credit Program, according to Gov. Kathy Hochul.

The governor announced Tuesday, July 30, that a total of \$350 million in supplemental payments will be distributed to low-income and moderate-income families statewide, granting \$350 per child, beginning Thursday, Aug. 1.

State officials say eligible taxpayers who received an Empire State Child Credit of at least \$100 on their 2023 state tax return will receive a check automatically in the mail.

The latest benefit for low-income families is part of a state initiative to expand child tax credits and increase access to childcare, Hochul said.

"We're putting money back in the pockets of more than a million New Yorkers because this administration delivers for working families," Hochul said, referring to the initiative. "Our work is far from over."

Hochul's announcement follows a multifaceted effort across the city to address the cost of living for low-income families, including the legislative efforts of Queens Assemblymember Andrew



Governor Kathy Hochul announced Tuesday, July 30, that a total of \$350 million in supplemental payments will be distributed to low-income and moderate-income families statewide, granting \$350 per child, beginning Thursday, Aug. 1.

Hevesi.

As Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families, Hevesi has spearheaded numerous initiatives, both in Albany and his district, that aim to bring vital resources to the greater Queens community.

Hevesi extended his appreciation to his fellow legislators for helping successfully enact and expand the Empire State Tax Credit.

"This historic investment in New York's

working class was made possible through the unwavering efforts of our advocate partners who stood with us every step of the way," Hevesi said.

Last year, eligibility for the Empire State Child Credit was expanded to include children under the age of four, covering an estimated 600,000 children per year. Hevesi, alongside state Sen. Andrew Gounardes from Brooklyn, had been working to get the Working Families Tax Credit bill passed, which would have

provided credits for more families. The pair failed to get it passed this year.

The Working Families Tax Credit bill, introduced in both the Senate and Assembly chambers, aimed to expand the existing tax credits to include 17-year-old minors and extend the benefits to families regardless of citizenship status.

Additionally, the bill aimed to streamline the wait time for lower-income families to receive the maximum benefits allotted.

The legislators attempted to include the bill in this year's State budget negotiations but did not succeed. However, Hochul's announcement adopted much of what the Working Families Tax Credit aimed to achieve with the expansion of beneficiaries.

In July, Hevesi shared numerous legislative victories that, if Hochul signs them into law, will provide more financial support and resources for New York families.

One of Hevesi's bills that is awaiting Hochul's signature includes the Adoption Assistance Bill. This bill would ensure that children with disabilities who are adopted out of foster care continue to receive government funding, even if an adoptive relationship is disrupted. (Source: QNS)

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# India's Wealth Gap: The Rich are getting Richer at the Expense of over 70% of Poor Indians

Since gaining independence in 1947, India has experienced significant economic and infrastructure growth, yet rising inequality has become a persistent issue. While the country suffers from multiple crises such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, unemployment, health calamities, and inflation, India's billionaires continue to thrive by stealing public wealth. Besides the business tycoons getting rich, another story of rags to riches involves the politicians and high-ranking bureaucrats of India. They are getting rich by helping the billionaires steal or pay minimum for the public wealth.

India's elite world-famous Billionaires, part of the 56 million filthy rich Indians, are living side by side with almost a billion poor and treat them as sub-humans who are a burden for the country.

It looks like Indian Leadership-political, religious and business- rather than being ashamed of this, are proud to have more than 800 million Indians living under extreme poverty & inhuman conditions. They have the insanity to say, "India is shining".

A former diplomat, politician, author and thinker Pavan Varma wrote in his book "Being Indian" that in the Indian elite "there is a remarkable tolerance for inequality, filth and human suffering". He adds that "concern for the deprived and the suffering is not a prominent feature of the Indian personality. The rich in India have always lived a life quite oblivious to the ocean of poverty around them". Less than 10-15 minutes from every slum in any major city of India there are very expansive heavily guarded residential areas with houses, rather mini palaces, costing few million dollars to \$2 Billion. Mukesh Ambani's palatial house "Antilia" in Mumbai is one of the most expensive private residences in the world. One city: two universes.

Meanwhile, the poor in India are unable to afford even basic food to survive. In India, approximately 81.35 crore (810.3 million) people are receiving subsidized food under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), "Prime Minister's Food Security Scheme for the Poor." This scheme provides free food grains, including rice, wheat, and coarse grains, to the beneficiaries barely enough just to keep them alive. Each eligible individual receives 5 kg of whole food grains per month, that they have to get it milled except for rice.. The scheme, which started during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, has been extended for five more years starting from January 1, 2024. The government has committed to spending approximately Rs. 11.80 lakh crore (\$143.90 Billion) over this period to ensure the continued distribution of

**In 2021, Oxfam reported that the top 1% of India's population held 42.5% of the national wealth, while the bottom 50% held just 2.8%. In 2023, Oxfam report, "Survival of the Richest: The India story", also says that between 2012-2021, just 5 per cent of Indians own more than 60 per cent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent of the population possess only 3 per cent of the wealth. The combined wealth of India's 100 richest has touched \$660 billion. Oxfam also adds that India has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million.**



India has top 1 percent having 42.5% of the national wealth. The country is poor, unequal and has an affluent elite class.

these food grains. Additionally, under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013, which forms the basis for many of these subsidies, about 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population are legally entitled to receive subsidized food grains at highly reduced prices.

The number of hungry Indians increased to 350 million in 2022 from 190 million in 2018. In 2023, India ranked 111 out of 125 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), with the highest child-wasting rate in the world at 18.7 per cent, reflecting undernutrition and malnutrition. It indicates a "serious" level of hunger in the country. India's GHI score was 28.7, showing minimal improvement since 2015. In 2014 India used to rank 55th on GHI. According to the Modi government's own admission in the Supreme Court, widespread hunger resulted in 65 percent of the deaths among children under the age of 5 in 2022. Besides the growing child malnutrition during the Modi decade, India now has the world's third highest number of children unvaccinated for measles in 2023, with 16 lakhs missing the vaccine, trailing only Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo, according to WHO-UNICEF estimates. India is among 10 countries contributing

to 55% unvaccinated children globally.

In contrast, in 2024, India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, spent an estimated \$500 million on the wedding of his younger son Anant with Radhika Merchant. The festivities lasted over six months and were attended by the wealthiest individuals, TV & film celebrities, famous artists, sports celebrities, social media influencers and politicians from around the world and India. This wedding was nothing but a circus with the main performers of course being the Ambani family, supported by Merchant family, Bollywood and Hollywood stars & singers, and watched by the rich business tycoons, CEO's, famous artists, sports celebrities and politicians including PM Modi of India and the world. The social media influencers were posting 1-1/2 minutes of video showcasing the priced jewels, ultra luxury watches and outfits with price tags flaunted by women of Ambani family and the groom. It is being termed as the most expensive wedding by an individual citizen in the world. At the same time, Ambani's vulgar display of wealth, unconstitutional power and misuse of his control over state and central governments are seen as an insult to the poor of India.



BY DAVE MAKKAR

After independence, India pursued socialist policies aimed at reducing disparities. However, economic liberalization in the 1990s along with legalization and personification of crony capitalism and criminalization of politics, accelerated growth while exacerbating income inequality. Since 2014, under PM Modi, this trend intensified with supersonic speed by setting new records of inequality every day and has fueled wealth accumulation among the rich only. In 1991 there was 1 billionaire, in 2014 that number stood at 56 and as of 2024, India has 271 billionaires, making it the country with the third-highest number of billionaires in the world, after China and the United States (Forbes India), reflecting the concentration of wealth within a small elite group.

Since 2014, Modi's policies of selling even profit-making public sector units (PSUs), existing public properties/infrastructure like airports, railway stations, and heritage properties like Lal Qila, along with new infrastructure development and digitalization initiatives, have been done at a bargain to his crony capitalist friends. This approach has propelled economic progress by bypassing marginalized communities. The COVID-19 pandemic further deepened the gap, with billionaires' wealth surging even as millions faced job losses and poverty. Modi's economic policies promoting business growth, while necessary, have not been accompanied by adequate social safety nets, increased spending on education, employment, affordable healthcare, and affordable housing for the 80% of Indians. This has created widening disparities such as social inequality, education inequality, healthcare inequality, employment inequality and housing inequality, in addition to the burgeoning income/financial inequality.

India's neighbor China with the same population as India's has per Capita GDP of \$12,720.00 against India's \$2,240.00 and its population has much better standard of living than in India. At present the real rate of 6.1% at which Indian economy is growing will take more than 28.8 years for India to match China's current per capita GDP. In the 1970s, both China and India shared several similarities, particularly in terms of their economic status and development strategies. China's economic transformation began in earnest in 1976, that transformed China into the world's second-largest economy, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and making it a significant global economic power.

In 2021, Oxfam reported that the top 1% of India's population held 42.5% of the national wealth, while the bottom 50% held just 2.8%.

CONTD ON PAGE 40



# The Killing of a Hamas Leader is Part of a Larger War



BY  
MATTHEW  
DUSS AND  
NANCY OKAIL



The assassination of the Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Tuesday, July 30, - presumably carried out by Israel - has likely halted Gaza cease-fire talks and a hostage deal for the time being. It has also brought the region one step closer to an all-out conflagration. Indeed, within hours, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declared his intention to attack Israel.

The almost certain escalation from the Haniyeh assassination signals a fundamental flaw in President Biden's Gaza policy: the hope that the Gaza war could be contained to Gaza. The possibility of regional conflict has always been Mr. Biden's real red line. But for months, the war has already been spreading - to Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and now, to Iran. The fact that it hasn't yet erupted into even more widespread and intense conflict is the result of both diplomatic skill and a lot of luck, the latter of which appears to be running out.

Some in the U.S. foreign policy establishment argue that since neither the United States nor Iran desires full-scale war, cooler heads will prevail. But once uncorked, this kind of violence usually cannot be controlled. It's important to understand that even if we are able to step back from the brink now, as we all must hope, this policy is both a moral and strategic failure, with consequences and costs in human lives, to U.S. credibility and to the so-called rules-based order we haven't begun to comprehend.

The current precarious moment is the result of a series of false assumptions that U.S. policy was built on since well before the war began. On Oct. 6, the United States was heavily focused on stitching up an agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, premised in part on the idea that the Palestinian people could simply be caged in perpetuity, with a few upgrades here and there to the military occupation they have endured for nearly six decades, and a few nominal commitments to someday, maybe, end that occupation. The Oct. 7 attacks showed this to be a fantasy.

In the months after, the Biden administration delayed calls for a cease-fire, in the face of large-scale global and domestic protest and internal government dissent, while emboldening Israel's right-wing government with both the sale of arms and political support. At the same time, regional conflict steadily spread.

Rocket fire from Lebanon began almost immediately after Oct. 7, driving tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes in the north and leaving some 60,000 internally displaced with no prospect of when they might return. Attacks by Yemen's Houthi forces on shipping routes in the Red Sea imposed a burden on the global economy as freight



The assassination of the Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Tuesday, July 30 has minimized chances of peace in the conflict-ridden region

**THE TIME IS LATE, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL NOW FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN TO FINALLY APPLY REAL PRESSURE TO STOP THIS WAR, BY HALTING THE SUPPLY OF OFFENSIVE ARMS, FACILITATING THE RETURN OF HOSTAGES TO ISRAEL AND ENABLING THE PROVISION OF DESPERATELY NEEDED HUMANITARIAN AID INTO GAZA. THE UNITED STATES MUST STATE LOUDLY AND CLEARLY THAT THE COUNTRY WILL NO LONGER SUPPORT THIS WAR. AND THEN SHOW THAT IT MEANS IT.**

costs more than doubled in January. Attacks by Iran-backed militias in Syria and Iraq on U.S. interests culminated in a drone attack on an American base in Jordan that killed three U.S. service members at the beginning of the year, to which the United States retaliated with strikes of its own.

An Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus, Syria, in April resulted in an Iranian drone and missile attack on central Israel in retaliation. Thankfully almost all of those drones and missiles were intercepted via a skillful U.S.-coordinated regional defense effort (a 7-year-old girl was seriously injured), but it was impossible to miss the significance of Iran directly striking inside Israel for the first time. Last month, a Houthi drone penetrated Israel's air defenses and hit downtown Tel Aviv - to which Israel responded by striking Yemen for the first time.

On July 27, a rocket strike on the town of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights, which Israel blamed on Hezbollah, killed 12 children and teenagers, to which Israel responded with an airstrike on southern Beirut, killing Hezbollah's senior military commander and further widening the circle of conflict.

With each new red line crossed, the risk of escalation increases, and Washington should not underestimate either the willingness of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to drag the United States into a disastrous war, nor the potential for Iran to engage militarily or worse, to finally decide to commit fully to developing a nuclear deterrent.

And yet, rather than see a series of desperately close calls as evidence of the urgency to end the Gaza war, Washington chose to view it as proof of its ability to contain escalation. The Biden administration has consistently refused

to leverage its continuing supply of arms to Israel to bring the fighting to a halt, even appearing to sidestep U.S. law to continue doing so.

Mr. Biden's announcement in late May of a permanent cease-fire proposal was an important effort to try to secure a war-ending agreement, but that gambit was undermined by his continuing refusal to offer an ultimatum to Mr. Netanyahu. The Republican Party's recent stunt of inviting the prime minister to address Congress, with which the Democratic congressional leadership irresponsibly cooperated, predictably further emboldened Mr. Netanyahu to continue stalling a cease-fire.

It is also essential to underscore that, as with previous assassinations of militant leaders in Lebanon, the precision with which Mr. Haniyeh was apparently dispatched shows that targeting Hamas leadership in Gaza might have benefited from an entirely different military strategy. While the effort to rout Hamas militants was of a broader scale, surely it could have been carried out without devastatingly widespread casualties and mass destruction of houses, schools, hospitals and basic infrastructure that will require a generation or more to rebuild.

It remains to be seen what the long-term consequences of the Gaza war will be. It's already clear, however, that this catastrophe was enabled by Washington's false belief in its ability to manage and control the spread of violence. Shattering this dangerous illusion is an essential step in crafting a U.S. foreign policy fit for this historical moment

At the time of this writing, a ground war in Lebanon and devastating, sustained missile barrages may still be staved off, but to do so will require deft, immediate diplomacy and actionable changes on the pipeline of arms to Israel. That will necessitate more action than we have seen in the last 10 months, leading us to worry that the conflagration may occur as much as the Americans would like to wish it away.

The time is late, but it is essential now for President Biden to finally apply real pressure to stop this war, by halting the supply of offensive arms, facilitating the return of hostages to Israel and enabling the provision of desperately needed humanitarian aid into Gaza. The United States must state loudly and clearly that the country will no longer support this war. And then show that it means it.

*(Matthew Duss is the executive vice president of the Center for International Policy. He was a foreign policy adviser to Senator Bernie Sanders. Nancy Okail is the president and chief executive of the Center for International Policy)*  
(Source: New York Times)

# Politics at Vantage Point



BY PRITI PRAKASH

**THE LAST 10 YEARS, MODI RULED AS A DESPOT WITH SOCIALIST NARRATIVE AND A CAPITALIST APPROACH. EVERYTHING WAS MODIFIED. SCHEMES, GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, MEDIA, EVEN STADIUMS.**

**"INDIAN POLITICS IS SEEING A GENERATIONAL SHIFT. YOUNGER BLOOD IS NOT JUST TAKING INTEREST IN POLITICS BUT IS READY TO BE GROOMED FOR IT AS WELL. PRODIGIES, IF THROUGH MERIT, ARE NO DEVILS. SOME HAVE SHOWN GREAT ACUMEN AS POLITICIANS. THE PRESENCE OF GAURAV GOGOI, JYOTIRADITYA SINDHYA, DEEPENDRA HOODA, JAIVEER GILL, ALKA LAMBA, SACHIN PILOT, TEJASWI YADAV, CHIRAG PASWAN, TEJASWI SURYA AND MANY MORE BRING YOUTHFULNESS OF IDEAS AND ENERGY TO THE AGING POLITICS OF THE COUNTRY. THESE ARE CHANGING TIMES AND SHOULD BE WELCOMED. THE ONLY CONDITION BEING THAT DEMOCRACY HAILS AND WE STAND ONE AND STRONG AS A NATION."**

History is witness to politics standing at vantage points. Elections 2024 was one of them. Interestingly the maths in Parliament and Indian politics had an element of paradox. The descendence of Modi and

BJP with a near halfway mark of 240 seats in Lok Sabha and the ascendance of Rahul Gandhi and Congress with mere 99 seats, although up from its lowest number a decade back, was hope inducing. The last 10 years, Modi ruled as a despot with socialist narrative and a capitalist approach. Everything was Modified. Schemes, government programs, media, even Stadiums.

The grand old party at its lowest with no full time President for the first time since Independence, was on crutches. Rahul Gandhi was derided all the time. From Pappu to Shahzada, to Khan market gang he graduated to Balak Buddhi (in the words of Modi). He too was a reluctant part time politician. Whatever he did or tried to do as Congress President was called as his casual approach. In these 10 years Congress lost many state elections, won some too. His 'personality' was more a subject of discussion amongst the rich and poor alike.

In the run up to the general election 2024, came the Bharat Jodo yatra that saw Rahul Gandhi on road with common people. They wept their souls out to him and he touched their hearts as someone who would listen to an aam aadmi's plight. It was a learning curve for him too. Happening much before the General Elections, although it was said to be nonpolitical, the yatra quite did the groundwork for Rahul Gandhi's politics.

The second Bharat Jodo Yatra, from East to West on the eve of elections was a much closer call. It embedded Rahul Gandhi in the minds and hearts of the rest of India. These two Yatras were the inflection point. Congress won 99 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, almost 100 percent more than the last tally. This was a huge jump for Congress and the image of Rahul Gandhi. Rahul now looked to be a serious full-time politician. He addressed multiple rallies each day taking BJP & PM Modi head on. The transformation that was the result of his thousands of kilometers yatra on foot crisscrossing India was evident.

His crescendo moment was his speech in the Parliament on the opening day of the first session after elections. Elected as the Leader of Opposition and the 11 Allies of INDIA alliance, speaking as the LoP he unabashedly attacked the Modi government and BJP on basic issues people and country at large were facing with special emphasis on NEET scam. So, in these times when he talks of unemployment, crony capitalism, Manipur violence, Inflation and Hindutva politics, for people he is the Hero.

No one can deny the fact that all these years it was Rahul Gandhi who only dared Modi & his governance challenging his priorities, particularly naming Adani and Ambani as the blue-



The sign of the changing times - the rise of "Pappu"

eyed boys of the Prime Minister. The past decade has seen him take a pivotal position in shaping the political landscape of India. I would attribute much of it to the yatras followed by the Election campaigning.

It will be worth reminding here that the lineage of a Rahul Gandhi does not afford him the liberty of choosing to be in politics or not. It is a cross that he has to bear. Unlike other political kids he has been witness to his grandmother's, then his father's murder. In the toxic world of politics he has survived yet, got up, dusted himself and pitched himself against the cruelest of systems.

Whether as Pappu or a part time politician his influence and presence can be felt across various facets of Indian political discourse, making him a central figure in both the Congress Party and the broader national arena. His recent speech (July 23, 2024) at the Budget session crafted around the Farm Bill brought by the BJP in its last tenure put the government in the dock. PM Modi outside Parliament appeared down and defensive, almost complaining that the Opposition in Parliament is throttling the voice of the Prime Minister. He has forgotten the times when the microphones of the opposition were switched off intermittently, when 142 members were suspended on raising questions and demanding the PM speak in the house on important matters and when elected Chief Ministers and other ministers were put in jail, are still there for months even with lack of any credible evidence.

## SO HOW IS RAHUL GANDHI CHANGING INDIAN POLITICS?

Unlike many traditional politicians who maintain a distant and formal approach, Rahul seems to be emphasizing a more accessible and grassroots-oriented style. As seen lately his actively engaging with citizens, particularly youth and marginalized

communities (the loco drivers or the daily wagers), through direct interactions, town hall meetings (with students or party workers), and social media platforms has bridged the gap between the political elite and the common people, making politics more inclusive and participatory.

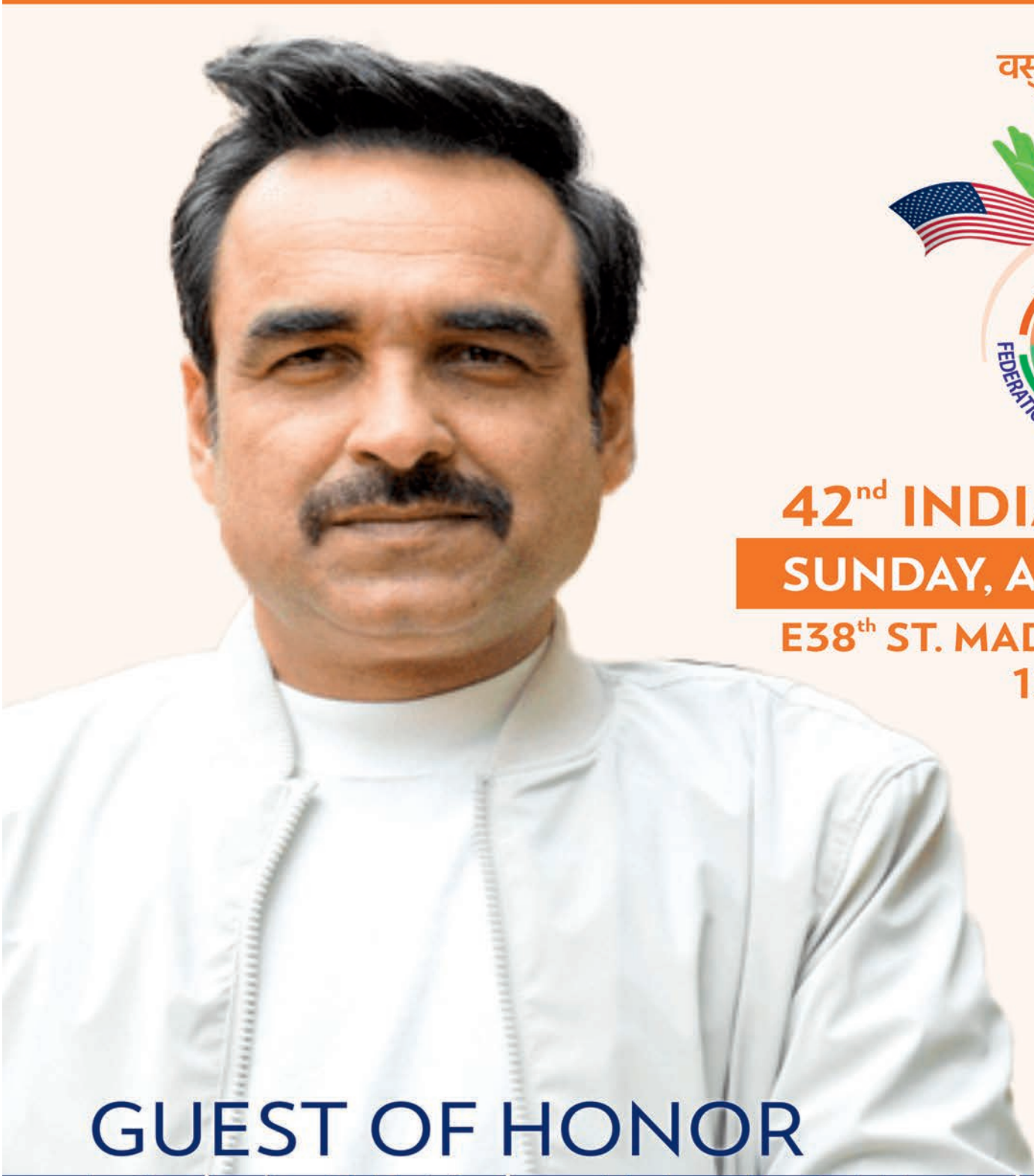
The Gandhi scion is championing issues that resonate with the masses. His emphasis on social justice, minority rights, and economic equality, empowering women and ensuring education for all is what's striking people's imagination. That has galvanized support from diverse sections of society and has positioned him as a leader who is at least addressing peoples' most pressing issues.

As for Congress party, Rahul Gandhi's efforts have sought to rejuvenate the party's appeal among voters, especially the younger demographic.

Despite facing criticism and challenges, Rahul Gandhi's impact is undeniable. Beyond his role as a leader of the Congress Party and now the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, he is reshaping political discourse and priorities in the country.

Indian politics is seeing a generational shift. Younger blood is not just taking interest in politics but is ready to be groomed for it as well. Prodigies, if through merit, are no devils. Some have shown great acumen as politicians. The presence of Gaurav Gogoi, Jyotiraditya Sindhya, Deependra Hooda, Jaiveer Gill, Alka Lamba, Sachin Pilot, Tejaswi Yadav, Chirag Paswan, Tejaswi Surya and many more bring youthfulness of ideas and energy to the aging politics of the country. These are changing times and should be welcomed. The only condition being that democracy hails and we stand one and strong as a nation.

*(The author is a Delhi based Senior Independent Journalist and Travel Blogger. She can be reached at p.priti65@gmail.com)*



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# Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Congressman Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) launch Bipartisan effort to address Border Security and Immigration

**HOLD ROUNDTABLE IN DC WITH OVER 100 ADVOCATES REPRESENTING BROAD NATIONAL COALITION OF "BUSINESS, BADGES AND THE BIBLE"**

JULY 30, 2024

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Last week, Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Texas Republican Congressman Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) brought together a broad, national coalition of stakeholders to a roundtable at the U.S. Capitol to focus on Bipartisan Common-Sense Solutions for Border Security and Immigration. Over 50 people attended in person, with over 70 more joined by Zoom to kick off a coalition of "Business, Badges, and the Bible" to join with immigration advocates.

Suozzi sought out conservative Texas Republican Luttrell, a former U.S. Navy SEAL who survived a deadly helicopter crash during his service, to join the effort. Luttrell, who serves on Homeland Security, stated, "We are working together to find the best way forward for our country on these important border security and immigration issues."

Suozzi was recently appointed to the Homeland Security Committee, where he met Luttrell, and serves as Chair of the Democrats for Border Security Task Force. "The U.S. faces an immigration crisis because too many politicians have spent too many years 'weaponizing' immigration policy-fighting across the aisle-but haven't done a thing to fix it," Suozzi declared.

"The goal of our new coalition is to introduce bipartisan legislation that will 1) secure the border, 2) fix the broken asylum system, and 3) modernize legal immigration," he stated.

Suozzi and Luttrell face a daunting challenge: finding common ground with Democrats and Republicans in a bitterly divided Congress in an election year.

"Business, Badges, and The Bible"- is a unique coalition to push Congress for solutions.

**SUOZZI EXPLAINED THIS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BY SAYING:**

"Businesses' have a huge stake in



Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Texas Republican Congressman Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) hold with a broad, national coalition of stakeholders a roundtable at the U.S. Capitol to focus on Bipartisan Common-Sense Solutions for Border Security and Immigration

immigration reform. Farmers, hospitals, construction, hospitality, and manufacturers all need an immigration fix to better plan the future of our nation's economic health. Immigrant workers have become essential to the U.S. workforce, contributing across sectors and playing a noteworthy role in our country's economy."

"Badges' represent our country's law enforcement community and must focus on community policing, not immigration law. They need 'order at the border' to better protect our communities."

"By using 'The Bible,' I refer to those fundamental values, both religious and secular, that Americans have embraced - that all men and women are created equal and are entitled to human respect and dignity. Spiritual and secular leaders of all kinds can join hands to practice what they preach: the golden rule, human dignity, and the worth of all people."

As a Member of Congress, Suozzi has visited the southern border three times, meeting with border patrol agents, local law enforcement officials, mayors, businesses, and nonprofits. "It's clearly not

working," he stated.

"The present immigration system is hopelessly outdated. The original asylum process was created during the 'Cold War.' In the United States Refugee Act of 1980, America was happy to provide a safe haven to individuals fleeing persecution in the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other communist and authoritarian regimes," he explained.

"But today, organized crime 'coyotes' and cartels are mercilessly scamming the system by instructing migrants on the language necessary to access the asylum process and coaching them to give falsified stories claiming 'credible fear' in their own countries. These migrants automatically gain access to our country until a hearing can take place, sometimes as long as six years later," Suozzi added.

Recent statistics show that just 18% of those 'credible fear' claims are eventually accepted. Immigration courts have a backlog of more than 3.5 million cases.

When Suozzi realized that Congress would not pass the Senate bipartisan immigration reform bill earlier this year, he joined with Republican Congressman

Brian Fitzpatrick and, on May 8, 2024, called on President Biden to use his Executive Authority to "help bring order to the border and expand our tax-paying labor force by extending legal work permits to the 1.1 million immigrant spouses married to U.S. citizens."

A month later, Suozzi stood at the White House when the President announced his executive actions to bar migrants who cross our southern border unlawfully from receiving asylum.

Suozzi, who won February's congressional special election by "leaning into" the immigration issue during the campaign, gave Democrats a much-needed dose of election-year optimism and a model for navigating one of their most significant political liabilities: the migrant influx overwhelming the southern border.

The New York Times said, "Mr. Suozzi may have just helped write a playbook" for his party by forcefully taking on the immigration issue.

Suozzi is a first-generation American whose father came to America as a young boy and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Clusters during WWII. He attended Harvard Law School on the G.I. bill and became a Judge, rising to the courts of the New York State Appellate Division.

"My father's immigrant story is a big part of who I am. For my family, it was the classic American Dream. It saddens me now to see how the very word - immigration- has taken on such a negative connotation," Suozzi revealed.

"Only bipartisan, common-sense solutions will fix what's broken," Suozzi said.

"Democrats and Republicans in Washington must work together to pass bipartisan immigration reform legislation to firmly secure our borders and establish clear, legal paths to citizenship," Suozzi asserted.



A recent box of fresh produce included broccoli, bok choy, tomatoes, potatoes, peaches, and fennel

## NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS LAUNCHES FREE, MONTHLY PRODUCE BOXES FOR PATIENTS OF LIFESTYLE MEDICINE PROGRAM

- Patients of the program will receive six home deliveries of seasonal, fresh produce
- The program provides patients with the tools to make healthy lifestyle changes, including access to plant-based diet resources and one-on-one counseling

AUGUST 1, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** NYC Health + Hospitals announced on August 31 the

launch of free produce boxes to patients enrolled in its nationally recognized Lifestyle Medicine Program. Patients of the program will receive six free monthly deliveries of seasonal, fresh produce delivered to their home. Patients will work with dietitians to learn about incorporating fruits and vegetables into their diet across culinary traditions and skill levels. Delicious and healthy recipes

developed by the team's dietitians will accompany each produce box. A recent produce box included broccoli, bok choy, tomatoes, potatoes, peaches, and fennel. The majority of the produce is sourced from local or regional farms, and the boxes are packaged and delivered by Farm to People.

**CONTD ON PAGE 40**

# AAPI President is keen on forging unity in the faction-ridden organization

JULY 31, 2024

**DAYTON, OHIO (TIP):** Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI, in his first public statement has said that he would foster unity within AAPI through his unwavering commitment to people, optimism and integrity.

"I aim to foster unity within AAPI through my unwavering commitment to people, optimism, and integrity," says Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), who has assumed charge of the largest ethnic medical association in the United States. "My vision for AAPI centers on professionalization of the organization and advocacy for critical issues affecting physicians and patients alike, including addressing the physician shortage and regulatory burdens."

In an official communication sent out to the members of the AAPI's General Body, Dr. Kathula stated: "According to the current bylaws (Article VI) the current Executive Committee (EC) term is one year which ended on July 8, 2024. The new Executive Committee's term started on July 9, 2024."

Dr. Kathula, a board-certified hematologist and oncologist from Dayton, Ohio, practicing Medicine for over two decades, said: "I want to take this opportunity to thank past leadership, along with the executive committee, Board of Trustees, and chairs of all standing committees, for their year of dedicated service. Let us continue to support each other, innovate, and strive for excellence. The challenges we overcome today will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for all."

While elaborating on his broader agenda as the 43rd President of AAPI, Dr. Kathula, an eminent physician of over 25 years' standing in Ohio, an admirable community leader and philanthropist with a stellar record of serving in several leadership roles in AAPI, says, "I will collaborate with legislative bodies and medical associations such as the AMA, ACP, and FSMB, in our efforts to amplify our impact."

Dr. Kathula, who graduated from Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India in 1992 is a clinical professor of medicine at Wright State University-Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Kathula is a Diplomate of the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine. He has authored several papers and articles in medical journals and is in the process of writing a book, describing his journey as an immigrant physician. "For the past 22 years, I've been proudly serving as a Hematologist and Oncologist in the Dayton community, considering it my home."

He strongly believes acquiring new knowledge is crucial for professionals, especially for the physicians in a



President Kathula with AAPI members

changing healthcare environment. Recently, Dr. Kathula acquired a certificate from Stanford University in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. He graduated in May 2024 from Harvard University completing a "Global Healthcare Leaders Program."

Recalling his long association with AAPI, which he has come to call his 2nd family, Dr. Kathula says, "My first experience with medical conventions occurred at the AAPI annual convention in 1995, graced by then-President Bill Clinton. Inspired, I formally joined AAPI in 2002, though my active involvement commenced in 2009, assuming the role of the governing body member of AAPI. Later on, I won all four national elections I contested, supported by esteemed AAPI members."

Dr. Kathula has served AAPI in various capacities. He served as the President and founding member of the Association of Indian Physicians from Ohio, President of the Miami Valley Association of Physicians of Indian Origin as well as the President of the ATMGUSA (Association of Telugu Medical Graduates in USA). In addition, he has worked with the Ohio State Medical Association on various issues. He was the Regional Director and a member of the Board of Trustees. He was elected overwhelmingly by AAPI members as the national Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President of AAPI, and has served as the President-Elect of AAPI during the year 2023-34.

In his inaugural note, Dr. Kathula assured all AAPI members and all physicians of Indian origin that "I will sincerely work for the betterment of our beloved organization, AAPI."

"My priority is to engage the second-generation physicians and foster mentorship to ensure AAPI's continued relevance and vitality." As the leader of AAPI, who has been entrusted with the task of leading AAPI, Dr. Kathula says, "My goals for AAPI have been very clear. I want to focus on education, communication, and legislation, involving the younger generation. Increasing the membership, creating benefits for members, and making AAPI

financially stronger are some of my objectives. I will work hand in hand with the entire executive committee, and board of trustees, to make AAPI stronger and more viable."

#### DR. KATHULA HAS LAID OUT HIS VISION FOR AAPI ON HIS WEBSITE:

- Promote AAPI's mission of education, excellence in patient care, research, and professionalism.
- Increase membership of AAPI and enhance membership benefits. Engage the younger generation more.
- Collaborate with major physician organizations in the US.
- Fast-tracking of Green Cards process for Physicians
- Leverage the strength of 120,000 Indian American Doctors through Legislative endeavors.

Dr. Kathula has been an educator and mentor for dozens of high school students in the community with an interest in attending Medical Schools. He is a Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton. He has been part of the program offering teaching/mentoring to medical students, residents and fellows for two decades. He has presented CME (Continuing medical education) lectures at national and international conferences and published articles in peer-reviewed medical journals.

He has been actively involved in community service locally, nationally, and internationally for the last two decades. Dr. Kathula was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the Om Shanti Hindu Cultural Center in Dayton. He is also the President and Founding Member of the Association of Indian Physicians from Ohio. He has served on several non-profit boards, dedicating his time, skills, and resources for the greater good of the larger community. Dr. Kathula served on the Board of Trustees of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (Dayton chapter) and has raised more than \$200,000 for some of its initiatives. The society conferred on him the Man of the Year Award in 2010. Dr. Kathula received Hind

Rattan Award in 2010, given by the NRI Welfare Society of India for his outstanding contributions. He was awarded 'Man of the Year - 2018' by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Dr. Kathula's love for his motherland has manifested in him setting up humanitarian and medical projects in India. The most important of them is establishing a state-of-the-art pharmacy college in Warangal in Telangana, where he grew up. Named Pathfinder Institute of Pharmacy and Educational Research (PIPER), the non-profit with Dr. Kathula as the Chairman provides quality education and has already graduated over 750 students who are now working in different parts of India and abroad. He conducted several medical camps close to his native place and donated a defibrillator, water purification plant, and library to his native place. He also served as the chair of the Oncology track for several Global Health Summits in India.

Not satisfied with his personal and professional achievements, Dr. Kathula has been active in the Indian community. Intending to enable Physicians of Indian Origin to give back to their motherland, India, he is planning the next edition of the Global Healthcare Summit in New Delhi, India in October this year.

Dr. Kathula gives credit to several mentors who have helped shape his outlook on life. "My life's journey has been enriched by countless mentors and inspirations from all walks of life, each contributing to my personal and professional growth."

Sharing about his family, Dr. Kathula says, "My wife is a homemaker, while both my sons have pursued careers in medicine-the elder as a resident in Anesthesiology and the younger currently in his third year of medical school." Beyond a professional career, Dr. Kathula finds joy in music, writing, photography, travel, cricket, and golf, "indulging in these passions whenever time allows."

CONTD ON PAGE 40

# Wayanad landslide disaster toll reaches 297, with 206 missing

WAYANAD (TIP)

The death toll in the Wayanad landslide disaster on Friday, August 2, reached 297, said officials, adding that 206 people continue to be missing.

The rescue operations continued on the fourth day of the state's worst-ever natural calamity.

More than one thousand-member rescue team drawn from various forces besides locals divided into nine groups are working tirelessly to help people and search for the missing ones.

The worst-affected landslide areas are Churalpara, Velarimala, Mundakayil and Punchirimadom.

With a 190-foot Bailey Bridge now erected, the connectivity between Churalmalai and Mundakayil has been restored.

Sniffer dogs have also been pressed into service. The rescue team is also equipped with heavy earth-moving equipment.

An officer heading the operations said there were some houses buried in one of the affected places where they were headed.

"Around 10 houses were there at the place we are reaching soon. According



Rescuers hold a stretcher as the search for survivors continues after several landslides hit the hills in Wayanad district, in the southern state of Kerala, India, July 31, 2024. REUTERS



to what we are being told there might be some people, maybe alive," said the official.

Currently, there are now 91 relief camps where 9,328 people have been evacuated safely.

**National disaster, says Rahul Gandhi**

Former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi has termed landslides in the Kerala district a "national disaster" and sought a comprehensive action plan.

The deceased included 27 children and 76 women, and 107 bodies have been identified. "In all, 234 persons were admitted to hospitals," said an

official. Rahul and his sister Priyanka Vadra reached Wayanad today. Union Minister George Kurien continued to oversee rehabilitation efforts, having landed two days ago. Meanwhile, the Kerala Government today passed an order restraining scientists from sharing opinions or study reports with the media on Wayanad.

## IMD predicts above-normal rainfall in Aug-Sept, means high possibility of landslides and floods

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is predicted to record above-normal rainfall in August and September, with a good chance of favourable La Nina conditions developing by the end of August, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday, August 1.

Prediction of above-normal rain means there's a high possibility of landslides and floods.

The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 percent of the net cultivated area relying on it. The primary rain-bearing system is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water and power generation across the country.

The IMD said that rainfall over India in August and September would be around 106 per cent of the long-period average of 422.8 mm.

The country has so far recorded 453.8 mm of rainfall against the normal of 445.8 mm since June 1, a surplus of two per cent, owing to a wetter-than-normal July after a drier June. Normal to above-normal rainfall is predicted in most parts of the country in August-September. Below-normal rainfall is expected in parts of the northeast, adjoining east India, Ladakh, Saurashtra and Kutch, and pockets of central and peninsular India, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press conference. The IMD chief anticipated deficient rainfall in parts of western Himalayan region in August-September.

La Nina, a buildup of cooler-than-normal waters in the central Pacific Ocean aiding monsoon rainfall in the Indian subcontinent, could set in by August end, he said.

Mohapatra said above-normal maximum temperatures are expected over most parts of the country. "Normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely in some areas in the Gangetic plains, central India, and the southeast coast of India."

India recorded nine per cent more rainfall than normal in July, with the central region receiving 33 per cent excess rain.

Mohapatra said that central India, which heavily relies on monsoon rainfall for agriculture, has been receiving good rainfall for the third consecutive monsoon season, benefiting agriculture.



Source: PTI

## 33 dead, many missing after rain hammers Uttarakhand, HP

NEW DELHI (TIP)

At least 33 people were killed, several injured and over 50 are missing following several rain-related incidents in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh where rain washed away many houses, bridges and roads.

The death toll in Himachal Pradesh rose up to seven on Friday following a cloudburst in several areas of Kullu district. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is expected to visit the affected areas today. Over 50 people are missing following the incident.

Authorities recovered seven bodies of missing persons - three each in Shimla and Mandi and one in Kullu.

With many missing, rescuers raced against time, scrambling through uprooted trees and collapsed buildings to look for survivors.

Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local administration have been deployed in the affected areas of the state to retrieve bodies.

A total of 35 people have been rescued at various places. Officials are using drones to locate missing persons.

Meanwhile, several state and national highways have been blocked by the landslides. The Manali-Chandigarh National Highway has been damaged at several places due to landslides, an



The partially washed-away Manali-Chandigarh highway is seen alongside a swollen Beas River at Manali, following a recent cloudburst in Kullu district, on August 1. PTI

official said. A breach was also reported in Malana Dam in Kullu, but the situation is under control, the officials said.

The Indian Army has established a control centre at Jhakeri, working alongside the state government's control centre under the District Collector of Shimla. Around 20 houses have been completely washed away and buried under boulders and debris.

The strong water flow in the Nala and its confluence with the Satluj River is hampering rescue work. Rescue operations were halted at 5 pm due to heavy rains and started at 7 am with the use of earth-moving equipment.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh said that rescue and relief operations are in full swing and he would visit the areas that are most affected.

Source: PTI

## 80 crore out of poverty 'simply by smartphones': UN praises India's digital boom

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Dennis Francis praised India for its digital revolution and focus on expanding banking services to rural parts of the country, saying 800 million (80 crore) Indians were lifted out of poverty in the past five to six years "simply by the use of smartphones".

He highlighted how people in rural India who earlier did not have access to banking or payment systems were now able to pay bills and receive payments for orders just by using a smartphone.

"Digitalisation provides the basis for rapid development (of a country). Take, for example, the case of India. India has been able to lift 800 million people out of poverty over the past five to six years simply by the use of smartphones," Francis said at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the topic of 'Accelerating progress towards Zero Hunger for the current and future generations'.

He underlined the high internet penetration in India, citing it as a major factor for the country to be able to benefit from the smartphone boom coupled with easy access to banking services. He also said that other Global South countries did not face such scenarios, unlike India, and called for steps to embrace digitalisation.

"Rural farmers in India who never had a relationship with the banking system, are now able to transact all their businesses on their smartphone. They pay their bills and receive payments for orders. There is a high level of internet penetration in India as almost everyone has a cellphone," he said.

## SC verdict on NEET-UG 2024: 'No systemic breach of sanctity' but NTA must avoid 'flip-flops'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, August 2, said the National Testing Agency or NTA must avoid the "flip-flops" it made in relation to the NEET-UG 2024 exam. Such "flip-flops" in a national exam do not serve the interests of the students, it said. The Supreme Court was pronouncing its verdict containing reasons for not cancelling the 2024 NEET-UG medical entrance examination, despite a raging controversy over paper allegations and other irregularities in the exam.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, also said the expert committee must rectify the deficiencies in the exam system.

The Supreme Court said that in its judgment, it has highlighted all the deficiencies in the structural processes of the NTA. "We cannot afford this for the betterment of the students," said the Supreme Court.

The top court added that the issues which have arisen must be rectified by the Centre this year itself so that it is not repeated. The Supreme Court, however, said there was no systemic breach of the NEET-UG 2024 papers, and the leak was only limited to Patna and Hazaribagh.

The Supreme Court, in its judgment, also said the committee constituted by the Centre also consider framing standard operating procedure (SOP) for technological advancements to identify potential weaknesses in the cyber security of the examination system, processes for enhanced identity checks, CCTV camera monitoring of exam centres.



NEET aspirants and their parents assemble on the Supreme court of India premises during a hearing on NEET paper leak case in New Delhi. (HT)

The bench also issued a slew of directions and expanded the remit of the Centre-appointed committee headed by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan to review the NTA's functioning and recommend exam reforms.

It said since the remit of the panel has been expanded, the committee would submit its report by September 30 on various measures to rectify deficiencies in the examination system.

The bench said the Radhakrishnan panel should consider framing standard operating procedure for adoption of technological advancements to strengthen the examination system.

The top court said the issues which have arisen during the NEET-UG examination should be rectified by the Centre.

On July 23, the top court dismissed the

pleas seeking cancellation and re-test of the controversy-ridden exam, holding that there was no evidence on record to conclude that it was "vitiated" on account of "systemic breach" of its sanctity.

The Supreme Court, while pronouncing the order, said its detailed reasons would follow.

The interim verdict came as a shot in the arm for the embattled NDA government and the NTA, which were facing strong criticism and protests, on streets and in Parliament, over alleged large-scale malpractices like question paper leak, fraud and impersonation in the prestigious test held on May 5.

Over 23 lakh students gave the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) in 2024 for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses. *Source: HT*

## Oppn targets govt over NCERT textbooks revision, NEP

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The ongoing monsoon session of the Parliament in Lok Sabha witnessed a heated debate between the Opposition parties and ruling dispensation over the recent changes made to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus.

The discussion took place during the debate on the demand for grants for the education ministry in Lok Sabha which was later passed through voice vote without any changes.

The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Asaduddin Owaisi questioned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government for fudging with the existing textbooks.

"Direct connection can be drawn between policies of the government and the continued education backwardness of the Muslims. In both higher education and schooling, Muslims want to get formal education but because of government apathy and negligence, the Muslim dropout of education system is sooner than children of any other community", Owaisi said.

Congress MP and Whip in the House Mohammad Jawed also reiterated that Mughals' historical presence cannot be erased merely by removing their names from



Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament. (PTI photo)

textbooks. "Mughals were here for 330 years, they are not going to be removed just because you remove the name," Jawed said.

"If there were no Muslims in this country, the BJP could not have opened its account", he added.

He continued his verbal tirade asking BJP to not discriminate and criticised the government over the recent cases of paper leaks.

"Outside Parliament, test papers are getting leaked and inside Parliament, the roof is leaking...", he said.

Not only the textbook revision issue, but the Opposition also tried to corner the government on the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) too.

Reacting to the opposition party MPs' comments, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan defended the NEP, saying that it is based on principles of accountability, affordability, accessibility, equitability, and quality.

He highlighted the expansion in spending on higher education by 63% and primary education by 40% since 2013-14.

Pradhan also noted that the new education pattern includes a 5+3+3+4 system and said that there has been an increase in female teachers from 36 lakh to 48 lakh.

Addressing the controversy over the NCERT syllabus, Pradhan said, "Western influence in the Indian education system has to be removed?", he said. "The National Education Policy is not just a 60-page policy document. It is a philosophical element for the rebuilding of India, enhancing brotherhood in the world, and solving global problems. The entire nation unanimously accepts it today", Pradhan said. *Source: HT*

# India in history this Week

## AUGUST 2 TO AUGUST 8

### 02 AUGUST

1763 After the capture of Murshidabad, the British army defeated Mir Qasim in the Battle of Giriya.

1876 Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the Indian flag, was born.

1858 The Government of India Act was passed by the British Government.

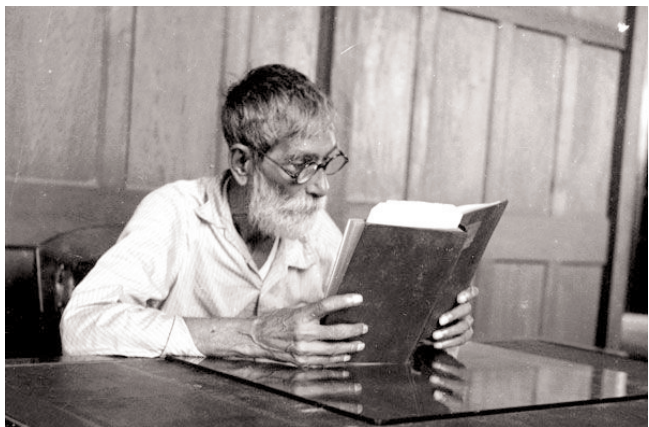
1858 The Government of India transferred the East India Company to the British Crown.



1987 Viswanathan Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship.

1999 The Brahmaputra Mail collided face-to-face with the Awadh-Assam Express at Ghasal. Both trains were running on the same track from the opposite direction.

2001 Pakistan approved Chinese imports from India.



1861 Famous scientist Prafulla Chandra Rai, who was considered the 'father of chemistry', was born.

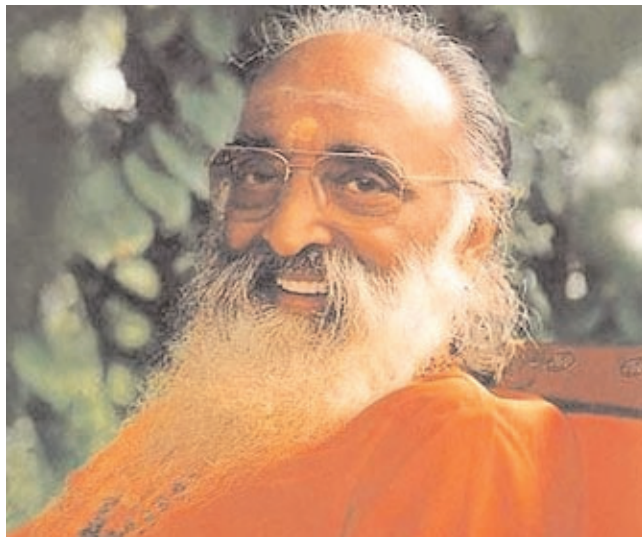
### 03 AUGUST



1886 Famous Hindi poet Maithilisharan Gupta was born in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

1985 Baba Amte was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service.

2012 The Workplace Safety Bill, 2010 passed against sexual harassment of women in 2012.



1993 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy, died in 1993.

### 04 AUGUST

1956 Apsara, the country's first nuclear research reactor, started.

1967 Construction of Nagarjunasagar, the world's longest masonry dam.

2008 The government gave Navratna status to the Shipping Corporation of India.



1929 Actor, singer, director Kishore Kumar was born.

### 05 AUGUST



1991 Justice Leela Seth became the first Indian

woman to become the Chief Justice of the High Court.

1775 Nandakumar, an officer of the Bengal Nawab, was hanged in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

2008 A tremor of 5.5 magnitude earthquake was felt in the Indian Ocean 176 miles northeast of 2008 from Andaman and Nicobar island of India.

2010 A cloudburst occurred in Leh in Kashmir (India) in 2010 and 115 people died in the flood that followed.

2013 India's junior women's hockey team won the bronze by defeating England 3-2 (1-1) in the 2013 World Cup held in Germany.



2000 India's great and famous cricketer Lala Amarnath died in 2000

2020 The foundation stone of the Ayodhya Ram temple was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Das Modi on 05 November 2020.

### 06 AUGUST

1862 Madras High Court was established.

1906 Prominent freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das and other Congress leaders jointly started publication of 'Vande Mataram' newspaper.

1986 Birth of India's first test tube baby.

2007 An old Hindu temple in central Trinidad was damaged.

### 07 AUGUST

1905 The Indian National Congress boycotted British goods.

1941 Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore died.

1947 Electricity and transport system were formally transferred to Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

1985 Geet Sethi won the World Amateur Billiards Championship. He became the third Indian to achieve this feat.

### 08 AUGUST

1509 The coronation of Maharaj Krishnadeva Raya as Emperor of the Vijay Nagar Empire.

1942 Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement.



1967 For the first time since independence, the central government faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.



# EXPERIENCE THE MELDING OF 'RAGAS AND RHYTHMS' AND MORE THIS SUMMER AT NJ LOCATIONS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony will present a series of chamber music concerts in Jersey City and Robbinsville this summer. The concerts are free of charge and will feature a variety of repertoire. Two concerts include selections of popular Indian music with Kulture Kool and one program curated by incoming Resident Artistic Partner, Allison Loggins-Hull. The concerts will feature the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players and special guests.

## SCHEDULE

### MUSIC OF INDIA: RAGAS & RHYTHMS

Wednesday, July 31, 7 pm, Provost Square Plaza

Provost Square Plaza, 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

### MUSIC OF INDIA: RAGAS & RHYTHMS

Friday, Aug 2, 6.30pm: BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham at 112 N. Main Street, Robbinsville Turnpike, NJ 08561. Phone: (609) 918-1212

### MUSIC OF INDIA: RAGAS & RHYTHMS

#### PROGRAM

#### Kulture Kool co-curators & dancers

Indrajit Roy-Chowdhury - sitar  
Narenda Budhkar - tabla  
New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

Ming Yang - violin  
Jesus Saenz - violin  
Brett Deubner - viola  
Hyewon Kim - cello

Thursday, August 8, 7 pm, Provost Square Plaza

Provost Square Plaza, 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

Curated by Resident Artistic Partner, Allison Loggins-Hull

#### PROGRAM

Allison Loggins-Hull flute, curator & host

New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

Join the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players for a free evening of chamber music featuring musical trailblazer Allison Loggins-Hull, plus music by Jessie Montgomery and Benjamin Britten. This program will formally introduce the Montclair-based flutist and composer as the Symphony's new incoming Resident Artistic Partner.



NJ Symphony with Kulture Kool guest artists

Credit: njsymphony.org/kulturekool.com



NJ Symphony with Kulture Kool singers and dancers

Credit: njsymphony.org/kulturekool.com

### MUSIC OF INDIA: RAGAS & RHYTHMS

The Kulture Kool South Asian Cultural Center with the New Jersey Symphony presents 'Ragas & Rhythms: Music of India,' at Jersey City and BAPS Robbinsville; two chamber music concerts this summer.

On July 31 and August 2, the event will feature western classical trained musicians from the New Jersey Symphony performing adaptations of traditional Indian music.

The concerts are free of charge and will feature traditional Indian music by the New Jersey Symphony Chamber

players and other eminent south Asian musicians, Sitarist Indrajit Roy Chowdhury & Tabla exponent Narenda Budhkar. They will be accompanied by vocal and dance students of Kulture Kool.

The music that will be played for the concert comes from a wide variety of sources, and much of it has been adapted into Western notation to fit better with the musicians' Western classical training. Charu Suri, award winning composer and Jazz pianist has also composed one of the pieces.

The New Jersey Symphony and Kulture Kool had teamed up in 2023 to present 'Hooray for Bollywood' at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center

(NJPAC), the first full length concert featuring Indian music performed by a major symphony.

### BAPS AKSHARDHAM

The BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham at Robbinsville, NJ, is a nexus of Hindu architecture, culture, unity, and selfless service. Bridging India's heritage with modern America, it embodies the visionary guidance of BAPS' spiritual leaders. Created by 12,500 volunteers, this masterpiece stands as an enduring symbol of love, peace, hope, and harmony, while preserving traditions across generations. Learn more at [usa.akshardham.org](http://usa.akshardham.org).

### KULTURE KOOL

The Kulture Kool South Asian Cultural Center offers a wide range of programs in the Indian performing arts, languages, and cultural immersion. Founded in 2009, Kulture Kool has become a cornerstone of the community, providing quality education and enriching experiences that celebrate the diverse traditions of South Asia. Learn more at [kulturekool.com](http://kulturekool.com).

### THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

The EMMY and GRAMMY Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of its organization - all to better reflect and serve its vibrant communities. For more information, visit [njsymphony.org/summer](http://njsymphony.org/summer).

### CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

Website: [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org)  
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E m a i l :  
[information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

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

# NYC'S AUGUST SKY WELCOMES FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL DANCE

BY MABEL PAIS

Battery Dance, in partnership with Battery Park City Authority, celebrates the 43rd Anniversary of its free summer festival from August 11-17, 2024 with a rain date on Sunday, August 18. The Festival will feature in-person and live-streamed performances staged each night at Rockefeller Park, Battery Park City, New York City at 7pm Eastern Time.

Reaching both local and international audiences, the Festival promotes Battery Dance's mission of connecting the world through dance. For more information and updates, visit [batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival](http://batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival).

"There's something about the sense of community, the sharing of cultures, the plethora of dance styles under the changing light from the late summer sky that invigorates the spirit every August. To our tried-and-true fans, we say 'see you again soon!' To newcomers, we look forward to surprising you with the beauty of Rockefeller Park and the delight of seeing phenomenal dance companies in the open-air setting," said Jonathan Hollander, Founder and Artistic Director of Battery Dance.

## BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL 2024 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

(in chronological and alphabetical order; program subject to change)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11:

Battery Dance; Alexandra F. Light; Focus Dance Company; McKoy Dance Project|| MDP; A'nó:wara Dance Theatre; wee dance company; Sun Kim Dance Theatre

### MONDAY, AUGUST 12/YOUNG VOICES IN DANCE:

Carsyn Gekas; Andrea Agostini; Marshall Kahente Diabo; Zev Haworth; Hannah Howell; Malachi Kingston; Kailei Sin; Chen-Jung Yeh; Anna Lopez; Priscilla Tom

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 13:

AU.THENTICITY DANCE CO.; wee dance company; SPAN Dance Company; Julie Crothers; Sibiu Ballet Theater & Gigi C?ciuleanu Romania Dance Company; Lucas Crew; Focus Dance Company; A'nó:wara Dance Theatre

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14:

Rutkay Özpınar; Pori Dance Company; Lucas Crew; Battery Dance; SPAN Dance Company; Carolyn Dorfman Dance

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 15/INDIA DAY:

Rajesh Sai Babu Mayurbhanj Chhau Group; Radhika Jha

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 16/FUTURE 400:

Marie Poncé; Ballet Nepantla; Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company; FANIKE! African



India Dance, Radhika Jha

Dance Troupe; Capoeira Luanda NYC; Rutkay Özpınar; Battery Dance  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17:**

T'Ana Selah; Sibiu Ballet Theater & Gigi C?ciuleanu Romania Dance Company;

Evelyn Tejeda; Buglisi Dance Theatre; Pony Box Dance Theatre; Pori Dance Company; Wyatt Sutter & Charles Pierson

### INDIA DAY

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 15/INDIA DAY:

**RAJESH SAI BABU MAYURBHANJ CHHAU GROUP; RADHIKA JHA**

India Day: Known for its role in presenting the finest exponents of Indian classical dance on its outdoor stage for the past quarter-century, Battery Dance is proud to present Radhika Jha and Rajesh Sai Babu Mayurbhanj Chhau Group this summer, celebrating India's Independence Day on August 15th.

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 15/INDIA DAY:

**RADHIKA JHA (NYC/DELHI, INDIA)  
REKHASUNDARI PALLAVI**

Created in 1973, this is a pure dance choreography which brings alive sculptures from the temples of Orissa, especially those in the Radha-Rani temple. It describes the love of a famous Orissa princess for her lord, Jagannath. The dancer addresses the god as a lover, reminding him of a dream in which he came to her and danced with her. 'Take off this veil of mine' she begs him, and look at me again. The dance has all the special characteristics of Guru Jena's style of Odissi: sculptural movements, abrupt rhythm changes and mixing of spoken language into the music.

**RAJESH SAI BABU MAYURBHANJ CHHAU GROUP (NOIDA, INDIA)  
THE CHHAU SAMAGAM, US  
PREMIERE**



India Dance, Chhau Group

Credit: batterydance.org.

Mayurbhanj Chhau has rarely been seen in group presentations in the U.S., with its vigorous jumps, spins and high kicks contrasted with subtle movements of the torso and shoulders. This special program will in part feature dances dedicated to Nataraj, Lord of Dance, and Kshetriya, India's ancient heroic warriors.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

YOUNG VOICES in Dance celebrates the next generation of choreographers. The program highlights the intellectual curiosity, innovation, and artistic excellence of youth (ages 15 - 22) from around the world. Now in its fourth year, Young Voices in Dance will feature live performances with original works made and danced by a new roster of gifted young dance artists.

**INDIA DAY:** Known for its role in presenting the finest exponents of Indian classical dance on its outdoor stage for the past quarter-century, Battery Dance is proud to present Radhika Jha and Rajesh Sai Babu Mayurbhanj Chhau Group this summer, celebrating India's Independence Day on August 15th.

**RADHIKA JHA** is a performer of Odissi, the temple dance of the Eastern Indian State of Odisha. Her style, rarely seen in public fora, is that of the late Guru Surendranath Jena, turning well-known sculptural poses into movements.

**MAYURBHANJ CHHAU** has rarely been seen in group presentations in the U.S. and with its vigorous jumps, spins and high kicks contrasted with subtle movements of the torso and shoulder, Rajesh Sai Babu Mayurbhanj Chhau Group's performance is sure to rivet the audience.

**FUTURE 400**, an initiative of the Netherlands Consulate General of New York, endeavors to honor 400 years of Dutch-New York history with honesty

and integrity, while simultaneously aiming to be a catalyst directly impacting the next 400 years, ensuring a more equitable ideal for a truly shared history through partnerships among Dutch and American institutions. As part of Future 400, Battery Dance has partnered with the Dutch Consulate in commissioning a new work by Turkish-Dutch choreographer Rutkay Özpınar that will be given its world premiere at the festival. In addition, this special evening will feature dance artists from the rich array of immigrant communities in New York City.

### TICKETS

Attendance to the Festival in person or virtually is FREE. For updates, visit [batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival](http://batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival)

### BATTERY DANCE

Battery Dance Festival, New York City's longest-running free public dance festival, was established by Battery Dance as the Downtown Dance Festival in 1982. It draws in-person audiences of approximately 2,000 people each night from the large downtown population of workers, residents, families, tourists, senior citizens and dance fans from the greater NYC metropolitan area and beyond. The Festival went virtual in 2020, attracting 30,000 viewers across 206 countries. In 2021, it ran as a hybrid model with over 10,000 in-person and over 21,000 virtual audience members. Since 2023, the Festival has welcomed in-person and live-streamed audiences from its new home at Rockefeller Park.

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



**42<sup>nd</sup> INDIA DAY PARADE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**E38<sup>th</sup> ST. MADISON AVENUE, NYC**  
**12:00 PM ONWARDS**



GUEST OF HONOR

**MANOJ TIWARI**

MP, INDIAN ACTOR & SINGER

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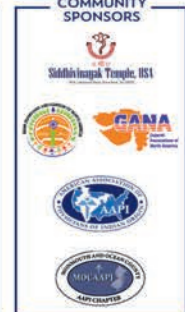
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## Janhvi Kapoor: Don't know if industry has opened up to the actor in me

Actor Janhvi Kapoor, who is all set for her upcoming theatrical release 'Ulajh,' has been extensively promoting her film as she believes this is one of her finest performances to date. Janhvi's last release, Mr and Mrs Mahi, didn't clock in huge numbers but Kapoor's performance and hard work didn't go unnoticed. During the promotions of her film, Janhvi shared her take on whether the industry has opened up to the actor in her, looking beyond her vanity.

Speaking to IndiaToday.in, Janhvi said, "I don't know whether the industry has actually opened up to the actor in me yet. Even if they have, it's something that I'm probably not specifically thinking about as such, because acting is what I wanted to all my life. I feel I have evolved from my first film to now, but how the industry takes me is something I can't tell for myself."

"It would have been predictable and a much easier journey if I had done commercial movies with a wider reach that has the song, dance and glamour, because that would have come easily to me and has a higher guaranteed success rate and ensures more popularity. But I made a conscious decision a couple of years ago to challenge myself and surprise myself and try something different even though the risks and stakes are much higher," the actor added.

Janhvi opened up about picking the 'smaller films' and stated, "So, yes, I do feel that I have picked a couple of high-risk films and 'Ulajh' is one of them. I sometimes make jokes about Insta Janhvi vs actor Janhvi. Honestly, I'm a little unaware of how the industry sees me, but all I can attest for myself is that with every film, I get more confident on another set because I feel that I can deliver what my director wants out of me."

Janhvi concluded by saying, "I am scared to try to become aware of what the outside narrative or perception is about me. I think that kind of awareness kills an artist, because it will start making me calculate things that I'm not meant to calculate in any case. It will either make me supremely confident or completely shatter my ego and both of these things will be very disruptive for me."

Source: India Today

## Kriti Sanon spotted vaping with rumored boyfriend Kabir Bahia from Greece vacation

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon's well-kept secret seems to be finally out in the open after photos of her exotic Greece vacation with rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia went viral online. While the Mimi actress continues to remain silent, a new set of pictures have now surfaced in which she can be seen sitting next to Kabir and enjoying with their friends.

Kriti can be seen enjoying a scrumptious meal with Kabir and friends at a crowded eatery in the pictures, however, eagle-eyed fans spotted that the actress was also using a vape. In the viral photos, Kriti can be seen vaping while being engrossed in a conversation with Kabir.

In the earlier photos and videos that had gone viral, the actress was spotted smoking by netizens. It came as a surprise since Kriti's mother Geeta Sanon had once claimed that her daughter was "anti-smoking".

She had claimed that Kriti did not smoke and had also stated that the actress makes sure that the others around her quit smoking too.

However, in the midst of all the chatter, Kriti seems to be unbothered as she shared a slew of photos from the Greece vacation on Instagram on Wednesday. While Kabir was MIA in the pictures, the actress posed with her sister Nupur Sanon and other friends while flaunting her svelte figure in vibrant bikinis.

Kriti reportedly celebrated her birthday on July 27 in Greece with her gang.

Kriti and Kabir have been rumoured to be dating for quite some time now, and the buzz got intense after the two were spotted celebrating the New Year with MS Dhoni and Sakshi Dhoni in Dubai.



## Taapsee Pannu says doing whopping 11 films post-pandemic wasn't planned

If there is a Hindi film actor who matches the record of most number of films released post-pandemic set by Akshay Kumar (14 releases), it is Taapsee Pannu. The actor holds the rare distinction of being perhaps the only Bollywood actress, who, in August, will have her 11th film title up for release.

"This is not planned!" Taapsee told Indianexpress.com with a smile when pointed out that her latest release Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba will be her 10th release since 2021. Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha's Thappad was Taapsee's last theatrical release before the coronavirus pandemic shut the world down in 2020. Since then, the actor has had a slew of releases, starting from Haseen Dillruba, Vijay Sethupathi-starrer Annabelle Sethupathi, Rashmi Rocket, Loop Lapeta, Telugu comedy Mishan Impossible, Mithali Raj biopic Shabaash Mithu, Anurag Kashyap's



Dobaaraa, her production debut Blurr and Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Dunki.

"I am not sure if it landed the way I wanted it to land. I made the mistake of over-planning my successive years, where I thought every year, I would have

two releases. In 2020, Thappad was released, and Haseen Dillruba was supposed to be released the same year, but we had the lockdown. So, nothing was released, until one and a half years!

Source: The Indian Express



## ‘Leave me alone’: Selena Gomez shuts down plastic surgery rumors

Selena Gomez often faces extra scrutiny over her changing looks and weight fluctuations. And the singer is fed up with all the rumours around her going under the knife, and wants people to leave her alone.

The 32-year-old singer addressed the speculations while responding to a TikTok video about the buzz around her changing looks in the comment section. The video was shared by a physician's assistant working in a plastic surgeon's office.

The original video was posted back in 2023. However, Selena commented on it on July 27.

“Honestly, I hate this. I was on stripes because of flare up. I have Botox. That’s it. Leave me alone,” wrote the *Only Murders in the Building* actor.

Following the outburst by Selena, who suffers from lupus, the TikTok, who goes by the name Marissa Barrionuevo, posted an apology note.

# Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck have ‘signed’ the divorce papers

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's fairytale romance appears to be nearing its end. Amid claims that the singer saw her husband as a knight in shining armour, sources close to the couple reveal that the divorce papers have been finalised, they have not yet been filed.

While the couple has been working on settling arrangements, they are strategically timing a public announcement with a carefully crafted joint statement. For months, Jen and Ben have been living separately, and although they have not commented on the separation, reports of their marital woes have skyrocketed.

“They finalised the divorce papers with her a month ago, but are waiting for the right time to drop them,” a source told *Daily Mail*. Friends of Lopez have described Affleck's recent actions as a “stab to the heart,” including his decision to purchase a new home in Los Angeles and skip both his wife's birthday and their second wedding anniversary in the Hamptons. Meanwhile, other insiders claim Affleck has been actively preparing for the split.

Another source has asserted that while the documents have been signed, the couple will maintain a cordial demeanour upon officially confirming the news. “At that time, they will release a joint statement that will say how they have much love for each other and how they fought to make it work, but couldn't. Honestly, in the end they could not come to a compromise. What they had before is gone and they have both



accepted it.” Multiple insiders and friends had previously noted how much Jennifer loves Ben and is not ready to throw in the towel just yet. However, the *Accountant 2* star seemed to signal his intentions when he moved out of their shared mansion a month ago, settling into a separate home in Brentwood. The pair were last seen together on May 30th and have since made efforts to avoid each other. They even their summers apart with the pop star touring Europe

and New York while Ben spent it with kids in LA. With the actor now buying his own mansion in LA and their Beverly Hills home on the market, reports are increasingly describing their divorce as inevitable. “Ben's decision to move into his own home is the final insult,” one insider told *Radar Online*. “J.Lo had been holding onto hope that there could be a reconciliation if they were to spend some time apart, but this is like a stab in the heart.”

# Nicole Kidman's daughter Sunday Rose makes rare red carpet appearance in Paris

Nicole Kidman's daughter Sunday Rose made a rare public appearance with her at a recent event in Paris. As per a report by *Page Six*, the 16-year-old walked along with her mother for Omega's Her Time event in Paris. The duo posed for pictures and were seen smiling on the red carpet.

For the event, Nicole looked radiant in an all white ensemble, as she paired a white cropped short-sleeved top along with a white tea-length skirt. Meanwhile, her daughter wore a gray cropped top with matching gray pants. Both Nicole and Sunday held hands and made goofy faces at each other as they walked the red carpet and posed for photographers.

Nicole shares two daughters with her husband Keith Urban- Sunday, and 13-year-old Faith Margaret. Meanwhile Nicole shares daughter Isabella, 31, and son Connor, 29, with her ex-husband Tom Cruise. Back in April this year, when Nicole was honoured with the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award, she

brought her entire family along with her and posed happily on the red carpet.

During her acceptance speech, she also made sure to give a shoutout to her daughters and said, “There's an enormous amount of luck in my life, but there's also the most important thing — love, big, big love. Right there is the love of my life and the loves of my life. My daughters have never been anywhere publicly with me on a red carpet, tonight was their first night, so they're here, Sunday and Faith. This is all because of you and I love you so much. There's no place like home, as they say, click click. You're my home.” Nicole was last seen in the romantic comedy *A Family Affair*, which also starred Joey King and Zac Efron. She will be seen next in the Netflix series *The Perfect Couple*, which also stars Bollywood actor Ishan Khatter in a supporting role.

### Nicole Kidman reveals her favourite Olympic sport

“I love sport and the Olympics,” she

exclusively told *News Corp*.

“I'm here to cheer on the Aussies and the Americans and actually everyone because there's something about the hope (of it) right now that's really important.”

Her highlight so far is the gold medal haul from the female swimmers.

Kidman even joked that it would have been her sport had she ever been an athlete.

“I did swim at school and I did bring home a ribbon for breaststroke so maybe I would've been a breaststroker,” she said.

“I brought home a blue ribbon, it was the only ribbon I ever won at the school carnival.”

The actor will next be seen at the volleyball and gymnastics before heading back to Texas where she is filming TV series *Lioness*.

She plans to stay up to date with all the Australian results, particularly in track and field.



## TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT LAI CALLS FOR UNITY IN FACE OF CHINA THREAT

TAIPEI (TIP): Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said July 30 "a threat from China to any country is a threat to the world", emphasizing to lawmakers of more than 20 countries that global democracies must unite against "authoritarian expansion".

China has in recent years stepped up military and political pressures on democratic Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

While Taipei officially only has a dozen diplomatic allies, it has strengthened partnerships with democracies around the world -- especially the United States, its largest weapons provider -- as Beijing ups the rhetoric of unification being "inevitable".

On Tuesday, Lai attended a summit of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) -- a group of parliamentarians hailing from Uruguay and Canada to Japan and Britain concerned about how democracies interact with Beijing.

Praising the 49 lawmakers from 23 countries and the European Parliament for making the journey to Taipei, Lai said the delegation demonstrates "the importance and support" that various countries have for Taiwan.

"They send a crucial message to democratic partners worldwide: democracy requires unity and protection," he said.

"I want to emphasize that a threat from China to any country is a threat to the world. Taiwan will do everything to join democratic partners to uphold the umbrella of democracy, (and) protect democratic nations from the threat of authoritarian expansion."

Lai, who took office in May, is regarded by China as a "dangerous separatist" for his staunch defence of Taiwan's sovereignty.

Three days after later China launched war games, encircling the island with fighter jets and naval vessels, as a "punishment" for Lai's inauguration speech which Beijing said was a "confession of Taiwan independence".

Lai has repeatedly made overtures for dialogue with Beijing -- severed after his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen came into office in 2016 for her stance that Taiwan is not part of China.

But like Tsai, he has also maintained that the island must be united in ensuring its sovereignty by building up its defence capabilities, as China maintains a near-daily military presence by deploying warships, fighter jets and drones around Taiwan.

Lai reiterated Tuesday that Taiwan must "prepare for war to avoid war, and achieve peace through strength".

"We are also willing to take dialogue instead of confrontation with China, and take exchanges instead of containment based on the principle of mutual respect and dignity, to reduce conflicts and achieve peace and stability," he said. (AFP)

# Taylor Swift says she is 'in shock' after 2 children died in an attack on a UK dance class

LONDON (TIP): Police were questioning a suspect and working on July 30 to understand what motivated a 17-year-old boy to attack children at a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga class, leaving two dead and six in critical condition.

A total of 9 children and two adults were hurt in the rampage in Southport in northwest England. Both adults and six of the children were in critical condition in local hospitals.

Swift said she was "completely in shock" and still taking in "the horror" of the event.

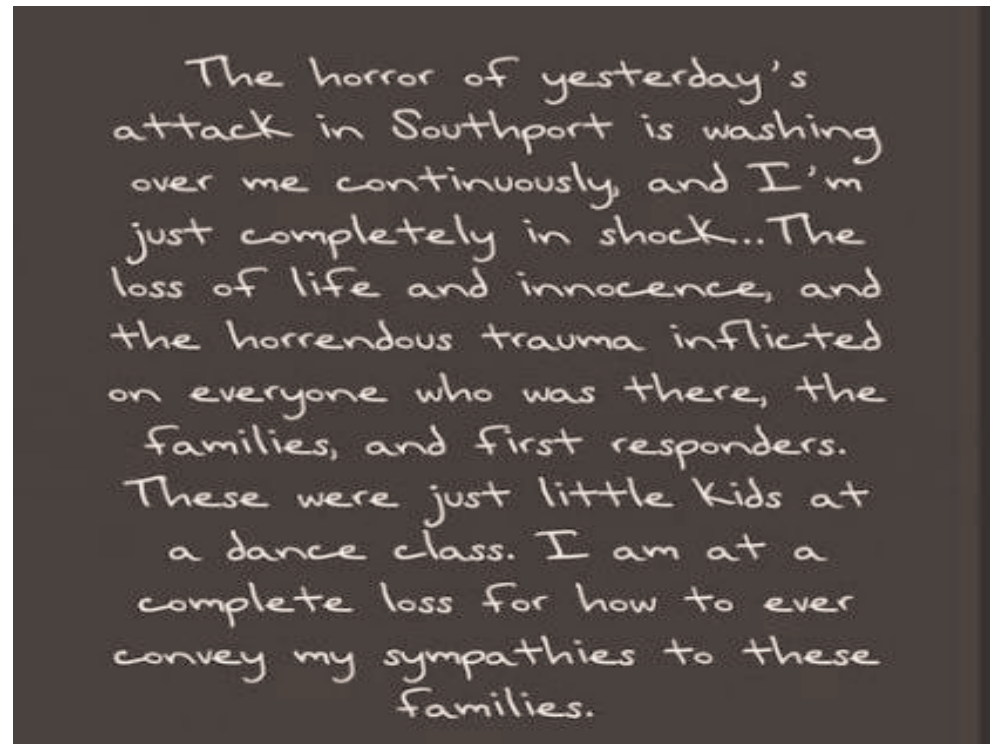
"These were just little kids at a dance class," she wrote on Instagram. "I am at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families."

A 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

Local people left flowers and stuffed animals in tribute at a police cordon on the street lined with brick houses in the seaside resort near Liverpool -- nicknamed "sunny Southport" -- whose beach and pier attract vacationers from across northwest England.

Witnesses described scenes "from a horror movie" as bloodied children ran from the attack just before noon on Monday. The suspect was arrested soon after on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. Police said he was born in Cardiff, Wales and had lived for years in a village about 3 miles (5 km) from Southport. He has not yet been charged. Police said detectives are not treating Monday's attack as terror-related and they are not looking for any other suspects.

"We believe the adults who were



injured were bravely trying to protect the children who were being attacked," Merseyside Police Chief Constable Serena Kennedy said.

It is the latest shocking attack in a country where a recent rise in knife crime has stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do more to clamp down on bladed weapons.

The attack happened during a Taylor Swift-themed yoga and dance workshop for children aged about 6 to 11.

"They were in the road, running from the nursery," said Bare Varathan, who owns a shop nearby. "They had been stabbed, here, here, here, everywhere," he said, indicating the neck, back and chest.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the

attack "horrendous and deeply shocking". King Charles III sent his "condolences, prayers and deepest sympathies" to those affected by the "utterly horrific incident".

Prince William and his wife Catherine said that "as parents, we cannot begin to imagine what the families, friends and loved ones of those killed and injured in Southport today are going through".

Britain's worst attack on children occurred in 1996, when 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton shot 16 kindergarteners and their teacher dead in a school gymnasium in Dunblane, Scotland. The UK subsequently banned the private ownership of almost all handguns. (AP)

## ITALIAN PM GIORGIA MELONI FOR REVIVING TIES WITH CHINA

ROME/BEIJING (TIP):

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni vowed on July 29 to "relaunch" cooperation with China, signing a three-year action plan during her first official visit to Beijing since taking office.

Meloni, who has led a right-wing government since 2022, made the announcement during a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, as Rome seeks to improve trade ties with Beijing after it exited President Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road infrastructure investment scheme last year.

The Italian leader said her five-day trip was a "demonstration of the will to



begin a new phase, to relaunch our bilateral cooperation". The action plan aims to experiment with new forms of cooperation, she added in a video shown Italy's RAI state television network.

**THE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY ITALY AND CHINA "INCLUDES STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL SECTORS SUCH AS ELECTRIC MOBILITY AND RENEWABLES," MELONI SAID LATER IN THE DAY.**

Meloni, who sees Chinese investment as a way to spur Italy's anaemic economic growth, will meet Xi and China's top legislator, Zhao Leji, third in the leadership hierarchy. — Reuters

# Venezuelan opposition says it has proof its candidate defeated President Maduro in disputed election

**CARACAS (TIP):** As thousands of people demonstrated across Venezuela, opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez on July 29 announced that his campaign has the proof it needs to show he won the country's disputed election whose victory electoral authorities handed to President Nicolas Maduro.

Gonzalez and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told reporters they have obtained more than 70 per cent of tally sheets from Sunday's election, and they show Gonzalez with more than double Maduro's votes.

Both called on people, some of whom protested in the hours after Maduro was declared winner, to remain calm and invited them to gather peacefully at 11 am Tuesday to celebrate the results.

"I speak to you with the calmness of the truth," Gonzalez said as dozens of supporters cheered outside campaign headquarters in the capital, Caracas.

"We have in our hands the tally sheets that demonstrate our categorical and mathematically irreversible victory." Their announcement came after the National Electoral Council, which is loyal to Maduro's ruling Unites Socialist Party of Venezuela, officially declared him the winner, handing him his third six-year term.

In the capital, the protests were mostly peaceful, but when dozens of riot gear-clad national police officers blocked the caravan, a brawl broke.

Police used tear gas to disperse the protesters, some of whom threw stones and other objects at officers who had stationed themselves on a main avenue of an upper-class district.

A man fired a gun as the protesters moved through the city's financial district. No one suffered a gunshot wound.

The demonstrations followed an election that was among the most peaceful in recent



memory, reflecting hopes that Venezuela could avoid bloodshed and end 25 years of single-party rule. The winner was to take control of an economy recovering from collapse and a population desperate for change.

"We have never been moved by hatred. On the contrary, we have always been victims of the powerful," Maduro said in a nationally televised ceremony.

"An attempt is being made to impose a coup d'etat in Venezuela again of a fascist and counterrevolutionary nature."

"We already know this movie, and this time, there will be no kind of weakness," he added, saying that Venezuela's "law will be respected." Machado told reporters tally sheets show Maduro and Gonzalez received more than 2.7 million and roughly 6.2 million votes respectively.

"A free people is one that is respected, and we are going to fight for our freedom," Gonzalez said. "Dear friends, I understand your indignation, but our response from the

democratic sectors is of calmness and firmness." Venezuelans vote using electronic machines, which record votes and provide every voter a paper receipt that shows the candidate of their choice. Voters are supposed to deposit their receipt at ballot boxes before exiting the polls.

After polls close, each machine prints a tally sheet showing the candidates' names and the votes they received.

But the ruling party wields tight control over the voting system, both through a loyal five-member electoral council and a network of longtime local party coordinators who get near unrestricted access to voting centres. Those coordinators, some of whom are responsible for handing out government benefits including subsidised food, have blocked representatives of opposition parties from entering voting centres as allowed by law to witness the voting process, vote counting and, crucially, to obtain a copy of the machines' final tally sheet. (AP)

## China condemns 'assassination' of Hamas chief in Iran

**BEIJING (TIP):** China on July 31 said it condemned the "assassination" of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in a strike in Tehran, warning it could lead to further instability in the region.

**"WE ARE HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND FIRMLY OPPOSE AND CONDEMN THE ASSASSINATION," FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN LIN JIAN SAID.**

**"WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THIS INCIDENT MAY LEAD TO FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE REGIONAL SITUATION," HE ADDED.**



"China has always advocated resolving regional disputes through negotiation and dialogue," he added.

"Gaza should achieve a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire as soon as possible to avoid further escalation of conflict and confrontation," Lin said.

Hamas said Wednesday that Haniyeh had been killed in an Israeli strike in

Iran, where he was attending the inauguration of the country's new president, and vowed the act "will not go unanswered". China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and supportive of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It has positioned itself as a more neutral actor on the Israel-Palestinian conflict than its rival the United States, advocating for a two-state solution while also maintaining good ties with Israel.

This month, China hosted rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah in Beijing, where they signed an agreement to form a "national unity government" in post-war Gaza. (AFP)

## RUSSIA LAUNCHES ITS BIGGEST DRONE BARRAGE AGAINST UKRAINE IN 7 MONTHS; NO INJURIES REPORTED

**KYIV (TIP):** Ukrainian forces shot down all 89 Shahed drones launched by Russia in a nighttime attack on the country, Ukraine's air force said July 31, in what was one of the largest drone barrages this year.

No damage or injuries were immediately reported in the bombardment, which mostly targeted the region of Kyiv, the capital.

Russia used the same number of Shahed drones in a Jan. 1 attack, an air force statement said.

Both Ukraine and Russia have relied extensively on explosive drones during the war and have scrambled to come up with more countermeasures.

The Russian drones are being shot down by Ukraine's Soviet-era aircraft, according to Anatolii Khrapchynskiy, an aviation expert in Kyiv.

"The air force is using electronic jamming against the drones' GPS which forces the drones to fly at a higher altitude, which then makes it easier for Ukrainian aircraft to strike them down," he told The Associated Press.

He said that tactic will likely also be used when U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets are delivered in coming weeks by Kyiv's European partners.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces said they struck more military targets on Russian soil overnight. They hit a warehouse for weapon storage and military equipment in the border region of Kursk, a statement from Ukraine's General Staff said. (AP)

## HEZBOLLAH SAYS TOP COMMANDER SHUKR WAS IN BEIRUT BUILDING HIT BY ISRAEL

**BEIRUT (TIP):** Hezbollah said July 31 that senior military commander Fuad Shukr was inside a south Beirut building hit by Israel the previous day but that his fate remained unknown. The strike, which was followed by another, hours later, which killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, triggered fears the war in Gaza could escalate into a region-wide conflict. The Israeli military said its Tuesday strike had "eliminated" Shukr; a top Hezbollah commander it blamed for carrying out a weekend rocket attack on the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children in a Druze Arab town. Hezbollah said in a statement that "the great jihadist commander brother Fuad Shukr (Hajj Mohsen) was present" in the building targeted by "the Zionist enemy". Rescue teams "have been working since the incident happened... to remove the rubble... and we are still waiting for the results of this operation regarding the fate of the great commander and other citizens. (AP)

## PAKISTAN

**30 KILLED, 145 INJURED  
IN CLASHES BETWEEN  
TWO TRIBES IN PAKISTAN**

**PESHAWAR (TIP)** : At least 30 people were killed and 145 others injured in armed clashes between two tribes fighting over a piece of land in Pakistan's restive tribal district in northwest, officials said on July 28.

Officials said that heavy clashes started five days ago in Boshera village in Upper Kurram district, which has witnessed deadly conflicts among tribes and religious groups as well as sectarian clashes and militant attacks in the past. Police said the tribal clashes left 30 people dead and 145 others injured in the last five days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan. Officials with the help of tribal elders, military leadership, police and district administration have brokered a truce between Shia and Sunni tribes in Boshera, Malikhel and Dandar areas a short while ago, police said.

However, firing is still continuing in some other parts of the district. An official said efforts were being made to reach a ceasefire in the remaining areas too.

Clashes broke out between the two tribes over a land dispute four days ago. The clashes spread to other areas such as Peewar, Tangi, Balishkhel and Khaar Kalay. (PTI)

**PAKISTANI WOMAN  
SAVING MONEY FOR HER  
HERNIA SURGERY DIES  
BY SUICIDE AFTER SHE  
GETS INFLATED  
ELECTRICITY BILL**

**GUJRANWALA (TIP)**: A 65-year-old woman, Razia Bibi suffering from a hernia, committed suicide after using her treatment money to pay an unexpected electricity bill, ARY News reported. She had carefully set aside funds for her treatment, but the sudden bill left her with no other option, leading to a tragic sequence of events. She had diligently saved money for her hernia operation.

However, when faced with an unexpected electricity bill of Pakistani currency (PKR) 10,000, she had no choice but to use her medical savings to settle the payment, as per ARY News.

Following this, the son of Razia Bibi stated that his mother had gone out to buy medicine but was deeply distressed over the financial setback, overcome by despair, she jumped into a nearby drain, as per the police officials. "I met traders and industrialists here in the past week and they lamented, 'we are at our limits and cannot run our factories anymore,'" Rehman said, as reported by Dawn. He highlighted the broader economic impact, pointing out that the closure of a single factory results in thousands of people losing their jobs. (ANI)

**150 people killed in student unrest,  
says Bangladesh govt; announces  
nationwide mourning**

**DHAKA (TIP)**: For the first time, the Bangladesh government on July 29 officially acknowledged that 150 people were killed across the country during the students' unrest over the quota system.

Violence gripped Bangladesh recently and the government called in the army to quell protests against job quotas.

The protests, which started in universities and colleges earlier this month, quickly turned into a more widespread agitation against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government.

The unrest has left several thousand people, including policemen, wounded and major government installations damaged.

"The government has decided that a nationwide mourning will be observed tomorrow...People have been urged to wear black badges to mourn the deaths (during the violence)," Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain told a media briefing after a meeting chaired by Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

He said mosques, temples, pagodas and churches across the country were also urged to offer prayers for the departed souls and the wounded people.

The top bureaucrat said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal presented a report at the meeting about the overall situation and confirmed 150 deaths in clashes across the country.

The announcement came on a day when the military and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets of the capital Dhaka while police in riot gear enforced a strict vigil as a faction of the protesting



students overnight called a new round of protests.

The group called the new protest after six of their coordinators announced the withdrawal of the demonstrations, which the protestors said was obtained under duress in police custody.

The six student leaders in an appearance before the media overnight announced the withdrawal of the street demonstrations as their demand for reforms in the quota system was met by the government following a Supreme Court order.

"We have mobilised forces to prevent fresh violence," a police official said.

Witnesses and live TV footage showed the security forces guarding major points in the capital with military and

police armoured personnel carriers patrolling the streets alongside the paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh.

The protests subsided after the apex Appellate Division of unitary Bangladesh's Supreme Court on July 21 ordered a massive quota reform, keeping only seven per cent of reserve posts instead of the existing 56 per cent.

The government subsequently issued a Gazette notification in line with the order saying 93 per cent of jobs would be open to candidates on merit.

"Our main demand for logical reforms to the government job quota system has been met," student coordinator Nahid Islam on Sunday said in a video message, calling for educational institutions to be open. (PTI)

**BANGLADESH BANS BNP  
ALLY JAMAAT UNDER ANTI-  
TERRORISM LAW**

**DHAKA (TIP)**: Bangladesh on August 2 banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law following nationwide unrest over the quota system for government jobs, accusing the fundamentalist party of instigating protests that left at least 150 people dead.

A notification issued by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed the ban on the Islamist party, a key ally of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The ban on Jamaat, Chhatra Shibir and other associated groups came through an executive order under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

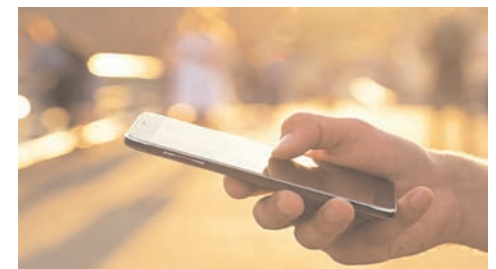
"They (Jamaat-Shibir and BNP) just used the students as their shield," PM Sheikh Hasina said on Thursday when Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro called on her at her here. (PTI)

**PILOT IN NEPAL CRASH  
SURVIVED AS COCKPIT  
SPLIT FROM AIRCRAFT**

**KATHMANDU (TIP)**: Captain Manish Raj Shakya, the lone survivor of a deadly plane crash in Nepal that killed 18 people, was saved after the aircraft's cockpit was sheared off by a freight container seconds before the rest of the aircraft went up in flames, a report said on August 1.

Airport Security Office Ram Dutt Joshi said: "We rescued Shakya from inside the container." Doctors said the pilot was "free from danger" and can speak. He can also consume liquid food.

Meanwhile, Nepalese authorities on Thursday recovered the black box of the aircraft that crashed here a day before and handed it over to a probe team formed to inquire into the tragic accident that killed 18 persons, including a child. (PTI)

**Mobile Internet restored in  
Bangladesh**

**DHAKA (TIP)** : The mobile Internet connection was restored in Bangladesh on July 28, 10 days after it was restricted by authorities across the country to stop the spread of fake news on social media amidst the deadly nationwide violence over reforms in the quota system in government jobs.

Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak announced that 5GB Internet will be given for free to all users for three days after the connection is restored, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. (PTI)



# Sikh History This Week

## AUGUST 2 TO AUGUST 8

### 2nd August



1764 Baba Budha Singh Ji relinquished control and bestowed the control of Sirhind to Baba Ala Singh Patiala.

### 3rd August

1977 Kartar Singh Khalsa Bhindrawalia was seriously injured in a car accident.

### 4th August

1982 Gurbakash Singh tried to hijack Indian Airline plane to Lahore.

1982 Dharam Yudh morcha to seek Sikh demands was launched by Akali Dal. Additionally, the morcha initiated by Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalia, for release of Amrik Singh was also included in this.

1987 A convention was held in Amritsar. Despite risk to their lives at the hands of Indian police gangs, some Sikh leaders attended the convention. The generals of the army of Khalistan, in this convention, confirmed their goal of total freedom from India.

Darshan Singh Ragi, chief Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat, tried to support the Hindu allies but he was snubbed by the Sikh generals. Some of his words were in complete contradiction to the Sikh fundamentals. As a result he, ipso facto, ceased to be the Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat. The Delhi regime tried to reinstate him, but the Sikh Nation with one voice, rejected the un-Sikh ideas and confirmed the goal of freedom for Khalsistan.

### 5th August



1992 Bhagat Puran Singh Ji, a panthic saewak who devoted his entire live in service of humankind, passed away. Bhagat Puran Singh, the legendary Saint of Amritsar. Bhagat Puran Singh died in Chandigarh on 4th August 1992. aged 88. Born Ramji Das at Rajewal, district Ludhiana, the sensitive Child, sickened by ritualism and priestly arrogance, readily embraced Sikhism with encouragement from his pious mother, Mehtab Kaur. Soon Gurbani saturated his whole being with love and compassion for all humanity, in the spirit of Guru Nanak's exhortation Jete jiv tete sabh tere, vinn seva phal kisei nahi. All living things, 0 Lord,

reflect your glory; there is no fruit nobler than taking care of them. Thus began a remarkably humane mission when in 1924, he picked up a four-year old polio-stricken child abandoned near Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore. On Partition in 1947 he set up Pingalwara at Amritsar with scores of sick and disabled, eventually moving to the present sprawling home for hundreds of destitutes, orphans and mentally ill, where he ministered personally to their physical, mental and spiritual health, to the end, with financial help from far and wide. Credited with little formal education, Bhagat Puran Singh nevertheless started a crusade for ecology and environment long before the 1992 Earth Summit. A relentless pamphleteer for every good social cause, he used only recycled, paper for printing in his press. Shy of publicity and utterly free of ambition, he returned the 1977 Padma-Sliri award in the wake of army assault on his beloved Harmandir Sahib. His nomination for Nobel Peace Prize in India and abroad, earlier this year, found him serenely unconcerned. We mourn his passing away, even as we rejoice that so great a man of God sanctified our land and illumined our lives.

### 6th August

1923 Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) resolved to launch Nabha Agitation at Jaito.

1925 The Nabha agitation at Jaito was successfully concluded after performing 101 akhand path as a sort of penance for disruption of one akhand path two years earlier.

1947 Sikhs meet with British government regarding Vatican status for Nankana Sahib and other Gurudwaras.



1978 Dal Khalsa came into being at Gurdwara Akalgarh, Sector 35, Chandigarh. A large number of Sikh Youth Organisations participated in this meeting and discussed the affairs of the Panth. They decided to form an organisation in the name of "Dal Khalsa."

1983 Amrik Singh and Baba Thara Singh were released. They were arrested on July 18, 1982. Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalia had organized a morcha for their release.

### 7th August

1765 Baba Ala Singh passed away. BABA AALLA SINGH JI was born in village Phull to father Baba Ram



Singh Phulwansi and mother Saabhi. He was introduced to amrit by Baba Deep Singh Ji, in TheekriWala village. In sunmat 1810, he laid the foundation stone of a temporary structure for the Patiala fort while the construction of a permanent structure began in sunmat 1820. Simultaneously he founded the Patiala city. Barnala, Longowal, Sunaam, Bathinda, and Patiala were under his control. He passed away on 22nd Aug. 1765 in Patiala.

1925 Gurudwara Act published in Gurdwara Gazette.

1942 Independent Punjab movement initiate.

1965 Fateh Singh, then President of Shiromani Akali Dal, met with the then Prime Minister of India, Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri. This meeting is considered a significant in resolving Sikh demands.

### 8th August

1881 Lord Ripon's statement exposed the Britishers true desires that they never wanted Sikhs to be the masters of their Gurudwaras. He wrote, "I think it would be politically dangerous to allow the management of the Sikh temples to fall into the hands of a committee emancipated from government control." As such the mahants under the government thumb failed to become the honest interpreters of the wishes of the Panth. For example, they issued a Hukamnama from Sri Akal Takhat in 1915 condemning the Komagata Maru Sikhs. Subsequently, they instituted the election system among Gurudwaras, the most evil system that has ensured friction and continued disunity among the Sikh community to date. There is no religious or spiritual group in the world where leaders are not appointed based on merit but rather elected based popular vote.



1898 Raja Bikram Singh of Frikot, who published the "Frikoti Teeka" passed away.

1922 Guru Ka Bagh morcha was launched. 5 GurSikh saewadars were arrested and charged with cutting wood for Guru ka Langar from Guru Kae Bagh. The undercurrent of official hostility blew up in the form of "Guru Ka morcha" agitation. On instructions from the Home Secretary, District Magistrate Amritsar ordered the mass scale arrest of Akalis. The authorities obtained a complaint, from a reluctant Mahant, on cutting of useless "kikar" trees. The institution of criminal proceedings against 5 Akalis lokking after the Gurudwara, and their conviction the following day to 6 months rigorous imprisonment, provoked the Sikhs to assert their right. This provided an opportunity for the authorities to wreak untold atrocities on thosusands of Akali volunteers over a period of three months. It was remarkable the way the Akali volunteers offered themselves to be beaten mercilessly without raising an arm. They heroically kept the vow of non-violence taken before the Akal Takhat. It was not for nothing that the Golden Hawk, popularly associated with Guru Gobind Singh, was sighted daily at Guru Ka Bagh, and gave the Guru's blessings to his devotees, and assured them success.

# Perfume etiquette: Ways to avoid perfume offender tag

Your perfume speaks before you do, however, just picking out any bottle from the stack is not the final step. Dress etiquette has been extensively written about, yet all perfume etiquette gets is a summary: Don't put too much. There is undoubtedly more to fragrance etiquette than just recommending its moderate use. Let's look at a few of the most overlooked perfume-wearing advice to avoid getting a bad rap.

Here are some tips and trick to up your fragrance game and maintain a classy perfume etiquette:

## Choose the proper fragrance

It would help to choose the appropriate scent to use even before keeping track of the spritzes. Before purchasing, perform a patch test of the scent on your body to see how it aligns with your body chemistry, specifically your natural scent. What works well for your friend or favourite influencer might not be effective for you. Find your unique scent.

## Think about the situation

When and where will you wear the fragrance? The venue's and the event's fragrances should match. On a night out, a strong, seductive scent could be perfect, but it will not be suited for your workplace. Choose milder fragrances during the day. When visiting a hospital, attending a baby shower, or attending an interview for your desired job, be discreet or don't dab. In public settings, too, wear mild fragrances. Remember, perfume is supposed to be discovered, not announced.

## Say it, don't spray it?

Spritz your perfume in a private location, such as your home, car, or the restroom. Always step away and spray if you need to touch up your perfume in public. Never spray your perfume in the public transport or a restaurant. Not everyone wants to smell like you, even if your perfume is good.

## Avoid wearing expired perfume

After six to twelve months, the makeup of even the highest-quality scents changes. Exquisite notes that have already been opened tend to become harsh or sour with time. Remember to finish bottles on time. If it's expired, it's time to buy a new one.



## Avoid using it to cover up other odor

Perfume is not a magic wand. It cannot clear a strong scent such as that of cigarette smoke or alcohol, even if it may temporarily mask it for some time. Even then, the extra spritz of perfume are a giveaway. It's better to let the other odour settle down, or use soap and water to the extent possible, before spraying on perfume.

## Apply from a distance

The ideal distance to spray eau de toilette is six inches. Don't concentrate the spray in one spot. Apply on the pulse points (where you feel the heartbeat), such as the underside of your neck, your wrist, behind your ear, or above your elbow. Apply it to the chest or arms underneath your garments if you're a male who prefers a mild aroma all day.

## Stick to your body

Whatever they advise, don't pour perfume on your clothes. Clothes can be ruined and stained by perfumes. Instead of your fabric conditioner, perfumes are made to respond to the chemistry of your skin. Do not apply perfume to your hair.

## Stay within your fragrance circle

The golden rule of perfumes, "don't put too much," parallels this. An arm's length away from your body, a smell circle can be filled with two spritzes on average. It's better to not leave behind a fragrance trail.

## FOOD CORNER

# Kesar Peda

## Ingredients

500g Soft white milk fudge (khoya)  
300gms sugar powdered  
½ tsp cardamom powder  
1 tsp cardamom seeds semi crushed  
1tbsp slivered or crushed pistachios  
A few strands of saffron  
1tbsp warm milk  
2 drops saffron color (optional)

## Method

- Soak the saffron in warm milk.
- Crumble the milk fudge. If very hard, grate the fudge. Add powdered sugar and mix well.
- Put mixture in a large heavy or nonstick pan. Heat on medium high for few minutes. Reduce the flame and cook till soft and gooey.
- Make sure to stir continuously, while on heat. When mixture is thick and gooey, add cardamom and saffron. Add the color if desired.
- Mix well, and take off fire. Allow to cool, gently turning occasionally.
- Use cookie molds, or shape pedas with palms into patty rounds. Mix pistachios and cardamom seeds and press a bit on top of each.
- If using molds, first sprinkle some at bottom. Take some mixture and press into mold. When set well, invert and carefully, unmold.



# Make this hair spray at home to reduce hair fall



Hairfall has become a cause of trouble for many people these days. There can be many reasons behind this. Hair starts falling due to many reasons like stress, lack of essential nutrients in the body, dandruff, excess oil on the scalp, hormonal imbalance and chemical treatment. To reduce hairfall, you do not need expensive treatments, but you need to try some home remedies. Many types of oils, sprays and masks made at home can increase hair growth. If you are also troubled by hairfall, hair is falling and becoming thin and has lost its growth and shine, then to increase hair growth, you can easily make hair spray at home. This will reduce hairfall and hair can grow up to the waist. But, also pay attention to your diet and lifestyle.

## Make this hair spray at home to increase hair growth

- Aloe vera gel and coconut oil reduces hair fall and thinning.
- Aloe vera has antibacterial properties. It also reduces scalp infections. Vitamin A, Vitamin B12 and Vitamin E are found in aloe vera. It strengthens the hair and gives shine to the hair.
- Aloe vera contains alonine, which helps in increasing hair growth.
- It increases hair growth, making hair long and thick.
- Coconut oil has anti-oxidants and anti-inflammatory properties. It reduces hair fall and strengthens the hair from the roots.

- This nourishes the hair.
- It also has anti-fungal properties. It removes scalp infections.

## Material

- Aloe vera gel - quarter cup
- Water - one and half cup
- Coconut oil - 2 teaspoons

## Method

- Mix water and aloe vera gel well.
- Now add coconut oil and mix it.
- After mixing it well in a bowl, fill it in a spray bottle.
- Shake the bottle well before each use.
- Spray it on your hair while sleeping.
- You can also spray it 1 hour before washing your hair.

# Cholesterol and vision problems might be secret dementia triggers: Study

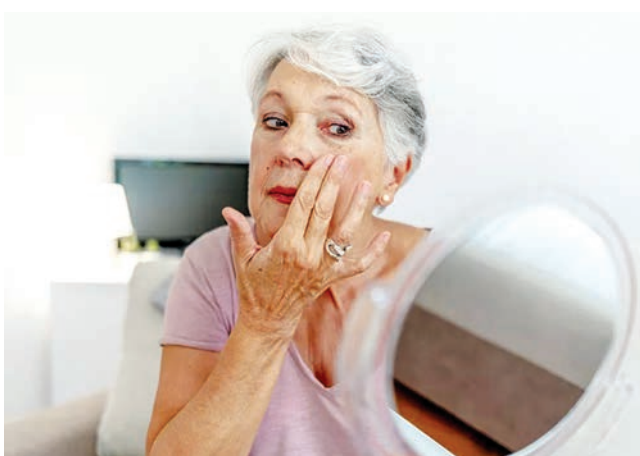
A new Lancet Commission report highlights high cholesterol and untreated vision loss as major new risks for dementia, which affects memory and thinking skills. Alzheimer's Disease, the most common type of dementia, makes up 60-70% of cases. The report shows that these issues account for nine percent of all dementia cases. Seven percent of dementia cases are linked to high levels of bad cholesterol (LDL) that often rise around age 40, while untreated vision problems contribute to two percent of cases. So, keep those cholesterol levels in check and get those eyes examined.

The report, written by 27 top dementia experts, underscores the importance of managing cholesterol and addressing vision issues to lower the risk of developing dementia. With dementia listed as the seventh leading cause of death worldwide by the World Health Organization (WHO), this new research is particularly relevant for India.

Suvarna Alladi, a professor of neurology at NIMHANS in Bengaluru and a key author of the report, points out that dementia affects 7.4% of people over 60 in India, with around 8.8 million individuals living with the condition. "Age remains the strongest risk factor for dementia, but this new evidence highlights why we need to prioritise screening and treating vision loss and managing cholesterol levels in older adults to help reduce dementia cases," she says.

In 2020, the Lancet Commission identified 12 key risk factors for dementia, including low levels of education, hearing impairment, high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, depression, physical inactivity, diabetes, excessive alcohol consumption, traumatic brain injury (TBI), air pollution, and social isolation.

A meta-analysis of three UK studies involving over 1.1 million people under 65 found that every 1 mmol/L increase in LDL cholesterol raised dementia risk by eight percent. Another study with 1.2 million participants showed that LDL cholesterol levels over 3



mmol/L increased the risk of dementia by 33 percent. Additionally, a large UK study of 1.8 million people tracked for 7.4 years confirmed that higher LDL cholesterol levels are linked to a greater risk of dementia. Researchers say this connection arises because excess cholesterol raises stroke risk and leads to the buildup of amyloid  $\beta$  and tau proteins, which disrupt brain cell function.

High levels of LDL cholesterol are linked to increased amyloid buildup in the brain. "Several factors explain the connection between high LDL cholesterol (levels above 100 mg/dL) and brain amyloid accumulation," says Dr. Faheem Arshad, assistant professor of neurology at NIMHANS. These include heightened activity of amyloid-producing enzymes like secretases, reduced clearance of amyloid from the brain, negative impacts on neuron cells, and damage to the blood-brain barrier due to inflammatory processes.

Researchers highlight that "individual counselling on diet and exercise has limited effects on lowering LDL cholesterol. Statins, which are being studied for their potential benefits in Alzheimer's Disease, show promise due to their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties." *Source: HT*



## Eating a vegan diet for short period can help reduce biological age: Study

Eating a vegan diet for eight weeks can help reduce biological age estimations, according to a small study.

Knowing the biological age can help understand the risk of diabetes or dementia. The research, published in the journal BMC Medicine, showed that the age reduction observed was based on levels of DNA methylation—a type of chemical modification of DNA (known as an epigenetic modification) that alters gene expression but not DNA itself.

The new study, a randomised, controlled trial of 21 pairs of adult identical twins, investigated the molecular effects of a short-term vegan diet.

The team instructed one-half of each twin pair to eat an omnivorous diet for eight weeks—including between 170 and 225 grams of meat, one egg, and one-and-a-half servings of dairy each day—and the other half to eat a vegan diet for the same length of time.

The team found decreases in estimates of biological age—known as epigenetic ageing clocks—in participants who ate a vegan diet but not among those that ate an omnivorous diet.

People on a vegan diet also had decreases in the ages of the heart, hormone, liver, and inflammatory and metabolic systems. They also lost two kilograms more on average than those who ate an omnivorous diet due to differences in the calorie contents.

The findings are unclear, said the team stressing the need to investigate further the relationship between dietary composition, weight, and ageing. *Source: IANS*

## New model boosts diagnosis accuracy for cardiac arrest

Japanese researchers have developed a new model that can help predict the outcomes of patients who suffer from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA).

In cardiac arrest cases, immediate action is crucial, as it can determine the patient's survival. Timely intervention not only improves the chances of recovery but also minimises the risk of severe complications.

Researchers from Osaka Metropolitan University developed the R-EDByUS score, a scoring model that uses prehospital resuscitation data to predict outcomes in OHCA patients.

The R-EDByUS score comprises five variables: age, duration to return of spontaneous circulation or time to hospital arrival, absence of bystander CPR, whether the arrest



was witnessed, and initial heart rhythm (shockable versus non-shockable).

Cardiac arrest, which can result in death within minutes, is a critical emergency with low survival rates. Accurate early prediction models are crucial in OHCA cases, potentially saving lives and reducing unnecessary healthcare costs.

"Current prognosis prediction

models require complex calculations and blood test data, making them impractical for rapid use immediately after patient transport," explained Takenobu Shimada, a medical lecturer at the University's Graduate School of Medicine. The model demonstrated high predictive accuracy, with C-statistics values around 0.85, indicating excellent performance. "The R-EDByUS score enables high-precision prognosis prediction immediately upon hospital arrival, and its application via smartphone or tablet makes it suitable for everyday clinical use," Shimada noted.

This new tool is expected to be invaluable for healthcare providers, aiding in the prompt assessment and management of patients undergoing resuscitation. *Source: IANS*

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### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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## NASA images reveal complex history of two near-earth asteroids

NASA's DART spacecraft, prior to its historic impact on the asteroid Dimorphos in 2022, captured high-resolution images of both Dimorphos and its larger counterpart Didymos.

These images have allowed scientists to decode the intricate history of these near-Earth asteroids and understand the formation of binary asteroid systems, which consist of a primary asteroid with a smaller moonlet orbiting it. Analysis of Didymos's craters and surface strength suggests it formed around 12.5 million years ago, while Dimorphos is estimated to have formed about 300,000 years ago.

Didymos likely originated in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter before being pushed into the inner solar system.

Examination of the largest boulders on Didymos and Dimorphos revealed that these asteroids are made up of rocky fragments from the destruction of a parent asteroid.

"These large boulders could not have formed from impacts on the surfaces of Didymos and Dimorphos themselves," said Maurizio Pajola of the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) in Italy. Pajola explained that such impacts would have shattered the asteroids, according a report by Reuters.

Didymos, with a diameter of about 780 meters, and Dimorphos, roughly 170 meters wide, are classified as "rubble pile" asteroids. Their surfaces are strewn with boulders, with the largest on Dimorphos comparable to a school bus and on Didymos as large as a soccer field. Olivier Barnouin from Johns Hopkins University noted that the surfaces of both asteroids are much weaker than loose sand.

The study shows that Dimorphos likely formed from material ejected from Didymos's equatorial region due to the latter's faster rotation in the past. Didymos currently rotates once every 2.25 hours. The DART mission, which struck Dimorphos on September 26, 2022, at approximately 14,000 miles per hour, successfully demonstrated the ability to alter an asteroid's trajectory, although Didymos and Dimorphos pose no immediate threat to Earth.

# What are 'metacrimes' – and how can we stop them?

The Apple Vision Pro is the newest tool for Australians to access three-dimensional, immersive online environments, also known as the metaverse. Released in Australia earlier this month, it allows users to take a (virtual) walk in the savanna from their living room, watch sports matches in an immersive environment, or even buy a house after completing a virtual inspection.

But these new online environments also have the potential to enable new crimes. Metacrimes are those crimes occurring in the metaverse. They challenge our definitions of crimes in the digital realm, because they do not fit into existing frameworks of reporting and investigating crime.

Our new study tackles this problem by shedding light on the key characteristics of metacrimes. And by understanding these crimes better, we will be better able to fight them.

### Metaverse, metacrime and cybercrime

The metaverse is a loose term describing a kind of three-dimensional, virtual world that users access via a virtual reality headset. The 2018 movie 'Ready Player One' provides a good visualisation of what the metaverse might look like. In the movie, people put on special goggles and pick their avatar to enter a massive, interactive digital universe where they can do almost anything.

Immersion is created through a number of sensory techniques in the headset, including visual, sound and haptic (touch). This creates a feeling of spatial presence that allows the user to perceive and experience the virtual space as real. This means negative experiences such as sexual violence and harassment also feel real.

Unless you are constantly recording your interactions in the metaverse via your headset, crucial evidence of that unpleasant interaction would not be captured. Some companies have created user controls, such as a safety bubble that can be activated around your avatar. However, we do not yet have sufficient research to know whether these are effective.

Our study argues the impact of metacrimes will also be exacerbated for vulnerable populations, especially children who occupy a large proportion of active metaverse users. Difficulties in verifying children's age online add extra concerns about grooming and minor abuse. These risks are not hypothetical.

In 2022, researchers from the Centre for Countering Digital Hate conducted 11 hours and 30 minutes of recorded user interactions on Meta's Oculus headset in the popular VRChat. They found that users, including children, encounter abusive behaviour approximately every seven minutes.

Bullying and sexual harassment was



### What are Metacrimes?

Metacrimes are those crimes occurring in the metaverse. They challenge our definitions of crimes in the digital realm, because they do not fit into existing frameworks of reporting and investigating crime. Our new study tackles this problem by shedding light on the key characteristics of metacrimes. And by understanding these crimes better, we will be better able to fight them.

### Crimes in Metaverse

The metaverse is a loose term describing a kind of three-dimensional, virtual world that users access via a virtual reality headset. The 2018 movie Ready Player One provides a good visualisation of what the metaverse might look like. In the movie, people put on special goggles and pick their avatar to enter a massive, interactive digital universe where they can do almost anything.

also rife, and minors were often manipulated into using racist slurs and promoting extremist ideas.

In January 2024, police in the United Kingdom launched the first case of rape in the metaverse after a 16-year-old girl's avatar was attacked. Police reported the victim suffered psychological and emotional trauma, similar to an attack in the physical world.

The outcomes of the case are currently pending and are likely to set a legal precedent for the protection of minors in the metaverse. At the moment, metacrime presents new challenges in defining, measuring and pursuing avatars' liability that conventional cybercrime does not usually confront.

We also found other risks including hacking and recording of a person's environment. Manipulation of VR technologies, such as haptic suites that enable users to physically engage with virtual spaces, also enable perpetrators to inflict direct physical harm on users.

This can include inflicting visual vertigo, motion sickness, and neurologic symptoms.

### Where to from here?

Major tech companies such as Apple, Meta and Microsoft are investing heavily in the metaverse, developing both hardware and software to enhance their platforms.

Research firm Gartner predicted by

2026, 25 per cent of people will spend at least an hour each day in the metaverse for work, shopping, education, social media and entertainment.

This prediction may be not too far away from reality. Australia's eSafety Commissioner's national online safety survey conducted in 2022 found 49 per cent of metaverse users said they had entered the metaverse at least once a month in the last year.

It is therefore urgent that governments and tech companies develop metaverse-specific legal and regulatory frameworks to safeguard immersive virtual environments. National and international legal frameworks will need to account for the new characteristics of metacrime we have identified. Law enforcement will need to upskill in metacrime reporting and investigations.

In the past, companies have talked about using new technologies responsibly – but haven't taken responsibility when their platforms were used for crimes and harms. Instead, tech leaders deploy what researchers are now calling an "artful apology" (for example, "I'm sorry you experienced this on our platform").

But this does nothing tangible to tackle the problem, and metaverse companies should instil clear regulatory frameworks for their virtual environments to make them safe for everyone to inhabit. *Source: PTI*



## Economic Survey not binding, no rethink on FDI from China: Govt

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said there is no rethinking in the government to support foreign direct investments (FDI) from China as was pitched by the Economic Survey recently.

He said it was a report that always speaks about new ideas and gives out their own thinking.

The Survey, he said, is not at all binding on the government and there is no thinking on supporting Chinese investments in the country.

"There is no rethinking at present to support Chinese investments in the country," the minister told reporters here. In 2020, the government made its approval mandatory for FDI from countries that share land border with India. Countries which share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.

The minister was responding on a pitch made by the pre-Budget Economic Survey on July 22 for seeking FDI from China to boost local manufacturing and tap the export market. *Source: PTI*

# Digital economy to make up 1/5th of GDP by 2026: RBI

MUMBAI (TIP)

India's digital economy is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026 from one-tenth at present, according to a Reserve Bank report.

In the foreword of 'Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2023-24', Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised that digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking and improving access to financial services at affordable cost.

India is at the forefront of the digital revolution, the report said. The country has embraced not just financial technology (FinTech) by speeding up digital payments but has also celebrated India Stack comprising biometric identification, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile connectivity, digital lockers and consent-based data sharing.

The digital revolution is galvanising banking infrastructure and public finance management systems covering both direct benefit transfers and tax collections, the report said. Vibrant e-markets are springing up and expanding their reach.

"It is estimated that the digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of India's GDP; going by growth rates observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026," the report said. Several enabling forces have come together to energise this revolution. Although internet penetration in India was at 55 per cent in 2023, the internet user base has grown by 199 million in the recent three years.

India's cost per gigabyte (GB) of data consumed is the lowest globally at an average of Rs 13.32 per GB. India also has one of the highest mobile data consumption in the world, with an average per-user per-month consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023.

### Bank credit growth declines, gold loans rise 30.5%, credit card outstanding rises by Rs 51,000 cr

An Unfavourable base effect brought down the overall non-food credit growth of the banks to 13.9 per cent at Rs 163.46 lakh crore as of June 30, 2024 as against 16.3 per cent in June 2023, even as gold and housing loans rose sharply, according to the Reserve Bank's latest data. The growth in credit card outstanding, meanwhile, declined during the 12-month period.

Analysts have attributed the slower rate to RBI measures such as higher risk weights on unsecured loans, a higher base



effect and banks' focus on managing the credit-to-deposit ratio. Gold loan outstanding jumped by 30.5 per cent to Rs 123,776 crore as of June 2024 from Rs 94,872 crore (19.3 per cent growth) in June 2023. Credit card outstanding rose by Rs 51,000 crore to Rs 273,044 crore, showing a slower growth of 23.3 per cent as against 37.6 per cent a year ago, according to RBI data.

"The rise in gold loans could be due to the sharp rise in gold prices in the last one year which prompted people to pledge gold to raise finances," said a banking source. Gold loan NBFCs also hold a sizeable gold portfolio with Muthoot Finance alone accounting for a loan asset portfolio of Rs 63,200 crore in 2023.

Overall growth in the personal loan segment was lower at 16.6 per cent (Rs 50.91 lakh crore) in June 2024 as compared to 21.3 per cent a year ago, largely due to moderation in growth recorded in 'other personal loans' and 'advances against fixed deposits'. However, credit growth to housing, the largest constituent of the segment, accelerated by 18.2 per cent at Rs 24.27 lakh crore in June 2024 from 14.8 per cent (Rs 20.52 lakh crore) a year ago, RBI data shows.

RBI measures to check the unprecedented growth in unsecured loans had slowed down the growth in the segment. In November 2023, the RBI had increased risk weight on the exposure of banks towards consumer credit, credit card receivables and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 per cent up to 150 per cent. The move was aimed to address build-up of any risks in these segments.

The Federal Reserve, in its latest meeting, decided to keep the federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent for the eighth time. In its statement, the Fed observed that job gains in the U.S. economy have moderated, while the unemployment rate has increased slightly but remains low.

"In support of its goals, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 5-1/4 to 5-1/2 per cent," the Fed announced on July 31.

The Fed also noted that recent data indicates economic activity in the U.S. has continued to expand at a solid pace.

The committee reaffirmed its commitment to achieving maximum employment and a long-term inflation rate of 2 per cent. It believes that the risks to reaching these goals are becoming more balanced. However, the economic outlook remains uncertain, and the committee is vigilant about the risks to both sides of its dual mandate.

Looking ahead, the committee

## US Federal Reserve maintains rate at 5.25-5.5% for 8th consecutive term



emphasized that it will carefully assess incoming data, evolving economic conditions, and the balance of risks.

The Fed stated, "The Committee does not expect it will be appropriate to reduce the target range until it has gained greater confidence that

inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 per cent."

Additionally, the Fed added it will continue to reduce its holdings of treasury securities, agency debt, and agency mortgage-backed securities.

The Fed reiterated its commitment to returning inflation to its 2 per cent objective. The committee added it will keep monitoring a wide range of information, including labour market conditions, inflation pressures and expectations, and financial and international developments, to determine the appropriate stance of monetary policy.

"The Committee's assessments will take into account a wide range of information, including readings on labour market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments," said Fed.

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The auspicious festival of Hariyali Teej is just around the corner, and the devotees of Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati are gearing up to mark this holy festival. There are three main Teej festivals celebrated by Hindus across the country - Hariyali Teej, Hartalika Teej, and Kajri Teej. They hold much significance because of their occurrence in the Sawan and Bhadrapada months. More specifically, Hariyali Teej falls on the third day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Sawan. If you are celebrating Hariyali Teej with your loved ones, it is important to learn about its history, significance and exact date. This year, the festival falls on August 7.

#### Legend

According to the legend associated with Hariyali Teej, Lord Shiva reminds Goddess Parvati about the number of times she took rebirths to win his heart. Mata Parvati had forgotten all that happened in the 107 previous births.

Therefore Lord Shiva narrated the stories of her struggles, determination and perseverance to her. Mata Parvati took her 108th birth at the house of the King of Himalayas.

During this birth, Mata Parvati performed intense penance to win Lord Shiva's heart. She survived on dry leaves after giving up food and water.

She braved harsh weather, hail and storm and continued with her penance. After seeing her undergo so much pain, her father was distraught.

A few days later, Devarshi Narada Muni visited her father's palace as Lord Vishnu's representative with a marriage proposal. After learning that Lord Vishnu has expressed his desire to marry his daughter, the father beamed with joy, but this news left Parvati devastated.

Therefore, she sought one of her friend's help and hid in a thick forest. The king of Himalayas sent his soldiers to nook and corner, but all their efforts went in vain.

Meanwhile, Lord Shiva appeared before Parvati and granted her the boon of having him as her husband. He also asked her to inform her father about her decision not to marry Lord Vishnu.

Eventually, after learning about his daughter's desire, the father invited Lord Shiva and got Parvati married to him.

#### Fasting Rituals and Traditions

The Hariyali Teej is marked by a series of fasting rituals and traditions that are deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of the festival.

Women across various regions observe a nirjala fast, which is a commitment to abstain from both food and water throughout the day. This practice is a testament to their devotion and the strength of their spiritual resolve.

Perform Aarti: Engage in the spiritual act of aarti, illuminating the sacred space with light.

Seek Blessings: Offer prayers for the prosperity and happiness of loved ones.

Breaking the Fast: Conclude the fast by offering water, fruits, and sweets to the moon.

#### Cultural Practices and Celebrations

Hariyali Teej is not just a festival; it's a vibrant expression of culture and tradition. Women dress in green saris and adorn themselves with henna and bangles, symbolizing growth and prosperity.

The day is filled with singing traditional folk songs and swinging on beautifully decorated swings, which are often set up on trees or in courtyards.

Community gatherings are common, where stories of Goddess Parvati's devotion to Lord Shiva are shared. These narratives reinforce the sanctity of marriage and the virtues of patience and devotion. The festivities also include a variety of local delicacies, each region adding its unique flavor to the celebration.

- Mehndi (Henna) Application
- Swinging on Decorated Jhoolas
- Singing Teej Songs
- Sharing of Hearty Meals
- Exchange of Gifts

The festival is a time for women to bond, share joys,

# Hariyali Teej

**HARIYALI TEEJ IS A VIBRANT FESTIVAL CELEBRATED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM IN PARTS OF INDIA, MARKING THE REUNION OF LORD SHIVA AND GODDESS PARVATI**



#### Important information

**Shravan Shukla Teej, Hariyali Teej**

**Wednesday, 07 August 2024**

**Tritiya Date Start - 06 August 2024 at 07:52 PM**

**Tritiya Date Ends - 07 August 2024 at 10:05 PM**

and pray for the well-being of their families. It's a day when the monsoon's freshness is welcomed with open hearts and the hope for a prosperous future.

#### Nirjala Fasting and Its Importance

Nirjala fasting on Hariyali Teej is a testament to the unwavering faith and devotion of many women who abstain from both food and water throughout the day.

This form of fasting is a profound demonstration of determination and self-discipline. It is not just a physical challenge but also a spiritual endeavor to seek blessings for the well-being of their families.

The practice of Nirjala fasting is deeply integrated into the festival's traditions, and it is observed with a series of rituals:

- Expressing the intention to fast and seeking divine blessings.
- Dressing in green attire to symbolize the monsoon's lushness.
- Performing Aarti and singing devotional songs.
- Breaking the fast traditionally after sighting the moon, with a simple meal offered to the moon first.

**“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**

#### Sankalp: The Vow of Fasting

The Sankalp is a solemn vow taken by women on the morning of Hariyali Teej, marking their commitment to the fast. It is a moment of spiritual reflection and dedication, where they express their intention to observe the Nirjala fast, abstaining from both food and water throughout the day.

This act is not merely a physical challenge but a testament to their determination and self-discipline.

The process of taking the Sankalp includes several steps, which are outlined below:

- Expressing the intention to fast and seeking divine blessings.
- Dedicating the fast to the prosperity and happiness of one's family.
- Adorning oneself in green attire, symbolizing the monsoon's verdure and the festival's spirit.
- Breaking the fast is equally significant and is traditionally done after sighting the moon. The fast is concluded with a simple meal, offered first to the moon, along with water, fruits, and sweets.

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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.”**



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



**ARIES** : Ganesha says people doing business will get new contacts this week. The economic situation will be strong. People doing jobs will have to complete their work. A new job offer will also come. Will get support from family. Will go on a trip to some religious place with family members, where everyone will look very happy. Will talk to acquaintances for the higher education of brothers and sisters. Today you will have to make such friends who will help you in your studies also. Health will gradually improve. You will get support from your spouse. You will help your spouse in his work. Your financial position will remain strong. Will also plan to buy some property. You will get many sources of income. You will get support from brothers and sisters. You will get support from your mother. Time is good for higher education. You will get opportunities to get an education from abroad also.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says this week you will get support from your family. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people. Married people will seem happy in their family life. Lovers will spend happy moments with each other. Those who want to pursue higher education can get good facilities. Students will have to concentrate completely on their studies, otherwise, they will not be able to get the desired results. Your financial condition will be good. Businesspeople will be successful in taking the business forward. People working will get support from their boss. There will be a gradual improvement in health. You may get benefits from ancestral property. You will also get benefits from government sectors. You can get your spouse to start some new work.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says employed people will get a new job offer this week. People doing business will be successful in taking their business forward. Students will be seen studying by making a daily routine. Your health will be good this week. You need to focus on activities where your body can rest. Your financial condition will improve. There are signs of financial gain from a family member. There are chances of going on a trip, which will be pleasant for you. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people. The obstacles coming in the marriage of brother and sister will end. You will get

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 11, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

good news from a distant relative. Parents will look very happy if their child gets a good job. You will feel proud of your child.



**CANCER** : Ganesha says there is no need to take too much stress regarding your financial condition this week, your financial condition will be better. There will be a possibility of family and household expenses. Your daily income will also be better. Married people will experience good relationships in life. Your love life will be better. You will go on a long drive with your partner and will also give gifts to each other. There will be some problems related to your career, but you will face those problems boldly. People working will get benefits due to their efficiency and creativity. Students will try their best to concentrate on their studies. Time is good for higher education. Your health will be better, but due to the changing weather, there will be ups and downs in your health. Worship will be organized at home. Everyone will be seen working together.



**LEO** : Ganesha says this week you will spend some time with friends. You will be seen sharing your happiness and sorrow. Will get support from family. Will spend happy moments with your spouse. Marriage proposals of unmarried people will be approved. Your love life will be better. People working in the workplace will complete their scheduled work on time. Higher officials will praise the work done by them. You will be a business success. Students will be seen working hard, due to which they will get the desired results. Your health will be better than before, but there may be ups and downs due to changing weather. The blessings of senior members will remain on you. Worship will be organized at home. Where all the relatives and acquaintances will come and go.



**VIRGO** : Ganesha says this week, married people will go on a long drive with their life partners, where they will get a chance to spend time with each other. Your love life will be better. All the family members will together plan a trip to some religious place. Those working away from home may miss their families. Along with studies, students will also participate in some different activities. Time is good for higher education. Your health will improve. People doing business will get new opportunities to take their business forward. The economic situation will be strong. People doing jobs will get praise from their superiors for their work. You may get support and support from your parents. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. Parents

will invest money for the future of their children.



**LIBRA** : Ganesha says this week businessmen will get a chance to expand their business. New contracts will also be available. Employed people will get opportunities for promotion in the job. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. You will receive your pending money. You will be able to complete all your pending tasks. If you want to take a loan then this is a good time. You can also invest in property. There is a possibility of getting financial benefits from ancestral property. You will get support from your spouse. Time is good for love relationships. Your health will be better. You will share your thoughts with your parents. Some puja will be organized at home, in which everyone will be coming and going. You will also decide to do some additional work along with your job.



**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says this week you will get support from your senior members. With their help, you will complete some of your pending work. You can introduce your boyfriend to your family. Your marriage proposal will be approved. There is a possibility of a fight with a relative. You may get complete support from your spouse. Will spend loving moments with each other. Your health will be good. It would be better if you include morning walks, yoga, and meditation in your daily routine. People doing business will make some changes in their business. Your financial position will remain strong. If you have made any investment, you will get full benefit from it. Will spend some time in religious programs for mental peace.



**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says this week is going to be good for your love relationships. Don't expect any big changes. Share the problems going on in your mind with your spouse. Will get support from family. More family responsibilities will be assigned to you, which you will fulfil. Your financial condition will improve. Your daily income will increase. People working will complete the tasks given in the job on time. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. Employed people will have to complete the given tasks on time. Students will be seen working hard to prepare for the competition. Your health will be better than before. For mental peace, you will also spend some time in religious programs.



**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says this week you will get support from your lover. You will also go out somewhere with

your lover. There will be happiness in life. A friend will arrive, which will make you look very happy. Your financial condition will be good. A lot of expenses are waiting for you, there is little chance of avoiding them. You will be shopping for your loved ones. You have to be a little careful in your job. Do not get involved in arguments with anyone. Business students will have to pay full attention to their businesses, and only then will be successful in taking their businesses forward. Try to remove the shortcomings in your education, only then you will be able to achieve success. Also, stay away from such friends who waste your time. Your health will also be good. Avoid eating or drinking outside.



**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says Aquarius people will plan a trip to some religious place with their family members this week. You will spend most of your time with your lover, due to which you will not be able to give time to your family. Married people may doubt their spouse because of another person. It would be better if we sit and talk. The financial situation will be good. You can invest in land. You will focus all your attention on your studies, which will give you good results. People who are working will get a promotion in their job. Your health will be good. Worship will be organized at home. You will also get the pleasure of a new vehicle.



**PISCES** : Ganesha says the beginning of the week will be good for your relationships. You will be very cautious regarding love relationships. You can also go on a long drive with your lover. You will be successful in the field of education, but some obstacles may hinder your studies. The financial situation will be good. There are chances of people working in jobs getting promotions. People doing business can get a big deal, which will bring good profits to the business. The economic situation will be strong. Talking about your career, you need to pay more attention to your work. If you work in partnership then maintain good friendly relations with your partner. Be cautious about your health because this week seems weak for your health.

### 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](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)*



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 11  
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**AUGUST 5**

Ganesha says you may get new job opportunities and you may get what you want very soon. New opportunities to earn money that can be highly promising but may require you to give your best. Your relationship with your partner can be perfect during this period. Children can bring good news for you and you can be proud of their achievements. Investing in a house or land can give you long-term benefits.

**AUGUST 6**

Ganesha says you may get new offers and assignments which can boost your morale and confidence. Property deals can give you good returns and can also help in raising funds. Wedding bells may ring for some at the end of the year, and others may find romance to keep them going. Old patients need to take extra care of their health. Traveling can be done to make important relations and gain money. For some, there are chances of foreign travel or business transactions.

**AUGUST 7**

Ganesha says you may get new ideas and plans to work on your further projects. An excellent year can improve your earning potential and help you establish important relationships. The partner may provide love and care but behave excessively possessively and unpredictably. A trip to some distant place cannot be ruled out at the end of the year. Support from your seniors and colleagues can boost your morale and instil new confidence.

**AUGUST 8**

Ganesha says you may soon get rewards and recognition from your workplace. Your financial condition may also improve and you may feel more secure and satisfied with whatever you do. Family and friends can be with you if needed. Legal matters can get complicated and you should avoid standing guarantees for others, as it can lead to embarrassment and many legal problems. Marital relations may come for you. Pilgrimage and religious activities can bring peace of mind.

**AUGUST 9**

Ganesha says there may be moments when your achievements exceed your expectations, but most of the time you may have to put in your maximum effort to get the required results. Those who have stood by you till now may continue their support. Relations with your partner can be extremely cordial and on an equal level, but you need to restrain yourself from being too stubborn, which can create uncomfortable moments at home. Romantic relationships can flourish and become strong.

**AUGUST 10**

Ganesha says you can enjoy the best time with your family. You need to focus your maximum efforts on career improvement, as this may yield the desired results. You can do very well socially if you travel and join clubs and social events. Some of you are likely to go on a long-distance pilgrimage. Your partner and children may be supportive but your parents' health may be a matter of concern.



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**AUGUST 11**

Ganesha says you may be on the verge of discovering a new horizon for yourself, something you had only ever dreamed of. You are a productive and profitable resource for your company. You need to be transparent and expressive while facing your blood relatives. This is a favourable time for children to excel in their careers. Your health concern may soon compel you to join yoga or gym class.

*Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com) [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) | +91 81412 34275*

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# Puducherry Tourism Hosts an Exclusive Roadshow in Bengaluru

The Department of Tourism, Government of Puducherry, organised an exclusive roadshow in Bengaluru on July 26, 2024, to promote the state as a premier tourist destination in India. This event highlighted Puducherry's scenic tourist spots and unique products, providing a platform for travel agents, tour operators, media personnel, and travel trade partners from Bengaluru to discover the state's diverse attractions. The roadshow showcased Puducherry's rich cultural heritage, tranquil beaches, delicious cuisine, and vibrant local art. Participants had networking opportunities and access to first-hand information on the latest tourism initiatives in the region.

Under the guidance of K. Lakshminarayanan - Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Govt. of Puducherry the Puducherry Tourism delegation was led by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ray, IAS - Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Puducherry, K. Muralidharan - Director of Tourism, Government of Puducherry and Managing Director Puducherry Tourism Development



Corporation. Around 15 representatives from Puducherry Tourism were present to interact with attendees, share insights, and forge collaborations to enhance tourism experiences in Puducherry. The event aimed to strengthen ties with the travel industry in Karnataka and

foster partnerships for mutual growth and development.

The roadshow was attended by the travel-trade of Karnataka along with the Key industry delegates, and media representatives and had an enriching session to discover the charm and allure of Puducherry.

One of India's eight Union Territories, Puducherry, popularly known as Pondicherry, is bordered by the southern state of Tamil Nadu. This former French colony offers the ideal fusion of elegant French buildings and traditional Indian aesthetics. Puducherry is a beautiful getaway with lots to offer visitors, including delicious French cuisine and enjoyable beach activities. In addition to beach sports, the fascinating marine life of Puducherry offers thrilling scuba diving off the East Coast of the nation. The town provides you with the best of everything, including exquisite cuisine, peaceful surroundings, stunning architecture, etc. Puducherry is a picturesque location where tourists can discover their adventurous spirit and feel revitalized.

The roadshow had networking session, presentations and cultural performances that showcased the destination along with its hidden gems and also opened up new avenues to showcase Pondicherry in a new light to the travel and trade community.



# Manu Bhaker is the new sports icon of India



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 will be 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](http://www.theindianpanorama.news) besides selected reports in the weekly editions. Prabhjot Singh can be reached at [prabhjot416@gmail.com](mailto:prabhjot416@gmail.com)**

## PARIS (TIP)

A girl from Jhajjar in rural Haryana is the new sports icon of India. She has given India its first two medals, both bronzes, in 10 m Air Pistol. This new sports icon is none other than Manu Bhaker, a student at Panjab University in Chandigarh.

When she won a bronze medal in the 10 m Air Pistol for women, she became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal in the Olympic Games. On Tuesday, she paired up with a boy from neighboring Punjab, Sarabjot Singh, to win a similar color medal in the 10 m Air Pistol Mixed team event. She thus added yet another feather to her cap to become the first Indian woman shooter to win two Olympic medals in the same Olympic Games. Incidentally, no other Indian shooter has won two Olympic medals.

Manu has her favorite event, 25 m Air Pistol (individual) left. She hopes to make a hat-trick of Olympic medals in her second Olympics after she drew a blank in the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games. Her struggle and hard work have been rewarded.

She also brought luck to her teammate, Sarabjot Singh, who had earlier missed making the medal round in the men's event. He finished ninth with a score of 577. His fellow shooter, Arjun Cheema, after a good start, suffered a lapse off concentration to finish 18th with a score of 574.

Arjun Cheema and Rhythm Sangwan failed to make the medal round in the



Manu with her pair of Bronze medals

event Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot excelled.

Shooting is one sport in which India hopes to reap a rich harvest of medals. Yesterday, Arjun Babuta finished fourth and missed the bronze medal by a whisker aggregating 208.4. It was a big heartbreak for him as he came so close and yet remained far away from his dream Olympic medal. His last two rounds of 10.1 and 9.5 proved costly for him while ultimate bronze medalist Miran Maricic of Croatia had 10.7 and 9.9 in his last two shoots.

One of the world's oldest players in the



Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh proudly display their Bronze medals at Paris Olympics.

Tennis circle, Rohan Bopanna, ended his Olympic campaign without a medal. He in partnership with Balaji was ousted in the first round by the French team of Gael Monfils and Roger Vasilin. Rohan had come close to winning a medal in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games where he in partnership with Sania Mirza lost the mixed doubles semi-final to Rajeev Ram and Venus Williams.

Rajeev Ram and Venus Williams then went on to win the silver thus making Rajeev Ram. He has been the first Indian

expatriate to win an Olympic medal.

Yesterday when Manika Batra won her second round in women's singles in Table Tennis, she defeated Prithika Pavade, also a player of Indian origin representing the host country, France. Manika won in straight games against her.

Incidentally, another player of Indian origin in the competition on Monday was Jessica of Canada. Jessica is a water polo player and played the goalkeeper of the Canadian team that lost its opening game to Hungary.

## Shooter Swapnil Kusale adds a bronze to the Indian tally

By Prabhjot Singh

**PARIS (TIP):** After Manu Bhaker, it was the turn of male shooters to add to the Indian medal tally. Swapnil Kusale today gave an excellent account of himself in the 50 m Air Rifle 3 positions event for men by finishing a close third to give India its third shooting bronze.

Swapnil was 0.5 points behind the second-placed Kalish Serhiy (Ukraine) before the shoot for the gold started. Swapnil had shot 4561.4 while Kalish had 451.9. China's Liu Yukun won the gold with a finish score of 463.6.

Indian eyes will remain focused on the shooting range as Manu Bhaker will take to her favorite 25 m Air Pistol for women.

So far India has won all its three bronze medals in shooting. It is reiterated the country's trust in its shooters after they drew a blank in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Indian challenge in Table Tennis ended last evening when Sreeja Akula lost her pre-quarterfinal game to Sun Xingsha 10-12, 10-12, 8-11 while Manika Batra went down fighting to Miu Hirano 6-11, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11 and 6-11. Both Manika and Sreeja created history by reaching the pre-quarterfinals.

Indian hopes of a medal in boxing for women got a boost when Lovlina Borgohain recorded a fluent 5-0 win over Sunniva Hofstad in the preliminaries.



Swapnil Kusale Wins Bronze in 50m Rifle at Paris

# Women athletes are keeping Indian flag flying high

LED BY DOUBLE MEDALISTS PV SINDHU (BADMINTON) AND MANU BHAKER (SHOOTING), WOMEN ATHLETES ARE KEEPING THE INDIAN FLAG FLYING HIGH AT THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES.



Former Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra with Paris Olympics 2024 bronze medallist Manu Bhakar and her coach Jaspal Rana.

By Prabhjot Singh

**PARIS (TIP):** Led by double medalists PV Sindhu (badminton) and Manu Bhaker (shooting), women athletes are keeping the Indian flag flying high at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

While Manu Bhaker has emulated the double medal feat of PV Sindhu, women athletes, including Sreeja Akula and Manika Batra (table tennis), Deepika Kumari and Bhajan Kaur (archery), have had an impressive start to their Olympic campaign here. Though this is not to belittle the contribution of male athletes, especially badminton star Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy or shooters - Arjun Babuta, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale - besides the men's hockey team, in the first five days of competitions have gone well for women athletes of the Indian squad.

Before the start of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, PV Sindhu was the lone female athlete from India with two Olympic medals - a silver in women's singles in Rio and a bronze in London. Haryana's Manu Bhaker, however, has put her record to shade by winning two bronze medals here, scripting history by becoming the first-ever Indian athlete to win two Olympic medals in the same edition of the Games.

While PV Sindhu failed to win her third Olympic medal in the women's singles Round of 16 at the Olympics as she lost against sixth-seeded Chinese shuttler He Bing Jiao in straight sets 19-21, 14-21, Manu Bhaker stays a step ahead as she is determined to accomplish the rarest feat of winning three medals in the same Olympics. Her favorite event, 25 m Air Pistol, is scheduled for Friday.

PV Sindhu was impressive in her initial group matches. She defeated Kristin Kauuba of Estonia 21-5, 21-10.

In Table Tennis, Sreeja Akula beat Jian Zeng 9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5, 10-12 and 12-10 to create a flutter here. She has joined her senior colleague Manika Batra in the round of 16. Manika takes on Japanese opponent Mio Hirano for a place in the quarterfinals.

Kanak Jha, a player of Indian origin, representing the US for the third consecutive time, also moved up with a splendid win over P. Gionis of Greece at 11-5, 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 8-11 and 11-8.

The toast of Indian fans was young Lakshya Sen who toppled third seed Jonatan Christie 21-18, 21-12 in the group matches. The win puts Lashya in the run for a medal for his unbeaten performance in the competition



Manika Batra



Bhajan Kaur

so far. He has already crossed a tough hurdle.

Indian double pair Rani Reddy and Chirag Shetty, too, have been doing well in the competition tormented by sicknesses and last-minute withdrawals. Matches already won by Indian pair, like a few others, have been taken off the competition record. German opponents had cried off before the game of the world number Indian pair earlier.

Arjun Babbuta narrowly missed a bronze medal. He needed only one good shot in one of his last two laps, but it was not to be. On Wednesday, Swapnil Kusale made the medal round in the 50 m Rifle 3 positions with a score of 590, three points behind the top qualifier Liu Yukun of China. All eyes are set for the final tomorrow.

In archery, Deepika Kumari and Bhajan Kaur made a winning start in individual events to raise hopes for a first-ever Olympic medal.

## Indian community delighted with performance of India in Paris so far

By Prabhjot Singh

**PARIS (TIP):** Indian community in France has every reason to feel pleased about the performance of its home country athletes in the 2024 Olympic games. Manu Bhaker has not only scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian athlete from independent India to win two medals in a single Olympics but has also warmed the cockles of hearts of the members of nearly hundred-thousand strong Indian community settled in this country holding its third Olympic Games since 1900.

Though many credit an Anglo-Indian Norman Pritchard for winning a pair of silver medals in the 1900 Olympic Games, no other Indian athlete has ever won two medals in the same edition of the prestigious quadrangular mega sporting event.

Manu Bhaker has not only emerged as a new sporting icon of India but also become the darling of the Indian community worldwide. This Jhajjar girl is the most sought-after Indian sportsperson here. She, however, wants to stay focused on her third and final event, 25 m Air Pistol, on August 2.

An India House has been set up in the Olympic city for the first time. It has emerged as a new center for the Indian community to interact with not only members of the Indian Olympic squad but also some of the stars of yesteryears, including non-Olympic sports.

Rahul Dravid, who just relinquished charge as the coach of the Indian cricket team, was a star attraction on the first three days of the Games. PT Usha, President of the Indian Olympic Association, and tennis hero Mahesh Bhupathi are among the others having intimate interactions with the leaders of the expatriate community.

Many ardent followers of Indian sports on arrival in Paris get a pleasant surprise when they find their compatriots, now settled in this francophone nation, greeting them while offering them useful tips for their safe stay in the Olympic city.

Daljeet Singh, for example, who moved to France from Mohali about three decades ago, is now an activist of the Indians in France organizations. It is this body that keeps organizing events for the community. He works at CDG Airport.

The Indian community of France was delighted when one of its youngsters, Prithika Pavade, was chosen to represent France in Table tennis events of the Games. It may be a mere coincidence that she ran into India's top TT player, Manika Batra, in round two of women's singles.

There are several gurdwaras in Paris. Prominent of them is the one at Bobigny. On Sundays, all gurdwaras hold special congregations besides organizing community kitchens regularly.

Every day, hundreds of Indian expatriates, turn up to watch various events, especially those featuring athletes from India. They carry tricolors.

Paris is dotted with several restaurants run by people of Indian origin. Some of them have volunteered to offer free food to Indian athletes and their family members.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## Historic Prisoner Swap with Russia...

Negotiators in backchannel talks at one point explored an exchange involving Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, but after his death in February ultimately stitched together a 24-person deal that required significant concessions from European allies, including the release of a Russian assassin, and secured freedom for a cluster of journalists, suspected spies, political prisoners and others.

Biden trumpeted the exchange, by far the largest in a series of swaps with Russia, as a diplomatic feat while welcoming families of the returning Americans to the White House. But the deal, like others before it, reflected an innate imbalance: The U.S. and allies gave up Russians charged or convicted of serious crimes in exchange for Russia releasing journalists, dissidents and others imprisoned by the country's highly politicized legal system on charges seen by the West as trumped-up.

"Deals like this one come with tough calls," Biden said. He added: "There's nothing that matters more to me than protecting Americans at home and abroad."

Under the deal, Russia released Gershkovich, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal who was jailed in 2023 and convicted in July of espionage charges that he and the U.S. government vehemently denied. His family said in a statement released by the newspaper that "we can't wait to give him the biggest hug and see his sweet and brave smile up close." The paper's editor-in-chief, Emma Tucker, called it a "joyous day."

"While we waited for this momentous day, we were determined to be as loud as we could be on Evan's behalf. We are so grateful for all the voices that were raised when his was silent. We can finally say, in unison, 'Welcome home, Evan,'" she wrote in a letter posted online.

Also released was Whelan, a Michigan corporate security executive jailed since 2018, also on espionage charges he and Washington have denied, and Kurmasheva, a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist convicted in July of spreading false information about the Russian military, accusations her family and employer have rejected.

The dissidents released included Kara-Murza, a Kremlin critic and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer serving 25 years on charges of treason widely seen as politically motivated, as well as multiple associates of Navalny. Freed Kremlin critics included Oleg Orlov, a veteran human rights campaigner convicted of discrediting the Russian military, and Ilya Yashin, imprisoned for criticizing the war in Ukraine.

Russian side got Vadim Krasikov, who was convicted in Germany in 2021 and sentenced to life in prison for killing a former Chechen rebel in a Berlin park two years earlier, apparently on the orders of Moscow's security services. Throughout the negotiations, Moscow had been persistent in pressing for his release, with Putin himself raising it.

At the time of Navalny's death, officials were discussing a possible exchange involving Krasikov. But with that prospect erased, senior U.S. officials, including national security adviser Jake Sullivan, made a fresh push to encourage Germany to release Krasikov. In the end, a handful of the prisoners Russia released were either German nationals or dual German-Russian nationals.

Russia also received two alleged sleeper agents jailed in Slovenia, as well as three men charged by federal authorities in the U.S., including Roman Seleznev, a convicted computer hacker and the son of a Russian lawmaker, and Vadim Konoshchenok, a suspected Russian intelligence operative accused of providing American-made electronics and ammunition to the Russian military. Norway returned an academic arrested on suspicions of being a Russian spy; Poland sent back a man it detained on espionage charges.

"Today is a powerful example of why it's vital to have friends in this world," Biden said.

All told, six countries released at least one prisoner

and a seventh - Turkey - participated by hosting the location for the swap, in Ankara.

Biden placed securing the release of Americans held wrongfully overseas at the top of his foreign policy agenda for the six months before he leaves office. In an Oval Office address discussing his decision to drop his bid for a second term, Biden said, "We're also working around the clock to bring home Americans being unjustly detained all around the world."

The Biden administration has now brought home more than 70 Americans detained in other countries as part of deals that have required the U.S. to give up a broad array of convicted criminals, including for drug and weapons offenses. The swaps, though celebrated with fanfare, have spurred criticism that they incentivize future hostage-taking and give adversaries leverage over the U.S. and its allies.

The U.S. government's top hostage negotiator, Roger Carstens, has sought to defend the deals by saying the number of wrongfully detained Americans has actually gone down even as swaps have increased.

Tucker, the Journal's editor-in-chief, acknowledged the debate, writing in a letter: "We know the U.S. government is keenly aware, as are we, that the only way to prevent a quickening cycle of arresting innocent people as pawns in cynical geopolitical games is to remove the incentive for Russia and other nations that pursue the same detestable practice."

Though she called for a change to the dynamic, "for now," she wrote, "we are celebrating the return of Evan."

Thursday's swap of 24 prisoners surpassed a deal involving 14 people that was struck in 2010. In that exchange, Washington freed 10 Russians living in the U.S. as sleepers, while Moscow deported four Russians, including Sergei Skripal, a double agent working with British intelligence. He and his daughter in 2018 were nearly killed in Britain by nerve agent poisoning blamed on Russian agents.

Speculation had mounted for weeks that a swap was near because of a confluence of unusual developments, including a startlingly quick trial for Gershkovich, which Washington regarded as a sham. He was sentenced to 16 years in a maximum-security prison.

In a trial that concluded in two days in secrecy in the same week as Gershkovich's, Kurmasheva was convicted on charges of spreading false information about the Russian military that her family, employer and U.S. officials rejected. Also in recent days, several other figures imprisoned in Russia for speaking out against the war in Ukraine or over their work with Navalny were moved from prison to unknown locations.

Gershkovich was arrested March 29, 2023, while on a reporting trip to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Authorities claimed, without offering any evidence, that he was gathering secret information for the U.S. The son of Soviet emigres who settled in New Jersey, he moved to Russia in 2017 to work for The Moscow Times newspaper before being hired by the Journal in 2022.

Gershkovich was designated as wrongfully detained, as was Whelan, who was detained in December 2018 after traveling to Russia for a wedding.

Whelan, who was serving a 16-year prison sentence, had been excluded from prior high-profile deals involving Russia, including the April 2022 swap by Moscow of imprisoned Marine veteran Trevor Reed for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot convicted in a drug trafficking conspiracy. That December, the U.S. released notorious arms trafficker Viktor Bout in exchange for WNBA star Brittney Griner, who'd been jailed on drug charges. "Paul Whelan is free. Our family is grateful to the United States government for making Paul's freedom a reality," his family said in a statement.

## Kamala Harris seals her Democratic...

The chairs said that voting on the virtual roll call - the process through which Harris will officially become the Democratic nominee - will begin on August 1 and end on August 5. "Democratic delegates from across the nation made their voices heard, overwhelmingly backing Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's

presumptive nominee..." the chairs said. (Source: PTI )

## Calls for revenge echo at Haniyeh's...

In Tehran's city center, crowds, including women shrouded in black, carried posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags in a procession and ceremony that began at Tehran University.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced the day before that Haniyeh and a bodyguard were killed in a pre-dawn strike on Wednesday, July 31, on their accommodation in Tehran. It came just hours after Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander, Fuad Shukur, in a retaliatory strike in the south of Lebanon's capital Beirut, raising fears of a wider regional conflict as the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza continues.

Senior Iranian officials including President Masoud Pezeshkian and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, attended the ceremony for Haniyeh, state TV showed. Qatar-based Haniyeh had been visiting Tehran for Mr. Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on Tuesday. Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that Haniyeh's message will live on and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Palestine".

Mr. Pezeshkian later told Mr. Hayya that Iran "will continue to support with firmer determination on the Axis of Resistance", Iran-aligned regional groups that include Hamas, the official IRNA news agency said. Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said, "It is our duty to respond at the right time and in the right place."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the strikes in Tehran and Beirut represented a "dangerous escalation". All efforts, he said, should be "leading to a ceasefire" in Gaza and the release of hostages taken during Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also said Wednesday, March 31, that a ceasefire in Gaza was still the "imperative", with White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby later adding that the twin killings "don't help" regional tensions. The killings come with regional tensions already inflamed by the war in Gaza, a conflict that has drawn in Iran-backed militant groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. One of those groups, Yemen's Huthi rebels, "declared three days of mourning" for Haniyeh, with political leader Mahdi al-Mashat expressing "condolences to the Palestinian people and Hamas" over his killing, according to the group's Saba news agency.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, meanwhile, spoke by phone after the attack with his acting Iranian counterpart Ali Bagheri to discuss "the latest developments in the region". The UN Security Council also convened an emergency meeting Wednesday, March 31 at Iran's request to discuss the strike, with Tehran's envoy Amir Saeid Irvani urging members to take "immediate action to ensure accountability for these violations of international law".

Hamas has for months been indirectly negotiating a truce and hostage-prisoner exchange deal with Israel, with Egypt, Qatar and the United States facilitating the talks. Analysts told AFP that Haniyeh was a moderating influence within the Islamist group, and that while he would be replaced, the dynamics within Hamas could change. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to destroy Hamas in retaliation for the October 7 attack that ignited war in Gaza. That attack resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Militants also seized 251 hostages, 111 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 39 the military says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory campaign against Hamas has killed at least 39,445 people in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

The prime minister of key ceasefire broker Qatar said Haniyeh's killing had thrown the whole mediation process into doubt. "How can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on the other side?" Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said in a post on social media site X. (Source: AFP)

# History This Week AUG 2 - AUG 8

## AUGUST 2

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.



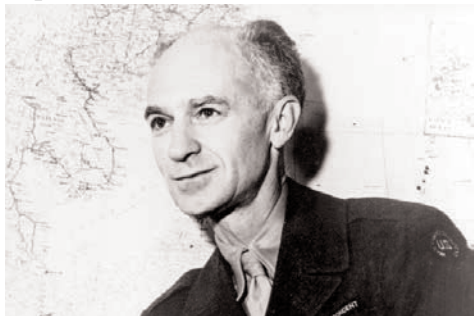
August 2, 1923 - President Warren G. Harding died suddenly in a hotel in San Francisco while on a Western speaking tour. His administration had been tainted by the Teapot Dome political scandal and his sudden death prompted many unfounded rumors. He was succeeded the next day by Calvin Coolidge.

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.

## AUGUST 3

August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October 12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.



Birthdays - War correspondent Ernest Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near

Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.

Birthdays - Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995) was born in Buffalo, New York. After she was forced into mandatory retirement at age 65, she founded the Gray Panthers organization to fight age discrimination and succeeded in the banning of mandatory retirement in most professions.

## AUGUST 4

August 4, 1962 - Apartheid opponent Nelson Mandela was arrested by security police in South Africa. He was then tried and sentenced to five years in prison. In 1964, he was placed on trial for sabotage, high treason and conspiracy to overthrow the government and was sentenced to life in prison. A worldwide campaign to free him began in the 1980s and resulted in his release on February 11, 1990, at age 71 after 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a nonracial democracy to South Africa. In April 1994, black South Africans voted for the first time in an election that brought Mandela the presidency of South Africa.

August 4, 1964 - Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were found murdered and buried in an earthen dam outside Philadelphia, Mississippi. They had disappeared on June 21 after being detained by Neshoba County police on charges of speeding. They were participating in the Mississippi Summer Project organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to increase black voter registration. When their car was found burned on June 23, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the FBI to search for the men.

Birthdays - Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as "Satchmo," he appeared in many films and is best known for his renditions of "It's a Wonderful World" and "Hello, Dolly."

Birthdays - Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg (1912-1947) was born in Stockholm. During the Holocaust, Wallenberg saved an estimated 33,000 Jews by issuing thousands of protective documents, by securing the release of Jews from deportation trains, death march convoys, labor service brigades, and by establishing the International Ghetto, a network of 31 protected houses. He was detained by Soviet agents on January 17, 1945, and is believed to have died in prison in 1947.



Birthdays - Barack Obama the 44th U.S. President was born in Honolulu, Hawaii,

on August 4, 1961. His father was from Kenya, Africa, while his mother was originally from Kansas. Upon completing his college education, young Obama moved to Chicago, becoming active in community affairs. He then attended Harvard Law School, becoming the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review in 1990. He returned to Chicago, worked in a law firm, then entered politics. Elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996, he went on to become a U.S. Senator in 2004. Four years later, he successfully challenged former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination and went on to defeat Republican John McCain in the general election, November 4, 2008, thus becoming the first President of African-American origin.

## AUGUST 5



August 5, 1962 - Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 from an overdose of sleeping pills. She made 29 films during her career and came to symbolize Hollywood glamour.

August 5, 2011 - Standard & Poor's credit rating agency downgraded the United States debt from its highest rating of AAA to a lesser AA+ rating, marking the first-ever decline of credit worthiness for the U.S. The agency cited America's \$14 trillion in outstanding debt and ineffective political leadership regarding debt reduction.

Birthdays - John Eliot (1604-1690) was born in Hertfordshire, England. Known as the "Apostle to the Indians," his translation of the Bible into an Indian tongue was the first Bible to be printed in America.

## AUGUST 6



August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.

August 6, 1962 - Jamaica achieved independence after centuries of British and Spanish rule. During 150 years of Spanish rule, African slaves were first brought to the island. The British invaded in 1655 and the slave trade greatly expanded during the 1700s. Following the abolition of slavery in the 1830s, Jamaica remained a British

colony.

August 6, 1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act suspended literacy, knowledge and character tests designed to keep African Americans from voting in the South. It also authorized the appointment of Federal voting examiners and barred discriminatory poll taxes. The Act was renewed by Congress in 1975, 1984 and 1991.

Birthdays - British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire, England. He was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to William Wordsworth. Memorable poems by Tennyson include Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington and The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Birthdays - Penicillin discoverer Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was born in Lochfield, Scotland. By accident, he found that mold from soil killed deadly bacteria without injuring human tissue. He received the Nobel Prize in 1954.

## AUGUST 7

August 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

August 7, 1990 - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.



Birthdays - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden, Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. At her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.

Birthdays - African American statesman and Nobel Prize recipient Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) was born in Detroit, Michigan. In 1949, as a mediator for the United Nations, he helped bring an end to hostilities in the war between Israel and the Arab League.

## AUGUST 8

August 8, 1945 - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan and sent troops into Japanese-held Manchuria.

Birthdays - African American explorer Matthew Henson (1866-1955) was born in Charles County, Maryland. He accompanied Robert E. Peary on several Arctic expeditions and reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.



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CONTD FROM PAGE 8

**India's Wealth Gap: The...**

In 2023, Oxfam report, "Survival of the Richest: The India story", also says that between 2012-2021, just 5 per cent of Indians own more than 60 per cent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent of the population possess only 3 per cent of the wealth. The combined wealth of India's 100 richest has touched \$660 billion. Oxfam also adds that India has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million.

According to "Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of Billionaire Raj" in 2022-23, 22.6% of national income went to just the top 1%, the highest level recorded in our series since 1922, higher than even during the inter-war colonial period". This monstrous income inequality has reached and even exceeded levels prevailing during the British Colonial Raj. This is the tragedy of an India under the "Billionaire Raj," governed by "Billionaire's" appointed Viceroy aka Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Oxfam India has said that the failure to tax rich people and corporations fairly exacerbates inequality as governments then resort to taxing the rest of society more. Heavy reliance on consumption taxes increases inequality and is regressive in nature because poor people pay a larger share of their incomes". The bottom 50 per cent of the population at an All-India level pays six times more on indirect taxation as a percentage of income compared to top 10 per cent, it has said. Of the total taxes collected from these food and non-food items, 64.3 per cent of the total tax is coming from the bottom 50 per cent. A little less than two-thirds of the total GST is coming from the bottom 50 per cent, as per estimates, one-third from middle 40 per cent and only three to four per cent from the top 10 per cent.

To address the severe inequality causing untold miseries to over 70% of Indians, the country must balance growth with inclusive policies that ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all citizens, bridging the gap between the affluent and the impoverished. It must address income inequality, social inequality, healthcare inequality, education inequality, gender inequality, and housing inequality before wasting money to boost the personal egos of the current rulers, who only cater to the rich in India. Rather than focusing on bullet trains, temples, statues, and the unnecessary demolition of existing public buildings like the administrative buildings near the old Parliament House to cement his legacy as the maker of a new Hindu India by building a new Parliament and new residences for the Prime Minister, Vice President, and President at a cost of \$2.64 billion, Modi should have prioritized educational institutes, hospitals, better public transport, housing for the poor, and better and cheaper rail services for the poor. India can land on the uncharted side of the moon but cannot abolish manual scavenging, which is nothing but the most insulting and heinous practice against human beings. Modi's ill-

conceived logic of creating his legacy with temples and statues to create Hindu supremacy rather a religious divide and infrastructure projects for the rich, has become a symbol of apathy and neglect towards the human sufferings of the poor and the minorities of India.

*(Dave Makkar, a social activist, writes on politics and social issues. He is a regular contributor to The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)*

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**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS...**

The Lifestyle Medicine Program at NYC Health + Hospitals is a nine-month program to support patients in making evidence-based lifestyle changes, including a healthful plant-based diet, increased physical activity, improved sleep habits, stress reduction, avoidance of substance use, and stronger social connections. Adults living with prediabetes, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, or health concerns related to excess weight are eligible to enroll. The program is now available at seven sites and can serve approximately 4,000 patients each year. The care team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, a certified nurse midwife (Woodhull location), a dietitian, a health coach, a program coordinator, a psychologist, community health workers, and an exercise trainer. Current patients of NYC Health + Hospitals can get a referral to the program from their provider, and people who are not yet patients of NYC Health + Hospitals can see if they qualify to enroll in the program by contacting 347-507-3695.

"I know first-hand how important a good, affordable diet is for long-term health," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "By delivering free, healthy, monthly produce boxes to patients in our city's Lifestyle Medicine Program, we will be able to help even more New Yorkers access fresh fruits and vegetables, combat chronic disease, and lead happier, healthier lives."

"Treating and preventing chronic disease starts with putting fresh, nutritious foods on our plates," said Kate MacKenzie, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Policy. "By partnering with Farm to People to provide patients enrolled in lifestyle medicine programs with fresh produce boxes, we aim to remove some of the barriers these patients face in sourcing nutritious foods. Thanks to this partnership, patients will be able to fully take advantage of the program's benefits, including incorporating nutritionist-recommended meals into their diets."

"We want to inspire our patients to add more produce to their plates in ways that are flavorful, nourishing, and culturally relevant," said Michelle McMacken, MD, FACP, DipABLM, Executive Director of Nutrition and Lifestyle Medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals. "The patients in our Lifestyle Medicine Program can now receive free boxes of produce delivered to their homes, making it easier to access high-quality fruits and vegetables and apply the lessons learned during the

program's nutrition education and counseling."

"We're thrilled to work with NYC Health + Hospitals on such a transformative program," said Farm to People Chief Operating Officer Felix Dechant. "Our mission at Farm to People has always been to conveniently provide the highest quality food to our community. This program couldn't be more aligned with our core values. Our entire team is laser-focused on providing exceptional service to every patient: from our sourcing team working with sustainable farms on offering the freshest nutrient-dense produce, to our warehouse team packing each box with recipes tailored to the box contents and language of the participants, to our fleet of drivers delivering across all five boroughs just a few hours after the boxes have been packed. Everyone at Farm to People understands the importance of this work, and plays a key role in exceeding expectations with every delivery. We hope that our work will make this program convenient, healthy, and delicious for every patient."

The nine-month lifestyle medicine program provides every patient with the following resources:

Six to nine one-on-one counseling sessions: Patients will have two to three visits each with a physician, nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife, a dietitian, and a health coach to develop and implement a personalized care plan.

14 weekly group classes: Topics will include reading nutrition labels, grocery shopping, meal planning and preparation, and sleep and stress management techniques.

Eight weekly exercise classes: Patients will work with an exercise trainer and take home a resistance band for strength training.

Six free, monthly deliveries of seasonal fresh produce: Patients will work with dietitians to learn about incorporating fruits and vegetables into their diet across culinary traditions and skill levels. Delicious and healthy recipes developed by the team's dietitians will accompany each produce box.

Health Bucks. Patients will have access to Health Bucks, which are \$2 coupons that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at NYC farmers markets. Five of the seven program sites have farmers' markets on their campus.

Culinary skills videos. Patients can learn cooking skills through short videos developed by the Lifestyle Medicine team in partnership with an online culinary school, Rouxbe. The videos will feature healthy cooking across various culinary traditions, including Caribbean, South American, Central American, and South Asian, and will be translated into Spanish, Mandarin, Bengali, and Haitian Creole.

A plant-based cookbook: Each patient receives a cookbook on plant-based eating for overall health or specifically for type 2 diabetes.

Support accessing benefits: Community health workers and food navigator referrals help patients access free or low-cost nutrition resources and, for those eligible, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

The Lifestyle Medicine Program is now available at the following sites:

**BRONX**

NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln

**BROOKLYN**

NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

**MANHATTAN**

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NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Vanderbilt

Particular attention has been placed on ensuring that the program's group visit curriculum is relevant for patients from diverse backgrounds and experiences. For example, the Spanish-language curriculum reflects cultural adaptations, not simply a translation of the English-language version. Moreover, individual visits with the medical providers, dietitian, and health coach allow for tailored behavior change recommendations based on each patient's social, financial, cultural, and family context.

Formal evaluations of the Bellevue pilot program revealed a successful implementation process, extremely high demand for services (more than 850 patients requested to enroll in the first few months), and positive health outcomes including clinically and statistically significant improvements in weight, glycemic control, and diastolic blood pressure.

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**AAPI President is keen on...**

While urging all the members of AAPI "to actively participate in AAPI's endeavors, emphasizing inclusivity and innovation," Dr. Kathula says, "Each Chapter of AAPI serves as a vital conduit between local and national initiatives, embodying AAPI's ethos of collaboration and service. By fostering cooperation between the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, we can optimize AAPI's effectiveness and uphold our shared objectives."

"AAPI represents over 120,000 physicians of Indian origin—a distinction I will humbly uphold as the organization's president," Dr. Kathula states. "I attribute this honor to the diligent efforts of my predecessors who have cultivated AAPI into a preeminent Indian American institution over its 43-year legacy. Drawing from my leadership experience in various non-profit organizations, despite our members' diverse backgrounds, I want to emphasize our shared goals to foster cohesion within AAPI," Dr. Kathula says, adding emphatically, "With unity, I believe we can surmount any challenge and achieve our collective aspirations."

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



# Asian nations blunt American and European supremacy

By Prabhjot Singh

**PARIS (TIP):** Asia is emerging as the new powerhouse of Olympic sports. China, Japan, and the Republic of South Korea are among the top seven nations in medals tally in the 2024 Olympic Games as of today.

The previous powerhouse of Olympic sports, the USA, was placed on Day 6 of the 2024 Olympic Games as China has taken the lead with 21 medals, including 11 gold medals. Though the USA leads the overall medals tally with 31 medals to its kitty, it has fewer gold medals than it used to get in previous editions of the Games.

The US dominance in some of the sports, including aquatics, has been blunted to an extent by China and France. China has won four gold medals in shooting, including the 50 m Rifle 3 positions for men on Thursday besides making three top finishes in diving.

China won the opening event in athletics - 20 km walk - besides taking a gold medal each in cycling and swimming.

In the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the USA finished at the top of the medals tally with 113 medals, including 39 gold and 41 silver medals. China finished second with 89 medals, including 38 gold medals. Japan was third with 27 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals.

Olympic Games Paris 2024					
Medal Table					
Day 6 - 2 Aug					
Team		🥇	🥈	🥉	Total
1	CHN	11	7	5	23
2	USA	9	14	13	36
3	FRA	8	11	8	27
4	JPN	8	3	5	16
5	AUS	7	6	4	17
44	IND	0	0	3	3

In the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the USA topped the medals tally with 46 gold, 37 silver and 38 bronze medals to aggregate 121 while second-placed Great Britain had 27 gold medals in its tally of 67. China was placed third with 70 medals, including 26 gold.

Things look different in the 2024 Olympic Games. On Day 6, China took the lead with 11 gold medals in its total tally of 21 followed by the hosts, France, with 26 medals, including eight gold. Japan is a close third with 15 medals including eight gold.

The USA has been relegated to fifth position with 31 medals that have only six gold medals. Interestingly Australia is ahead of the US with a tally of 17 medals, including seven gold.

The third Asian country in the top seven group is Korea with 12 medals, half of which are gold.

Another Asian country to do well so far is India which has three bronze medals in its kitty. As of now, India stands at the 42nd position. India had finished with seven medals in the last edition of the Games with a sole gold medal won in men's javelin throw through Neeraj Chopra.

Canadian athletes, too, are doing well as they have won gold medals, both in Diving and Judo (women), to take their tally to seven with two silver and three bronze medals.

In the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, Canada aggregated 24 medals, including seven gold and an equal number of silver medals. In io, the Canadian tally was 22 with four gold medals.

By Prabhjot Singh

**PARIS (TIP):** India's avowed policy of fighting global terrorism collectively is corroborated by the deployment of a section of its specially-trained men and canine squads in Paris, the host city of the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

The men and dogs trained in counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage operations can be seen working in tandem with various security and police agencies of the host nation, France, and several other friendly nations.

Paris has virtually turned into a police cantonment with members of the National Police and Grenadier being deployed at all vulnerable points, including the venues of competitions, public places like Metro and bus stations, malls and busy tourist spots.

From India, there are 10 specially-trained Indian Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and special commando force dogs in France to provide a counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage security cover to various venues of the Paris Olympics that opened last week. The ten Indian K9 (canine) teams have been undertaking sniffing and patrolling duties at different venues that hold events for the Paris Olympics. The Indian police squads attended a special 10-week training for this first-ever kind of collaboration of canine squads between the Indian and the French government, media reports said.

Because of armed conflicts in various parts of the world, the French government wanted to take no chances over the possible

risk of foreign interference or a terrorist attack to disrupt the games. "The threat is real and constant, it hasn't changed for several years," says media reports quoting Wassim Nasr, a FRANCE 24 journalist who co-authored an article on security threats to the Paris Games for US counter-terrorism magazine.

Media covering the 2024 Olympic Games, has been quoting various agencies, including radio, TV and web channels while reporting the nearly "full proof" arrangements made for the safety of the participants, including players, and members of the visiting Olympic family. A report by public radio station France Inter said that French intelligence services identified a dozen leaders of the Islamic State group in Turkey and Syria capable of activating terrorist sleeper cells in

## India lends a helping hand to France in holding an incident-free Olympic Games



CAPF dogs Vast and Denby along with their handlers in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. They are part of the 10 canine teams that have landed in France for providing security to various venues for the Paris Olympics. | Photo Credit: PTI

France at any time. "There's the latent, constant threat of someone acting alone, picking up a knife and deciding to attack in the name of a group," says Nasr. On Monday, a man already convicted of Islamist radicalism was indicted on terrorism charges after attacking a cab driver with a knife near the city of Le Mans in Western France.

The reports further said that beyond terrorist groups, some state actors are hoping to take advantage of the divisions caused by the war in Gaza to create public disorder. "The turmoil of the war in Gaza may lead some people to create public disorder, to prevent teams from arriving where they are supposed to compete," says Nasr. The report further suggests that the high-risk Israeli Olympic delegation is given 24-hour security with a reinforced police escort to travel to the various competition venues. This has been done to avoid a repeat of the Munich Olympic dastardly attack.

The security agencies also do not rule out the possibility of an increase in attempts by pro-Russian

groups to disrupt the smooth running of the Games. Russia and Belorussia are the only nations who were denied the invitation to participate in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Another media report in Le Monde, one of the main newspapers in France, said that Kirill Gryaznov, an agent for Russia's intelligence service (FSB) with no diplomatic cover, was arrested in Paris and charged with "intelligence with a foreign power to incite hostilities in France".

The city has been barricaded and movement to the City Central, which otherwise remains the busiest tourist hub, has the highest security cover.

Despite the deployment of police contingents everywhere, there has been little or no respite in incidents of pickpocketing. Paris is notoriously known for its pickpocketing menace. It leaves visitors to the city deprived of their valuables. One of the Indian journalists covering the Games lost a valuable cardigan from his back sack while his wallet and passport escaped the crafty hands of the suspect.

Tight security arrangements notwithstanding, many sports enthusiasts of Indian origin, from India and the rest of the world, are here to watch the Games and cheer Indian players.

Among them are Jatinderpal Singh and Maninder Singh who have come from Ludhiana. Both have been hockey players in their school days. Other than them there are some hardcore hockey fans from London, including Tarlochan Singh Panesar and Jhujjar Singh aka Jarri besides Ajit Kaur Tiwana, mother of Canadian water polo goalkeeper Jessica Gaudreault. Ajit Kaur Tiwana comes from Chanrthal village in Fatehgarh Sahib. She is the third player of Indian origin representing Canada in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Jessica is an Ontario-born athlete and has represented Canada in various international meets, including the Olympics and Pan Am Games.

Ajit Kaur Tiwana has been a celebrity as she was the first South Asian woman to join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



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