



SEBI bans Anil Ambani, 24 other entities from securities market for five years



SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from being associated with the securities market

AUGUST 23, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Market regulator SEBI has barred industrialist Anil Ambani, 24 other entities, including former key officials of Reliance Home Finance from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company.

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Kamala Harris accepts historic presidential nomination, pledging to be the President for all Americans

Says election offers "fleeting opportunity" to move past "bitterness, cynicism"



The Democratic Presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on August 22, 2024. -Screen grab

INDRAJIT SALUJA
AUGUST 23, 2024

CHICAGO (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris officially accepted the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday, August 23, promising to be "the president for all Americans". "I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations", she pledged.

Framing the upcoming election as an opportunity for the nation to "chart a new way forward", she encouraged voters to write the "next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told." "As a prosecutor, when I had a case, I charged it not in the name of the victim,

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Seattle witnesses an impressive India Day Parade with the enthusiastic participation of a large Indian American community



AUGUST 15, 2024

SEATTLE, WA (TIP): Mr. Bill Gates, Chairman, Gates Foundation flagged off the FIRST India Day celebrations in the Greater Seattle area as Consul General of India in Seattle's Guest of Honor, on the 78th Independence Day of India.

Addressing the nearly 2000 plus members of the Indian American community, he referred to India "as a global leader with breakthrough innovations in areas like technology, agriculture and healthcare". He further added that "from manufacturing safe low-cost vaccines to the remarkable leadership shown by the Indian diaspora to India's Digital Public

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Mr. Bill Gates, Chairman, Gates Foundation (left) flags off the FIRST India Day Parade in Seattle on August 15, 2024. Consul General of India in Seattle Mr. Prakash Gupta is seen holding a bunch of balloons.

Photo: Jay Mandal-on assignment

42nd India Day Parade carries the message "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - the world is a family



Grand Marshals (From L to R): Manoj Sinha, Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal, Pankaj Tripathi, FIA President Dr. Avinash Gupta, Kenny Desai, a former president of FIA at the Review Stand

AUGUST 19, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): With 26 floats and scores of marching groups, the New York City came alive on Sunday, August 18, as the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) hosted the world's largest annual India Day Parade outside India, honoring India's Independence Day. This year marked the 42nd

celebration, drawing thousands of participants and spectators from the Indian-American community to celebrate their rich culture. The parade started at 12 PM local time at 38th Street and Madison Avenue. This year's theme, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - The World is One Family," emphasizes

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THE QUEENS, NEW YORK INDIA DAY PARADE TURNED A SEA OF TRICOLOR



New York City Mayor Eric Adams addresses the gathering

AUGUST 18, 2024

QUEENS, NY (TIP): The 9th India Day Parade organized under the auspices of the Floral Park - Bellerose Indian Merchants Association (F-BIMA) on the 78th Indian Independence Day, celebration was colorful with the tricolor.

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CHIEF EDITOR:

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ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING**PHOTOGRAPHERS:**Baldev Singh / BJ Videos
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction
Jay Mandal,
Mohammad Jaffer,
SnapsIndia
Mohammad Shahzad,
Zia Khan,
Nisha Rani
Vaaho Photographers,
Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.**CORRESPONDENTS :****SACRAMENTO:**

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Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

Why the United States never had a Woman President? Is it time for the United States to finally elect a woman President?

The United States is often hailed as the world's preeminent democracy, a beacon of human rights, equality, and justice. It is a nation that prides itself on standing for the highest democratic ideals—principles that include gender equality, a cornerstone of any just society. Yet, despite this reputation and the progress made in various fields, the United States has never elected a woman as President. This reality raises important questions about gender dynamics in American politics and the broader implications for gender equality in a country that claims to be a leader in democratic values.

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON FEMALE LEADERSHIP

To understand the significance of this issue, it is instructive to look at the progress made by other nations in electing women to the highest political offices. India, for instance, became independent in 1947 and a republic in 1950. In just a few decades of independence, India saw its first woman Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, who led the nation through critical periods of its history. Her leadership not only marked a significant achievement for women in India but also demonstrated to the world that women could lead large, diverse democracies with competence and authority.

Similarly, Sri Lanka, another South Asian nation, elected Sirimavo Bandaranaike as the world's first female Prime Minister in 1960. Her leadership set a precedent in a region that is often characterized by patriarchal structures, proving that women could break through the highest glass ceilings in politics.

In the Middle East, Israel elected Golda Meir as Prime Minister in 1969, making her one of the earliest women to lead a modern nation-state. Her tenure as Prime Minister during a turbulent period in Israel's history further underscored the capability of women to govern effectively in challenging circumstances.

Europe, too, has seen several women rise to the highest offices of leadership. Margaret Thatcher, who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990, was a transformative figure in British and global politics. Known as the "Iron Lady," Thatcher's strong leadership style and firm policies left an indelible mark on the UK and the world.

Other nations across Europe and beyond have followed suit, with women leaders such as Angela Merkel of Germany, Jacinda Ardern of New



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Zealand, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, among others, taking on the mantle of leadership in their respective countries. These examples highlight that the election of women to the highest offices is not only possible but has been achieved in a variety of political, cultural, and historical contexts.

THE AMERICAN ANOMALY

Given this global trend, it is perplexing that the United States, a nation with a rich history of democratic principles and gender equality movements, has yet to elect a woman President. This situation is even more puzzling when one considers that women constitute a larger share of the electorate in the United States than men. According to data from recent elections, more women vote in U.S. elections than men, yet this numerical advantage has not translated into a woman holding the nation's highest office.

One might argue that this is not a matter of outright gender discrimination but rather a result of the complex dynamics of American electoral politics. However, the absence of a woman President over more than two centuries of American history suggests that deeper issues may be at play. The fact that the United States has never had a woman President raises questions about whether gender biases, both overt and subtle, continue to influence voter behavior and the political process.

GENDER BIAS IN AMERICAN POLITICS

Gender bias in American politics can manifest in various ways. One of the most significant barriers to women achieving the presidency is the enduring stereotype that men are more suited to leadership roles, particularly in areas such as national security and economic management. These stereotypes are often reinforced by media portrayals and public discourse, which can shape voter perceptions and preferences.

Moreover, women candidates for the presidency have often faced a double standard in terms of their qualifications and demeanor. Female candidates are frequently scrutinized more harshly than their male counterparts, with their competence, likability, and even appearance

subjected to a level of scrutiny that men rarely experience. This double standard can discourage women from running for office or undermine their campaigns when they do.

Another factor to consider is the structure of the American political system itself. The two-party system, the electoral college, and the primary process all create barriers that can be difficult for any candidate to overcome, but these barriers can be particularly challenging for women. For instance, the need to secure party nominations through a primary process that often favors candidates with established networks and fundraising abilities can disadvantage women, who may have less access to these resources due to systemic gender inequalities.

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Despite these challenges, women in the United States have proven time and again that they are fully capable of leading in every sector, from business to academia to government. Women have served as governors, senators, and representatives, and have held key cabinet positions and roles in international diplomacy. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping the nation's policies and its future.

Yet, the presidency has remained elusive. This is not just a missed opportunity for the individual women who have run for the office; it is a missed opportunity for the nation as a whole. The election of a woman President would send a powerful message about the United States' commitment to gender equality and would serve as an inspiration to future generations of women leaders.

As we look to the future, it is essential that women in the United States continue to assert their rights and demand equal representation at all levels of government. The question is not whether a woman can become President of the United States, but when. With more women than ever before participating in the political process, running for office, and voting, the momentum is building. It is only a matter of time before the United States elects its first woman President.

It is time for American women—and all Americans who believe in equality—to emphatically demand the election of a woman to the presidency. The Indian Panorama would be eager to hear from our readers on this pressing issue. What do you think? Is it time for the United States to finally elect a woman President?

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42nd India Day Parade carries the message “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” - the world is a family



Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, is being welcomed by the master of ceremonies at the Review Stand. They are flanked by a former president of FIA Alok Kumar (left) and Dr. Avinash Gupta, FIA President (right), Senior Advisor to FIA Dr. Sudhir Parikh



The Consulate General of India float

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

social harmony and cultural unity, fostering a sense of belonging that transcends boundaries.

The Consulate General of India, led by CG Binaya S. Pradhan and DCG Dr. Varun Jeph, provided invaluable support for the event. CG Pradhan expressed his pride, stating, "It's a moment to see the best of India represented here. We celebrate our cultural, historic, and educational achievements today."

and inclusiveness." The parade showcased vibrant floats representing India's diverse communities, including a grand 18x9x8 foot replica of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, symbolizing a historic victory for all Indians. Other notable floats included the newly constructed Nalanda University, the world's first residential university, founded in 427 CE and led by BJANA, GANA depicting the state of Gujarat in India, and many more.



The State Bank of India float



Grand Marshall Pankaj Tripathi addresses the spectators from the Review stand

Our phenomenal Grand Marshal Sonakshi Sinha took the lead at the parade, with her husband, Bollywood actor Zaheer Iqbal by her side. The guests of honor included the talented Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi and the charismatic Bhojpuri celebrity and public figure Manoj Tiwari.



Pankaj Tripathi on the FIA float

The Indian Panorama float highlighted the Sikh tradition of martyrdom, heroism and sacrifices for the

country. It had the pictures of the supreme martyr Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Four Sahibzadas, and of freedom fighters like Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh. Also, the float displayed pictures of modern-day Sikh soldiers like Air Chief Marshall Arjan Singh, Major Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri, and General J.S. Arora, the hero of the surrender of 95000 Pakistani troops led by General Niazi in Bangla Desh in 1971.



Manoj Sinha is seen on BJANA float



Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, a spiritual leader, blesses the crowd at the Ram Mandir replica float

FIA President Dr. Avinash Gupta highlighted the importance of the parade's theme, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," on India's Independence Day. He stated, "On this day, we celebrate democracy, unity in diversity,



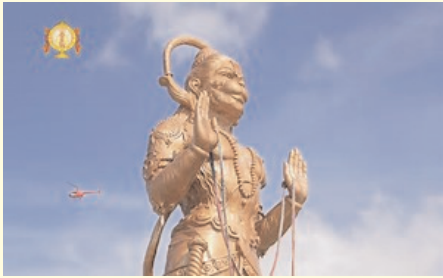
Dr. Samin Sharma, Grand sponsor waves the national flag

The crowd was as loud and lively as the music played and colors worn as those in attendance celebrated 78 years of India's independence. It was an inspiring display of inclusivity and unity in diversity, as individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions came together to celebrate their love and pride for India. Each person proudly represented their unique Indian identity, transcending prejudices and celebrating their country by waving Indian and American flags in unison as one big family.

Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, the respected spiritual leader of Juna Akhada, also graced the event, attracting a large crowd of devotees seeking his blessings. He mentioned that he had come to New York

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90-FT-TALL HANUMAN 'MURTI' BECOMES NEW LANDMARK IN TEXAS



A 90-foot-tall bronze 'murti' of Lord Hanuman in Texas

AUGUST 22, 2024

HOUSTON, TX (TIP): A 90-foot-tall bronze 'murti' of Lord Hanuman, unveiled near here, symbolizing "a new milestone in the cultural and spiritual landscape of America," has become the latest landmark in Texas visible from miles away, and the third tallest sculpture in the US.

The Statue of Union, as it has been named, is one of the tallest statues in the world and holds several other distinctions: it is the tallest Hanuman 'murti' outside India, the tallest in Texas, and the third tallest statue in the United States, surpassed only by the Statue of Liberty in New York (151 ft) and the Pegasus and Dragon in Hallandale Beach, Florida (110 ft), the organizers said.

The 'Statue of Union' Hanuman 'murti', which was unveiled at Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land, about 35-odd km from here, during a grand Prana Prathishta Mahotsavam ceremony from August 15 to 18, symbolizes "selflessness, devotion, and unity," the organizers said, adding, the murti is named so to "honor Hanuman's pivotal role in reuniting Lord Ram and Sita".

"This awe-inspiring structure is the result of the visionary efforts of His Holiness Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, a Padma Bhushan awardee, and a renowned Vedic scholar, who envisioned the project as a spiritual epicenter for North America," the organizer said in a statement.

The festivities commenced on August 15, coinciding with India's Independence Day and the core of the celebrations unfolded on August 18, with the grand Pran Prathishta ceremony. "The rituals, led by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji and overseen by a multitude of Vedic priests and scholars, were a powerful display of devotion and spirituality," the statement said.

The ceremony featured a helicopter showering flowers upon the 'murti', sprinkling of sacred water, and placing of a 72-ft-long garland around Hanuman's neck amid thousands of devotees chanting the names of Shri Ram and Hanuman in unison.

The statue stands tall not only as a symbol of Hanuman's indomitable spirit but also as a new milestone in the cultural and spiritual landscape of America, embodying the principles of devotion, strength, and unity for all who come to witness its grandeur, the organizers added.

Atlanta's Bengali community unites to protest against rape and death of Kolkata doctor

AUGUST 18, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): On August 14, 2024, members of Atlanta's Bengali community gathered at Global Mall in Norcross, Georgia, to protest the shocking rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata, West Bengal, now referred to as "Nirbhaya 2.0." The incident, which took place on August 9, 2024, sparked the first protest in the United States as part of a global movement demanding justice.

Around 120 to 130 people, including men, women, and children, assembled to raise their voices against the widespread violence faced by women in India. The protest began at 6:30 PM, with participants holding signs like "We Want Justice" and "Reform and Justice." This gathering served not only to honor the victim but also to call for systemic changes to ensure the safety of women everywhere.

The victim, a second-year postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, was discovered dead in a seminar room on August 9, 2024. The autopsy confirmed that she had been raped and murdered. The suspect, a civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police disaster management force and a member of the police welfare association, is also a trained boxer with connections to senior officials. He had been stationed at a police outpost near the medical college and often acted as a liaison for certain patients. The suspect, who has been married four times, is described as a womanizer and domestic abuser. Although the Kolkata Police report that



On August 14, 2024, members of Atlanta's Bengali community gathered at Global Mall in Norcross, Georgia, to protest the shocking rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata

he confessed to the crime, his mother insists he is being falsely accused.

The suspect's ties to influential officials have raised concerns about the investigation's transparency, prompting the Calcutta High Court to transfer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The incident has led to widespread protests and demands for better security measures for women, particularly in workplaces like hospitals.

In Atlanta, the news of this heinous act has deeply shaken the community, particularly women. Sumana Goswami, a prominent figure in the Bengali community, shared her distress with NRI Pulse, stating, "They could have simply ended her life, but they chose to rape her because they could. While crimes may not have a gender, rape unfortunately does."

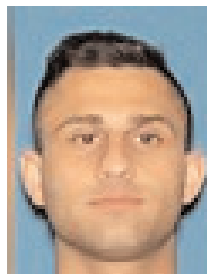
Public outrage was further fueled by insensitive responses from some authorities, including Dr. Sandip Ghosh, the principal of RG Kar Medical College,

who resigned amid the protests but was controversially reappointed to another position, causing additional backlash. Instead of showing sympathy, he questioned why the victim was resting alone at night. Such comments, coupled with the political blame game, have highlighted systemic failures in protecting women.

As a result, this protest, like many others, is not just about this one tragedy but also a call for comprehensive reforms to ensure women can feel safe in all spaces. The protests are a collective demand for tangible action, stronger laws, better enforcement, and greater accountability.

The Atlanta protest concluded with a candlelight vigil, where participants sang "Aguner Parashmani," a song symbolizing resilience and hope. The gathering ended with the Indian national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana," underscoring the unity and shared commitment to justice.

Indian American police officer Amitoj Oberoi sentenced to 15 years for fatal drunk driving crash



Amitoj Oberoi, has been sentenced to 15 years in state prison after a drunken crash claimed the lives of two passengers

AUGUST 20, 2024
SOMERSET, NJ

(TIP): An off-duty Edison Township police officer, Amitoj Oberoi, has been sentenced to 15 years in state prison after a drunken crash claimed the lives of two passengers on Route 27 in Franklin Township last August. The 31-year-old Franklin resident was sentenced Wednesday by Somerset County Superior Court Judge Jonathan Romankow. Oberoi received two concurrent terms of 15 years for first-degree vehicular homicide, stemming from the deaths of Carlos Perez-Gaytan, 24, of Franklin, and Victor Cabrera-Francisco, 20, of North Brunswick, who were passengers in his vehicle.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin jailed in Singapore for duping bank with housing deals



Bijabahadur Rai Shree Kantrai was sentenced to seven years and six months' jail for being a part of a group that duped a bank into disbursing more than SGD 5.1 million loans related to the sale of two houses. Photo for representation only.

AUGUST 18, 2024
SINGAPORE

(TIP): An Indian-origin man was sentenced to seven years and six months' jail for being a part of a group that duped a bank into disbursing more than SGD 5.1 million loans related to the sale of two houses here, a media report said on Tuesday, August 13. Bijabahadur Rai Shree Kantrai, 54, was convicted of seven similar charges. Sufandi Ahmad, 44, Kok Chiew Leong, 51, Mohamed Haron Hassan, 43, and Juma'at Johari, 44, all his accomplices in the ruse were also sentenced to different terms for different counts in connection with the cheating that took place in 2013 and 2014, a newspaper reported.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin man shot dead by teenager in daylight robbery in North Carolina



Mainank Patel, the owner of a Tobacco House store has been shot and killed by a teenager robber

AUGUST 17, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A 36-year-old Indian-origin man has been shot and killed after a teenage boy robbed a convenience store in the US state of North Carolina, authorities said.

Mainank Patel, the owner of the Tobacco House store at 2580 Airport Road, died after the shooting on Tuesday morning, the Salisbury Post reported. A juvenile male is in custody for the crime, according to Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Because the young man is a juvenile, deputies are not able to release his name. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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The Indian Panorama float

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

to take part in the India Day Parade at the request of the Indian-American community. "People are enthusiastic as they participate in the India Day Parade. Different tableaux featuring India's divine culture, our Kalajayi, Mrityunjaya, and Sanatan culture, and its values are seen here. All tableaux are very wonderful here,' he stated looking impressed.



Begumpura Society Dr. Ambedkar float

Following the parade, attendees gathered at the Cultural Stage, where a variety of performances showcased India's rich and diverse traditions. Manoj Tiwari, looking at the cheering crowds, said, "Itna pyar dekhkar mujhe yakeen hai ki America mai bhi Bharat basata hai (Seeing so much love, I am convinced that India resides in America too) "

Sonakshi Sinha expressed her gratitude for representing the nation, sharing her excitement as her father, Shatrughan Sinha, had served as Grand Marshal in 1985. All celebrities warmly engaged and entertained the audience, bringing their unique talents to the stage.

Pankaj Tripathi was visibly emotional upon seeing

the Baba Ambedkar float, expressing his heartfelt gratitude: "The sheer amount of love and support from the diaspora here in the United States is truly overwhelming. Your presence makes us all proud."

The festival featured a vibrant stage for cultural performances, where artists presented both traditional and contemporary Indian music and dance. The performances beautifully epitomized the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - the world is one family. Each dance told a unique story, harmonizing the grace of Bharatnatyam and Kathak with the energetic beats of Bhangra and the joyful movements of Garba. This



Muslims for Peace march in the parade

fusion created a breathtaking experience, celebrating unity in diversity. With over 45 booths and food stalls, attendees enjoyed a sensory feast of Indian cuisine and crafts. From spicy street food to handcrafted goods, the festival was a lively celebration of Indian culture in all its forms.

The India Day Parade 2024 was a resounding success, offering a joyful and immersive experience of Indian culture to New Yorkers and visitors alike. When asked about the mantra behind the parade's success each year,



National Association of Christians float

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya stated, "Our mantra is our vibrant community and thriving diaspora, who are proud, inclusive, diverse, and, most importantly, united. May the United States and our motherland, India, reach new heights of success."

This mega undertaking was made possible through



Dhol Tasha group was a great attraction



Sonakshi and Zaheer Iqbal entertained the spectators



Desis in NYPD march in the parade



Manoj Sinha regaled the audience with his songs

the generous support of partners, including Holtech, Mount Sinai, The Consulate General of India-NY, State Bank of India, RWJ Barnabas, ICICI, Simplify TARA, Bombino, Andaaz, Landed, Dunkin, Times Group, Bansal Foundation, Siddhivinayak Temple-USA, BJANA, GANA, AAPI, MOCAAPI, and ESB. Media

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CONTD FROM PAGE 6



Pankaj Tripathi stole the heart of the pleased crowd



Local artists gave a dance performance

India Abroad, The Indian Panorama, South Asian Times, and many others who played a crucial role in elevating this landmark event.

The festivities concluded with a grand Independence Gala held at the National Museum of the American Indians that brought together over 450 members of the Indian community and esteemed guests. Attendees



enjoyed a diverse menu provided by Andaaz Restaurant, located in Franklin Park, NJ, which offered a delectable array of traditional Indian dishes. Manan Saxena, owner of Andaaz, also took the stage to discuss the banquet menu and its significance in supporting this initiative.

A key focus of the evening was the "Zero Food Waste Mission," emphasized by Nirali and Rohit Korat, founders of Gracia Marcom, a purpose-driven agency that highlighted the importance of sustainability and minimizing food waste during the event.

The parade left a lasting impression of the vibrant spirit and unity of the Indian diaspora in New York City, celebrating not just a day, but a shared heritage that continues to thrive.



A view of the general gathering in the parade

FIA, in the press release said it was grateful for the heartfelt turnout and all those who attended, participated, and volunteered to make this iconic celebration a memorable one.

(Based on a press release)

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The essence of India's inflation problem

THE RISING PRICE OF FOOD LIES AT THE CORE OF INDIA'S INFLATION



BY PULAPRE
BALAKRISHNAN &
M. PARAMESWARAN



The Economic Survey that preceded this year's Union Budget presentation makes a suggestion which has implications for inflation control. It is that the price of food be taken out of the inflation target that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is mandated with. In technical jargon, this would amount to targeting 'core' instead of 'headline' inflation, which is the practice now. To appreciate fully the implication of such a move, were it to be implemented, would require recognition of two aspects. These concern the recent experience with inflation in India and the current policy for inflation control.

FOOD PRICE AND INFLATION TRAJECTORY

First, of late, food price inflation has been very high by historical standards. In June, the year-on-year increase in the price of food was close to 10%. Food price inflation has been elevated since 2019. Note that this is before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, not to mention the Ukraine war, implying that domestic factors are at work. With food inflation high and food accounting for a large part of the consumer price index, overall inflation has been higher than usual too.

Now to the second aspect that needs to be understood. Since 2016, by an act of Parliament, controlling inflation in India has been hived-off to the RBI, which is expected to control it through variations in the interest rate, a practice termed as 'inflation targeting'. The term conveys a sense of both capacity and precision, that a central bank can choose the level of inflation. Actually, this is far from assured. The RBI has missed the targeted 4% every year in the past five years. In the United Kingdom, the Bank of England's record has been patchy too. Finally, in the United States, where the Federal Reserve aims at 2% inflation, it shot up to over 8% in 2022. Since then it has plummeted to a level close to the target. In all these economies, the recent trajectory of inflation has been undergirded by fluctuations in the price of food globally.

Two questions arise when we consider the suggestion made in the Economic Survey. First, is the move to remove the price of food from the inflation target justifiable in terms of the goals of economic policy? Second, is the RBI likely to be any more successful in controlling core inflation than it has been in its efforts to control headline inflation? The answer to both the questions is 'no'. India is an economy in which the share of food in household expenditure is close to 50%. This is very high by international standards. For instance, in the U.S., it is less than 10%.

Generally, the food share is taken as a proxy for the standard of living - and, therefore, of poverty. A high share of food in a household's expenditure leaves it vulnerable to a rise in the price of food. Given this, to ignore changes in the price of food, by adopting an inflation target which excludes it, amounts to ignoring what matters most to a very large section of the Indian population. A technical justification is given to such a proposal by asserting that food price fluctuations are 'transitory', that is, increases are inevitably followed by a downward movement. Well, this certainly is not true for the Indian economy.

Food price inflation has not been negative in any of



the 13 years since 2011-12, the base year for the current consumer price index. In fact, it may be said that "India has a food inflation problem", and the assertion that food prices may be ignored as the spikes are only transitory is not credible.

TARGETING CORE INFLATION

This takes us to the second issue - whether the RBI can be expected to be any more successful if it were to confine itself to targeting core inflation. This question may be answered quite easily. In the past 13 years, the annual average core inflation has been within the targeted 4% in only one year, that too barely.

This does not surprise us, for our statistical investigation yielded two reasons why this must be so. First, a rise in the RBI's repo rate does not dampen core inflation as claimed. In fact, increasing it is seen to lead to a rise in the inflation rate. This is not without economic logic. As the higher interest rate chokes-off demand, which is how it is meant to work, firms may well raise prices to guard their profits. After all, firms face a double whammy now. Working capital costs would have increased and revenues fallen as aggregate output contracts. We found something else to be the case - that food price inflation is a determinant of core inflation, which, again, is only to be expected. After all, food prices determine wages, which are a part of a firm's costs, the other being materials. So, wages rise as there is food price inflation.

The finding that food prices affect core inflation renders this measure of it without operational significance. It also leads to a deeper understanding. As labor enters all lines of production to a greater or lesser extent, changes in the price of food determine the inflation rate across an economy. Monetary policy working via changes in the interest rate cannot control inflation as the central bank has no control over the price of food.

If all this is so widely known among discerning economists, why does economic policy in India have to persist with the idea that inflation can be left to the central bank? This is because of an ideological shift that occurred globally after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The view that got installed was that

production was to be left to the market and inflation alone was to be controlled by the central bank.

Since 1991, all political parties in India have been eager to demonstrate that they follow closely practices adopted in the West, no matter that they may be irrelevant or, worse still, damaging, to this country. Leaving food price inflation out of the inflation target is one such practice.

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The rising price of food lies at the core of India's inflation. The proposal to take the price of food out of the official measure of it is no solution to the ongoing inflation. For reasons explained here, if for whatever reason the price of food was to keep rising, as it has for the last five years, the RBI will not be able to control core inflation either. The current inflation in India can only be handled through supply-side measures that raise the yield in agriculture. The challenges are serious, though not insurmountable for a country that ended chronic food shortage over half a century ago. But success would require a comprehensive approach to agricultural production, one that keeps costs in check so that supply is forthcoming at a steady price as the population and economy grow.

Taking food inflation out of the inflation target without any plan for its control would leave India defenseless against an ever-present threat to the standard of living of its population. The Economic Survey suggests that the adverse welfare effect of food price inflation may be taken care of by income transfers to households. However, if food prices keep rising faster than the overall inflation rate, as they are right now, such transfers would absorb a rising share of the Budget, leaving less and less for public goods. This is undesirable. There is no alternative to controlling the rise in the prices of all goods, which currently is the avowed policy.

(Pulapre Balakrishnan is Honorary Visiting Professor of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. M. Parameswaran is Professor of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram)

Moral pressure and human rights compliance



BY
SHELLEY WALIA

THERE IS A NEED TO ESTABLISH THE UNDENIABLE CENTRALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD THAT IS FACING PREJUDICE AND FANATICISM



As is commonly recognized, there are two ways in which compliance with human rights norms can be enforced. One approach is the enforcement of economic sanctions or military invasion. This is only possible in the case of powerful nations. The other strategy is through forceful condemnation which can be undertaken by non-governmental organizations or smaller nations, irrespective of their military or economic power or their lack of adequate international clout.

Though the practice of state sovereignty puts up barriers to the implementation of international human rights standards, moral pressure against the governments guilty of violating human rights sometimes succeeds in nudging them to step back. But mostly, it is seen that authoritarian regimes such as the dispensation of Vladimir Putin in Russia, Xi Jinping in China or Kim Jong-un in North Korea completely ignore the pleadings of various governments, many of whom, in reality, have their own political and economic agenda in disingenuously taking the moral high ground of an anti-war or a liberal narrative.

IMPACT OF NAMING AND SHAMING

However, Rochelle Terman, a scholar on human rights, in her recent study, *The Geopolitics of Shaming: When Human Rights Pressure Works' - and When It Backfires* (Princeton 2024), places the idea of locating shaming in strategic contexts, thereby exploring the success of publicly identifying and condemning those guilty of human abuse. Naming and shaming, as well as the genuine intentions of lending full support to the victims have, in many instances, worked out positively as a deterrence to further violations.

Innumerable political occasions across the world corroborate the impact of naming and shaming in endorsing human rights accountability and reforms. Such campaigns, it was seen, resulted in exerting significant pressure on governments to improve their human rights records - as in the case of Myanmar and Ethiopia - leading to the release of political prisoners.

Similarly, in Columbia and Argentina, naming and shaming had a tangible impact on policy deviations to address human rights apprehensions. Dictators such as Augusto Pinochet of Chile, Slobodan Milošević from Serbia, Charles Taylor from Liberia, and Alberto Fujimori from Peru have been prosecuted for crimes against humanity after a worldwide censure of their tyranny was established. Across cultures, both traditional and modern, the violence against marginalized ethnic groups or LGBTQ individuals have led to augmented safeguards and appreciation

of basic human rights. Campaigns against such perpetrators have visibly led to increased access to justice and reparations for victims of human rights abuses.

Though naming and shaming efforts often fail, with some guilty governments resisting or denying allegations, or making only cosmetic changes, unrelenting pressure and activism does contribute to greater culpability over time. For example, in the case of Israel, universal endorsements have had negligible impact on the leadership to comply with the demands of recognized human rights institutions which promote and monitor violations. But student agitations across the world against the genocide in Palestine or, more recently, against the dictatorship in Bangladesh are indisputably acts of dissent resulting in exerting moral pressure on the Zionist lobby or on the idea of religious nationalism that often leads to authoritarianism. Such campaigns have often led to increased international scrutiny and demands for human rights improvements. It is disheartening that many nations remain bystanders, or disallow student agitations to suit their right-wing affiliations.

CONUNDRUM IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The moot question, therefore, before us is to interrogate if the strategy of using "naming and shaming" is effective. Though a powerful tool of moral pressure that puts a country such as China, Russia, Israel or Syria in the spotlight, and condemns violations and urges reform, a conundrum in international law continues to smolder. For example, when Amnesty

International asks you to endorse a petition on behalf of a political dissident in China, or the United Nations issues a resolution convicting state violence in Syria, it amounts to shaming. Or when Russia is banned from participating in the Olympics, it becomes an international act of humiliating the violator. But what can such moral sanctions achieve when in many cases even military invasion or economic sanctions do not work?

Rather than merely exposing the violator on the global stage, one way out of the conundrum would be to ensure that human rights emerge from the inherent social and democratic institutions as well as from the innate national psyche. Human rights advocates must urge governments to build a bridge between power and law, concentrating steadfastly on popular appeals and democratic politics. The success of such an approach will depend on the intensity with which the illiberal forces are challenged by disallowing liberal ideas to be subverted.

Forces fighting for human rights must come to grips with the tendency to co-opt the forces of liberalism through a false rhetoric based on propaganda and deceptions used as trappings of manipulation for the furtherance of power, and buttressed by a sort of unconstitutional politics. Such a brand of hubris will stand vanquished when the impetus given to the growth of human rights and the furtherance of economic and social reforms disempowers the tyranny of the state.

Understandably, we live in a world beleaguered by prejudice and fanaticism, where authoritarian governments tyrannize their people, where free speech is denied with utmost insensitivity. The

very dignity of the people is repudiated and their fundamental freedoms cramped.

THE STATE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

To restore the personal liberty of all and bring the guilty to justice within the ambit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, becomes the responsibility of the state. Such a call for the scrutiny of the various functions and policies of the state would hasten the advent of the question of human rights to the center stage and usher in an environment of peace, tolerance and understanding. To achieve this, it is pragmatic that the state takes this task as binding and sacred. In case the state shows reluctance in patronizing the cause of human rights, any kind of resistance activism would gain in its legitimacy, especially as a process of a critical, reflective and alert defense of the general public against state persecution or indifference.

Achievements and disappointments of implementing human rights are better understood within the context of liberal modernity where a repression-free state respects human rights without any bias or partiality so that rules of equal treatment stand at the forefront of its crucial concerns. This is possible when the interests of the prevailing parties in power cohere with the question of seeking human rights as fundamental to their political ideology and a zeitgeist underpinned by a conscience of a deep-rooted moral concern. The state would, therefore, need to establish stronger institutions that keep abreast of the democratic norms of protecting basic human rights, a moral and legal position based on ideologically-centered proclamations of norms and expositions.

It is imperative, therefore, to establish the undeniable centrality of human rights amidst the ever-increasing human-rights violations in a rapidly changing world, particularly in liberal systems which help to sustain full stability through generating public welfare in an egalitarian environment. To achieve this, a consolidation of the plausible foundation for human rights, of political coalitions, institutional arrangements, and political ideologies has to be mobilized as a strategy for achieving compliance and justice through holding culprits responsible. This centrality remains absent in North Korea or China, and now in many countries with right-wing governments across the world where the success of a political system depends not on purposeful prerequisite for rights, open-minded legality, or democratic culpability, but on the authoritarian ideological state apparatus geared to attain maximum power over the people.

(The author has taught Cultural Theory at Punjab University)

TRYSTS AND TURNS: Political patronage emboldens offenders

LAWS ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SHOULD BE UNIFORMLY AND FIRMLY ENFORCED ACROSS THE COUNTRY



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister and the feisty boss of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), is squarely on the back foot today. Is this the beginning of the end for this born fighter? If so, the BJP will have succeeded where Bengal-based parties have failed. The BJP is cashing in on Mamata's many mistakes in dealing with the rape-murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata to turn even some of her own party workers and supporters against her.

The doctor was shamelessly brutalized at her workplace. It almost seems that young men are on the prowl looking for opportunities to rape and kill their chosen victims. There is a loud call for more stringent laws. The question to ask is: Is the Indian state truly concerned about these girls of ours or is it led by men who believe, like Mulayam Singh Yadav, the late Samajwadi Party leader, that "boys will be boys"?

Why are boys not boys in every state of the Indian Union or in other countries of the world? The answer to this question should guide those in power to take remedial measures. Much depends on the political will to combat the menace of sexual perverses running amok. The solution does not involve formulating new laws but ensuring that existing laws on sexual misconduct are uniformly and firmly enforced.

With regard to the Kolkata case, the insidious practice of appointing 'civic volunteers' in government-run hospitals should be immediately discontinued. These workers are chosen from among the ruling party's supporters without proper verification of their antecedents, habits and proclivities. Lumpen elements who constitute the stormtroopers of every political party are allowed to slip in. The 'carte blanche' given to them to roam around in hospitals, 'helping' patients secure beds and medical attention, has led to this sad occurrence.

Regularly recruited social workers who train students for true social work should replace these 'civic volunteers', whose main job is to extract 'speed money' from patients in distress. All indications point to the sharing of the proceeds of corruption with those who have helped them secure unofficial employment.

This menace is not exclusive to Bengal or to one political party. In Gujarat, I learnt that besides teachers recruited from amongst the ideologically aligned people, the ranks of the Home Guards were chosen from the same partisan source. The Home Guards are often sent



Setback: Some of Mamata Banerjee's own party workers and supporters are turning against her.

Credit: ANI

These instances of an anti-women attitude of parties in power in order to bolster their political fortunes is what contributes to the general disrespect for womanhood and, further, disrespect for the law itself. Unless public pressure is built on all parties to desist from showing mercy to sexual offenders, the menace will continue to haunt the national conscience.

to assist the police in law and order or traffic regulation. If such recruitment of untrained men and women is not discontinued, incidents like the one that has hit Kolkata in its solar plexus will multiply.

Another very urgent remedy to reduce cases of sexual misconduct is to send out a clear message to potential offenders that they can expect no mercy from parties in power. They will be caught by the police and sentenced by the courts. At present, there is a very wrong message being circulated that if you support or help the party in power, your time in jail will be curtailed by the easily obtained parole and even jail sentences can be prematurely terminated.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim, a self-styled godman with a large following in Haryana, was convicted of two rapes and a murder. He was released on parole for long periods coinciding with the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. That may have helped the ruling party get a few

more votes, but it encouraged sexual offenders to go ahead with satisfying their lust.

Similarly, the dozen or so men convicted in Gujarat for rape and murder during the 2002 riots were released prematurely, thereby sending out a clear message that a partisan government would not stop aiding and abetting such offenders as long as they are the party's supporters. The Calcutta High Court fortunately intervened when the TMC was more than kind to the medical college principal, who appeared to have shut his eyes to the unlawful activities of the 'civic volunteers'. The principal should have been given a punishment posting but instead was sent to a bigger and better hospital before the court stepped in. That error of judgment was widely interpreted as an indication of the TMC's support for what was radically evil in the hospital management.

These instances of an anti-women attitude of parties in power in order to

bolster their political fortunes is what contributes to the general disrespect for womanhood and, further, disrespect for the law itself. Unless public pressure is built on all parties to desist from showing mercy to sexual offenders, the menace will continue to haunt the national conscience.

Mulayam's adage that "boys will be boys" is presently the reigning philosophy in our land. It is fortunate that educated women have revolted against this philosophy. It took the BJP leadership quite a long time to sideline Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a party MP who doubled as the president of the Wrestling Federation of India. He was a serial offender who ran several educational institutions in and around his home town. He commanded votes in more than three Lok Sabha constituencies. And that mattered more to the BJP than all the slogans that placed women on a pedestal and that were glibly repeated day in, day out by the party's eminent leaders.

If action had been taken earlier against Brij Bhushan, Vinesh Phogat would not have missed the trials for the Olympic wrestling slot in her preferred weight category. And we would not have had to approach the Court of Arbitration for Sport, begging for rules to be changed!

(The author is a former governor and a highly decorated retired IPS (Indian Police Service) officer)

Dr Urmilesh Arya's lifetime of service in the US and India is laudable

HONORED TO LEAD INDIA DAY PARADE AS GRAND MARSHAL, DR ARYA'S LEADERSHIP ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY HAVE BROUGHT HER MANY LAURELS.

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA



Dr. Urmilesh Arya

Chosen to lead the 13th India Day Parade of Long Island in Hicksville on August 25 caps many decades of community service by Dr Urmilesh Arya in both America and India, in which she has served in leadership roles in Indian community organizations.



Dr Urmilesh Arya celebrating Diwali on Capitol Hill with Congress members Gregory Meek and Carolyn Maloney and other community leaders

In her message on the eve of the parade, she said, "We are celebrating the 78th Independence Day of the largest democracy on the land of the strongest and oldest democracy in the world. Our mission and vision are to promote unity, commend the hard work and sincerity of



Dr Urmilesh and Dr Yashpal Arya with Dr. Nirmal K. Mattoo (left) at the dedication of the Arya India Studies Library at Stony Brook.

the Indian community, and remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters."

A true ambassador of India, she added, "Our ancestors have given us a rich heritage and culture that teaches us to live happily and help others get peace and happiness. If we work together, we all progress."

Urmilesh Arya, MD, has had a stellar professional career. Coming to America in 1970, she earned eminence as a pediatrician and retired as Medical



Congressman Tom Suozzi presented a Proclamation on the Golden Jubilee of the AIA to Dr. Urmilesh Arya, its president.

Director at Queensbridge Family Health Center of Wyckoff Heights Hospital. She

also served as COO at Arya Gastroenterology Associates in Brooklyn, which is run by her husband, Dr Yashpal Arya.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

At the turn of the century, she started serving the community, becoming a trustee of the Hindu Temple Community Center in Flushing and of the American Association of Indian Physicians-AAPI QLI chapter.

Primed for bigger responsibilities, in 2003, she was elected President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) - New York, which organizes the annual



During Covid, Dr Urmilesh Arya arranged to send Oxygen Concentrators and Ventilators to India.

Deepavali Festival at South Street Seaport to showcase Indian culture. She initiated Diwali celebrations at City Hall, Gracie Mansion, and the White House. Her advocacy led to free alternate street parking on Diwali in NYC. Diwali is now a school holiday in the city.

Dr. Urmilesh Arya went on to serve as the first woman President of the National AIA in 2018, leading its Golden Jubilee event. Congressmen Tom Suozzi and Raja Krishnamoorthy, actor Anupam Kher, and honoree Dr Arthur A. Gianelli, President of the Mount Sinai Health Network, graced the event.

Dr. Urmilesh Arya believes helping those in need is a hallmark of Indian culture. As President of the Rotary Club of Hicksville South for 2017-18, she led the club's annual drives for school bags, winter jackets, and blankets



During Covid, Dr Urmilesh Arya arranged to send Oxygen Concentrators and Ventilators to India.

and served food in a soup kitchen. With her team, she planted a tree in Gandhi Peace Garden on the premises of SUNY Old Westbury in a message of Indo-US friendship.

In 2017, Dr. Urmilesh and Dr. Yash Arya set up the India Library in Stony Brook University's Mattoo Center for India Studies.

SERVICE PROJECTS IN INDIA

During the Covid pandemic, Dr. Urmilesh Arya



Dr. Urmilesh and Dr. Yash Arya have established 5 high schools and 2 primary schools in India.

distributed facial masks and gloves to Nassau County Medical Center and meals to essential workers. She also sent Oxygen Concentrators and Ventilators to India.

To educate the underprivileged children, the Arya couple has joined hands with Vidya Bharti to establish 5 high schools and 2 primary schools in northern states. These schools also infuse patriotism and Indian culture in the students.

Dr. Urmilesh Arya has received many honors and awards, including from temples in New York, the Women's History Month Award from Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, a Gold Medal from the National Republican Congress Committee, and the Bharat Gaurav Award at the UN.

The Arya couple lives on Long Island. They have two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren.



Dr. Urmilesh Arya with fellow Rotarians and others at planting of the Tree for Unity at Gandhi Peace Garden in SUNY Old Westbury



Dr. Urmilesh Arya received Bharat Gaurav award at the United Nations, one of many bestowed on her.

Seattle witnesses an impressive India Day Parade with the enthusiastic participation of a large Indian American community

CONTD FROM PAGE 1



Guests applaud

Infrastructure - India's ingenuity is helping not just Indians, but the whole world. Countries across the Global South are leveraging India's experience to build their DPI systems"



Mr. Bill Gates addresses the gathering

Other distinguished participants at the Inday Day



Mr. Bill Gates and other guests with the CG Mr. Gupta



Consul General of India in Seattle Mr. Prakash Gupta hoists the Indian Flag on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of India



A float depicting Kashmir

celebrations included Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, Congresswoman Kim Schrier, Congressman Adam Smith, Lt. General Xavier Brunson, Commander of the America's First Corps in Pacific Northwest, Rear Admiral Mark Sucato, Commander of the Navy Region of Northwest, Washington Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck and Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs



Performances

and Chief Justice from Washington Supreme Court Steve Gonzalez. From city leadership, Mayors of cities of Bellevue, Tacoma, Kent, Auburn, Renton, SeaTac, Snoqualmie and Mercer Island also joined in the India Day celebrations.

The event showcased for the first time in Greater Seattle area ALL states and regions of India through floats and cultural performances celebrating the theme of Unity in Diversity. Each of the floats were put together by prominent leaders of the Indian American community and reflected some of the important aspects of India's rich cultural heritage.



A marching group in the parade

In another special gesture, five separate official proclamations were issued by governments/city councils of King County, Bellevue City (Washington), Portland (Oregon), Hillsboro (Oregon), Tigard (Oregon) to honor the India Day celebrations. H.E Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming also sent a separate congratulatory message on India's 78th Independence



Viewers

All photos: Jay Mandal- on assignment

Day. Some iconic buildings in Seattle and Bellevue also lit up in tricolors to mark the India Day celebrations.

The Queens, New York India Day Parade turned a sea of tricolor



The dignitaries on the float



The gathering singing the American anthem



Entertainment. Artists giving dance performances

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

As the parade started at 268 - Langdale Street at Floral Park Hillside Avenue on Saturday, August 17 afternoon and reached the stage set up on Little Neck Parkway, the entire neighborhood was filled with patriots flying the Indian tricolor and the American flag. The Floral Park atmosphere reverberated with waves of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" chants.

As activists carrying banners of various organizations and floats beautifully decorated with the Indian flag moved slowly down the Hillside Ave road, the parade was greeted warmly by local people and many Indians lined up on both sides of

Singer, Actor, and film producer Sabarinath and team members presented the song and dance mela, and the gathering was filled with enthusiasm.

Koshy O Thomas who is well known in Eastern Queens New York, introduced to the audience all the elected officials who came as guests on the stage.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Indian Consulate Community Affairs Consul Pragya Singh, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, US Congressman Tom Souzzi, New York State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, New York State Senator Kevin Thomas, New York State Assemblywoman Gina Silitti,



Recognitions

the road. The front row of the parade was marked by police horses and policemen of the New York Police Department, a police motorcycle troop, and members of the "Desi Society Police Association" of uniformed Indian-origin employees of the New York Police, carrying the Indian and American flags.

The public assembly began around 2 pm when all the parade participants filled the open-air stage on the northwest side of the Little Neck Parkway. Many elected officials and community leaders, grand celebrity Kollywood film actor Vijay Vishwa, organizing committee members Chairman Board of Directors Hemant Shah, Vice Chairman Koshy O Thomas, Association President Dincil George, General Secretary Mary Philip, Master of Ceremonies Asha Mampilly, and Ujjwala Shah and Parade committee members took lead in making the event a grand success. The stage was filled with artists presenting art shows,

Representative of New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Deputy director of Asian Affairs Sibu Nair, Town of North Hempstead Town Supervisor Ragini Srivastava and many community leaders participated in the public meeting and felicitated the gathering and highlighted the importance of celebrating Independence and practicing freedom in the adopted land.

All leaders extolled the valuable services and contributions that the Indian immigrant community has been rendering to New York State and to this country.

Patriotic dance performed by the members of the Indian Nurses Association, dance performed by the Senior Women from India Home, art performance by the members of the Gujarati Samaj, dance program by the Spanish community and song mela performed by singer Sabarinath and his team entertained the crowds.

(Based on a press release)

KOLKATA RAP-MURDER

Accused has 'animal-like instinct', his psychoanalytic profile is of a pervert: CBI

KOLKATA (TIP)

The psychoanalytic profile of the arrested accused in the rape and murder of the woman doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sanjay Roy, indicated that he was a pervert and severely addicted to pornography, a CBI officer said on Thursday, August 22.

Quoting the doctors from New Delhi's Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), the officer also said that the civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police has an "animal-like instinct".

The body of the post-graduate trainee was found in the seminar room of the hospital on August 9. The civic volunteer was arrested the next day.

"The man showed no repentance and narrated the entire episode giving every minute detail without hiccups. It appeared that he had no remorse," the official of the central probe agency said.

Several pornographic contents were found in the mobile phone that Roy was using and later seized by the Kolkata Police before the investigation was handed over to the CBI on an order of the Calcutta High Court.

The CBI officer said that pieces of evidence, both technical and scientific, "very much support" that the accused was present at the crime scene.

Referring to the CCTV footage collected from the hospital, he said Roy could be seen near the chest department ward at around 11 am on August 8.

"Footage showed him entering the same building again at around 4 am on August 9. Certain technical and scientific evidence corroborated



There are also records of Sanjay Roy remaining in an intoxicated state while on duty.

that," he said.

The officer did not want to divulge anything about the DNA tests conducted on Roy.

He also refused to comment on the ongoing buzz that there was no gang rape in the case.

The CBI officers have visited Roy's residence in Bhowanipore, spoke to his family, neighbours and also to his colleagues in the Kolkata Police.

WHO ARE GODFATHERS OF SANJAY ROY; UNDER WHOSE PATRONAGE DID KOLKATA HORROR ACCUSED BECOME SO ARROGANT

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers investigating the rape and murder of a woman doctor of state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata are now tracking the details of the past antecedents of crime against women of the sole arrested accused in the case, Sanjay Roy.

Sources said that during the investigation, the sleuths have come across information about several instances of Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, harassing or sexually abusing women. However, no case was launched or action initiated against him. The investigating officials are trying to track the godfathers of Roy, whose patronage stopped any sort of disciplinary action against him in such cases, as a result of which he became so arrogant. There are also records of Roy remaining in an intoxicated state while on duty.

Roy was arrested by the Kolkata Police, which was initially investigating the doctor rape and murder case before the charge of the investigation was handed over to the CBI on the order of the Calcutta High Court.

Since the time he was arrested, questions started surfacing on how the accused, as a mere civic volunteer, enjoyed certain privileges and freedom of movement like regular police personnel. He used to reside at a police barrack at Ultadanga in North Kolkata, which is meant for regular police personnel in the permanent payroll with other allied financial emoluments.

Questions were raised on why this gross irregularity could remain unnoticed by the senior officials of the state police or why any regular resident of the barrack did not bring the matter to the notice of the higher authorities.

Information also surfaced then that despite being a civic volunteer, which is nothing but a contractual post, Roy often used to identify himself as an assistant sub-inspector of police attached to the armed police division of the state police.

The body of a female doctor was found in suspicious circumstances in the seminar hall of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. So far only one person has been arrested in the case.

CBI sees cover-up bid, says crime spot altered

KOLKATA (TIP)

The CBI on Thursday, August 22, alleged in the Supreme Court that there was an attempt to cover up the rape and killing of the Kolkata doctor by the local police as the crime scene was altered by the time it took over the probe. In its status report filed in the Supreme Court, the CBI said the parents of the victim were initially informed that it was a case of suicide. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, also flagged the delay in filing the FIR. He told a Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that senior doctors of the hospital as well as the victim's colleagues had asked for videography, which meant even they felt that there was a cover-up.

"We initiated the probe on the fifth day. Before that, whatever was collected by the local police was given to us. The investigation itself was a challenge because the scene of offence was altered. The FIR was registered only after the (victim's) cremation at 11:45 pm on August 9. "First, the parents were informed by the deputy superintendent (of the hospital) that she was not well. When they reached the hospital, they were told that she had committed suicide," Mehta told the Bench.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the West Bengal Government, countered Mehta's claims, saying everything at the crime scene was recorded on video and that nothing had been tampered with.

Meanwhile, the CBI on Thursday sought permission

from a Kolkata court to conduct a polygraph test on former principal of the medical college Sandip Ghosh and four other doctors, who were on duty on the date of the incident. The agency claimed due to inconsistencies in Ghosh's responses during questioning, they wanted to conduct a polygraph test on him.





SC defers till Sept 5 hearing on Arvind Kejriwal's plea for bail

The Supreme Court on Friday, August 23, deferred till September 5 hearing on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging the arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter-affidavit and gave two days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said the CBI filed a counter-affidavit in only one of the pleas and it was served upon them at 8 pm on Thursday.

ASG SV Raju said they will file the counter in another plea in one week. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing on September 5.

On August 14, the top court refused to grant interim bail to Kejriwal in the case and sought a response from the probe agency on his plea challenging his arrest. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26.

The chief minister, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money-laundering case on June 20. However, the trial court's order was stayed by the high court.

On July 12, the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in the money-laundering case.

PM Modi arrives in Ukraine as India aims to provide support for peace, stability

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Ukraine on Friday, August 23, becoming the first Indian head of government to travel to the country for a visit that is being closely watched for any steps that will be taken by New Delhi to help end the conflict triggered by Russia's invasion in 2022.

Following his engagements in Poland on Thursday, Modi made a journey by train that lasted about 10 hours to reach Ukraine early on Friday morning. There was no official word on his arrival and the Indian side had said there would be few updates about the visit because of stringent security protocols associated with a trip to an active warzone.

Indian TV channels beamed footage of Modi's motorcade driving through the deserted streets of Kyiv to draw up at a hotel. Modi travelled to Ukraine a little more than a month after his visit to Russia for the annual summit with President Vladimir Putin during July 8-9.

The visit coincides with Ukraine's National Flag Day, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said his talks with Modi will focus on bilateral and multilateral cooperation. It was also expected that a number of documents would be signed by the two countries.

Ahead of his arrival in Kyiv, Modi said during a media interaction in Warsaw on Thursday that India stands ready to work with friendly countries to provide all support for early restoration of peace and stability in Ukraine.

"It is India's firm belief that no problem can be solved on the battlefield. In any crisis, the loss of lives of innocent people has become the biggest challenge for the whole of humanity," he said, speaking in Hindi. "We support dialogue and diplomacy for the early restoration of peace and stability. For this, India, along with friendly countries, is ready to provide all possible support", he said.

The Ukrainian side, which has been looking to India taking on a greater role in ongoing peace efforts because of the country's proximity to Russia, said President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's 10-point peace formula will be one of



PM departs for Ukraine from Poland on August 22, 2024.

the main topics of discussion during Modi's visit that is expected to last about seven hours.

Ukraine has also said it believes India, as the voice of the Global South, should enhance its efforts to bring about a "just and lasting peace".

Modi joins the leaders of Indonesia, Hungary, South Africa and Turkiye in visiting both Russia and Ukraine during the war and is among the handful of Asian leaders who have travelled to Kyiv since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The visit is being seen as part of India's attempts to balance between the country's longstanding strategic relationship with Russia and expectation from the West, especially the US, that New Delhi should do more to back efforts aimed at bringing Moscow and Kyiv to the negotiating table.

However, India has ruled out any mediatory role and indicated it can help by passing messages between Russia and Ukraine.

Source: HT

NC ties up with Congress for all 90 seats in J&K polls

SRINAGAR (TIP)

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday, August 22, said that his party has finalised an alliance with the Congress for all 90 assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir, and added that they were open to also bringing the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on board after the elections, indicating the possibility of the three INDIA bloc members coming together in the Union territory's political arena.

The former J&K chief minister made the announcement hours after Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge met him and his son, NC vice president Omar Abdullah, in Srinagar.

"We had a good meeting in a cordial atmosphere. The alliance is on track, and it will run smoothly. The alliance is final, and it will be for all 90 seats. Our common program is to fight together and defeat the divisive forces in the country," Abdullah



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and party vice president Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Thursday, August 22. (ANI)

said, and added that the two parties will soon formalise a seat-sharing pact.

The first assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir in a decade will be held in three phases on September 18 and 25, and October 1. They will be the first assembly

polls in the restive region since its special status and statehood were scrapped five years ago and are likely to be the last step before the Union territory's statehood is restored. "Statehood is very important for all of us. This has been promised to us.

This state has witnessed bad days, and we hope it will be restored with its full powers. For that, we stand together with the INDIA bloc," Abdullah said, adding that former MLA and CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami also extended support to them. Congress general secretary and former president of J&K unit Ghulam Ahmad Mir said the two parties took different factors into consideration before sealing the alliance: "We resolved almost all hurdles and both the parties even agreed to some sacrifices for the sake of a fruitful coalition."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Congress leader said: "The NC will likely get around 50 seats and the Congress between 35-38 seats. Some allies will also be accommodated."

The NC and Congress formed a post-poll alliance in 2008, with Omar Abdullah leading the coalition government as the chief minister. The two parties did not tie-up for the 2014 polls and contested all seats separately.

Source: HT

India in history this Week

AUGUST 23 TO AUGUST 29

23 AUGUST



1944 The famous heroine of Indian films Saira Banu was born.

1947 Vallabhbhai Patel was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister of the country.

1986 Bombay's Shambhu Apashane won the longest typing marathon by winning a world record.

1995 The country's first cellular phone was commercially introduced in Calcutta.

2011 Scientists at the Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered the origin of the Brahmaputra and Indus rivers and completed a comprehensive satellite study of the length of their route.

2008 The Government of Uttar Pradesh nominated 16 members in the State Women's Commission in 2008.

24 AUGUST

1908 The revolutionary Rajguru was born.

1600 The first ship of the East India Company, Hector, reached the coast of Surat.

1690 Calcutta city was established.

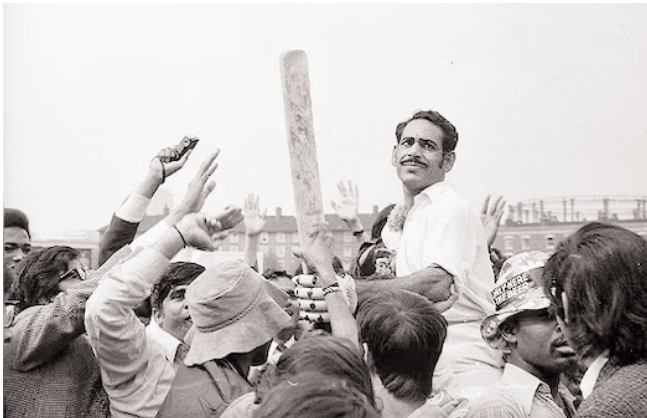
1969 VV Giri became the fourth President of India.

1974 Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed became the fifth President of India.

1999 Pakistan refused to consider the 8 prisoners of war captured by India during the Kargil operation as a prisoner of war.

1910 ITC Limited bought the third largest tobacco company in Kolkata, India.

1925 Social reformer Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar died.



1971 India beat England by four wickets in the Oval Cricket Test match to register their first win on the ground.

25 AUGUST

1957 India won the title of world winner by winning the final of the Polo World Championship in France.

1917 In 1917, 7 Indians serving in the British India Army received the Kings Commission for the first time.

1957 India won the title of world champion by winning the final of the Polo World Championship in France.

2003 The 2003 car bombings near Mumbai's Gateway

of India and Mumbai Devi Temple killed more than 50 people and injured more than 150.

2008 The Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2008 requested to insure all students of government schools for the year 2008-09.

1351 Sultan Ferozeshah Tughlaq III was crowned.

26 AUGUST

1303 Alauddin Khilji captured Chittorgarh after defeating Rana Bhim Singh.



1910 Nobel Peace Prize-awarded Mother Teresa was born in Skopje, Yugoslavia.

1914 Bengal revolutionaries attacked the British fleet in Calcutta and looted 50 mausers and 46 thousand rounds.

1975 Dr. Narayan Subbarao Hardikar, a freedom fighter, journalist and Padma Bhushan, died.

27 AUGUST

1859 Dorabji Tata, who laid the foundation of Tata Steel, was born.



1976 The great singer Mukesh died.

1972 Indian professional wrestler and lifter Dalip Singh Rana aka Great Khali was born.



1870 The working union was established on this day. It was the first trade union of India.

1976 Major General G. Ali Ram, the first woman general of the Indian Armed Forces, was appointed Director of the Military Nursing Service.

1999 Sonali Banerjee became India's first female

Marine Engineer.

2008 Retired Supreme Court Judge A.K. Mathur was made the first chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal.

2013 One of the infamous riots in Uttar Pradesh was the rioting in Muzaffarnagar.

28 AUGUST

1896 Famous Urdu poet Firaq Gorakhpuri was born.

1986 Bhagyashree Sathe became the first woman in India to become a grandmaster in chess.

1999 Major Sameer Kotwal martyred in an encounter with a faction of militants in Assam.

2018 Manjit Singh of India won the gold medal in the men's 800 meter race of the Jakarta Asian Games.

2008 International magazine Forbes included Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati among 100 powerful women in the world.

29 AUGUST

1905 Hockey magician Major Dhyanchand was born.



1976 India's famous poet Kazi Nazrul Islam died.

2014 Richard Attenbarra, the Oscar-winning director for the film Gandhi, died.

1612 An important event took place in the colonial era of India. The Portuguese had to face defeat in the battle of Surat at the hands of the British.

1887 Ever been a doctor of Gandhiji and born Jivraj Mehta, the first Chief Minister of Gujarat.

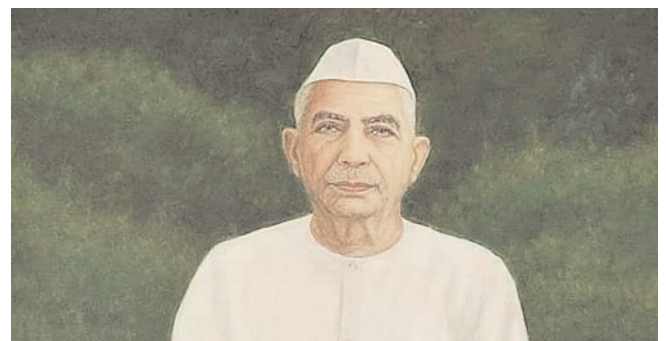
1931 The death of Naga spiritual master Jadonang, who laid the foundation of the powerful Naga movement.

1949 One of the top scientists of India. Birth of Radhakrishnan. Under his leadership, India made its Mangalyaan on Mars in the first attempt.

1952 Sister Euprasia, the Indian Christian woman saint known as the Praying Saint.

1957 The Civil Rights Act, 1957 was passed.

1969 Major Manoj Talwar, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born.



1974 Chaudhary Charan Singh founded the Lok Dal Party.

1998 Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar honored with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

2008 Important event of industrial history of Bengal. Tata Motors started the Nano project in Singur, which was strongly opposed by Trinamool Congress workers. Enraged by the protest, Tata removed employees from the Nano project site.

India's Minister Pabitra Margherita visits Guatemala and El Salvador

INTERACTS WITH GOVERNMENTS, LAWMAKERS AND INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Carlos Ramirez of Guatemala

AUGUST 20, 2024

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs and Textile paid an official visit to the Republic of Guatemala from 17-19 August 2024 and Republic of El Salvador from 19-20 August 2024. This was the first high-level visit from India to Guatemala and El Salvador following the elections and formation of governments in both the Central American Countries as well as in India.



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting Hon'ble President H.E. Bernardo Arévalo of Guatemala

The visit included MOS's meeting with Mr. César Bernardo Arévalo de León, President of the Republic of Guatemala and Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs. They discussed issues of bilateral



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill Tinoco of El Salvador

interest, people-to-people contacts and important regional and global issues. Both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation linkages in different areas such as trade and investment, technical and development cooperation, infrastructural development and support in healthcare sector.



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting Hon'ble President H.E. Mr. Nayib Bukele of El Salvador

MOS held a productive meeting with Members of Congress and Mayors. The meeting focused on the rich parliamentary and democratic traditions of India and the Guatemala and highlighted the intent of both sides to enhance parliamentary exchanges. MOS also held meeting with Chamber of Industry of Guatemala or Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations (CACIF) and Guatemalan Exporters Association - AGEXPORTS. These discussions focused on strengthening India-Guatemala trade and commercial relations, exploring new opportunities for collaboration in various sectors, and promoting investments that can drive economic growth and development in both countries. The meetings highlighted the shared commitment to fostering a

robust and dynamic partnership that benefits both nations.

Later, MOS visited El Salvador on 19-20 August 2024 and met H.E. Mr. Nayib Bukele, Hon'ble President and H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill Tinoco Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador. In his meeting with President Bukele, the MOS discussed various avenues to strengthen bilateral relations, focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development, trade, and technology. The discussions also explored new opportunities for collaboration that can drive mutual growth and development. The MOS highlighted India's commitment to supporting El Salvador's development initiatives and emphasized the potential for deeper economic and strategic ties between the two countries.

During his engagement with Foreign Minister Hill Tinoco, the conversation revolved around diplomatic relations and the importance of fostering a robust partnership at the governmental level. They discussed the scope for increased cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including education, healthcare, and digital transformation. The MOS reiterated India's willingness to share its expertise and experience to contribute to El Salvador's progress and prosperity. Both the Ministers also witnessed launching of pilot projects developed by C DOT in El Salvador for a) Cyber Security b) Early Warning System & c) Cell Broadcasting System and signing of the MoU on Cyber Security between C DOT (India) and El Salvador. During his Meeting with Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Hon'ble MOS handed over first installment of HADR relieve material released by Indian government for Salvadoran public affected by tropical storm in June 2024. India has committed to



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting the Indian community members and friends of India in Guatemala

release 50 tons of relief material in three installments to Government of Salvador.

MOS attended Indian community receptions at Guatemala City and San Salvador hosted by Ambassador of India. In his address, MOS spoke about India's growth story and extraordinary advancements in all spheres, lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives under the "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" philosophy. He took the opportunity to express deep appreciation for the positive contributions of the Indian diaspora to the economies and societies of both Guatemala and El Salvador. The MOS acknowledged their role in strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and these nations, emphasizing how their hard work and dedication have not only fostered economic growth but also enriched the cultural and social fabric of their host countries.

MOS thanked the both the Governments and the people of the Republic of Guatemala and El Salvador for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the successful visit.



Hon'ble MoS (PM) Shri Pabitra Margherita meeting lawmakers and dignitaries of Guatemala

WHAT DOES THE FORMER FIRST LADY & US SENATOR SHARE WITH US?

BY MABEL PAIS

"Let's keep fighting and let's keep the faith. And let's lift each other as we move forward on this journey." - Hillary Rodham Clinton

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: First Lady, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of State, presidential candidate, advocate, attorney - has spent five decades in public service. She now makes a stop on her Fall tour of the United States at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

As First Lady of the United States, from 1993 to 2001, Hillary Clinton championed health care for all Americans and led successful bipartisan efforts to improve the adoption and foster care systems, reduce teen pregnancy, and create the Children's Health Insurance Program.

In 2000, Clinton made history as the first First Lady elected to the United States Senate, and the first woman elected to statewide office in New York.

In 2007, she began her first historic campaign for president, winning 18 million votes and becoming the first woman to ever win a presidential primary or caucus state. In the 2008 general election, she campaigned for Barack Obama and Joe Biden, and in December, she was nominated by President-elect Obama to be Secretary of State.

In 2016, Clinton made history again by becoming the first woman nominated for president by a major U.S. political party. As the Democratic candidate for president, she campaigned on a vision of America that is "stronger together" and an agenda to make our economy work for everyone, not just those at the top. She won the national popular vote, earning the support of nearly 66 million Americans.

Since leaving civil service and electoral politics, Clinton has remained an active force for progress and human rights. In recent years, she has leant her decades of experience to nurturing the next generation of leaders.

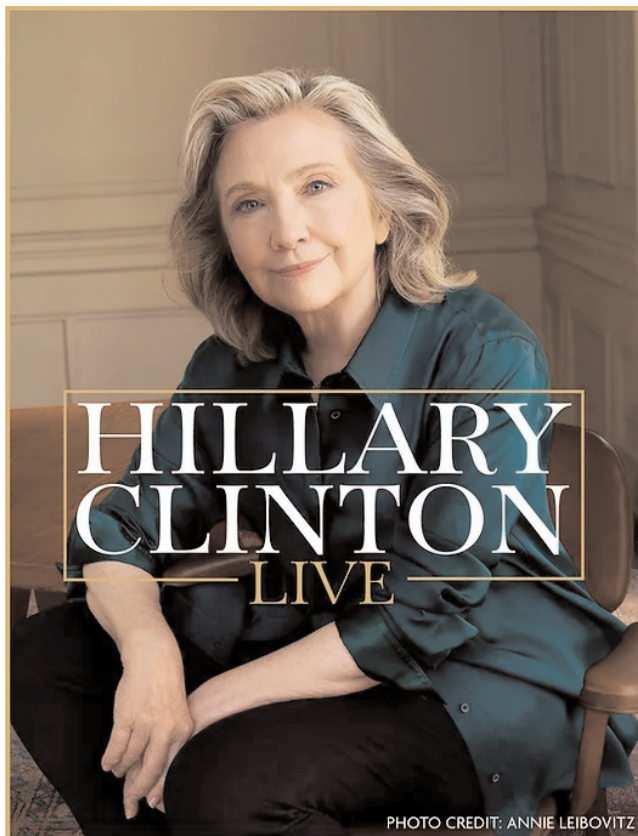
In 2023, Clinton went back to the classroom when she joined Columbia University as a co-founder of the Institute of Global Politics and Professor of Practice at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). She teaches a course with Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo called Inside the Situation Room, which engages young scholars with insights from diverse academic fields and the direct experience of high level diplomats, journalists, and other experts.

Her commitment to the stories we tell ourselves about who we are as Americans and what kind of future we want for our children and our grandchildren extends to her work as an author, podcast host, and television and Broadway producer.

Clinton is the author of ten best-selling books, including her groundbreaking book on children, 'It Takes A Village' (1996); 'Dear Socks, Dear Buddy' (1998); 'An Invitation to the White House' (2000); her memoirs, 'Living History' (2003), 'Hard Choices' (2014), and 'What Happened' (2017); a picture book edition of 'It Takes a Village' (2017); 'The Book of Gutsy Women' (2019) and 'Grandma's Gardens' (2020), in collaboration with Chelsea Clinton; and her political thriller, 'State of Terror' (2021), with Louise Penny. Her podcast, 'You and Me Both', features candid, in-depth, and sometimes hilarious conversations with actors, activists, and other people



Hillary Clinton, Democratic Candidate, 2016. -Credit: hillaryclinton.com



Hillary Clinton.

Credit: Annie Leibovitz (hillaryclintonlive.com).

who have unique perspectives on the challenges and joys of modern life. Clinton is the founder of HiddenLight Productions, a global studio dedicated to bringing the stories of inspiring individuals and movements to TV, film, and streaming. The studio's projects include 'Gutsy', a television adaptation of 'The Book of Gutsy Women', in which Hillary and Chelsea Clinton interview remarkable women in all walks of life.

In 2024, Clinton produced her first Broadway show, 'SUFFS', a love letter to the complicated women who fought for the right to vote and for a future they would never see but knew was possible. The musical was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won two Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON AT HILLARYCLINTON.COM.

"I'm so excited to add 10 more cities to my Fall tour. I hope you can join me for wide-ranging conversations that go behind the scenes and include never-before told stories," says Secretary Clinton. "We'll discuss the state of our politics and creating the future we want for our children and grandchildren and, most of all, have some fun while we're at it!"

PROGRAM

At each event, Secretary Clinton and a moderator will take the audience on a journey of unvarnished exchanges on politics, democracy, the threats we face, as well as friendship, aging, marriage, and how we can all work together to shape a future to be proud of.

The 'New York Times' best-selling author and GRAMMY-award winner's new book, 'Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty' will be released by Simon & Schuster on September 17th, 2024.

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

To see Hillary Clinton, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

For more information about presales, tour dates and to purchase VIP packages and tickets, visit hillaryclintonlive.com.

SETTLE IN WITH WORLD-RENOWNED RATIONALIST DAWKINS



Richard Dawkins.
Credit: Courtesy, NJPAC.

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience an unforgettable evening by familiarizing yourself with PROFESSOR RICHARD DAWKINS, one of the world's world-renowned truth-teller, respected evolutionary biologist, best-selling author, and secularist intellectual, as he brings his highly anticipated tour to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Friday, September 13, 2024 at 7 pm.

He is celebrated globally for his honest critique of religion and tradition and his push for critical thinking, renowned for his unapologetic advocacy of science and reason, and the separation of church and state (religion and science).

From 1995 to 2008 Richard Dawkins was the Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Literature. In 2013, his around-the-world speaking tour was the focus of the documentary 'The Unbelievers' which also features appearances by Woody Allen, Stephen Colbert, Cameron Diaz, Ian McEwan, Ricky Gervais, Stephen Hawking, Eddie Izzard, Bill Pullman, and Sarah Silverman.

He is an internationally best-selling author. Among his books are 'The Ancestor's Tale', 'The Selfish Gene', 'The

Blind Watchmaker, 'Climbing Mount Improbable', 'Unweaving the Rainbow', 'A Devil's Chaplain', 'The God Delusion', 'The Greatest Show on Earth' and 'The Magic of Reality'.

Dawkins is celebrated for his groundbreaking work as 'Unweaving The Rainbow', 'The Selfish Gene' and 'The God Delusion', captivating millions with his passion for scientific inquiry. His two-part autobiography: Part 1 'An Appetite for Wonder,' and 'A Brief Candle in the Dark' were released in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Learn more at richarddawkins.net.

Praise for the upcoming "The Genetic Book of the Dead":

"Overflowing with the beauty of nature, the beauty of language, and the beauty of ideas." - Steven Pinker, author of Rationality and Enlightenment Now

"Dazzling in originality and scope, with beautiful illustrations, this is a wonderful celebration of the power of natural selection. Richard Dawkins reveals with brilliant clarity the imprint on organisms of their evolutionary past."

- Nick Davies, author of 'Cuckoo: Cheating By Nature'

"Once again, Richard Dawkins asks us to look at the living world in a totally novel way: Every organism carries, in its genes, a record of the past environments in which its ancestors survived. This brilliant new way of interpreting nature opens our eyes to both the past and the future."

- John R. Krebs, author of 'Food: A Very Short Introduction' and coauthor, 'An Introduction to Behavioral Ecology'

"Written with typical verve and panache, Richard Dawkins's 'The Genetic Book of the Dead' makes a brilliant contribution to the public understanding of evolution using our most up-to-date understanding of genetics. It will enthral, surprise, and challenge you. Read it!"

- Jerry A. Coyne, author of 'Why Evolution is True' and 'Faith Versus Fact'

"This book is a summation of the ideas of the author who brought us 'memes' and 'selfish genes.' Richard Dawkins's lucid prose will change the way you think about your evolutionary past."

- David Haig, author of 'From Darwin to Derrida: Selfish Genes, Social Selves, and the Meanings of Life'

"The ingenuity of evolution is infinite, a fact that fascinates Richard Dawkins as much as it fascinated Charles Darwin. Inside each organism he finds rich palimpsests chronicling the history of life itself."

- Matt Ridley, author of The Evolution of Everything and How Innovation Works

"The deployment of the conceit of genes looking backward in time is clever and well done. A piece of vivid popular science."

- Stephen Stearns, coauthor of 'Evolution: An Introduction'

PROGRAM

Dawkins aims to connect with audiences in unscripted conversations touching on topics from science to religion, life on earth and beyond. With his trademark honesty and wit, Dawkins promises an evening filled with wisdom and insight.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this enlightening experience and hear firsthand about Dawkins' upcoming book promoted on tour: 'The Genetic Book of the Dead' delves into the transformative potential of DNA in our understanding of evolution to be released on September 17, 2024.

TICKETS

Tickets for Richard Dawkins may be purchased by visiting NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the most diverse performing arts center in the country, and the anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 11 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722) for more information.

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Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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



My style is more about looking effortless: Sidharth

Bollywood's dapper dude Sidharth Malhotra says his fashion journey has evolved a lot and that he ensures to invest time making sure each piece is tailored to perfection.

Asked how he would describe his fashion game, Sidharth said, "I gravitate towards classic silhouettes with a subtle touch of masculine edge. My style is more about looking effortless than overly styled."

It's all about a perfect fit for Sidharth, who made his debut in 2012 with 'Student of the Year' and was later seen in hit films such as 'Ek Villain', 'Kapoor & Sons' and 'Shershaah', to name a few.

"Fit is certainly essential for me. I ensure to invest time in making sure each piece is tailored to perfection," said Sidharth, who began his career as a fashion model.

The 39-year-old star agrees that his fashion journey has evolved in his 12-year journey in Hindi cinema.

"My fashion journey has evolved a lot. It has been significantly shaped by the diverse characters I've portrayed on screen. While these roles have introduced me to a spectrum of styles and eras, my aesthetic leans towards a more understated elegance," said the actor.

Yuvraj Singh's biopic announced, cricketer says 'deeply honored'

Cricket sensation Yuvraj Singh's inspiring journey from prodigy to World Cup hero to cancer survivor is being adapted into a biopic film. The project will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and co-produced by Ravi Bhagchandka.

The announcement of a biopic on Yuvraj Singh aims to bring his extraordinary life to the big screen, honouring the legendary cricketer and his remarkable achievements.

This film promises to be a grand tribute to Yuvraj Singh's extraordinary journey, celebrating his contributions to cricket, capturing the essence of his legendary career, including his unforgettable six sixes in the 2007 T20 World Cup, and his courageous off-field battles.

Yuvraj Singh, expressing his gratitude, said, "I am deeply honoured that my story will be showcased to millions of my fans across the globe by Bhushan ji & Ravi. Cricket has been my greatest love and source of strength through all the highs and lows. I hope this film inspires others to overcome their own challenges and pursue their dreams with unwavering passion."

The film is co-produced by Ravi Bhagchandka, renowned for 'Sachin: A Billion Dreams'. Reflecting on his connection with Yuvraj Singh, Ravi shared, "Yuvraj has been a dear friend



This film promises to be a grand tribute to Yuvraj Singh's extraordinary journey, celebrating his contributions to cricket, capturing the essence of his legendary career, including his unforgettable six sixes in the 2007 T20 World Cup, and his courageous off-field battles.

for many years. I'm honoured that he trusted us to translate his incredible cricketing journey into a cinematic experience. Yuvi is not just a world

champion but a true legend in every sense of the word."

However, the cast and other details about the film have yet to be revealed.

Shraddha reveals why she never did a film with Khans



Bollywood star Shraddha Kapoor, who is basking in the success of her recent horror-comedy offering 'Stree 2', has spoken up about why she hasn't yet worked with the superstars of Hindi cinema, the holy trinity of Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan.

During a podcast with Shubhankar Mishra, the 'Aashiqui 2' actress, said that she hasn't yet got the opportunity to work with the 3 Khans of Bollywood.

She said, "Many times you are offered a film, but if you feel the character isn't exciting enough or the role doesn't challenge the artiste in you then you let go off that role. I'm very clear about the king of work that I choose".

She further mentioned, "I want to be part of good films, engaging films with good stories, work with good directors, and do good work. If the by-product of all of this is the opportunity to work with good actors or huge stars, I'm happy to say yes to it".

Meanwhile, Shraddha, who returned to box-office almost after 16 months, has delivered her 2nd consecutive Rs 200 crore film with 'Stree 2', the first being 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' in which she starred opposite superstar Ranbir Kapoor which collected Rs 223 crores worldwide.

As per industry tracker Sacnilk, 'Stree 2' has netted Rs 255 crores at the Indian box-office with additional Rs 55 crores in overseas collections taking its worldwide collections to Rs 361.15 crore.

'Stree 2', which released on Independence Day, clashed with the multi-starrer 'Khel Khel Mein', John Abraham-starrer 'Vedaa' and the Telugu movie 'Double iSmart', and has managed to leave behind them all. The Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao-starrer film is witnessing highest occupancy during evening and night shows.

Source: IANS



Meg Ryan honoured for achievement by Sarajevo Film Festival

Hollywood actor, film director and producer Meg Ryan was honoured by the Sarajevo Film Festival with the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo for her contribution to the film industry.

Ryan was one of four film authors who received the award, alongside US and Palestinian film directors Alexander Payne and Elia Suleiman and U.S. actor and producer John Turturro.

"It's an award in recognition of outstanding contribution to the world of cinema, to her incredible talents," festival director Jovan Marjanovic said before handing Ryan a silver heart-shaped award.

Ryan symbolically presented a special screening of her 1998 hit romantic comedy "You've Got Mail" at an open air cinema, the same place where it was first screened at the festival in 1999.

At the masterclass moderated by Oscar-winning Bosnian film director Danis Tanovic, Ryan talked about "What Happens Later", her second feature that she directed, wrote and co-starred with David Duchovny, which was also screened at the festival.

She said that she ventured into acting to pay for her journalism studies, and that she was an "untrained actress".

"I had a beginner's mind, which I see now as a very valuable thing, there is certain naivety, innocence that is important when you are an artist," she said.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, a movie showcase spreading from Vienna to Istanbul, was created by a group of film enthusiasts towards the end of the Bosnian war 30 years ago. It will showcase 240 films in total this year.

Bennifer is officially over again

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, the Hollywood stars who rekindled their romance and married two decades after a high-profile split, are getting a divorce, TMZ and other media outlets reported on Tuesday, August 20. Lopez, singer of "Love Don't Cost a Thing," submitted divorce papers in Los Angeles County Superior Court on Tuesday, Aug 20, TMZ said.

The filing came two years to the day after the pair held a lavish wedding celebration in Georgia. They had initially exchanged vows in July 2022 at a Las Vegas wedding chapel.

Spokespeople for Lopez and Affleck did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In the early 2000s, the pair dubbed "Bennifer" were the most talked about couple in the celebrity world in a relationship marked by his-and-her luxury cars and a large 6.1-carat pink diamond engagement ring. They abruptly called off their wedding in 2003 and split up a few months later.

Lopez married Latin singer Marc Anthony, her third husband, just five months after her 2004 split with Affleck.

Affleck, director and star of Oscar-winning film "Argo," went on to marry, and later divorce, actress Jennifer Garner.

Lopez and Affleck started dating again in 2021, months after she and baseball star Alex Rodriguez called off their engagement and ended a four-year relationship.

Lopez said later that the initial breakup with Affleck "was the biggest heartbreak of my life."

"I honestly felt like I was going to die," she said in an interview with Apple Music in November 2022. "But now, 20 years later, it does have a happy ending."



Matthew Perry's master bedroom suite was a 'disaster' after his death:

Matthew Perry's bedroom at Pacific Palisades house was found in a "disaster" condition after police arrived there and discovered the "Friends" actor's body in his hot tub on October 28 last year.

According to a source who has access to the crime scene photos from the police probe, "The master suite looked like someone was in the middle of a long bender. Clothes everywhere, towels on the floor, just dirty." "it was a disaster," the insider told The Post.

However, the rest of the property was really clean and tidy, the legal source informed, adding, "Like maybe the cleaning lady wasn't allowed in those bedrooms."

Perry died due to an overdose of ketamine. In his hot tub, he was discovered floating face down.

Kenneth Iwamasa, his longtime staff member, is one of the five persons who have been detained by the authorities in connection with his death.

Iwamasa is charged with giving



Perry at least 27 shots of ketamine in the final five days of his life, three of which are said to have caused Perry's "serious bodily injury" and eventual "death."

On July 7, he entered a guilty plea to a single charge of conspiring to supply ketamine that causes death.

Court records show that Iwamasa obtained ketamine for Perry from a number of sources, spending over \$55,000 on the drug over the course of the roughly month-long period before the actor passed away.

Charges were also filed against drug dealer Erik Fleming, Salvador Plasencia, Dr. Mark Chavez, and Jasveen Sangha, the so-called "ketamine queen."

Federal prosecutors claimed in a criminal complaint that Iwamasa disposed off drugs, syringes, and other paraphernalia before dialing 911. Additionally, he phoned Sangha, purportedly to seek her advice before getting rid of the drugs.

The insider claimed, "It looks like the bathroom and bedroom had been ransacked," stressing that "someone tried to cover it up" as "something very bad had happened".

PUTIN: KYIV TRYING TO STRIKE NUCLEAR PLANT

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 22 accused Ukraine of trying to strike Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant in an overnight attack and said Moscow had informed the UN nuclear safety watchdog about the situation. Acting Kursk Governor Alexei Smirnov told Putin that the situation at the Kursk plant, which has four Soviet graphite-moderated RBMK-1000 reactors, was "stable". "The enemy tried to strike at the nuclear power plant during the night today," Putin told a meeting of senior officials about the situation in Russian border regions. (Reuters)

ISRAELI STRIKES LEAVE 50 DEAD IN GAZA; TRUCE DEAL REMAINS ELUSIVE

CAIRO/JERUSALEM (TIP): Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 50 Palestinians in the past 24 hours, Palestinian health officials said on August 21, after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken ended his latest visit to the region with a truce deal still elusive.

As last-ditch diplomacy continued to halt the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas, the Israeli military said jets hit around 30 targets throughout the Gaza Strip including tunnels, launch sites and an observation post.

It said troops killed dozens of armed fighters and seized weapons including explosives, grenades and automatic rifles. Later in the day, the Israeli military struck a school and a nearby house in Gaza City, killing at least three people and wounding 15, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said.

The military said, in a statement, it had hit Hamas militants operating at a command center located inside a compound that had previously served as a school.

The conflict churned on as Blinken wound up his ninth troubleshooting visit to West Asia since the Gaza war erupted last October with still no sign that deep differences between the sides over how to end the war could be reconciled.

A Greek-flagged oil tanker was adrift in the Red Sea on Wednesday after repeated attacks that started a fire on the vessel and caused the ship to lose power, the UK maritime agency said.

The Israeli military said on August 21 it had bombed Hezbollah weapon storage facilities in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley overnight, and Hezbollah said it had carried out a drone attack on military posts in a kibbutz in northern Israel in retaliation. Israel also said it had killed a militant in Sidon, southern Lebanon, who worked with Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the Tehran-aligned Hezbollah. Hezbollah said it had retaliated for the strike on the Bekaa by firing Katyusha rockets at an Israeli military logistics site in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and by later firing a swarm of drones on military posts in the kibbutz of Amiad in northern Israel. (Reuters)

Zelenskyy visits area bordering Russia amid offensive in Kursk

KYIV (TIP): President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the capture of another Russian village as he visited a border area from which Ukrainian forces entered Russia over two weeks ago, but Moscow said its troops had taken a village in east Ukraine.

Kyiv also said it had mounted a drone strike on an air base in southern Russia, its latest counterattack as Russian forces slowly advance in eastern Ukraine 2-1/2 years after Moscow's full-scale invasion.

Russia said its troops had beaten back an attempt by a Ukrainian force to infiltrate its border in a different region to Kyiv's initial incursion into Russia on August 6.

The raid took place about 240 km from the site of the Ukrainian incursion into Kursk region in western Russia, suggesting that the Kyiv government may be aiming to take the war to more border areas.

Authorities in Kursk said they had begun installing concrete shelters to help protect civilians amid the Ukrainian incursion.



The Russian defence ministry said on August 22 its forces had captured the village of Mezbove in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

Zelenskyy said he had met his top commander, Colonel General

Oleksandr Syrskiy, during his visit to the border region of Sumy. Official video footage showed them shaking hands and embracing but did not make clear when the visit took place. (Reuters)

China lodges 'serious protest' with US over top American officials meeting Dalai Lama

BEIJING (TIP): China on August 22 lodged a "serious protest" with the US after a top Biden administration official met the Dalai Lama and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to advancing the human rights of Tibetans and supporting efforts to preserve their distinct historical, linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage.

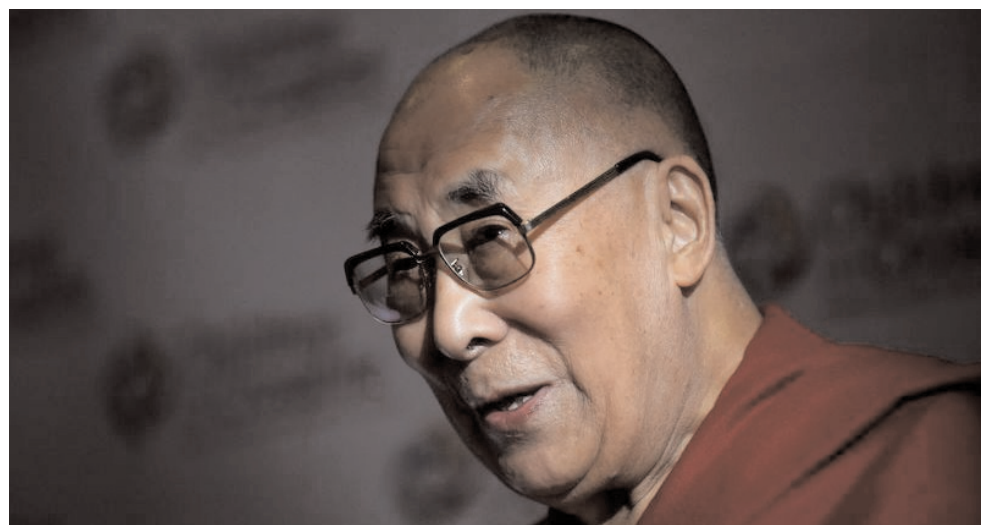
The Dalai Lama, 89, is recuperating in New York since he underwent a successful knee replacement surgery on June 28.

Uzra Zeya, the US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, travelled to New York for an audience with the Dalai Lama and conveyed Biden's message to the Tibetan spiritual leader, a State Department statement said.

The Tibetan spiritual leader's meeting with the top US State Department official comes months after Biden signed into law a bill which enhanced US support for Tibet to promote dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama towards a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the status and governance of the remote Himalayan region.

Reacting to Uzra Zeya's meeting with the Dalai Lama, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, told a media briefing here that the 14th Dalai Lama is not a pure religious figure, still less a figure promoting "non-violence" and "peace", but a political exile engaged in anti-China separatist activities under the cloak of religion.

"China firmly opposes any country



allowing the Dalai Lama to make visits under any pretext and opposes government officials of any country meeting with the Dalai Lama in any form," she said.

"We've made a serious protest with the US. The appointment of the so-called "US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues" constitutes an interference in China's internal affairs. China has never recognised it," Mao said of the region, which China refers to as "Xizang".

"We urge the US to fully understand the gravity and sensitivity of Xizang-related issues, be fully aware of the Dalai group's anti-China and separatist nature, honour the commitments the US has made to China on issues related to Xizang, truly respect China's core interests and major concerns, not allow the Dalai Lama to engage in political separatist activities in

the US, have no contact with the Dalai Lama in any form, and stop sending the wrong message to the world," she said.

China had opposed the "Resolve Tibet Act" passed by the House of Representatives last February and cleared by the Senate in May and described it as "destabilising". "Honoured to meet with His Holiness the @DalaiLama, a global figure for compassion and nonviolence. I conveyed greetings from @POTUS, wishing a smooth recovery and reaffirming the United States' unwavering support for the Tibetan community," Zeya, an Indian-origin-American diplomat, said in a post on X through her official handle.

Earlier in May 2022, Zeya had called on the Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamsala, the seat of power of the Tibetan government in exile, during her official visit to India and Nepal. (PTI)

French destroyer in EU mission rescues 29 mariners from oil tanker stricken in Red Sea attacks

DUBAI (TIP): A French destroyer rescued 29 mariners from an oil tanker that came under repeated attack in the Red Sea, officials said on August 22, while also destroying a bomb-carrying drone boat in the area.

Yemen's Houthi rebels are suspected to have carried out the assault on the Sounion. The attack, the most serious in the Red Sea in weeks, comes during a monthslong campaign by Houthis targeting ships over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip that has disrupted a trade route through which \$1 trillion in cargo typically passes each year.

The Sounion is now at anchor in the Red Sea and no longer drifting, the European Union's Operation Aspides said. However, it wasn't clear if the vessel was still ablaze. The vessel had been staffed by a crew of Filipinos and Russians.

Military officials did not name the French destroyer involved in the rescue. In the attack Wednesday, men on small boats first opened fire with small arms about 140 km (90 miles) west of the rebel-held Yemeni port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said.

Four projectiles also hit the ship, it added. It wasn't immediately clear if that meant drones or missiles.

The Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility for the attacks, though it can take them hours or even days before they acknowledge their assaults. However, they did



acknowledge US airstrikes in Hodeida that the American military's Central Command said destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile and radar system.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that also killed four sailors.

Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the United States or the UK to force an end to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

As Iran threatens to retaliate against Israel over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, the US military told the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to sail more quickly to the area. Early Thursday, the US military's Central Command said the Lincoln had reached the Mideast's waters, without elaborating.

America also has ordered the USS Georgia-guided missile submarine into the Mideast, while the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group was in the Gulf of Oman.

Additional F-22 fighter jets have flown into the region and the USS Wasp, a large amphibious assault ship carrying F-35 fighter jets, is in the Mediterranean Sea. (AP)

ROCKET ENGINE EXPLODES DURING TEST AT SCOTTISH SPACEPORT

LONDON (TIP): A rocket engine exploded in flames during a test at the SaxaVord Spaceport in Scotland, which last year became Britain's first licensed vertical rocket launch site.

BBC footage showed a large explosion late on August 21 at the site in the Shetland Islands off the northern coast of Scotland.

It spewed great plumes of fire and smoke into the air.

The site had been evacuated prior to the test and no one was injured, SaxaVord and its German partner, Rocket Factory Augsburg (RFA), said in separate statements.

"This was a test, and test campaigns are designed to identify issues prior to the next stage," a spokesman for SaxaVord said. "We will work with RFA to understand and learn from the causes and support them as they move forward to the next phase of their preparations."

RFA said it was trying to gather information to resolve what happened following an "anomaly" during the test, one of a number of trials in the run-up to a launch.

The launch pad had been "saved and is secured", it added.

SaxaVord, which hopes to become the first British site to undertake a vertical satellite launch into space, received a key safety license from regulators in April, paving the way for a launch later this year.

The space market is forecast to be worth over a trillion-dollars by 2030 as companies around the world plan to deploy thousands of internet-beaming satellites. (Reuters)

UK TECH TYCOON MIKE LYNCH MISSING AFTER YACHT SINKS



PALERMO (SICILY) (TIP): One man died and six people were missing, including British tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch, after a luxury yacht was struck by an unexpectedly violent storm and sank off Sicily on August 21.

The British-flagged "Bayesian", a 56-metre-long sailboat, was carrying 22 people and was anchored just off shore near the port of Porticello when it was hit by ferocious weather, the Italian coast guard said. Witnesses said the yacht vanished quickly beneath the waves shortly before dawn. Fifteen people escaped before it went down, including Lynch's wife, Angela Bacares. — Reuters

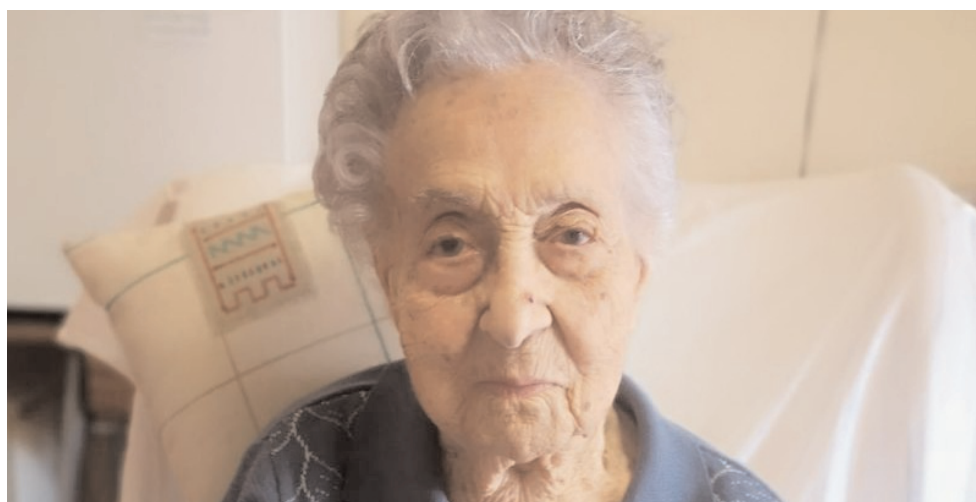
Spanish woman believed to be the oldest person in the world dies at age 117

MADRID (TIP): Maria Branyas, an American-born Spaniard considered the world's oldest person at 117 years old, has died, her family said on August 21.

In a post on Branyas' X account, her family wrote in Catalan: "Maria Branyas has left us. She has gone the way she wanted: in her sleep, at peace, and without pain." Gerontology Research Group, which validates details of people thought to be 110 or older, listed Branyas as the oldest known person in the world after the death of French nun Lucile Randon last year.

The next oldest person listed by Gerontology Research Group is now Japan's Tomiko Itooka, who is 116 years old.

Branyas was born in San Francisco on March 4, 1907. After living for some years in New Orleans, where her father founded a magazine, her family returned to Spain when she was young. Branyas said that she had memories of crossing the Atlantic Ocean during World War I.



Her X account is called "Super Catalan Grandma" and bears the description: "I am old, very old, but not an idiot." At age 113, Branyas tested positive for COVID-19 during the global pandemic, but avoided developing severe symptoms that claimed tens of thousands of older Spaniards.

At the time of her death she was living

in a nursing home in Catalan town of Olot.

Her family wrote that Branyas told them days before her death: "I don't know when, but very soon this long journey will come to an end. Death will find me worn down from having lived so much, but I want to meet it with a smile, feeling free and satisfied." (AP)

SRI LANKA ANNOUNCES VISA-FREE ACCESS TO INDIANS, NATIONALS FROM 34 OTHER COUNTRIES FOR 6 MONTHS

COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan government has announced visa-free access to citizens from 35 countries, including India, the UK and the US to the island nation for six months, media reports said on August 21.

The Cabinet made the decision which will be in effect from October 1, 2024, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported quoting Adviser to the Ministry of Tourism, Harin Fernando.

The policy is for six months, Fernando said.

Countries on the list include India, the UK, China, the US, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Poland, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nepal, Indonesia, Russia, and Thailand.

Other countries include Malaysia, Japan, France, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, Belarus, Iran, Sweden, South Korea, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and New Zealand.

Earlier, controversy surrounded increased fees for on-arrival visas in Sri Lanka, which were being handled by a foreign company.

Visitors from India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia received tourist visas free of charge to Sri Lanka. (PTI)

7 DIE IN NEPAL LANDSLIDES; 4 OF FAMILY BURIED ALIVE IN BAJHANG DISTRICT

KATHMANDU (TIP): Seven persons were killed in separate incidents of landslides that were triggered by incessant rain in the western part of Nepal in the last 24 hours, police said on August 20.

Four members of a family were buried alive in the Bajhang district as a landslide swept a house in the Bungal municipality-10 on Sunday night, according to the police.

Those killed included 50-year-old Kali Dhami, her daughter-in-law and two grandchildren aged six and three, said the police. Meanwhile, six members of the family managed to escape nature's fury.

In another incident, a landslide buried a temporary shelter in Majha gaon of the Nalgad municipality-2 in Jajarkot district on Monday, killing three members of a family.

According to the police, the family had been living in the temporary shelter after their house had collapsed in the earthquake last year.

More than 1,800 people have lost their lives in a decade, owing to the monsoon's fury in the Himalayan nation. (PTI)

Pakistani YouTuber arrested for fanning 'religious hatred', 'defaming institutions'

LAHORE (TIP): A staunch critic of the Pakistan Army and YouTuber has been arrested in the Punjab province of Pakistan for allegedly fanning 'religious hatred' and 'defaming institutions', especially the military, on social media, authorities said on August 22.

The arrest of Orya Maqbool Jan, a known political commentator, comes a week after intelligence agencies allegedly abducted another YouTuber and comedian for criticising the Shehbaz Sharif-led government.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cybercrime wing said it raided Jan's residence in Lahore on Thursday and arrested him for stoking religious hatred against an 'important personality' and institutions.

Jan, a columnist, poet, playwright and former civil servant, has a



following of over a million subscribers on his YouTube channel. Last year he was detained by intelligence agencies for several days for openly criticising the role of the powerful military in politics and for supporting jailed

former prime minister Imran Khan.

Following the arrest of Khan, the founder supremo of the Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party last August, a number of journalists and YouTubers in the country faced arrests, violence and threats amid mass protests.

Earlier last week, another Pakistani YouTuber and comedian Aun Ali Khosa was allegedly abducted by intelligence agencies for singing a song critical of the Shehbaz Sharif government and its backers. He, however, had returned home, his lawyer said on Monday.

Khosa was among the three other social media activists from Khan's PTI, who had recently been picked up, allegedly by intelligence agencies. The other two were Naeem Ahmad Yasin and Arsalan Akbar and their families have claimed they are 'missing'. (PTI)

UN team in B'desh to talk modalities of rights probe



DHAKA (TIP): A United Nations team will meet Bangladesh's interim government and other stakeholders from August 22 to discuss the process to investigate alleged human rights violations during the recent deadly violence in the country, officials said.

About 300 people, many of them university and college students, were killed during protests before the events spiralled into demonstrations to oust long-serving former PM Sheikh Hasina.

The UN office in Bangladesh said in a media advisory that the team from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will be visiting Dhaka from

September 22-29.

"The purpose of this visit is to understand their priorities for assistance in promoting human rights," said the media advisory, adding Bangladesh's interim government had requested the UN to probe the killings during the protests.

Kamala Harris remembers her mother as she accepts Democratic Party's nomination'

"It is important to note that this visit is not an investigation, but rather it will focus on discussing the process for investigating human rights violations in light of the recent violence and unrest." (Reuters)



Plaint filed in Int'l Crimes Tribunal against Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA (TIP): A complaint was filed on August 20 with Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against deposed premier Sheikh Hasina and 26 others, including former ministers of her cabinet, for committing alleged genocide and crimes against humanity.

Md Abul Hasan, the father of Shahriar Hasan Alvi, who was killed during the recent anti-discrimination students' movement, filed the complaint against 27 people, including 76-year-old Hasina and her cohorts and 500 unnamed others with the investigation agency of the ICT, state-run BSS news agency reported.

The other prominent accused in the complaints are former ministers Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Huq Inu and former inspector general of police Abdullah Al Mamun, it said.

Hasina fled to India on August 5 after resigning from her post amidst unprecedented anti-government student-led protests. — PTI

Best out of waste ideas for home decor

Making the most of waste means using materials that would otherwise be thrown away to produce something unique and beneficial. Making imaginative and decorative home decor items out of leftover household products rather than throwing them away is one of the many methods to make the most of your trash. Used newspapers, used bottles, empty tin cans, cardboard boxes, coconut shells, and plastic bottles are among the standard household things we use. All of these things are readily available in any home and are frequently thrown out as random trash. They can give you the best waste-to-wonder ideas for remodelling your home if you give them some time and creative freedom.

Decorative/Artistic Glass Bottles

Empty glass bottles are frequently discarded. Instead, repurpose them for straightforward home décor. Useless bottles can be transformed into a vase, a showcase, or a table lamp. Glass bottles can be made more attractive by decoupage, which is the art of adorning a surface with paper cutouts and covering it with varnish or adhesive. To construct a beautiful bottle that can be used as decor, all one needs are coloured paper or pages from an old magazine, strong adhesive, and a flat brush.

Sand and small shells can be placed into clear or coloured glass bottles. Adding coloured fairy lights will create a sparkling effect.

Table Mats Using Old Sarees

You may simply make tablecloths, table mats, and table covers at home using your mother's or grandmother's old sarees. These sarees have brocades or exquisite stitching that is too fragile to be thrown away. Hold onto them a little longer and use them to create something new. Simply cut an old saree to the length you want, and you're done. You can glam it up by adding additional fabrics to the saree's body or adding more zari to the border. Use basic, block-colored vintage saris and embellish as you choose if you prefer a minimalist and stylish look. To prevent the thread from escaping after cutting, be sure to stitch the sides of the saree.



Lamps And Candle Holders

Some glass jars are made from recycled pickles, jams, coffee, or perfume bottles. Any of these can be used again to creatively repurpose waste materials. Batteries-powered fairy lights in various colours can be placed inside these bottles to instantly illuminate the space and simply raise the "oomph factor." Your artistic prowess can also be displayed through fabric painting, stencil sketching, and spray painting. The jars' exteriors can be adorned with glitter, beads, ribbons, seashells, and other materials. Also, you can use them to hold tealight candles and enhance the aesthetic appeal of your home.

Recycling Used Newspapers To Make Tea Coasters

Another "best out of the trash" concept, this one is certain to get your attention. In every home, there is a constant stack of newspapers. Recycled newspaper is used to make products that are both environmentally responsible and aesthetically pleasing. With just two materials—old newspapers and glue—you can make newspaper tea or coffee coasters with ease. It can be made in a variety of sizes and shapes, including triangles, squares, and rounds. To make it look even quirkier, paint it thoroughly and allow it to dry completely. The technique is completed by making the dried paint semi-waterproof by covering it with a clear nail.

Vermicelli Pulao

FOR ROASTING:

- 1 tsp ghee / clarified butter, 1 cup vermicelli / semiya

FOR MASALA PASTE

- handful coriander, handful mint / pudina
1 chilli

OTHER INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp ghee / clarified butter, 2 bay leaf, 3 pod cardamom, 1 inch cinnamon, 4 clove, 1 star anise, 1 tsp cumin / jeera, 15 whole cashew / kaju, 1 onion, finely chopped, 1 tsp ginger garlic paste, ½ capsicum, finely chopped, ½ carrot, finely chopped, 2 tbsp peas / matar, 5 beans, finely chopped, ¾ tsp garam masala, ¾ tsp salt, 1½ cup water, 2 tsp lemon juice

INSTRUCTIONS

- Firstly, take 1 tsp ghee in a pan and roast 1 cup vermicelli.
- Roast on low flame until it turns golden brown. you can use roasted vermicelli in place. however, i still recommend roasting for non-sticky pulao. keep aside.
- In a small blender take handful coriander, mint and 1 chilli.
- Blend to smooth paste adding water as required. keep aside.
- In a large kadai, heat 2 tbsp ghee and saute 2 bay leaf, 3 pod cardamom, 1 inch cinnamon, 4 clove, 1 star anise, 1 tsp cumin and 15 whole cashew.
- Roast on low flame until spices turn aromatic and cashew turn crunchy.
- Now add 1 onion, 1 tsp ginger garlic paste and saute well.
- Further add ½ capsicum, ½ carrot, 2 tbsp peas and 5 beans.
- Stir fry for 2 minutes without overcooking vegetables.
- Add in prepared masala paste, ¾ tsp garam masala and ¾ tsp salt.
- Saute well until all spices are well combined.
- Pour in 1½ cup water and get the water to a rolling boil.
- Add in roasted vermicelli and give a good mix.
- Cover and simmer for 7 minutes or until water are absorbed completely.
- Now mix gently, making sure vermicelli is well cooked.
- Cover and rest for 5 minutes. this helps to get non-sticky semiya.
- Finally, just before serving vermicelli pulao, squeeze 2 tsp lemon juice.

Chia seeds scrub to keep acne at bay

You may not know but chia seeds are great for your skin. All you need is some chia seeds, oats and aloe vera. Mix these three ingredients and apply on your face to get rid of all the dirt from your skin. It clears all the dust particles that lead to acne and pimples.

How To Prepare?

Soak chia seeds and then add aloe vera and aloe vera to it to make a paste. Apply it all over your face and keep it for 15 minutes. Wash it off with cold water. You can also add lemon juice or rose water to this paste.

Here is another homemade scrub that you can try this monsoon to fight common skin problems:

Multani mitti is great for your skin. To prepare a scrub using it,



you need some sandalwood powder, saffron and lemon juice. Mix these ingredients together to make a paste. Apply it on your skin and keep it for 15 minutes. This scrub is great for dry skin as it moisturises your skin well. Also, it makes your skin glow from within.

Here are some more skin care tips you should keep in mind during this season:

- Rosewater is a great toner for

your skin and you should keep it handy in your bag. Use it through a spray bottle or apply it all over your face using a cotton ball. This will keep your skin soft.

- You don't need a cleansing cream if you have some cold milk. Take a cotton ball and apply cold milk on your face using it. This will clean your face completely and make your skin glow.
- Scrape out some aloe vera gel from the plant and add some rose water to it. Apply this mix on your face and keep it for a few minutes. Wash it off and you will get clear, glowing skin instantly.
- Make sure you always run a patch-test on your skin before using the pack on your face.



Red meat linked with increased diabetes risk: Lancet study

Consuming red meat is related to a higher risk of type 2 diabetes, according to an analysis of more than 19 lakh adults from 20 countries across world regions, including southeast Asia, providing the "most comprehensive evidence to date."

Published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology journal, the analysis found that a habitual consumption of three types of meat and their daily amounts - 50 grams of processed meat, 100 grams of unprocessed red meat and 100 grams of poultry - was related to 15 per cent, 10 per cent and eight per cent increases in risk of developing type 2 diabetes, respectively.

The international team of researchers from the US, UK, Brazil, Mexico, among others, said that intake of meat exceeds recommended levels in many regions of the world and has been correlated with non-communicable diseases, including type 2 diabetes.

However, all the existing evidences are largely based on studies from high-income countries, mainly in North America and Europe, they said.

For this study, the researchers included 31 cohorts from the InterConnect project, data for which was compiled from scientific studies and online registries, including unpublished information. Of the total 19,66,444 participants, more than a lakh developed type 2 diabetes during follow-up, typically lasting 10 years.

"The positive associations of unprocessed red meat and processed meat with incident type 2 diabetes were



significant in the region of the Americas (13 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively), in the European region (six per cent and 13 per cent), and in the Western Pacific region and east Asia (17 per cent and 15 per cent)," the authors wrote.

They also estimated that replacing 50 grams of daily intake of processed meat with 100 grams of unprocessed red meat lowered the risk of type 2 diabetes by seven per cent on an average.

Further, diabetes risk was found to fall by 10 per cent on replacing 50 grams of processed meat daily intake with 100 grams of poultry a day.

The researchers, however, found no evidence that replacing unprocessed red meat with poultry helped in cutting down diabetes risk.

Source: PTI



Too much chicken can sneak in extra fat and sugar into your diet

Chicken breasts are most people's go-to option for daily protein intake. For some people, chicken makes up for the most part of their diet for health reasons. However, a recent study reveals that consumption of too much chicken may not be as healthy as we think.

Chicken breast and ketchup – too much of it – might be the reason for overconsumption of fat and sugar. The surprising details were revealed in a study. Ice-cream, pizza and cheese are known for not being too healthy already. But when it comes to consuming chicken and harmless servings of ketchup, we never thought that we were, in fact, sneaking in extra fat and sugar in our diet.

In a media release, Professor Christopher Taylor, director of medical dietetics at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The Ohio State University and lead study author said that while chicken breast is known as a lower saturated fat food, we must know that foods with lower saturated fats can also slowly add saturated food to the diet.

The study was conducted on 35,000 U.S. adults to research the unhealthy eating habits in people. The study also helps in spreading awareness about the unexpected daily sources of sugar and fat that we add to the diet. Professor Christopher Taylor further added that while chicken breast and ketchup are not poor food choices, we should know how they work.

The study noted down cheese, pizza, ice cream, and eggs as top contributors of saturated fat to the body. Cold cuts, substitutes for cream, fried potatoes, and whole milk are also high in saturated fat content. Beverages and desserts such as soft drinks, tea, fruit drinks, cakes, and pies are the sources of added sugars to the body. Tomato-based condiments, cereal bars, energy drinks, and yeast breads also contribute to added sugars in the body.

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

Healthy foods you must add to your grocery shopping list

Leafy greens

Leafy greens are nutritional powerhouses, rich in vitamins A, C, K, and folate, as well as minerals like iron and calcium. They are low in calories and high in fibre, which supports digestive health and helps maintain a healthy weight.

Berries

Berries are loaded with antioxidants, particularly vitamin C and anthocyanins, which protect cells from damage and reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Their high fibre content promotes digestive health, and their low glycemic index helps regulate blood sugar levels.

Nuts

Nuts are a great source of healthy fats, particularly monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, which support heart health by lowering bad cholesterol levels. They also provide protein, fibre, vitamins (like vitamin E), and minerals (such as magnesium and zinc).

Whole grains



Unlike refined grains, they retain their bran and germ, which are packed with nutrients. The fibre in whole grains supports digestive health, helps control blood sugar levels, and keeps you full longer, aiding in weight management.

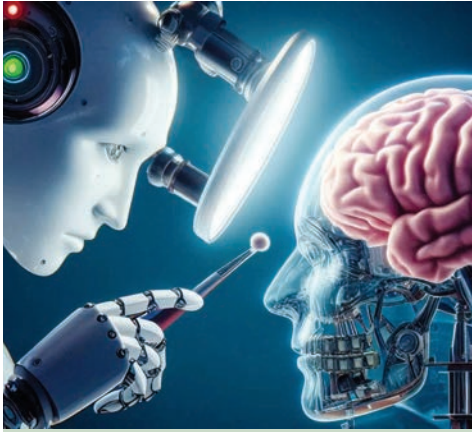
Fatty fish

Fatty fish are high in omega-3 fatty acids which reduce inflammation, lower the risk of heart disease, and support brain

health. Fatty fish also provide high-quality protein, vitamin D, and selenium, which are important for bone health and immune function.

Legumes

Legumes are an excellent plant-based protein source, rich in fibre, vitamins, and minerals like iron and potassium. They have a low glycemic index, which helps manage blood sugar levels, making them ideal for people with diabetes.



AI scientists are producing new theories of how the brain learns

Five decades of research into artificial neural networks have earned Geoffrey Hinton the moniker of the Godfather of artificial intelligence (AI). Work by his group at the University of Toronto laid the foundations for today's headline-grabbing AI models, including ChatGPT and LaMDA. These can write coherent (if uninspiring) prose, diagnose illnesses from medical scans and navigate self-driving cars. But for Dr Hinton, creating better models was never the end goal. His hope was that by developing artificial neural networks that could learn to solve complex problems, light might be shed on how the brain's neural networks do the same.

Brains learn by being subtly rewired: some connections between neurons, known as synapses, are strengthened, while others must be weakened. But because the brain has billions of neurons, of which millions could be involved in any single task, scientists have puzzled over how it knows which synapses to tweak and by how much. Dr Hinton popularised a clever mathematical algorithm known as backpropagation to solve this problem in artificial neural networks. But it was long thought to be too unwieldy to have evolved in the human brain. Now, as AI models are beginning to look increasingly human-like in their abilities, scientists are questioning whether the brain might do something similar after all.

Working out how the brain does what it does is no easy feat. Much of what neuroscientists understand about human learning comes from experiments on small slices of brain tissue, or handfuls of neurons in a Petri dish. It's often not clear whether living, learning brains work by scaled-up versions of these same rules, or if something more sophisticated is taking place. Even with modern experimental techniques, wherein neuroscientists track hundreds of neurons at a time in live animals, it is hard to reverse-engineer what is really going on.

One of the most prominent and longstanding theories of how the brain learns is Hebbian learning.

Source: *The Economist*

WhatsApp will soon allow users to choose a default theme for the app

WhatsApp is working on a new feature for the app that will allow users to select a default theme for the app. This theme will be independent of the theme setting of the phone. Till now, the WhatsApp theme is in sync with the default theme of the phone. So if the device is on dark theme, the app also turns dark, and if the phone's setting is on a light theme, then WhatsApp also runs the same theme. However, with the upcoming features, users will be able to customise the theme for the app individually.

The feature is still in beta and was spotted by WABetaInfo. It is part of the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.24.18.6 update. There is no timeline when this feature will roll out to the stable version. However, users running WhatsApp on the beta version should now be able to see the feature in settings.

WABetaInfo has also shared a screenshot of the upcoming features. With the feature rolling out, WhatsApp will likely get a fresh look by updating its signature green colour across two distinct themes. In the light theme, the familiar green will be replaced with black, lending the app a sleek, modern, and minimalist appearance. On the other hand, in the dark theme, the primary colour will switch to white, creating a bold contrast that not only enhances readability but also adds a contemporary edge to the app's overall aesthetic.

A similar feature was also spotted last month. WhatsApp was reported to be



developing chat themes that allow iPhone users to choose from five preset colours for their chat bubbles and wallpaper, including classic green, white, blue, pink, and purple. Additionally, WhatsApp is reportedly working on a feature to change the app's accent colour, offering the same color choices as the chat themes, allowing for customisable in-app buttons. While these features aren't publicly available yet, their presence in beta indicates a potential upcoming release.

In April this year, WhatsApp started to go green. No, not in the environmental preservation kind of a way. The text, bubbles and accent on the app all turned green. For iPhone users, in particular, this just happened overnight. It was not a change users asked for, and there was quite a bit of conversation around it on social media.

These new customisation options could position WhatsApp more favourably against competitors like

Telegram, which already offers a variety of personalisation features. By providing users with greater control over the app's appearance, WhatsApp seems to be aiming to attract and retain those who prioritise a personalised messaging experience.

WhatsApp is introducing a significant privacy feature designed to address one of the platform's most persistent issues—spam.

The new feature, available in the beta version 2.24.18.2 for Android, introduces a Username PIN system aimed at improving user security and curbing unwanted messages, according to GSM Arena.

This new functionality allows WhatsApp users to set a four-digit PIN in addition to their username.

The PIN serves as an extra layer of security, ensuring that users who have not interacted with you previously cannot send you messages solely by knowing your username.

This measure is expected to significantly reduce spam and enhance privacy for WhatsApp users, according to GSM Arena.

"Once implemented, this feature should greatly cut down on spam, which has been a prevalent issue on WhatsApp," said a spokesperson for the company, according to GSM Arena.

The PIN feature will require anyone who wishes to message you for the first time to know both your username and the PIN you have set.

Chandrayaan 4-5 design complete; 70 satellites likely to be launched in 5 yrs: ISRO chief

ISRO chairman S Somanath has said the space agency has completed the design for the next round of moon missions – Chandrayaan 4 and 5 – and is in the process of seeking government approval for the same.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission includes bringing back moon rocks and soil to earth after a soft landing on the lunar surface, launching a spacecraft from the moon, demonstrating a space docking experiment in lunar orbit and getting the samples back to earth.

"We have a series of missions to go to the moon. Chandrayaan-3 is over. Now, design for Chandrayaan 4 and 5 has been completed and we are seeking approval of the government," Somanath told reporters here on the sidelines of an event organized by the All India Council for Technical Education and Indian Space Association.

Earlier, the ISRO officials had said that



the targeted launch for Chandrayaan-4 mission was 2028.

Somanath also said that the space agency was planning to launch 70 satellites over the next five years, including a constellation of low earth orbit satellites to meet the requirements of different ministries and departments of the government.

These 70 satellites include four for the NAVIC regional navigation system to

provide positioning, navigation and time service, INSAT 4D weather satellites, the Resourcesat series of satellites, Cartosat satellites for remote sensing and high resolution imaging, he said.

Somanath said the space agency was also planning to develop the Oceansat series of satellites and technology demonstration satellites 01 and 02 to demonstrate electric propulsion systems, and quantum key distribution technologies.

The ISRO was also developing data relay satellites for the Gaganyaan mission, high throughput satellites for providing internet connectivity and GSAT satellite which was getting ready for shipping to the US for launch on a Falcon rocket of SpaceX, he said.

Somanath said the space agency was also planning to launch a series of earth observation satellites over the next five years.

Source: *HT*

‘Complex, expensive’: Further tranches of sovereign gold bonds unlikely

Further tranches of sovereign gold bonds are unlikely, said sources to Business Today TV. SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold and are substitutes for physical gold.

According to sources, “SGB is a complex and expensive instrument”.

SGBs are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Indian government.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the RBI announced the final redemption price at Rs 6,938 per gram – 122 per cent higher – for SGBs that were issued on August 5, 2016. The gold bonds were issued at a price of Rs 3,119 in August 2016 by RBI. The final redemption date was August 5.

The price of Sovereign Gold Bonds is based on the average closing price of 999 purity gold as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for the week before the subscription period, according to RBI guidelines. Investors buy SGBs at the issue price in cash and redeem them for cash upon maturity. The central bank issues these bonds on behalf of the government.

SGBs, issued by the government, have an 8-year tenure. The SGB August 2016 issue is reaching maturity, requiring redemption. Unlike the optional redemption by the RBI at the end of the fifth year, this bond's redemption is mandatory.

Source: Business Today

Walmart tears up China online strategy with JD.com stake sale

NEW YORK (TIP)

Walmart's stake in Chinese e-commerce firm JD.com was once central to its China strategy. Now it is tearing up that playbook by unloading its entire \$3.74 billion stake in one of China's biggest online retailers, in another example of the volatile nature of its relationship with China.

The unshackling from JD.com is emblematic of the broader strategic withdrawal of the world's largest retailer from markets where profitability has proven elusive. It follows the retailer's exits from several big markets over the past few years, including Japan, Britain, Brazil and Argentina, which industry-watchers have attributed to Walmart's difficulty in competing with nimble local rivals. When Walmart took its initial investment in JD.com in 2016 it was struggling to scale its own e-commerce platform, Yihaodian, and gain a foothold in China's rapidly growing online shopping market.

At the time, David Cheesewright, then CEO of Walmart International, positioned the \$1.5 billion deal as a move to improve Walmart's competitiveness in China's cutthroat retail sector and boost sales in its underperforming physical stores. The deal, which was one of the biggest investments in a Chinese retailer by a U.S. company, included the opening of a Sam's Club China store on JD.com and access to JD.com's distribution network for same- and next-day deliveries, a joint announcement from the companies said.

The company's reliance on JD.com to drive sales, however, has diminished since the pandemic, when home-bound Chinese consumers gravitated to Sam's Clubs so they could stock up for possible lockdowns and make fewer trips to the store. This trend has continued even post-pandemic, Walmart executives have said, with memberships at Sam's Club hitting a record high in Walmart's most recent quarter. Sam's Club, which opened its first store in Shenzhen in 1996, is the top warehouse club chain in China. Half of Walmart's China sales come from online channels, the company has said, which include sales from JD.com, JD Daojia and its Sam's Club app.



Walmart on Tuesday said its decision to sell its JD.com stake "allows us to focus on our strong China operations for Walmart China and Sam's Club, and deploy capital towards other priorities." Some of Walmart's other international priorities include doubling the amount of merchandise it sells in foreign markets to \$200 billion in the next four years. The company is also working toward an initial public offering of its digital payments platform PhonePe and Flipkart marketplace in India. The divestiture of JD.com is also notable as a big first move by Kathryn McLay, who took over as CEO of Walmart's international division last year, and it occurs as U.S.-China trade tensions, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties, have made China a more challenging trade partner. Several Western firms, including Walmart, are increasingly shifting investments and sourcing away from China to other developing countries, including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, to improve their supply-chain resilience. Source: Reuters

Govt flags e-commerce risk to 100 million retailers

Unfettered growth of e-commerce in India may cause “huge social disruption”, impacting the livelihood of 100 million small retailers across the country, Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday, August 21, accusing multinationals such as Amazon of resorting to unfair practices such as predatory pricing to gain market share. His comments are likely to cause concern among large e-commerce companies, Indian as well as foreign, as well as investors that have pumped billions of dollars into them.

Commenting on Pahle India Foundation's report “Net Impact of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India”, Goyal said that the study has prompted “us to start assessing the subject” based on data and empirical evidence. “I'm being contrarian ... we have seen this happened in the West. I dare say, Europe, America, all have seen the consequences of this,”



he said referring to the disappearance of so-called Mom-n-Pop or kirana stores. Cautious about its disruptive potential, Switzerland initially discouraged e-commerce and later allowed it in a limited way, he added. While Goyal did not elaborate, it is likely that he was referring to the new laws governing e-commerce that will come into effect in the European country from next year, that recognize e-commerce platforms as “deemed suppliers” -- a move that is likely to have far-reaching impact on them.

“I'm not wishing away e-commerce. It's there to stay... Since this is a study about the impact it should be dispassionate. It should come out with even more details...,” he said emphasising the social need to venture out for shopping and eating out with friends instead of “becoming a country of couch potatoes” watching OTT and ordering in every day.

“But, I don't deny that e-commerce has a role. But, we'll have to think very carefully and cautiously what that role is. Is predatory pricing policy good for the country where Amazon says we are going to invest a billion dollars in India, and we all celebrate. We forget the underlying story that the billion dollars is not coming in for any great service or any great investment to support the Indian economy. They made a billion dollars loss in their balance sheet that year. They have to fill in that loss. And how did that loss get caused? They paid Rs 1,000 crore to professionals. I don't know who these professionals are...,” he

said.

“I'd love to know which chartered accountants, professionals, lawyers get Rs 1,000 crore unless you are paying all the top lawyers to block them so that nobody can fight a case against you.”

The minister continued in the same vein: “If you make Rs 6,000 crore loss in one year, does that not smell of predatory pricing to any of you? They are, after all an e-commerce platform. They are not allowed to do B2C (business to consumer).”

Indian laws only allow multinational e-commerce companies to operate platforms that connect sellers to buyers. They cap the stake the companies can have in the sellers. Foreign investment in retail and e-commerce are both issues of significant political relevance in India. It is widely believed that small traders and retailers constitute the core electoral base of the Bharatiya Janata Party which heads the NDA coalition governing the country. Source: HT

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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 26 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES : Ganesha says this week you may have to face some new challenges, but you can deal with them boldly. You may need to make full use of your abilities and have confidence in yourself. This week you will have to be careful about your work and take your decisions thoughtfully. You may have to find new ways to make money in your business. To be successful in your business, you have to make your decisions thoughtfully. You may need to make full use of your abilities. This week you may get a chance to spend time with your friends and family. You may get an opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones and compromise with them about yourself.



TAURUS : Ganesha says this week's horoscope indicates that it will be a great time for Taurus people. You will have a very good day. You will be successful in impressing your superiors with your working style. Your boss may praise your work and you are also likely to get a promotion. This week is also a very auspicious time for your relationships. Your interaction with people will increase and a beautiful love can begin in your friendship. There will be no major health problems and you will be able to concentrate on your work. In business, you will try to advance your work by adopting new plans and your income will also increase. This will also increase your bank balance. This week you will be very successful in achieving your goals and will progress in various aspects of your life.



GEMINI : Ganesha says this week, everything can be good only if you make your thinking positive because if a good income will increase your happiness four times, then due to your one-sided thinking, it can also hurt your profession. There may be slackness in work. Some plans may slip out of your hands or some kind of mistake may occur in the office. However, there will be no complaints from the health and family side. You can go on a trip and spend fun moments with your spouse.



CANCER : Ganesha says this week's horoscope is going to bring very good results for Cancer people. This week will be better than usual for you. You may need to work

harder for your work, but your determined and calm attitude will lead you to success. You will be successful in impressing your superiors with your working style. Your boss may appreciate your work and support you in moving forward. This week will be a time for personal relationships for you. Your interaction with people will increase and you will get a chance to spend time with your family and friends. Friendship can be a beautiful beginning of love and you will find happiness with your friends. There will be no major problems regarding your health this week. In business, you will work to advance your work by adopting new plans.

LEO : Ganesha says this week's horoscope is considered very auspicious for Leo. You will have a great day and you will get lots of happiness. This week may be one of the most memorable days of your life. Any of your unfulfilled wishes may be fulfilled and your mind will be very happy. This will also have a positive effect on your health. This week you will be very busy with some projects and will achieve success in your work. Students will succeed in their favorite subjects and will also progress in their studies. This week you can participate in some social activity in the evening and your respect may also increase. This week you will get time to uncover the secrets of your love life and get a chance to see your relationships. This week you will try to complete your work with confidence and you will get success.

VIRGO : Ganesha says this week's horoscope will be normal for Virgo. You will be a little busy in your daily work. You need to take care of your health otherwise you may have to face problems. Therefore, try to take care of your health. You may get a special gift from relatives which will make you happy. The essence of love will bloom in your married life and love will increase between you. Employed people will be busy with work and your work will be appreciated. People preparing for government jobs may get to hear good news today. You need to control your increasing expenses otherwise you may face problems later. Do not do any work with too much enthusiasm, otherwise they may misunderstand you. Complete important tasks on time make a budget for your income and expenditure and follow it accordingly.

LIBRA : Ganesha says this week's horoscope indicates that it will be great for Libra people. This week may be a time of new

beginnings and successes for you. You may get very pleasant results in your daily work. Your superiors may praise you a lot for the work you have done. Your boss may also appreciate your work a lot. This week can be a very good time for you regarding personal relationships. Your social life can also be very good. There may be warmth of love in your friendship with friends. You should not have any worries about your health. This week you may have to face an increase in your bank balance. This week can be a very auspicious time for you in terms of money and health.

SCORPIO : Ganesha says this week is bringing average results for Scorpio people. You have to be careful at the workplace because you have to beware of your opponents. You should not trust anyone too much. You don't have to react to everything this week. You will be able to avoid disputes in your family by remaining calm. Your anger can spoil your work. This week your expenses may be higher due to which you may experience a shortage of money. You need to remain mentally strong. Spending some time doing a hobby you like can help you relax. This week students may have to take a break from studies for some time.

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Sagittarius people is bringing the beginning of new relationships for you. You will get the opportunity to meet new people to enhance your existence. If there is talk of your marriage, then this week you may get a chance to strengthen your relationship. You will enjoy organizing auspicious functions with your family. Your credibility towards relatives will increase and you will get a chance to spend more time with them. This week you will get a chance to buy some new things and you will be able to decorate your house. This week students will spend more time in research work and try to gain knowledge from new places. Along with increasing your knowledge, you will also be successful in guiding others. This week you are likely to get benefits in financial matters and your financial position will remain strong.

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says this week will be very good for you. You will be successful at work and you will have a great day. You have to focus on your work on time and remain committed to achieving your goal. You have to focus on keeping yourself healthy and spending time with your family. You should try to build good relations with your boss and colleagues and get

cooperation from them. You may also make some progress in your personal life and should spend more time with your loved ones. This week you should implement new plans in your business and try to improve your work. You should adopt new methods to increase your income and your bank balance may also increase.

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says this week will be very good for Aquarius people. This week of your life will be very memorable for you. You will get a chance to fulfil your wishes and your mind will be very happy. This will also have a positive effect on your health. This week you may have to be very busy with some project. Students will be successful in their favorite subjects this week. In the evening you may get a chance to participate in some social activity. This can increase your respect. Understand the secrets of your love life and try to understand them. You will get a chance to understand your relationships better. This week you will try to complete every task with confidence. This week you will get a lot of success in your life. This week you will get a chance to accomplish your goals and you will also be successful in it. This week you will be successful in your work.

PISCES : Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Pisces suggests that this week may be average for you. You may see some ups and downs this week. This week, different types of thoughts may come to your mind and you may also have some worries. You are likely to be worried about some family issues. It would be better if you talked to your family to solve any problem. Employed people will be dedicated to their work and will be satisfied with their work. You may benefit in financial matters and may also get a chance to spend as per your wish. You will be satisfied after spending your earnings and will enjoy happiness and prosperity in your life.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 26 TO SEPTEMBER 1 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

AUGUST 26 : Ganesha says you will notice that you're overly excited today. Your extrovert behavior and your cheerful disposition are highly appreciated in the social circle. Your strong leadership qualities will make you confident enough that you will be able to do all the work very well. Success will come your way if you work hard. Today will bring some good fortune as the planets align in your favor.

AUGUST 27 : Ganesha says today your day will be very kind. Today you will be able to complete the remaining tasks in projects. You may complete your work early, due to which you will be able to enjoy your time with your family. You may plan for a trip with your partner. Your business will go great today. Today things will turn out the way you want as you have a lot of luck. One new opportunity will arise which will come immediately today itself and make you a lot of profits. Stars are in your favor which will help you navigate through any problems easily regarding this new opportunity.

AUGUST 28 : Ganesha says you will

notice that things are working out for you without much effort. Little good things will keep happening throughout the day. It is great that everything will work out for you today but do not get lazy and focus on what you need to do today. You are very lucky today because you will get what you wish for; make sure you use the luck you have today to benefit yourself and not others because only then it will remain a positive thing for you.

AUGUST 29 : Ganesha says to wake up and meditate the first thing in the morning; it will be beneficial for your personal as well as professional life. You will make great profits in your business hence you will have a good day today. You will lean more towards altruism today considering the spiritual awakening in your sign. Ensure that you do not drift away from your dreams & ambitions as you might encounter a few distractions today. Ensure that you're ethical both in your personal & professional life.

AUGUST 30 : Ganesha says you will feel a lot of love and care coming towards you from family friends as well as your

partner. Your day will be a tough one today but you will feel supported and cared for in all ways, at the end of the day you will feel very satisfied with where you are in your life currently. Your partner's loving and caring nature will make you fall in love with your partner a lot today. You will experience firsthand how beautiful it is to be loved and cared for by someone you trust and love with all your heart.

AUGUST 31 : Ganesha says your love life has been on a roller coaster, but you will experience stability for today. Try to say what you have been thinking. Expressing your feelings will help you better your love life. Venus will bring love and the moon will bring fortune in your face today. You are entering a new phase that marks the start of a lane named success. Along with your old commitments, you will be taking on additional responsibilities today, but it won't seem like hard work as you will enjoy doing it thoroughly.

SEPTEMBER 1 : Ganesha says you are very lucky today because you will get what you wish for; make sure you use the

luck you have today to benefit yourself and not others because only then it will remain a positive thing for you. You will tend to focus more on your financial issues hence your love life will be on a back seat. Immense support from your partner might surprise you a little bit. Try to have patience and understanding. You are extremely close to finding that person who will support you in everything, do not annoy that person.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwalla.com info@bejandaruwalla.com | +91 81412 34275

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Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 23 TO AUGUST 29

23rd August



1507 Guru Nanak visits the house of God from river Bein.

In the morning, Guru Nanak went to the river Bein to take a bath but didn't return. Everyone thought he had drowned. But apparently, he visited the house of God where he spent three days before returning to our world. While there he was offered a cup of nectar and was ordered to drink it. Guru Nanak was terrified. All he could see was the blinding light and all he could hear was God's commanding voice. God ordered Guru Nanak Dev to return back to the world and spread the message of love and peace. God said he had appointed Guru Nanak Dev as His messenger. He returned at the same place he had disappeared from three days earlier. The people were horrified by the miracle of his disappearing in the river and reappearing from the same place three days later.

1922 Babbar appeal for Panthic unity through Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.

1978 Baba Nischal Singh Ji, a devoted member of Panthic Saewaks, passed away.

24th August



Gur Gadhi, Fifth Patshah, Guru Arjan Dev Ji. GURU ARJAN DEV (1563-1606) Guru Arjan, the 'Prince of Martyrs' and the 'Prophet of Peace', proffered his precious life to nurture the glory that was to be the Sikh Panth. The Fifth Master's life was marked by divine bliss and sublime sacrifices, born of a sweet acceptance of God's Will. Gifted with a quintessential poetic afflatus, and immeasurable imaginative sympathies, the Guru gave the movement of Sikhism a definite direction, perspective and program. He made the new faith coeval or coextensive with the whole gamut of existence and raised its exquisite edifice on values for which there is neither death nor change.

Guru Arjan Dev adorned the sacred throne of Guru Nanak from Sept. 1, 1581 to May 30, 1606. Born at Goindwal on April 15, 1563, he was the youngest and noblest son of Guru Ram Das and Mata Bibi Bhani. On 23 Hadh sunmat 1636, he married Ganga Devi, daughter of Krishan Chand of Mau village. He had an innate

poetic sensibility which was exquisitely displayed in the epistles that he sent to his father from Lahore. They are deeply expressive of the pangs of separation and the exuberance of Love. The Fourth Master's decision to make Guru Arjan his spiritual heir was bitterly opposed by Prithvi Chand who contended that being the eldest son, he alone was entitled to the Guruship. Thus, he could never reconcile himself to his younger brother's installation as Guru.

1820 Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa reaches Kashmir and was appointed Nazim (Governor). He remained in this position for less than two years. During his reign, he freed agricultural labour from Begar and encouraged the shawl and wood carving industries by giving loans in cash and kind. He encouraged cultivating of saffron. The land revenue was reduced from Rs. 61 lakhs to Rs. 13 lakhs. It was enhanced later when agriculture production improved. Kashmiri shawls and woowork were exported to Europe.

25th August



1581 Jotti Jot, Fourth Patshah, Guru Ram Das Ji.

The Fourth Master, ascended the holy gaddi (throne) of Guru Nanak in 1574 and continued to adorn the exalted office till 1581. Though he was the son-in-law of Guru Amar Das, being married to his daughter Bibi Bhani, yet he revered the Third Master as a Guru with an unwavering fervor. Inebriated with the nectar of the divine Nam, he spurned delights, and spent all his time in an ecstatic communion with the Lord through moments of deep meditation.

Originally called Jetha Ji, Guru Ram Das was born in a Sodhi family at Lahore in 1534. His parents died when he was just a child. He was, therefore, brought up by his maternal grandparents. He had an opportunity to visit Goindwal, the seat of the Third Master, at a time when the bavali was being dug through voluntary labor. He immersed himself in this labor of love with such a rare verve and dedication that he won the Guru's appreciation and recognition. The Third Master was so highly pleased with the disciple that he gave his daughter Bibi Bhani to him in marriage. Nevertheless, he served Guru Amar Das with as much love and devotion as ever before. It was in 1574 that he was invested with Guruship and named Guru Ram Das.

Guru Ram Das's contribution to Bani is considerable. His compositions throb on born of love for fellowman and yearning for God.

They inculcate in the people the adoration of God and the Guru. Rightly does the Master image an ideal man as one who had drunk deep at the fount of Nam and whose eyes are aglow with the love of the Lord. He sought a consummation of the human personality through God-realization.

1637 Bhai Gurdas Ji passed away. He was a true GurSikh, who was a close brother of Bibi Bhani Ji. He adopted the Sikh faith from Fourth Patshah, Sri Guru

Ram Das Ji, in 1636 and learned the essence of GurSikhism from the Fifth Patshah, Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji. Bhai Gurdas eventually became a full-fledged GurSikh preacher and effectively propagated the GurSikhism tenants. He preached concentrated in Lahore, Agra, Kanshi and surrounding region.

1977 Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale assumed responsibility of Chief sewadar of Damdami Taksal.

26th August

1507 Guru Nanak returned from the house of God and issued first commandment at Sultanpur.

Guru Nanak returned from the house of God. Three days earlier he went to river Bein to take a bath but didn't return. As such he was presumed drowned. However, he returned from the same spot that he had disappeared three days earlier and stated the first commandment that God was one, the parent of us all. People need not quarrel over religion, for God is neither Hindu nor Muslim. He is one God of the whole universe and no one should forget Him even for a moment. He said that God was beyond time, beyond births and deaths, that God was without fear and enmity. He was the creator of all the worlds in this Universe.

1679 Janam Din Bhai Daya Singh, one of the first five Sikh initiated members of the Khalsa order.

Bhai Daya Singh Ji was born in Lahore to father Sudo Khatri and mother Dayali. On the 1699 Baisakhi day, Bhai Daya Singh was the very first to answer Guru Gobind Singh Ji's call for Sis Baeta. He was one of the first five selected GurSikhs to be initiated into the Khalsa order established by Guru Gobind Singh on the Vaisakhi of 1699. He was 30 years of age at this time. He passed away in 1708 besides the banks of Godawari in Nanded. Bhai Daya Singh was the recognized leader among the Panj Payaras.

1980 With the protection of Baba Nihal Singh, Krishan Kaur Khalsa was the first woman to perform kirtan, in recent time, within the confines of Sri Harimandir Sahib. Vikram Singh Khalsa was performing kirtan on the Gurupurab for the birthday for Guru Ram Das Ji. This kirtan was for a Bhog on the roof of the Harimandir Sahib — not in the main hall. When he finished, he motioned for Krishna Kaur Khalsa to play. As she began some SGPC sevadars moved to stop her but Baba Nihal Singh and some other Nihungs stood in their way and protected her right to perform kirtan within the confines of the Harimandir Sahib. Still no Sikh woman has performed kirtan in the main darbar.

27th August

1922 Piara Singh Langeri, ex-Ghadrite, participated in the General meeting of the Akali Dal. He influenced the Sikhs to take up arms and became an integral part of the Babbar Akali Jatha, under Jathedar Krishan Singh Gargaj.

28th August

1921 SGPC, headed by S. Kharak Singh endorsed the policy of non-cooperation with the British government.

1923 The Nation newspaper was purchased by the Sikhs to project and protect Sikh interests.

1958 Akali Conference Baba Bakala demands the formation of Punjabi Suba.

1977 General House of the Akali Dal approved the famous 1973 Anandpur Sahib's resolution.

1977 Sikh Dharma International Headquarters was established.

29th August

1923 Sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib at jaito by the British.



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Janmashtami: Celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna

Krishna Janmashtami also known as Krishnashtami, Srikrishna Jayanti or sometimes merely as Janmashtami, is an annual celebration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu. Krishna belonged to the Vrishni clan of Yadavas from Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and was the eighth son born to the princess Devaki and her husband Vasudeva. Lord Krishna reciprocates in unique, personal ways with every devotee who offers Him love. He is the most adorable, mischievous son, the most romantic lover, the most compassionate friend as described in ancient scriptures.

Krishna Janmashtami falls on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of "Bhadrapada" in India. This year, Janmashtami will be celebrated on August 26. According to Hindu mythology, Krishna is the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu and also the eighth child of Devaki and Vasudev.

Devotees mark this auspicious occasion by observing a fast and praying to Lord Krishna. People adorn their homes with flowers, diyas and lights. Temples are also beautifully decorated and lit.

According to Vedic chronology, this year will mark the 5,251th birthday of Krishna. The festival is especially observed in Mathura, Vrindavan and Dwarka, where the God was believed to be born and spent his growing years.

History and significance

According to Hindu mythology, Krishna is the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu and also the eighth child of Devaki and Vasudev. He was born on Janmashtami to destroy and defeat the demon king of Mathura, Kansa, who was also Devaki's brother. The demon king had captured and kept Devaki and Vasudev in prison because of a prophecy that claimed that the couple's eighth son would cause Kansa's downfall. Due to this, he killed off six of their children.

It is believed that at the time of their seventh child Balram's birth, the foetus magically transferred from Devaki's womb to Princess Rohini's. When Krishna was born, the entire palace fell into a deep slumber. The prison gates magically opened and Vasudev carried Krishna to Nand Baba and Yashoda in a basket on his head. He crossed the river Yamuna to reach Vrindavan and handed Krishna to them. Vasudev returned to the palace with a baby girl.

When Kansa tried to kill the baby girl, she transformed into Goddess Durga and warned him of his death. Krishna grew up in Vrindavan and subsequently killed his uncle.

Celebrations

Janmashtami is a huge festival in India as it marks the victory of good over evil. On this day, devotees fast and read the Bhagavad Gita as well. They pray to Lord Krishna and distribute sweets. At midnight, priests open the drapes and reveal Krishna's beautifully decorated deity adorned with new clothes.

People also mark the day by celebrating the "Dahi Handi" festival. It is quite popular in the states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra. Young boys come together to make a human pyramid and aim to break an earthen pot filled with dahi or curd. The pot is hung very high from the ground and the festival highlights the mischievous and playful personality of Lord Krishna. It is believed that he loved "makkhan" or butter very much and used to steal it, thus earning him the name "Makkhan Chor".

Krishna Janmashtami puja procedure

Before the day of Krishna Janmashtami, the



Shri Krishna Janmashtami 2024

Monday, 26 August 2024

Ashtami Start Tithi : 26 August 2024 at 03:39 am

Ashtami End Tithi : 27 August 2024 at 02:19 am.

Nishita Puja Time - 12:01 am to 12:45 am

Did you know: It is the 5251 birth anniversary of Lord Shri Krishna. On Janmashtami, devotees usually observe fast through the day and the night.

household is cleaned and decorated. On the day of Krishnashtami, the devotees wake up early in the morning and take a holy bath. Then the puja altar is set up. Preferably, the puja altar can be set up in the puja room itself. If you are planning for an elaborate puja, you can organize the puja altar in the main hall also.

Sri Krishna's idol is the central attraction of the Krishnashtami puja. Some people use the regular idol or picture they have in their puja room. Some people buy a new image of Krishna every year for the puja. Depending on which material the Krishna idol is made of, you can plan for a holy bath for the idol; or can simply decorate the idol with flowers, clothes, and ornaments.

"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

In many Hindu households, people draw the images of little footsteps leading from the main door to the puja room. This practice symbolically represents Sri Krishna's little feet bringing him into the household to bless the puja and the residents of the house. Krishna's visit to every home during the puja is said to fill the home with prosperity and happiness.

Light the lamp and offer incense to the Lord. Offer Chandan and kumkum. Offer special homemade prasad. Curd/yoghurt, ghee, butter, and other milk products and milk-based sweets are especially suitable to offer to Lord Krishna. Do not forget berries and other fruits. Sing the songs of Krishna and chant some shlokas and mantras related to Krishna. Wave camphor and conclude the puja. Share the prasad with the gathering and family as a mark of Krishna's blessings.

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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."

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Kamala Harris accepts...

but in the name of the people. For a simple reason, in our system of justice, a harm against any one of us is a harm against all of us. And I would often explain this to console survivors of crime, to remind them, no one should be made to fight alone. We are all in this together, and every day in the courtroom, I stood proudly before a judge, and I said five words, "Kamala Harris, for the people". And to be clear, my entire career, I've only had one client, the people, and so on behalf of the People, on behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey, on behalf of Americans like the people I grew up with, people who work hard, chase their dreams and look out for one another, on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth, I accept your nomination, President of the United States of America."

Promising to be the President for all Americans, Harris said "and with this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past, a chance to chart a new way forward, not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans, and let me say, I know there are people of various political views watching tonight, and I want you to know I promise to be a president for all Americans, you can always trust me to put country above party and self, to hold sacred America's fundamental principles, from the rule of law to free and fair elections to the peaceful transfer of power."

Harris kicked off her speech by offering her thanks to President Biden, calling his character "inspiring," and she predicted history would look favorably upon his record in office.

"Let us show each other and the world who we are and what we stand for: freedom, opportunity, compassion, dignity, fairness and endless possibilities," she said. "We are the heirs to the greatest democracy in the history of the world and on behalf of our children and our grandchildren and all of those who sacrificed so dearly for our freedom and liberty, we must be worthy of this moment."

"We are charting, and we are charting a new way forward, forward to a future with a strong and growing middle class, because we know a strong middle class has always been critical to America's success, and building that middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency", Harris said.

"As President, I will bring together labor and workers and small business owners and entrepreneurs and American companies to create jobs, to grow our economy and to lower the cost of everyday needs like health care and housing and groceries. We will provide access to capital for small business owners and entrepreneurs and founders, and we will end America's housing shortage and protect Social Security".

"As a young courtroom prosecutor in Oakland, California, I stood up for women and children against predators who abused them. As Attorney General of California, I took on the big banks, delivered \$20 million for middle class families who faced foreclosure and helped pass a homeowner bill of rights, one of the first of its kind in the nation."

"I stood up for veterans and students being scammed by big for-profit colleges who are workers who are being cheated out of their wages, the wages they were due for seniors facing elder abuse. I fought against the cartels who traffic in guns and drugs and human beings who threaten the supply security of our border and the safety of our communities. And I will tell you, these fights were not easy, and neither were the elections that put me in those offices. We were underestimated at practically every term, but we never gave up, because the future is always worth fighting for, and that's the fight we are in right now, a fight for America's future. Fellow Americans, this election is not only the most important of our lives, it is one of the most important in the life of our nation, in many ways".

Lambasting her opponent Donald Trump, Harris said, "



Democratic Convention in Chicago, August 22, 2024

Donald Trump is an unserious man. But the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious. Consider not only the chaos and calamity when he was in office, but also the gravity of what has happened since he lost the last election. Donald Trump tried to throw away your votes. When he failed, he sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol, where they assaulted law enforcement officers when politicians in his own party begged him to call off the mob and send help. He did the opposite. He fanned the flames and now for an entirely different set of crimes, he was found guilty of fraud by a jury of everyday Americans, and separately found Bible through committing sexual abuse and consider what he intends to do if we give him power again, consider his explicit intent to set free violent extremists who assaulted those law enforcement officers at the Capitol, his explicit intent to jail journalists, political opponents and anyone he sees as the enemy, his explicit intent to deploy our active duty military against our own citizens. Consider the power he will have, especially after the United States Supreme Court just ruled that he would be immune from criminal prosecution. Just imagine Donald Trump with no guard rails and how he would use the immense powers of the presidency of the United States, not to improve your life, not to strengthen our national security, but to serve the only client he has ever had- himself. And we know what a second Trump term would look like. It's all laid out in Project 2025, written by his closest advisors, and its sum total is to pull our country back to the past, but America, we are not going back. We are not going back. We are not going back. We are not going back to when Donald Trump tried to cut Social Security and Medicare. We are not going back to when he tried to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, when insurance companies could deny people with preexisting conditions. We are not going to let him eliminate the Department of Education that funds our public schools, and we are not going to let him end programs like Head Start that provide preschool and childcare for our children. America, we are not going back."

"Now compare that to Donald Trump. I think everyone here knows he doesn't actually fight for the middle class, no, he doesn't actually fight for the middle class. Instead, he fights for himself and his billionaire friends, and he will give them another round of tax breaks that will add up to \$5 trillion to the national debt. And all the while, he intends to enact what in effect is a national sales tax, call it a Trump tax, that would raise prices on middle class families by almost \$4,000 a year. Well, instead of a Trump tax hike, we will pass a middle-class tax cut that will benefit more than 100 million Americans friends, I believe America cannot truly be prosperous unless Americans are fully able to make their own decisions about their own lives, especially on matters of hearth and home."

Harris criticized Trump's nationwide abortion ban, taking away the rights of women to have control over their bodies. She said it needed to be reversed. "And when Congress passes a bill to restore reproductive freedom, as President of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law."

"In this election, many other fundamental freedoms are at stake, the freedom to live safe from gun violence in our schools, communities and places of worship, the freedom to love who you love openly and with pride, the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water and live free from

The pollution that fuels the climate crisis and the freedom that unlocks all the others, the freedom to vote. With this election, we finally have the opportunity to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the freedom to vote."

"And let me be clear, after decades in law enforcement, I know the importance of safety and security, especially at our border last year, Joe and I brought together Democrats and conservative Republicans to write the strongest border bill in decades. The Border Patrol endorsed it, but Donald Trump believes a border deal would hurt his campaign, so he ordered his allies in Congress to kill the deal.... And here is my pledge to you as President, I will bring back the bipartisan border security bill that he killed, and I will sign it into law. I know we can live up to our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants and reform our broken immigration system. We can create an earned pathway to citizenship and secure our border and America."

We must also be steadfast in advancing our security and values abroad. As Vice President, I have confronted threats to our security, negotiated with foreign leaders, strengthened our alliances, and engaged with our brave troops overseas. As Commander in Chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world, and I will fulfill our sacred obligation to care for our troops and their families, and I will always honor and never disparage their service and their sacrifice, I will make sure that We lead the world into the future on space and artificial intelligence, that America, not China, wins the competition for the 21st century, and that we strengthen, not abdicate our global leadership. Trump, on the other hand, threatened to abandon NATO. He encouraged Putin to invade. Our allies said Russia could do whatever the hell they want. Five days before Russia attacked Ukraine, I met with President Zelensky to warn him about Russia's plan to invade, I helped mobilize a global response over 50 countries to defend against Putin's aggression. And as President, I will stand strong with Ukraine and our NATO allies".

"With respect to the war in Gaza, President Biden and I are working around the clock, because now is the time to get a hostage deal and a cease fire deal done."

And let me be clear. And let me be clear, I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the loss that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on October 7. At the same time, what has happened in Gaza over the past 10 months is devastating. So many innocent lives lost, desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety. Over and over again, the scale of suffering is heartbreaking. President Biden and I are working to end this war so that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self-discrimination, And know this, I will never hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to defend our forces and our interests against Iran and Iran backed terrorists. I will not cozy up to tyrants and dictators like Kim Jong Un who are rooting for Trump. Because, you know, they know, he is easy to manipulate with flattery and favors. They know Trump won't hold autocrats accountable because he wants to be an autocrat himself."

And as President, I will never waver in defense of America's security and ideals, because in the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the United States belongs".

"We are the heirs to the greatest democracy in the history of the world, and on behalf of our children and our grandchildren and all those who sacrificed so dearly for our freedom and liberty, we must be worthy of this moment. It is now our turn to do what generations before us have done, guided by optimism and faith, to fight for this country we love, to fight for the ideals we cherish and to uphold the awesome responsibility that comes with the greatest privilege on Earth, the privilege and pride of being an American."

"So, let's get out there. Let's fight for it. Let's get out there. Let's vote for it, and together, let us write the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told", concluding her speech, she said.

Uttarakhand: Mystical land of mountains and mythologies

Uttarakhand is one of the most beautiful northern states of India located on the southern slope of the Himalayan range. Mighty Himalayan peaks and glaciers are on its north where it borders Tibet. Nepal is on its east, Indian state of Uttar Pradesh is on south and Himachal Pradesh lies on its west and northwest. 65% of its area is covered by dense forests that are home to Royal Bengal tiger, leopards and many other endangered animal and plant species. The glaciers of two of the most important rivers—Ganga and Yamuna—are located here.

It has something to offer to every kind of traveller. For wildlife lovers, Jim Corbett National Park—the oldest national park of the Indian subcontinent is a must visit. Many rare Himalayan birds can also be spotted here besides Pangot and Sattal. For adventure seekers there are some of India's best trekking trails like Valley Of Flowers, Roopkund, and Chopta-Chandrashila. It also provides immense opportunities for adventure sports, such as skiing at Auli and white water rafting at Shivpuri. Popularly known as the 'Land of Gods', it is home to numerous holy places like Gangotri, Yamnotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Rishkesh and Haridwar. Therefore, thousands of pilgrims throng the state every year. Amazing hill stations like Chakrata, Mukteshwar, Dhanaulti and Munsiyari make Uttarakhand a sought after tourist destination for leisure trips. Here's a list of destinations in Uttarakhand that every nature lover would love to visit.

CHAKRATA

Having breakfast with the view of snow-covered Himalayan peaks on a lazy morning while soft rays of winter sun embrace your body and soul while cool breeze kisses you is something city people always crave for. Chakrata located at a distance of 330 km from Delhi, is a tiny hamlet which is a perfect place to do so. There are two routes to drive from Delhi to Chakrata, one is via Panipat and Kurukshetra and the second one is via Loni and Saharanpur, which supposedly is more beautiful and has less traffic.

Chakrata is a small cantonment town in Dehradun district resting at an elevation of about 7500 ft. The town gets a magnificent view of the snow covered Himalayas and is covered in deodar, Himalayan oak and rhododendron forest. Many day trips to places like Deoban, Koti, Kanasar can be done with Chakrata as base. There are some easy treks also around Chakrata that your hotel guys can arrange for you. There are not many hotels in the area so make sure to book your accommodation in advance. Chakrata is a year round destination; the winter season is perfect to experience snow, greenery is at its



best during the monsoon season and the summer season too is quite pleasant.

AULI

Auli is one of the most beautiful places of Uttarakhand. Bordered by snow-covered Himalayan peaks, Auli is enveloped in dense golden oak and pine forest with green meadows and slopes ranging from a height of 2519 m to 3049 m. It is considered to be a world-class spot for skiing. GMVN winter resort here provides skiing facility, besides ski training for aspirants. Almost from

everywhere in Auli, you can enjoy stunning views of the lofty mountain ranges—Nanda Devi, Mana Paravat and Kamat. The golden rays of sun on the snow-laden peaks fill the atmosphere with a divine glow. The 3rd highest peak of the world—Nanda Devi gleams like the crown of the region. There is an open cable-car to go up to the spot where skiing is done. Even if you do not want to ski, you have plenty of things to do. Climb up the slopes, play with snow, ride a sledge and who knows you might feel like trying skiing too. The best time to

visit Auli is in between December and March.

CORBETT

Spread across an area of 520.8 sq km, Jim Corbett National Park is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. It is the oldest national park, and is named after Jim Corbett who was the main person behind this establishment. The park is divided in 5 zones—Bijrani, Jhirna, Durgadevi, Dhikala, Sitavani—and is inhabited by royal Bengal tiger, leopard, jungle cat, barking deer, hog deer, cheetal, sloth bears, otters, Himalayan goral, Indian pangolins, langur and many other wild animals. Many rare birds can also be spotted in the region.

Gorgeous Corbett National Park is one of the favourite destinations equally for wildlife lovers and weekenders. It is just 235 km away from capital city and can be reached in couple of hours. It features splendid landscapes and offers a good amalgam of hills, rivers, forests, marshlands and grasslands. The park is open from the months of November through June. The park is kept closed in the monsoon season as the roads inside the park get washed away due to rain. After the monsoon season, repair work starts and ends only by November.

MUKTESHWAR

Staying in middle of fruit orchards in tents and eating garden fresh meals while looking at the Himalayan peaks covered in fresh snow are a few of the many beautiful memories I have of Mukteshwar. You can walk through the dense pine forest and enjoy stunning views of the mighty mountains. Situated at an altitude of 7500 ft in the lap of Kumaon hills, Mukteshwar is an ideal nature get away from Delhi. It just takes 7 hrs from Delhi to reach Mukteshwar via Gajraula, Rampur, Haldwani and Bhowali. Summer months (March to July) are the best months to visit Mukteshwar. If you want to experience snow, visit during Jan or Feb when the whole area is covered in snow and looks stunningly beautiful. If you happen to visit this place around the month of June, the harvesting season, you'd find many fruits like peaches, plum and apricot. And if you still did not have your fill, Mukteshwar has many fruit orchards and you might get lucky to get offered the fruits just plucked from the trees by villagers. The taste of crunchy fresh peaches plucked from a road side tree of an orchard that belonged to a generous local who gladly offered us to pluck as many as we want, is still fresh in my mouth. Mukteshwar has recently got very popular among those looking for holidays in offbeat destinations and hence there is a wide range of options to stay starting from camps to budget hotels to boutique hotels.

History This Week AUG 23 - AUG 29

AUGUST 23



August 23, 1927 - Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were electrocuted inside a prison at Charlestown, Massachusetts. They had been convicted of a shoe factory payroll robbery during which the paymaster and a guard had been killed. Following their convictions, all appeals for a new trial had failed, despite the lack of hard evidence and a later admission by a known criminal that he had participated in the robbery with an organized criminal gang. The days and weeks leading up to their execution aroused worldwide protests amid accusations of unfair treatment because they had radical political views and were Italian.

AUGUST 24



August 24, 79 A.D. - Vesuvius, an active volcano in southern Italy, erupted and destroyed the cities of Pompeii, Stabiae and Herculaneum.

August 24, 1572 - Thousands of Protestant Huguenots were massacred in Paris and throughout France by Catholics, in what became known as the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

August 24-25, 1814 - During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C., was invaded by British forces that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).

AUGUST 25



August 25, 1985 - Samantha Smith died in an airplane crash in Maine. In 1982,

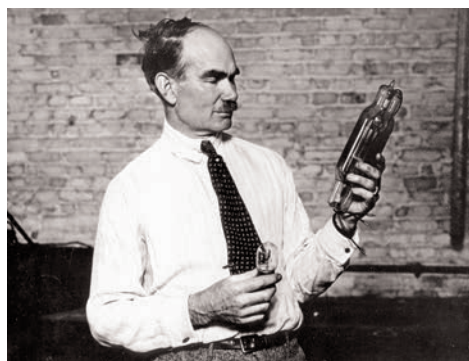
the 11-year-old American schoolgirl had written a letter to Soviet Russia's leader Yuri Andropov asking, "Why do you want to conquer the whole world, or at least our country?" To her surprise, Andropov replied personally to her and offered an all-expense paid trip to the U.S.S.R. She toured Russia for two weeks amid worldwide publicity and came to symbolize American and Russian hopes for peaceful co-existence.



Birthdays - American conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Considered one of the finest conductors in American music history, his works included West Side Story, On the Town, and the opera Candide.

AUGUST 26

August 26, 1883 - One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa. Explosions were heard 2,000 miles away. Tidal waves 120 ft. high killed 36,000 persons on nearby islands, while five cubic miles of earth were blasted into the air up to a height of 50 miles.



Birthdays - American inventor Lee De Forest (1873-1961) was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He held hundreds of patents for inventions and was also a pioneer in the creation of wireless radio broadcasting and television.

AUGUST 27



Birthdays - Charles Dawes (1865-1951) was born in Marietta, Ohio. He served as U.S. Vice President from 1925-29, and is best remembered for his "Dawes Plan" for German reparations following World War I. He received the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize.



Birthdays - Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973) the 36th U.S. President was born near Stonewall, Texas. He ascended to the presidency upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Johnson served until January 20, 1969.



Birthdays - Mother Teresa (1910-1997) was born (as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) in Skopje, Yugoslavia. She founded a religious order of nuns in Calcutta, India, called the Missionaries of Charity and spent her life working to help the poor and sick of India.

AUGUST 28

August 28, 1963 - The March on Washington occurred as over 250,000 persons attended a Civil Rights rally in Washington, D.C., at which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now-famous I Have a Dream speech.



Birthdays - German author-philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is best known for the dramatic poem Faust, completed in 1831.

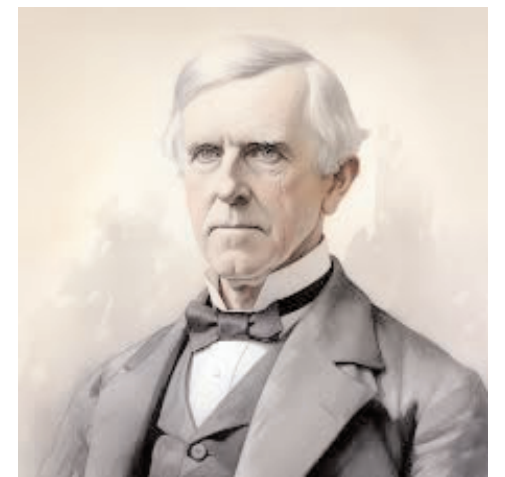
Birthdays - The first American-born Roman Catholic saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was born (as Elizabeth

Ann Bayley) in New York. She founded the first American Catholic religious order, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. In 1809, she opened an elementary school in Baltimore, marking the beginning of the parochial school system in the U.S.

AUGUST 29

August 29, 1792 - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship Royal George. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.

August 29, 1991 - Following the unsuccessful coup of August 19-21, the Soviet Communist Party was suspended, thus ending the institution that ruled Soviet Russia for nearly 75 years.



Birthdays - Physician and author Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He once wrote, "A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience." His poem Old Ironsides aroused popular sentiment in the 1830's which helped to save the historic frigate USS Constitution from destruction.



Birthdays - British philosopher and pioneer in modern political thinking, John Locke (1632-1704) was born in Wrington, England. His ideas greatly influenced American colonists, namely that rulers derive their power only from the consent of the governed - and the doctrine that men naturally possess certain rights, the chief being life, liberty, and property.

Cricket: T10 is all set to make its debut in Mississauga



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

T10, the latest and shortest version of instant cricket, will make its debut in Canada later this month. This time, girls and women in colorful clothing will take to the field in the first-ever major international T10 event on Canadian soil. Instead of Brampton, the acknowledged cricket capital of cricket in Canada, this marquee event will be held at Danville Park in Mississauga.

After the mixed success of the weather-marred T20 World Cup for men jointly staged by the USA and West Indies, cricket looks set to spread its base in North America. Early this month, Brampton organized its second edition of the GT 20 cricket tournament. Women cricketers will now take over the onerous task of popularizing this bat and ball game further in Canada through this three-day extravaganza featuring both present and upcoming women cricketers.

"We are thrilled to bring such a high-caliber event to Mississauga," Atul Ahuja, Curator, said. "The World T10TM Women's Series and World T10TM Rising



Star Women Series are set to be incredible showcases of talent and skill. We invite fans from all around to join us in celebrating the sport and supporting these fantastic teams and players."

After Brampton, it is now the turn of Mississauga to host an exciting sports extravaganza. It is all set to welcome the World T10TM Women's Series and the World T10TM Rising Star Women's Series from August 31 to September 2. This thrilling weekend of T10 will feature some of the best players from

across Canada and the Caribbean, showcasing high-energy matches and unparalleled sporting talent.

Former Member of the Provincial Assembly and sitting Councillor Dipika Damerla will inaugurate the series on August 31.

In the World T10TM Women's Series, three teams - Trinidad South Young Warriors, Mississauga Premiers and Montreal Thunders - will battle it out for supremacy:

Since it will be a premier event, each

team will bring its A-game to the field, promising exhilarating matches to showcase of high-octane fast paced sport. T10, being the latest and shortest version, not only promises exciting battles between the bat and the ball but also some sizzling shots, some spectacular saves on the field and some immaculate bowling to ensure each game witnesses rapid scoring, dynamic gameplay, and intense competition as these teams vie for the top spot.

Simultaneously, the World T10TM Rising Star Women Series will highlight the emerging talent of three promising teams - East Credit Rapids, Meadowvale Glory, and Malton Arrows.

This series for promising and upcoming players will provide a platform for the next generation of players to shine and demonstrate their skills on a grand stage. The Rising Star Series promises to be a launchpad for future stars.

The T10 format, known for its fast-paced and action-packed nature, ensures that both series will be a spectacle of high-intensity match-ups, providing entertainment for all fans of the sport.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Neeraj Chopra finishes 2nd in Lausanne Diamond League

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the Lausanne Diamond League as he recovered in time to produce a season's best effort of 89.49m in his last attempt on Thursday, August 22.

The 26-year-old Chopra was at fourth spot till the fourth round before sending his spear to 85.58m in his fifth attempt. He saved the best for the last as his sixth and final attempt measured 89.49m, which was better than his performance in the Paris Olympics.

He was in danger of missing the sixth throw but his fifth round effort of 85.58m saved him. Only the top three after five rounds get their respective final attempts.

Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada won the event with his second round monster throw of 90.61m while Julian Weber of Germany took the third spot with 87.08m.

"The feeling wasn't great at first, but I'm happy with my throw, especially the second (career) best throw on my last attempt. It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed," Chopra said after the event.

"Even though my early throws were



around 80-83m, I pushed hard in the last two attempts finishing strong. Competing at this high level, it's important to stay mentally tough and fight through."

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August 8 with an 89.45m throw, having won a historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had beaten

Chopra for the gold in Paris with an Olympic record throw of 92.97m.

Peters, who had struggled to find his form last year, led the competition from beginning to end and he stamped his class with the 90m-plus throw in the last round. He has a personal best of 93.07m which he had produced in 2022.

With seven points from Thursday's second-place finish, Chopra will be on joint third spot with Weber on Diamond League standings with 15 points. Peters

jumped to top spot with 21 points.

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who finished seventh (82.03m) on Thursday, is in second spot with 16 points.

On Saturday, Chopra had confirmed his participation at the Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, leaving a decision on a possible surgery after the end of the season.

Chopra was the Diamond League champion in 2022 and finished second behind Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic in the winner-takes-all DL final in Eugene, USA, last year.

This season's DL finals will be held in Brussels on September 14. He needs to finish in the top-six of the Diamond League meetings series standings to qualify for the season finale.

There is another DL meeting -- in Zurich on September 5 -- which has a men's javelin throw event in its roster.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League in 2022 and 2023, but could not do so this time. In fact, Chopra is yet to win a DL meeting this year. He finished second behind Vadlejch in Doha on May 10.

Chopra has been managing his groin injury since winning the gold in the Budapest World Championships last year.

Source: PTI

Women's T20 World Cup moved out of Bangladesh

The International Cricket Council (ICC) today moved the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE, saying it "wasn't feasible" to conduct the event there after governments of a number of participating countries advised against travelling to the unrest-hit nation.

The event, which is scheduled to take place from October 3 to 20, will now be staged in Dubai and Sharjah, with Bangladesh retaining the hosting rights, ensuring that it receives its share of the revenue.

"It is a shame not to be hosting the Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh as we know the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) would have staged a memorable event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement which avoided any direct mention of the violence and tension in the South Asian nation.

Allardice said the BCB explored "all avenues to try and enable the event to be hosted" there. "...but travel advisories from the governments of a number of the participating teams meant that wasn't feasible. However, they will retain hosting rights. We look forward to taking an ICC global event to Bangladesh in the near future," he said.

Smith, Brook lead England charge

Jamie Smith's unbeaten 72 propelled England to a 23-run lead over Sri Lanka on Day 2 of the opening Test at Old Trafford where only 57 overs were bowled after the first session was washed out and bad light stopped play.

Harry Brook's 56 guided England within reach of Sri Lanka's first innings total and the hosts were at 259/6 with Smith at the crease alongside Gus Atkinson when the teams returned to the pavilion as the skies darkened amid a light drizzle.

After posting 236 in the first innings on Wednesday, Sri Lanka could not use their fast bowlers at the end of Day 1 due to bad light as England scored 22 runs off spin in four overs. But after an early lunch due to the wet outfield today, the tourists took full advantage of the cloudy conditions to pick up three wickets in the first hour that put England on the backfoot.

Asitha Fernando opened the bowling on Day 2 and trapped Ben Duckett leg-before in his second over with an inswinging delivery. He then broke through stand-in skipper Ollie Pope's defence to hit the top of off stump while his left-arm fast bowling counterpart Vishwa Fernando had Dan Lawrence — opening in place of the injured Zak Crawley — caught behind for 30.

Three Indian-origin girls named in Australia's U19 women's squad

Cricket Australia (CA) on Thursday, August 22, announced their squad for the upcoming Women's Under-19 Tri-series involving New Zealand and Sri Lanka, set to take place from September 19 in Brisbane.

The Youth Selection Panel has selected 15-player squads for each format (T20 and 50-over) for the Tri-series in Brisbane and Gold Coast. Former Australian player Kristen Beams has been named as the head coach of the squad. In this 14-day tri-series, Australia will play four T20s and two One-Day matches.

The squad comprises three Indian origin players in Ribhya Syan, Samara Dulvin, and Hasrat Gill. "Their inclusion reflects the growing diversity within Australian cricket and the significant contributions of



Hasrat Gill, Samara Dulvin and Ribhya Syan,

players with Indian heritage," CA said in their statement.

Australian U19 Women's – T20 Squad: Bonnie Berry, Caoimhe Bray, Ella Briscoe, Maggie Clark, Samara Dulvin, Lucy Finn, Hasrat Gill, Lucy Hamilton, Amy Hunter, Eleanor Larosa, Ines McKeon, Ribhya Syan, Tegan Williamson, Elizabeth Worthley,

Hayley Zauch.

Australian U19 Women's – 50 Over Squad: Bonnie Berry, Caoimhe Bray, Ella Briscoe, Maggie Clark, Samara Dulvin, Lucy Finn, Hasrat Gill, Amy Hunter, Eleanor Larosa, Ines McKeon, Juliette Morton (NSW) Ribhya Syan, Tegan Williamson, Elizabeth Worthley, Hayley Zauch.

Four Indian women wrestlers become U17 world champions

In a sparkling show by India's women wrestlers at the Under-17 World Championships, four grapplers annexed the titles in Amman (Jordan) on August 22, and at least two more are in gold medal contention.

Aditi Kumari (43kg), Neha (57kg), Pulkit (65kg) and Mansi Lather (73kg) won world titles in their respective categories with remarkable ease.

Kajal (69kg) and Shrutika Patil (46kg) will also compete in the gold medal bouts on Friday after making the finals.

India can bag more medals as Raj Bala (40kg) will compete in the bronze playoff while Muskan (53kg) and Rajnita (61kg) are still in contention for podium finishes by making the repechage round.

India are now certain to win the women's team trophy despite not fielding a wrestler in the 49kg weight class.

Aditi emerged champion after blanking Maria Louiza Gkika of Greece 7-0 in the title clash.

Neha overpowered Japan's So Tsuitsui as she stood out with her double-leg attacks. Neha hardly gave a chance to her rival in the gold medal bout.

Pulkit faced Daria Frolova, who is competing as a neutral athlete, and won 6-3. She was leading 5-0 but



conceded a pushout point and caution late in the bout that allowed Frolova to gain three points. Frolova made a desperate attempt to get the winning move but Pulkit defended well in the final 20 seconds to claim the title.

Mansi raced to a 5-0 lead against Hanna Pirsakaya and then found a way to pin her rival, ending the bout in style. India also won two bronze medals in the Greco-Roman category with Ronak Dahiya and Sainath Pardhi (51kg) ending on the podium.

Vinesh Phogat's brand value skyrockets after Paris Olympics 2024

Vinesh Phogat had a memorable, but disappointing Paris Olympics 2024 campaign. It was supposed to be a moment of redemption, but it became a stuttering end to her glittering career. With Antil Panghal in her weight category, she had to drop down to 50 kg and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024.

According to Economic Times, Vinesh's performances in Paris caught the entire nation's attention and her endorsement fee has also taken a huge surge. She reportedly charged Rs 25 lakh for each endorsement deal before Paris 2024, and has increased it in the region of Rs 75 lakh and 1 crore for a single brand.

Vinesh also returned to India to a rousing welcome. He was feted by several supporters and khap panchayats as she made her way to her village Balali. Hundreds of supporters were outside the IGI airport and welcomed her to the beats of dhol, as she made her way out.

With at least silver expected, tragedy struck ahead of the gold medal bout. In the weigh-in for the final, Vinesh was 100 gm overweight and was therefore disqualified. Stunned by the decision, she appealed to the CAS, and also announced her retirement. The CAS verdict also didn't go to her side.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

SEBI bans Anil Ambani...

SEBI has imposed a penalty of 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from being associated with the securities market including as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company, or any intermediary registered with the market regulator, for a period of five years.

Also, the regulator barred Reliance Home Finance from the securities market

for six months and slapped a fine of ₹6 lakh on it. Anil Ambani suffers another setback as SC sets aside arbitral award of ₹8,000 crore in favor of Reliance firm

In its 222-page final order, SEBI found that Anil Ambani, with the help of RHFL's key managerial personnel, had orchestrated a fraudulent scheme to siphon-off funds from RHFL by disguising them as loans to entities linked to him. Although the Board of Directors of RHFL had issued strong directives to stop such

lending practices and reviewed corporate loans regularly, the company's management ignored these orders.

This suggests a significant failure of governance, driven by certain key managerial personnel under the influence of Anil Ambani. Given these circumstances, the company RHFL itself should not be held equally responsible as the individuals involved in the fraud.

Further, the remaining entities have played the role of being either recipients of illegally obtained loans or conduits to enable illegal diversion of monies from RHFL, the regulator noted. SEBI said its findings have established the "existence of a fraudulent scheme, orchestrated by Noticee No. 2 [Anil Ambani] and administered by the KMPs of RHFL, to siphon off funds from the public listed company (RHFL) by structuring them as 'loans' to credit unworthy conduit borrowers, and in turn, to onward borrowers, all of whom have been found to be 'promoter linked entities' which means entities associated with Noticee 2 [Anil Ambani]".

Mr. Ambani used his position as 'chairperson of the ADA group' and his significant indirect shareholding in the holding company of RHFL to orchestrate the fraud. SEBI, in its order on Thursday (August 22, 2024) noted the cavalier approach of the company's management and promoter in approving loans worth hundreds of crores to companies that had little to no assets, cash flow, net worth, or revenue.

This suggests a sinister objective behind the 'loans'. The situation becomes even

more suspicious when considering that many of these borrowers were closely linked to the promoters of RHFL. Eventually, most of these borrowers failed to repay their loans, causing RHFL to default on its own debt obligations. This led to the company's resolution under the RBI Framework, leaving its public shareholders in a difficult position.

For example, in March 2018, RHFL's share price was around ₹59.60. By March 2020, as the extent of the fraud became clear and the company was drained of its resources, the share price had plummeted to just ₹0.75. Even now, over nine lakh shareholders remain invested in RHFL, facing significant losses.

The 24 restrained entities include former key officials of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) -- Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhalkar and Pinkesh R Shah -- and Sebi has imposed fine on them for their role in the case. Also, the regulator levied a fine of ₹25 crore on Ambani, ₹27 crore on Bapna, ₹26 crore on Sudhalkar and ₹21 crore on Mr. Shah.

Additionally, the remaining entities including Reliance Unicorn Enterprises, Reliance Exchange next Lt, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd, Reliance Cleangen Ltd, Reliance Business Broadcast News Holdings Ltd and Reliance Big Entertainment Private Ltd have been imposed a penalty of ₹25 crore each. These fines have been levied on them for either receiving the illegally obtained loans or acted as intermediaries to facilitate the illegal diversion of funds from RHFL.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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To apply, kindly contact the Indian Embassy/Consulate in your Jurisdiction

Last Date to Apply : 20 August 2024

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Luxury Apartment Homes

Announcing Rocky Hill's newest Workforce Housing Program at their brand-new luxury apartment Homes, Kelson Row. A Fitness Room, pool and outdoor activity areas are a few of the many amenities that cater to a total lifestyle fulfillment.

There are 21 one- bedroom and 25 two-bedroom apartment homes being offered as qualified for those with incomes at either 80% , or 100% of the Area Median Income.


80% OF AREA MEDIUM INCOME (AMI)

| ONE BEDROOM: | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 Person | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$60,372 | \$68,208 | \$1,677 |
| 2 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$60,372 | \$77,952 | \$1,677 |
| TWO BEDROOM: | | | |
| 2 People | Minimum Income: | Minimum Income | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$71,928 | \$77,952 | \$1,998 |
| 3 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$71,928 | \$87,696 | \$1,998 |
| 4 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Month Rent: |
| | \$71,925 | \$97,440 | \$1,998 |


100% OF AREA MEDIUM INCOME (AMI)

| ONE BEDROOM: | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 Person | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$75,420 | \$85,260 | \$2,095 |
| 2 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$75,420 | \$97,440 | \$2,095 |
| TWO BEDROOM: | | | |
| 2 People | Minimum Income: | Minimum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$93,420 | \$97,440 | \$2,595 |
| 3 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Monthly Rent: |
| | \$93,420 | \$109,620 | \$2,595 |
| 4 People | Minimum Income: | Maximum Income: | Month Rent: |
| | \$93,420 | \$121,800 | \$2,595 |

Please send your inquiries to workforcehousing@kelsonrow. We will send an email when we are ready to open the program and tour the property.



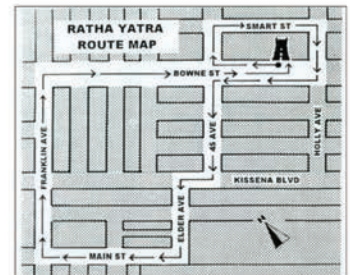
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GRAND RATHA YATRA

Sunday, September 8th, 2024

YATRA ROUTE MAP



The Ratha will start from the Temple at 12:30 PM after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block (covering 45th Ave, Smart St. and Holly Ave.) and will reach Main Street approximately at 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM. The Ratha will return to the Temple by approximately 2:30 PM.



- Don't Miss This Grand Event! -

For Further Information Please Call the Temple at (718) 460-8484 ext. 112

For Indian Food lovers an Indian Restaurant just opened in Williston Park



A view of the entrance of Varli from the street

AUGUST 22, 2024

WILLISTON PARK, NY (TIP): Varli Indian Street Kitchen opened its doors on August 21, 2024, in Williston Park, NY. This vibrant new restaurant is a celebration of the rich flavors and traditions of India, featuring a carefully curated menu of Indian-inspired dishes and innovative cocktails.

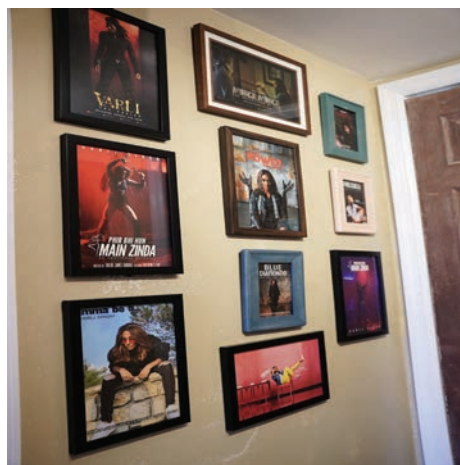


The tempting and mouthwatering food

Restaurateur Varli Singh, a passionate advocate for Indian culture and cuisine, has crafted a menu that highlights the diverse and flavorful dishes of India, using recipes passed down through generations. A special focus of the restaurant is its unique Indian-inspired alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails, infused with traditional spices like Tamarind, Kokum, Mango Pickle, and Chaat Masala, offering a modern twist on classic flavors.

"My goal with Varli Indian Street Kitchen is to create a space where people can savor the exquisite flavors of Indian food while also immersing themselves in the culture and traditions that make it so special," says Singh. "I want to bring the community together through food, and what better way to do that than by sharing the cuisine that has been such a big part of my life."

Beyond her work in the restaurant,



Interior decoration depicts Varli Singh's creative work

Singh has made significant contributions to the global culinary community. She is renowned for bringing together top Indian chefs and hosting premier Indian culinary events and food festivals. Singh has also presented awards to some of the highest-rated Indian chefs, recognizing their excellence in the culinary arts.

Singh is also the founder of the Varli Foundation, a charity dedicated to



Guests were pleased with the warm hospitality



A packed restaurant

feeding hungry children around the world. A portion of the restaurant's proceeds will support this cause, furthering Singh's mission to make a positive impact both locally and globally.

Singh's strong presence in the entertainment industry extends to her social media platforms, where she has produced various short films and music videos. Her 15-year-old daughter, Aira Singh, is actively involved in the restaurant, contributing to the ambiance, aesthetics, and menu tasting. Following in her mother's footsteps, Aira is already making her mark in the worlds of entertainment and philanthropy. She was



Patrons specializing in kitchen equipment and



Friends come to greet Varli Singh

present at the opening to greet guests and shared her vision for the future of the restaurant.

Diya Singh, Varli's 18-year-old daughter, also attended the event. Diya has played a significant role in shaping Varli's social media presence and content creation journey. Her creativity and influence have been key to how Varli expresses herself online. "Diya has been instrumental in helping me connect with a broader audience and in building my confidence," says Singh.

In addition to her acting career and restaurant venture, Singh is the publisher of Varli Magazine, a publication dedicated to Indian cuisine and culture. Through the magazine, she has created a platform that showcases the richness of Indian culinary traditions, featuring top chefs, innovative recipes, and the latest trends in Indian cuisine. Singh also heads VarliWare, a company



Varli family- owners of the establishment. Varli Singh in the center is seated on a swing, an attraction in the Restaurant. To her right is her older daughter Diya Singh. The younger daughter Aira is to her left

serveware, further expanding her influence in the culinary world.

The soft opening on August 21 featured a special tasting menu, live music, and the opportunity to meet Varli Singh and her daughters. Guests who joined in the celebration experienced the warm hospitality that is the hallmark of Indian culture.

For more information about Varli Indian Street Kitchen, visit <https://www.instagram.com/varlikitchen/>



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public

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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.