



India's Prime Minister Modi to address mega event in New York



India's Prime Minister Modi will address the Indian American community in New York on September 22.

AUGUST 28, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): More than 24,000 members of the Indian diaspora have signed up to attend a mega community event that will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here next month, according to The Indo-American Community of USA.

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Mamata Banerjee vows to pass a Bill in the West Bengal Assembly for capital punishment for rapists

"WE WILL SEND THIS BILL TO THE GOVERNOR. IF HE DOESN'T PASS, WE WILL SIT OUTSIDE RAJ BHAVAN," THE BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER SAID.

AUGUST 28, 2024

KOLKATA (TIP): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, said that a session of State Assembly will be called next week and a bill would be passed to ensure capital punishment for those convicted of rape.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson's comments came amidst outgoing outrage and protests over rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

Ms. Banerjee added that the bill would be sent to Governor C.V. Ananda Bose. "Next week, we will call an Assembly session by requesting the Speaker and pass a bill to ensure capital punishment for rapists. We will send this bill to the

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Governor C.V. Ananda Bose

File Photo Credit: The Hindu

Thousands celebrate the pride of their motherland at the 13th India Day Parade of Long Island in Hicksville on August 25

AUGUST 26, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP) : The India Day Parade of Long Island this year surpassed the glory and grandeur of the previous parades, as witnessed by tens of thousands of people celebrating India's 78th Independence Day here in Long Island on August 25.

A record 50 marching groups from different organizations and 11 floats participated in the parade, which were cheered on by the public waving the Indian Flag and lining alongside South Broadway

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On the float, from L to R: Town of North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava, Grand Marshals Neetu Chandra, Jaya Prada Nahata, Vishal Jayesh Bhai Harsh - Consul (Economy, HOC & CPIO), Grand Marshal Dr. Urmillesh Arya, and Guest of Honor Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena.

Rahul Gandhi to address the Indian Diaspora in Dallas, Texas

Likely to shorten his visit to United States in view of Assembly Elections back home

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will be addressing the Indian Diaspora in Dallas, Texas besides visiting Washington D.C. where he is expected to meet with US administration officials



AUGUST 29, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Rahul Gandhi is visiting the US for five to seven days from September 7, 2024. He will address the Indian Diaspora in Dallas, Texas on September 8. Originally planned for 10 or more days, Rahul is likely to cut short his visit in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana.

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Founder and CEO of Telegram Pavel Durov was arrested in France on Saturday, August 24.

Telegram founder Pavel Durov charged in France for failing to curb extremist content, faces multiple serious allegations

AUGUST 29, 2024

PARIS (TIP): French authorities handed preliminary charges to Telegram CEO Pavel Durov on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, for allowing alleged criminal activity on his messaging app, and barred him from leaving France pending further investigation.

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The "Center of the Universe is in a Bad Shape, Mr. Mayor

New York City, often heralded as the "center of the universe," stands as a beacon of culture, finance, and global diplomacy. It is home to the United Nations headquarters, two major international airports, and some of the most iconic landmarks on the planet. The city is a bustling tourist hub, drawing millions of visitors every year who come to experience its vibrant atmosphere, rich history, and world-class institutions. Moreover, New York is the financial capital of the world, influencing markets and economies across the globe. Yet, despite all these accolades, the city's roads tell a very different story—one that is marked by neglect, deterioration, and congestion.

THE DISMAL STATE OF NEW YORK CITY'S ROADS

The condition of New York City's roads is nothing short of disgraceful for a city that prides itself on being a global leader. A 2022 report by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) revealed that approximately 46% of the city's roads were in poor condition. Potholes, cracks, and uneven surfaces are commonplace, making driving a challenge and posing significant safety risks to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. In fact, the city's streets are so notoriously bad that they cost drivers an average of \$620 annually in additional vehicle repairs, according to a report by TRIP, a national transportation research group.

In 2023, the city filled nearly 300,000 potholes—a staggering figure that highlights just how prevalent the problem is. However, these quick fixes are merely a band-aid solution to a much deeper problem. The underlying infrastructure of the roads is aging and in desperate need of comprehensive repair and modernization. The city's reluctance or inability to address these issues in a meaningful way raises serious questions about the priorities and effectiveness of its administration.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POOR ROAD CONDITIONS

New York City's crumbling roads have far-reaching economic consequences. Tourism, a major driver of the city's economy, is particularly affected. In 2019, the city welcomed a record 66.6 million visitors, contributing an estimated \$70 billion to the local economy. However, the poor condition of the roads can tarnish the visitor experience, leading to negative perceptions and potentially deterring future tourism. Tourists navigating the city by bus, taxi, or rideshare are subjected to bumpy rides, delays caused by congestion, and an overall sense of disrepair that is not befitting of a world-class city.

Moreover, the financial burden on residents and businesses is significant. The extra costs incurred by drivers due to road damage not only strain individual finances but also have a ripple effect on the broader economy. Delivery trucks and commercial vehicles suffer frequent damage, leading to increased operational

costs for businesses. This, in turn, can result in higher prices for goods and services, further burdening consumers.

CONGESTION AND URBAN PLANNING FAILURES

Beyond the poor condition of the roads themselves, New York City's streets have become increasingly congested. This congestion is partly due to poor urban planning decisions, such as the introduction of dedicated bus lanes and the proliferation of street-side parking, both of which reduce the available road space for other vehicles. While bus lanes are intended to improve public transportation efficiency, they often exacerbate congestion on already narrow streets, leading to longer travel times for drivers and a higher likelihood of accidents.

The problem has been further compounded by the outdoor dining structures that have become a permanent fixture since the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the city allowed restaurants to extend their dining areas into the streets as a temporary measure to help them stay afloat during lockdowns. However, many of these structures remain in place, taking up valuable road space and contributing to the city's already overwhelming traffic congestion.

The impact of these combined factors is clear: New York City's streets are not only in poor physical condition but are also increasingly difficult to navigate. This congestion has a direct impact on the city's economy, as it leads to delays in the transportation of goods, increases the cost of commuting, and reduces overall productivity. In a city that prides itself on its efficiency and dynamism, this is an unacceptable state of affairs.

COMPARISONS TO OTHER GLOBAL CITIES

When comparing New York City's roads to those of other major global cities, the contrast is stark. Cities like Tokyo, London, and Paris, despite facing their own challenges, have managed to maintain much higher standards of road quality. Tokyo, for instance, boasts some of the best-maintained roads in the world, with a focus on regular maintenance and modernization. The city has implemented advanced road surface technologies that not only improve durability but also reduce noise pollution, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to urban infrastructure.

Similarly, London has invested heavily in its road network, with a particular emphasis on reducing congestion and improving road safety. The city's congestion charge, introduced in 2003, has been successful in reducing traffic volumes in the city center, leading to less wear and tear on the roads and a better overall driving experience. Paris, meanwhile, has focused on creating more pedestrian-friendly spaces and improving public transportation, which has also had a positive impact on road conditions.

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In comparison, New York City's roads are more reminiscent of those found in developing countries, where poor infrastructure is often a result of limited resources and political instability. For a city with the wealth, influence, and global standing of New York, this is a deeply embarrassing situation.

THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION

The current state of New York City's roads is not just an inconvenience; it is a reflection of a broader failure in governance and urban planning. The administration's apparent indifference to the issue is perplexing, particularly given that city officials and employees must also navigate these same roads on a daily basis. The question that must be asked is: why has the administration turned a blind eye to this problem?

One possible explanation is the complex and often opaque nature of New York City's budget and funding allocation processes. Road maintenance and infrastructure projects are expensive, and in a city with many competing priorities, it is possible that these issues have been deprioritized in favor of more immediate concerns. However, this short-term thinking is shortsighted, as the long-term consequences of neglecting the city's roads will only become more severe and more costly over time.

The city must take urgent action to address this issue. This should include a comprehensive audit of the current state of the roads, followed by the development of a long-term plan for their repair and modernization. This plan should prioritize not just the repair of existing damage but also the implementation of measures to prevent future deterioration. This could include the use of more durable materials, improved drainage systems to prevent water damage, and regular maintenance schedules to catch issues before they become major problems.

A CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

New York City has a reputation for upholding the best, and its current road conditions are simply unacceptable for a city of its stature. The administration must be held accountable for its failure to maintain the city's infrastructure and must take immediate steps to rectify the situation. The residents, businesses, and millions of visitors who contribute to the city's economy deserve better deal.

The city's roads should be a point of pride, reflecting its status as a global leader. Instead, they are a source of frustration and embarrassment. It is time for the administration to open its eyes to this issue and take necessary steps to ensure that New York City's roads are worthy of the city's reputation. Anything less would be a disservice to the city and all who call it home. And, it certainly is a disgrace to City Administration.

(Readers' comments are welcome. Please send comments to editor@theindianpanorama.news or post online)

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APS Women's Forum Partners with NY Cancer and Blood Specialists and NY Blood Center for Blood Donation Camp



APS President Gary S Sikka donating Blood. L to R: AAPIQLI President Dr Inderpal Chhabra, New York Cancer and Blood Specialist Dr Tarun Wasil, IALI President Pradeep Tandon, AAPIQLI BOT Chair Dr Raj Bhayani

AUGUST 25, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The American Punjabi Society (APS) Women's Forum, in collaboration with New York Cancer and Blood Specialists and the New York Blood Center, organized a highly successful Blood Donation Camp today at the Pearl Banquet Hall in Hicksville, New York. The event, led by Navneet Sondhi from the APS Women's Forum and Dr. Tarun Wasil from New York Cancer and Blood Specialists, exceeded all expectations with an overwhelming response from the community.



APS Women Forum Chair Navneet Sondhi addressing Audience

Initially, the camp anticipated 25 donations. However, due to the tremendous community turnout, 47 successful donations were made. The event, originally scheduled from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, had to extend its hours until 2:00 PM. Despite the extension, the high volume of donors resulted in some being turned away due to time constraints.

Dr. Tarun Wasil, an eminent hematologist-oncologist, played a pivotal role in the camp's success, ensuring that all aspects of the blood donation process were handled with the utmost care and efficiency. His leadership and dedication to community health were instrumental in the camp's achievements.

Navneet Sondhi, Chairperson of the APS Women's Forum, expressed her gratitude, stating, "The incredible turnout is a testament to our community's



APS President Gary S Sikka addressing audience

generosity and dedication to helping others. We are deeply thankful to everyone who participated and supported this event."

Dr. Tarun Wasil added, "Blood donation is a critical need, and the success of today's camp will make a significant difference in many lives. We are proud to have partnered with the APS Women's Forum and the New York Blood Center in this vital effort."

American Punjabi Society President Gary S. Sikka also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Tarun Wasil and Navneet Sondhi for their exceptional leadership in organizing the camp. He extended his thanks to all supporting organizations, emphasizing that "together, we can make a difference."

Key support for the Blood Donation Camp came from AAPI-QLI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin - QLI), represented by its President, Dr. Inderpal Chhabra, and Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. Raj Bhayani, as well as IALI (India Association of Long Island), represented by its President, Pradeep Tandon. Their leadership and participation were instrumental in ensuring the event's success. Additional support was provided by Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), Vaisakhi 5K Run, New York Telangana Telugu Association (NYTTA), Indo American Chamber of Commerce NY, and Long Island Indo American Lions Club.

The APS Women's Forum is committed to organizing more such initiatives in the future, focusing on community welfare and humanitarian causes. This

successful event demonstrates the power of collaboration in making a meaningful impact.

ABOUT APS, AMERICAN PUNJABI SOCIETY:

The American Punjabi Society is a community-driven organization dedicated to promoting social, cultural, and humanitarian initiatives.



APS Women's Forum. L to R: Binny Kaur, Shweta Malhotra, APS Women's Forum Chair Navneet K. Sondhi, Jessica K Kalra, Dilsheet Kaur

ABOUT NEW YORK CANCER AND BLOOD SPECIALISTS:

New York Cancer and Blood Specialists is a leading provider of cancer and blood disorder treatments, offering comprehensive care and support to patients throughout New York.

ABOUT NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER:

New York Blood Center is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the United States, providing lifesaving blood and stem cell products to hospitals across the country.

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L to R: Paul S Bindra, RPS Narang, APS President Gary S Sikka, Advisor Board Members Raj Sharma, Herman Singh, Executive Vice President Mohinder S Taneja

KANGRA'S ROHINI CEO-CUM-FOUNDER OF 4 MONTESSORI SCHOOLS GETS 'BIZWOMAN OF YEAR' AWARD IN US



Rohini Rustogi

AUGUST 27, 2024

TAMPA / DHARAMSHALA (TIP): Rohini Rustogi, a resident of Kangra town, has been awarded the 'Business Woman of the Year' award for Tampa Bay by the INDO Chamber of Commerce for the year 2024.

Rohini is CEO-cum-founder of The Brandon Montessori (BMS), Riverview Montessori (RMS), SouthShore Montessori (SMS) and Edward James Samuel (EJS) Montessori schools in the US.

Talking to The Tribune, Rohini said, "With my roots deeply anchored in the serene landscapes of Kangra, my ancestral home, my educational journey largely unfolded in the picturesque town of Nainital as my parents were teaching in boarding schools there. Our winter holidays, however, were always spent in Kangra, where our sprawling ancestral home became a place of warmth, tradition, and cherished memories."

In 1990, Rohini's life took on a new trajectory after she moved to Tampa, Florida, following her marriage. By the time she had received the green card, her daughter was two years old. She opted to work as a teacher's assistant at a Montessori school, securing free education for her daughter. Over the years, she honed her skills and gained experience to become proficient in Montessori affairs.

As per Rohini, the education she had received in India instilled a deep respect for knowledge and learning in her and also gave her the confidence to create something extraordinary.

With the unwavering support of her husband and the encouragement from her parents, Rohini opened her first Montessori school in 2001. She opened three more schools in 2005, 2012 and 2021.

In 2008, Rohini was honored with the 'Minority Woman Business of the Year' award by the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. The recognition proved to be a significant milestone in her journey, validating her hard work and dedication.

Rohini is emotionally connected to Kangra where the rest of her family lives.

A true philanthropist in thought and action, she has been helping the needy back home.

Peaceful protest by Sacramento-based Indian Americans condemning the murder of the on-duty female doctor at Kolkata

AUGUST 26, 2024

SACRAMENTO, CA (TIP): A group of Indian Americans organized a protest in the City of Folsom. The group demanded urgent steps to address gender-based violence in the wake of the rape and murder case of a female medic in Kolkata.

A 31-year-old junior doctor was raped and murdered while on duty and her body was discovered at the seminar hall in the hospital premises on August 9, with a civic volunteer arrested in connection with the attack the following day. It has triggered widespread doctors' agitation across the globe and a CBI inquiry into the case is ongoing.

Indian Americans based in Greater Sacramento - the capital city of California State - USA held a peaceful demonstration outside the City of Folsom Hall doorsteps on Sunday, August 25th, 2024, and this group strongly condemned the brutal rape and murder of the on-duty female doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The group voiced an opinion that the local West Bengal State Government has failed to provide a safe space for working women doctors in the hospital. A protester said this incident is a serious symptom of the rising violence against women in the State and the negligence of the State government towards its citizens. The absence of investment in public infrastructure and safety measures has a disproportionate impact on women and eventually led to the current incident at the hospital - another protester said. One angry protester said, "The local State



Indian Americans based in Greater Sacramento - the capital city of California State - USA held a peaceful demonstration outside the City of Folsom Hall doorsteps on Sunday, August 25th, 2024.

Government is busy with vote bank politics - they have no time to implement measures to secure hospital staff, especially female medics".

One of the group organizers Mr. Debashis Maity said that this group will continue to Fight for swift justice and enhanced safety, and security of the medical professionals". Another organizer from this group Mrs Oindrila Chakraborty demanded immediate measures for the safety and security of the medical staff - including...

1. Install and properly maintain video cameras covering all the hospital premises
2. Entry to the rest/sleep areas is to be permitted only to eligible medical professionals

3. By law prohibit politicians from taking part in the hospital administration

The group is planning further peaceful protests, to continue to highlight their demand for justice in a case that has sent shockwaves across India and among the diasporas. This initiative has come from northern California-based Indian Americans. City of Folsom Councilmember Mr. YK Chalamcharla attended this protest and prayed tribute to the victim.

The protesters demanded a thorough judicial inquiry into the incident and the implementation of adequate workplace security measures for all medical staff including women. The group demanded immediate justice for the victim's family.

Indian-origin Kevan Parekh appointed as Apple's new Chief Financial Officer



Kevan Parekh has been appointed Apple's Chief Financial Officer

AUGUST 27, 2024

CUPERTINO, CA (TIP): Apple has appointed Indian-origin Kevan Parekh as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) who will also join the executive team at the tech giant. Current CFO Luca Maestri will transition from his role on January 1, 2025, Apple said in a statement. "For more

than a decade, Kevan has been an indispensable member of Apple's finance leadership team, and he understands the company inside and out," said Cook.

"His sharp intellect, wise judgment, and financial brilliance make him the perfect choice to be Apple's next CFO," the Apple CEO added. Before joining Apple, Parekh held various senior leadership roles at Thomson Reuters and General Motors, where he also had extensive global experience. An electrical engineer with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Chicago, Parekh has been at Apple for 11 years and currently leads Financial Planning and Analysis, G&A and Benefits Finance, Investor Relations, and Market Research.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Surge in 'Visa at Your Doorstep' demand among UK travelers to India

AS BRITAIN FEATURED AMONG THE TOP THREE SOURCE COUNTRIES, OVERALL FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS TO INDIA INCREASED BY AROUND 64 PER CENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

AUGUST 27, 2024

LONDON (TIP): There has been a significant surge in demand for the "Visa at Your Doorstep" service amid a growing number of UK visitors choosing India as a travel destination, visa facilitation service VFS Global said on Tuesday, August 27.

According to the latest Ministry of Tourism statistics, Britain featured among the top three source countries for foreign tourist arrivals making up a 9.82 per cent share between January and June this year. It comes as overall foreign tourist arrivals to India increased by around 64 per cent compared to previous years. "The Visa at Your Doorstep (VAYD) service has recently experienced a significant surge in demand," said Anirudh Singh, COO of Europe and CIS region at VFS Global - the technology services provider for governments and diplomatic missions, including the Indian mission in the UK.



The 'Visa at Your Doorstep' service is designed to allow applicants to complete the Indian visa application process where they are, instead of having to visit a VFS Global visa center.

Photo for representation only: iStock

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

British Indians hold justice march, peace vigils at London's Parliament Square

AUGUST 23, 2024

LONDON (TIP): Indian students, charities and diaspora organizations in Britain have organized a series of events to continue to highlight their demand for justice following the rape-murder of an on-duty female doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

While women's organizations came together to organize peace vigils at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament Square in London and across several other UK cities on Thursday, the Students' Federation of India - United Kingdom (SFI-UK) organized a march in the city of Liverpool on Wednesday.

The hundreds who gathered at London's Parliament Square lit candles to spell out 'Justice' and held placards with messages calling for respect and empowerment of women.

"We have received overwhelming support from the entire world, proving that the time has come to wake up, take notice, rise up above our individual interests and join hands in our endeavor of showing support and solidarity to the cause," said Dipti Jain of the Medicos



Indian students, charities and diaspora organizations in Britain have organized a series of events to continue to highlight their demand for justice following the rape-murder of an on-duty female doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Women Charity.

"These peace protests are being held by units we set up in several cities in England, Scotland and Wales at the same

time with Belfast and Dublin arranging theirs over the weekend. We have involved global units in the US, Canada and Australia, who are also holding peace

vigils with us," said the UK-based National Health Service doctor, who trained as a medic in Kolkata.

Earlier, SFI-UK continued its series of student-led peaceful protests and demonstrations with a march from London Road to the city center of Liverpool.

"From Kolkata to Liverpool, we will stand for justice, and for the safety of women. The speeches reflected a singular emotion: we stand against the rape of women, the victim and uncountable, nameless faceless women who are denied justice. The gathering attracted the attention of several bystanders who stopped to acknowledge and support our cause," said Raunak Bhattacharjee, SFI-UK activist and master's student at the University of Liverpool.

"This is not just about one case. It is about the safety of all students, the accountability of institutions, and the fight against corruption. We demand immediate and exemplary punishment for those responsible for this horrific crime," added Renya Ramakrishnan, an SFI-UK committee member.

Indian-origin doctors from US, Canada write to President, PM on safety of medical professionals & demand severe penalties

AUGUST 23, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Expressing solidarity with the protesting doctors over the Kolkata rape and murder case, prominent medical alumni associations in the US and Canada have sought setting up of a commission for review of existing safety protocols in health care system in India.

Urging expeditious measures for safety of health care workers, heads of various alumni associations have demanded that the safety review commission should have representation from the public and health care professionals.

A letter in this regard has been signed by various associations and sent to President Droupadi Murmu. Also, they have appealed for strong and timely measures to check violence against health care professionals.

"We are deeply concerned by the recent surge in violence and harassment against doctors in India, especially against our female colleagues. We, representing various medical and alumni associations across the US and Canada, write to you with deep concern and anguish regarding the recent deplorable crime in Kolkata where a doctor was brutally raped and murdered. This tragic incident has not only shaken the medical community, but also highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to ensure the safety and security of doctors, particularly women doctors, who are dedicated to serving the nation," the letter said.



The doctors lamented that the increasing incidents of violence against medical professionals, including sexual violence, had created an environment of fear and insecurity among medical professionals. "This is not just an issue of personal safety but a significant impediment to the effective functioning of the health care system," they said.

Apart from suggesting setting up of a commission to inspect the existing safety protocols in health care systems and medical colleges, the doctors demanded expeditious measures to ensure safety of health care workers such that severe penalties be levied against those who commit crimes against them.

"The rights of health care workers to practice without fear in a secure environment must be protected with appropriate legislation at the earliest," the letter stated.

Apart from the President, the letter has also been addressed to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice of India, the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), the Health Minister, the National Medical Commission and the Indian Medical Association.

The signatories include Dr Satheesh

Kathula, president, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI); Dr Hema Kapoor, president, Lady Hardinge Medical College Alumni Association of North America (LHMC); Dr Tarun Ohri, president, AIIMSONIANS of America (All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi); Dr Vittal Setru, president, Connecticut Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (CAPI); Dr Ravish Kothari, president, South Carolina Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (SCAPI); Dr Sangita Kapur, president, Association of Indian Physicians, Cincinnati Chapter; Dr Manoj Shah, president, Inland Southern California Organization of Physicians of Indian Origin (ISCOPI); Dr Anand Kanjolia, president, Rajasthan Medical Alumni Association (RAJMAAI); Dr Mythili Bharadwaj, President, Kilpauk Medical College Alumni Association of North America (KANA), Dr Jaya Daptardar President, Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), Dr Tarak Vasavada President, IndoAmericans Psychiatric Association (IAPA), Dr Bhuvana Ramkumar (Board of Director and Past President), Dr Ravi Yellam Raju (Treasurer), Asian American Physician Association, Buffalo, New York, Dr Sanjay Bindra President, GOSUMEC Foundation USA, Dr Shekhar Annabhotla President and Founder and many more.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

23% fall in Indian students wanting to study in UK



The Home Office data for the past year until June 2024 shows a 23 per cent fall in Indian students coming to the UK for higher studies

Photo for representational purposes only.
PTI File photo

AUGUST 22, 2024

LONDON (TIP): Indians may continue to top the tally of student visa grants but they are beginning to show signs of being put off applying to UK universities amid greater migration curbs, the latest Home Office statistics revealed on Thursday.

The Home Office data for the past year until June 2024 shows a 23 per cent fall in Indian students coming to the UK for higher studies, even as they continue to represent the largest group granted leave to remain on the Graduate Route visa which allows foreign students to work in Britain for two years after their degree.

This fall in Indian student numbers is the first indication of the impact of tighter curbs on the right of most student visa holders to bring along dependent family members, which came into effect earlier this year.

"There were 1,10,006 sponsored study visa grants to main applicants who were Indian nationals in the year ending June 2024 (25 per cent of the total), 32,687 fewer than the previous year," the Home Office statistics reveal. (Source: PTI)

Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton, Diabetes Research Institution Foundation NE Board Chair John Carrion, Invite Long Islanders to Support Upcoming Walk/Run/Ride at Cedar Creek Park



AUGUST 26, 2024

SEAFORD, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) is joining forces with Diabetes Research Institute Foundation (DRIF) Northeast Board Chairman John Carrion in support of the fourth annual Team DRI Walk/Run/Ride Event on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Starting at Cedar Creek Park in Seaford, participants select their own pace and distance - whether by biking, walking, or running - on a route spanning the distance between the park and Jones Beach (or further or shorter - the participant chooses the distance) to raise

funds and awareness for DRIF's pursuit of a cure for type 1 (juvenile) diabetes. Last year's event drew more than 125 participants and raised over \$100,000, Carrion said. Since its inception in 2019, the Walk/Run/Ride has garnered over \$250,000.

"I'm a big bike rider and I wanted to figure out how we could promote the cause," he said of the "homegrown, organic" event. "We wanted to make it fun and not a black-tie dinner, not a golf outing - something where we can be outside and the kids can come. That's how it started." In subsequent years, the walkathon - and then the run - were

added, creating the current form of this multifaceted philanthropic event.

Carrion first became involved in the fight to cure juvenile diabetes 22 years ago when his son was diagnosed at age 4. His first exposure was through events with Breakthrough T1D, formerly known as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and the community of families and advocates he met there sparked his passion for advocacy.

"When my son got out of the hospital, there were thousands of people at this walk who were in the same boat as I was," Carrion said. "That was the first time I didn't feel alone."

In subsequent years, his involvement with DRIF increased, and he later met Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton. Together, they later served on the Long Island and Northeast Regional boards, the latter of which Carrion has chaired since 2018.

"I have had the privilege of knowing John for more than two decades, as our children were diagnosed around the same time," Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton said. "As parents of young children with diabetes, we have both been intently focused on finding a cure and conquering this disease once and for all. I am so proud of all that John has done and I encourage everyone to join us at Cedar Creek Park in Seaford for what promises to be an amazing event in support of a cause that is near and dear to all of us."

Visit

<http://www.DiabetesResearch.org/WalkRunRide2024> for information about how to register for the bike/walk/run and information on becoming a sponsor of the event.

(Photos courtesy of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation (DRIF))



UN Women deeply concerned by new Afghanistan morality law

28 AUGUST 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): UN Women is deeply concerned about the recent enactment of a morality law by the de facto authorities in Afghanistan, which

imposes extensive restrictions on personal behavior, effectively erasing women from public life and granting broad enforcement powers to the morality police.

On 21 August 2024, the de facto authorities announced the ratification of a detailed "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice", which imposes extensive restrictions on the Afghan population. This law significantly deepens the already severe curtailment of the rights of Afghan women and girls, including requirements for women to cover their entire bodies and faces, and it forbids women's voices in public. Women are also prohibited from interacting with non-Muslims, using public transport alone, and looking at men to whom they are not related by blood or marriage.

Over the past three years, since their takeover of Afghanistan, the de facto authorities have subjected Afghan women and girls to over 70 edicts, directives, and decrees stripping them of fundamental rights. UN Women data shows that these restrictions are having dire impacts in the lives of Afghan women and girls. For example, only 1 per cent of women surveyed feel like they have influence over decision making in their communities; 64 per cent indicate that they do not feel safe leaving their homes by themselves compared to 2 per cent of men; and 8 per cent indicate knowing at least one woman or girl who has attempted suicide since August 2021. These oppressive laws and policies must be immediately reversed, and the de facto authorities must adhere to their obligations under international law to ensure the full rights of all women and girls.

UN Women stands in unwavering solidarity with every Afghan woman and girl subjected to these measures and we will continue to work with our partners to support the full realization of their rights.



All New York City Public School Nurses to participate in suicide prevention online training course from the Jed Foundation

THE NEW INITIATIVE OFFERS SUPPORT AND TRAINING IN IDENTIFYING, SCREENING, AND REFERRING PRE-K-12 STUDENTS AT RISK OF SUICIDE TO LIFE-SAVING SERVICES

AUGUST 27, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): School nurses play a critical role in suicide prevention and are often the first point of contact for students experiencing mental health issues or emotional distress. Today, Schools Chancellor David C. Banks, in partnership with the NYC Department of Health, and The Jed Foundation (JED), announced that the New York City Office of School Health (OSH) has partnered with JED, a leading national nonprofit that protects emotional health and prevents suicide in teens and young adults, to develop and scale a new standardized suicide prevention training course for New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) nurses working across more than 1,800 pre-K-12 public schools.

"Our administration continues to remain laser focused on addressing the crisis of youth mental health," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "Today's announcement, in partnership with The Jed Foundation, to train approximately 1,500 school nurses in suicide prevention brings us one step closer to meeting our students where they are and supporting their mental health needs at every turn. Whether it is filing a lawsuit to hold social media companies accountable, launching Teenspace - a free tele-mental health service that has already supported over 1,800 youth in seeking help from licensed professionals - or providing more services directly in schools, we will do everything we can to ensure our future leaders have the support they need to thrive emotionally, mentally, and physically."

"Our schools aren't just places where our children

go to learn - they're where they go to grow up, to find themselves, to make friends, and to have the support they need to get through whatever's going on in their lives," said Chief of Staff Camille Joseph Varlack. "With this new partnership, we're making sure that our school nurses have the training they need to identify warning signs of suicide and get at-risk young people the help they need. It's a part of our broader mission to promote youth mental health, inside and outside our schools."

"School-based nurses play an important role in our school communities and in the everyday lives of our young people. They may see young people at times of need whether a stomach ache, a needed band-aid, or a sprained ankle. School nurses don't just tend to physical health needs though, they are also the frontlines of witnessing and supporting our kids' mental health. Seeing when they might be feeling anxious, stressed, or overwhelmed. That's why this partnership offering additional training to our school nurses around suicide prevention is so critical. It responds to a need and it gives new tools of support to our nurses and our students," said Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom.

"Our schools are not only centers of learning, but safe havens where our young people can find trusted adults and support for whatever may be going on in their lives. Our school nurses are champions of students' well-being, and they must be equipped to jump into action and help any student calling out for it," said Schools Chancellor David C. Banks.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Thousands celebrate the pride of their motherland at the 13th India Day Parade of Long Island in Hicksville on August 25

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

down from the Patel Brothers Plaza. The floats included a replica of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Ram Mandir, consecrated in Ayodhya earlier this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and one float of Lord Ganesha. Other floats included the Arya Samaj of Long Island, LIPAC and many more. The surprising participation by the Hicksville School Marching band and 25 motorcycle riders was a great attraction to the onlookers for the annual parade.

Organized by IDP USA, the parade, now in its 13th year, was a grand success held under the leadership of co-Presidents Vimal Goyal and Deepak Bansal, their team and Nassau County Human Rights Commission Chair Dr. Bobby Kumar Kalotee.

Celebrity Grand Marshals were comely actress and politician Jaya Prada Nahata and actress Neetu Chandra who stole the hearts of their fans. Dr Urmillesh Arya was the community Grand Marshall. Consul General Binaya Pradhan as Grand Marshall was



Grand Marshals and guests of honor lead the parade

represented by Vishal Jayesh Bhai Harsh - Consul (Economy, HOC & CPIO) and Mr. Anurag. Harry Singh Bolla of Bolla Oil, Shudh Prakash Singh, and Dr Jay Sarkar were Chief Guests. There were several Guests of Honor and dignitaries who were present.

The elected officials who addressed the surging crowds from the stage at Patel Brothers and later at the entertainment stage included Congressman Anthony D'Esposito, NY Senate members Steve Rhoads and Jack Martins, TOBAY Supervisor Joseph Saladino, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, Nassau County Legislator from Hicksville Rose Marie Walker, and Town of North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava and others.



Grand Marshals, guests of honor, dignitaries and organizers

Several dignitaries and lawmakers as well as celebrities and prominent guests from the community joined in the celebrations, adding to the gravitas of the calendar event of Long Island.

Patriotic songs and slogans, such as 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and 'Jai Hind,' rang out in the air as people waved India's tricolor along the parade route.

The parade culminated at the sprawling LIRR parking lot. Over 55 booths set up there attracted a



Indian Idol Khuda Baksh, and Bhangra King Sarabjeet Cheema regaled the audience with music and dance. Seen on extreme right is Nishi Behl, the mentor of many beauty queens

stream of visitors. Free, delicious meals were served to all, courtesy of IDP USA. Bolla Market set up Free Children's Carnival Games.

In the afternoon, the gathering was regaled with popular Bollywood and Punjabi songs by well-known entertainers Rex D'Souza with his live band, Indian Idol Khuda Baksh, and Bhangra King Sarabjeet Cheema.

Several people, including members of the IDP Team such as Chairman Bobby Kalotee, President Vimal Goyal, Past Presidents Jay Jasbir Singh, Indu Jaiswal, Senior Vice Presidents Nilima Madan, Bina Sabapathy and many team members and others were seen dancing with joy near the stage as they celebrated India's 78th Independence Day.

(Based on a Press Release and photographs submitted by Nilima Madan)

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How reliable are the Polls in spite of the Margin of Error? 2016 and 2020 Elections are good examples



BY VEN
PARAMESWARAN

The news cycles influence polls. The mainstream media with the exception of Fox and the WSJ have always supported the Democratic candidates. We used to have CBS-NYT; NBC-WSJ; AND ABC-WPOST. These pollsters used to put out polls almost weekly,

especially from Labor Day to Election Day. The Gallup Poll used to be the most accurate. Realclear average of all Polls is also popular and may be more accurate than even NYT Sienna Poll.

I have decided not to go by the national polls that reflect popular votes. The Democrats always score in popular votes because of the large population of California.

Kamala Harris created the best first impressions by campaigning in Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina,

Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania - one after another on a continuous basis. This had a huge impact and she started gaining in polls against Trump. Next was the DNC and her Acceptance Speech. So far Kamala Harris is ahead in national polls only by 3 points. In battleground States she is leading by 1 or 2 points; she had tied Trump in PA.

Going by Hillary Clinton and Biden's track record in polls, I had expected Kamala would be up by 5 points nationally and would widen her lead in battleground States. Perhaps, this may happen before

Labor Day.

RFK Jr. endorsing and embracing Trump publicly should benefit Trump to become more competitive with Kamala Harris. As a result, I am not expecting Kamala to make a significant lead before the September 10 debate if it takes place!

Based on my reading, the race is going to be very tight in Pennsylvania as it was in 2016 and 2020. I could even say whoever wins Pennsylvania will be our next President. The debates could make an impact also.

Rusty promises: Modi's anti-corruption myth crumbles

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan 'na khaunga, na khane doonga' (will neither be corrupt nor let anyone be corrupt) once served as a rallying cry against the entrenched corruption in the political system. It propelled him to power, painting him as a crusader against graft. Yet, recent incidents, such as the collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Maharashtra and the leaking roof of the new Parliament building in New Delhi,

cast a long shadow over this claim, exposing the crumbling foundations of the much-touted 'Modi model'.

The 35-foot statue, unveiled with fanfare by Modi himself less than a year ago, lies in ruins, a victim of rusted nuts and bolts. This monumental blunder is not merely a case of shoddy workmanship; it is emblematic of the rot that has set in at the core of the government's projects. The contractor, conveniently linked to those in power, stands accused of collusion, fraud

and endangering public safety, while the government scrambles to shift the blame onto anything but its own negligence. The steel used in the statue had already begun to rust; yet, despite repeated warnings, no action was taken. Then there is the new Parliament building, a symbol of Modi's ambition to reshape India's democratic institutions. Constructed at an exorbitant cost of nearly Rs 1,000 crore, the building was quickly reduced to a laughing stock when a video emerged showing water

leaking through its roof.

Modi's tenure has been marked by grand announcements and mega projects, but beneath the surface lies a pattern of cutting corners, favoritism and a blatant disregard for quality and accountability. The government that promised to end corruption has become a factory of half-baked, poorly executed projects, all the while shielding its cronies from dire consequences. The irony is stark. (Tribune, India)

War and peace: On India and a Russia-Ukraine peace initiative

INDIA IS NOT WELL-PLACED TO BROKER A CEASEFIRE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Just days after his visit to Kyiv, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephonic conversations with U.S. President Joseph Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin have raised hopes that New Delhi is ready to take the plunge and attempt peacemaking in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Mr. Modi's travel to the UN in September, where he will meet U.S. and European leaders and possibly Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy again, and another visit to Russia in October for the BRICS summit, have fueled those hopes. However, those who are boosting speculation of an Indian role may benefit from a careful consideration of the circumstances, and India's position thus far. Since the 2022 Russian invasion of

Ukraine, India has remained distant from the outcomes of what External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had once called "Europe's war" and any peace process that does not involve bringing Russia and Ukraine to the table for talks. It had even disassociated itself from the Swiss peace summit. While Mr. Modi has consistently said that India is "on the side of peace" alone, New Delhi has been seen to be partial to Moscow, given its historical ties and military and energy dependencies. It will need to recast itself in a more unbiased image. Meanwhile, the war continues without pause, indicating the belief in both parties of there still being military gains to be made. That Russia launched deadly attacks on Ukraine just before the Modi

Moscow visit in July, and Ukraine carried out operations into Russia's Kursk Oblast just before his visit to Kyiv last week, demonstrate the dangerous power play and messaging Mr. Zelenskyy and Mr. Putin can indulge in, regardless of their guest's sensitivities.

With such entrenched positions, New Delhi must proceed with care if it indeed seeks to join the ranks of others wanting involvement in conflict resolution. Successful efforts have been few and have required focused agendas - the Black Sea Grain Initiative; the IAEA effort, on nuclear safety at the Zaporizhzhia power plant; and the latest exchange of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners. India must also articulate its own principles for a ceasefire

compromise and lasting peace. The Modi government may well benefit from studying India's own history: In the 1950s, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, at the instance of Vienna, mediated with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev on troops withdrawal from the north-east zone of Austria post-war, in return for promises of Austrian neutrality. An Indian peace initiative will be further complicated by the proposals Ukraine and Russia have themselves put forth: Mr. Zelenskyy insists on a full military withdrawal from Ukraine by Russia first, and Mr. Putin has called for Ukrainian forces to withdraw from regions now occupied by Russia, and for Kyiv to formally give up any efforts to join NATO. (The Hindu)

Focus on trial: On central agencies and cases

The Supreme Court order granting bail to Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader K. Kavitha does more than grant relief to a jailed politician; it brings under focus the ill-motivated tactic of using the judicial process and the power of arrest as a tool to hound political opponents. The charge that the Delhi government's liquor policy was formulated in exchange for crores of rupees to grant a favourable deal to a certain lobby is quite serious, warranting a thorough investigation and fair prosecution. However, the focus of the Centre and its

agencies seems to be entirely on keeping some political figures imprisoned in the run-up to the trial. In oral observations, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan has questioned the fairness of the investigation, especially because the agency has cited some of those apparently involved as witnesses, while seeking pardon to some arrested suspects so that they could testify as approvers. After a spell during which the courts were reticent to disregard the vehement objections by the prosecution to the grant of bail, the judiciary has now begun to see through the attempt to use the bail-denying features of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA) to keep adversaries in prison for long. The Court had earlier granted bail to

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (still in jail in a CBI case on the same allegations) and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Ms. Kavitha has been accused of arranging the alleged deal between the Delhi government and a 'south lobby'. It is notable that the political leaders have all been implicated by witnesses who themselves appear to be involved in the case and accused who have turned approvers. The Bench has questioned the Delhi High Court's failure to give her the benefit of a proviso to Section 45 of the PMLA, which allows grant of bail to women, merely on the ground that she was educated and not a "vulnerable" woman. The mere fact that the investigation by the

CBI and the Enforcement Directorate is over was enough to grant bail. Instead of vehemently objecting to bail, and spending their time filing lengthy replies to a spate of bail petitions in various courts, prosecutors should concentrate on building a water-tight case. They should now focus on opening the trial and concluding it within a reasonable time-frame. The agencies concerned should remember that headlines that cite fabulous sums of money allegedly paid as bribes and thousand page charge sheets can impress only a few. Trial courts would surely prefer concrete evidence and reliable testimony backed by relevant documents.

(The Hindu)

Bridging over troubled waters

FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE BIDEN PLAN, THE 'BRIDGING PROPOSAL' PUT FORTH BY ANTONY BLINKEN IS ALSO ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE IN THE WAKE OF GLARING MISTRUST BETWEEN HAMAS AND ISRAEL.



BY PRABHU DAYAL

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up his visit to Israel earlier this week, saying that he had consulted with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had accepted a 'bridging proposal' for a ceasefire in Gaza. He also called on Hamas to accept the 'bridging proposal'. What is the Gaza ceasefire 'bridging proposal', and will it work in the troubled waters of the Israel-Hamas war? Can we expect the fighting to be ended in Gaza and peace to be established? In my estimation, a peace deal is still very elusive. Disagreements over Israel's future military presence in Gaza are hindering progress on a ceasefire and hostage deal. Moreover, Netanyahu has repeatedly said that Israel will not stop the attacks until Hamas has been completely destroyed, and Hamas is unwilling to trust Israel for this reason. In this scenario, ending the conflict is not easy at all.

Blinken's recent visit to Israel was an attempt to bridge the gaps. Clearly, he failed to secure a breakthrough for a Gaza cease-fire deal. More than ten and a half months have elapsed since the ongoing Hamas-Israel conflict started in Gaza. Many efforts have been made to end it but without success, for the conflict is showing no signs of ending. The underlying reason is that there is a big trust deficit between Hamas and Israel. It may be recalled that Hamas launched an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage. The Israeli military launched a counter-offensive in Gaza in which at least 40,334 Palestinians have been killed and 93,956 wounded. The vast majority of Gaza's population has been displaced. A humanitarian crisis of unspeakable dimensions has resulted, and the life of the Palestinians in Gaza has become worse than hell. Ending this conflict is proving to be a huge challenge. Ageing gratefully Mediators from Qatar, Egypt and the USA spent months pursuing a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the hostages in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The three-phase Israel-Hamas war ceasefire proposal was announced by Egypt and Qatar on May 5, and endorsed by Hamas on May 6. US President Joe Biden presented the deal and it came to be known as the Biden Plan.

This was the plan's outline: PHASE I o A complete ceasefire o Withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas in Gaza o Release of some hostages and some remains of hostages Also Read - Nexus of Good: Groundwork for excellence o Palestinian civilians can return to their homes in Gaza o A surge



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv on Monday, August 19.

in humanitarian aid .

PHASE 2 o A permanent end to hostilities o Exchange for the release of remaining living hostages o Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza

PHASE 3 o A major reconstruction plan for Gaza o The final remains of hostages are returned to their families.

On June 10, the United Nations Security Council supported the proposal as Resolution 2735. Hamas leaders largely accepted the announced "Biden plan" and the UN Resolution with some caveats. For example, they insisted that the end of the ceasefire as described in both be "permanent," and that there be a complete withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza. However, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu put a spanner in the works and ruled out a permanent ceasefire. He stated that Israel was open only to a partial ceasefire that did not include ending the war in Gaza. In fact, Netanyahu went further and rejected Biden's proposal. He said in a social media post that the "actual" plan to which he agreed stipulated no end to the conflict until Hamas had been eliminated, no permanent ceasefire until all hostages were freed and victory was achieved and no end to an Israeli security role in Gaza.

The Gaza ceasefire mediators have been making a fresh bid to 'narrow the gaps' between Israel and Hamas. Two key sticking points concern Israel's demands which it is unrelenting. These relate to the Philadelphi Corridor and the Netzarim Corridor respectively. Firstly, Israel insists that it must have full control over the Philadelphi corridor which is a 14-kilometre-long narrow strip of land running inside Gaza along

its southern border with Egypt. Israel says that Hamas has been smuggling arms across this border. Secondly, Israel is adamant that displaced people returning from southern Gaza to northern Gaza be screened at the Israeli-controlled Netzarim corridor that effectively divides the territory of Gaza into two parts. This corridor will allow the Israeli army to bisect and control the Gaza Strip. Israel considers this corridor to be essential for carrying out raids in northern and central Gaza. In other words, these demands by Israel mean that it will continue to maintain its troops inside Gaza even after a peace deal is reached. Hamas has rejected any such presence, saying it contravenes a three-stage peace plan announced by Joe Biden at the end of May, and later endorsed by the UN Security Council, which ultimately envisages a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Hamas also says that Israel had changed its conditions and parameters at the last minute. Hamas also argues that any concessions it makes would be met by more demands by Israel. On the other hand, the Israeli Prime Minister's office denied making 'new demands', asserting that their position was always well known to the Americans. So, either Netanyahu is pulling a fast one, or else the Americans did not convey the correct picture regarding the Israeli position to their fellow mediators from Qatar and Egypt.

Naturally, the disagreement over Israel's future military presence in Gaza is also hindering progress on a ceasefire and hostage deal. The discussions around the Philadelphi corridor and the Netzarim corridor are proving to be contentious. Netanyahu is

not budging from his position and neither are the Hamas leaders. Blinken's recent visit to Israel was an attempt to 'bridge the gaps'. Even more significantly, Israel has made it clear that a break in the fighting is all that it will agree to - not a permanent ceasefire. Netanyahu has made it clear that he is ready for a six-week ceasefire which will help to bring back some of the hostages while facilitating humanitarian relief supplies to reach the Palestinians in Gaza, but he would not give up on continuing the war in Gaza in order to destroy Hamas. In this scenario, even if an agreement is reached - still far from certain - it could end up lasting only weeks before it collapses and the war in Gaza resumes. Thus, Blinken's 'bridging proposal' seems to be promising more than it can achieve.

Meanwhile, concerns grow about the possible expansion and escalation of the conflict. Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel early Sunday (August 25) as Israel's military said it struck Lebanon with around 100 jets to thwart a larger attack, in one of the biggest clashes in more than 10 months of border warfare. Any major spillover in the fighting risks transforming into a regional conflagration drawing in Hezbollah's backer Iran and Israel's main ally the United States. This would be a truly frightening scenario!

(The writer is a retired Indian diplomat and had previously served as Consul General in New York)

(First published in the Millennium Post.

<https://www.millenniumpost.in/opinion/bridging-over-troubled-waters-577147>)

Farmers need assured prices to withstand market shocks



BY DEVINDER SHARMA

THE ONLY PLAUSIBLE WAY TO PULL THE FARMERS OUT OF PERPETUAL POVERTY IS BY ENSURING A LEGALLY BINDING FRAMEWORK FOR GUARANTEEING FARM PRICES

It is called the pension reform. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) ensures dignity and financial security for government employees. "We are proud of the hard work of all government employees who contribute significantly to national progress," he said.

In reality, the UPS - which assures a pension equivalent to 50 per cent of the last drawn salary - is an acknowledgement that the earlier market-linked New Pension Scheme had not worked for government employees. To assure a 'defined benefit' for government employees, the Union Cabinet tweaked the pension scheme to ensure that the retirees do not have to face the tyranny of the markets.

While the PM has also applauded the country's farmers on a number of occasions and has often admired the resilience demonstrated by the farming community, there have been no takers for their long-pending demand for guaranteed prices. If markets have failed for retired employees, let me make it clear that markets have also failed for farmers. If employees need an assured pension, farmers also need an assured price.

Nowhere in the world have markets ensured a higher income for farmers. In the major economies, either the subsidy fills the income gap (China has emerged at the top in providing agricultural subsidies) or agriculture is conveniently left at the mercy of market forces, like in India. The result, as some studies have shown, is not only that Indian farmers are at the bottom of the pyramid but also that they have been incurring losses year after year for nearly 25 years now.

The only plausible way to pull the farmers out of perpetual poverty is by ensuring a legally binding framework for guaranteeing farm prices. Regardless, the NDA government had sworn in an affidavit before the Supreme Court some years back that a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) would distort the markets. Strangely, when it comes to farmers, policymakers raise the bogey of assured prices distorting markets. For employees, everyone is fine with an assured pension; the fear of distorting markets suddenly disappears.

While mainline economists believe that a legal MSP will jack up consumer prices and thereby distort markets, in reality, it will squeeze corporate profits, and hence the outcry. Strangely, the same breed of free-market economists remain quiet when corporates in America go in for 'price gouging' - jacking up prices to rip off the consumers. This actually is price distortion. Already, 38 states, including California, Florida and New York, have brought in laws that prohibit the practice. For instance, the state of New York went



The recent crash in tomato prices underlines a painful annual trend that the nation doesn't feel concerned about. -Credit: PTI

against companies that had hiked the prices of hand sanitizers by 400 per cent during the pandemic. And yet, many market economists have called such checks on visible market distortions a return to Soviet-style price controls.

The bias in favor of markets crops up when farmers have to be provided with economic security, but not when corporates jack up prices to extract their pound of flesh. This double speak on market distortion is coming in the way of providing farmers with a living income. As I have said before, markets will automatically adjust to the assured prices for farmers. It is only the ideology that is coming in the way.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris has called for a ban on corporate price gouging, which alone is responsible for a 53 per cent increase in the prices of food and grocery items since the pandemic. Republicans have called her position on it 'communist'. Whatever the right wing may say, there is no denying, as some economists have acknowledged, that a ban on price gouging is good economics as well as good politics. Harris has promised action against companies that are keeping food prices artificially high.

Returning to the employees' pension, it is interesting to see the Department of Expenditure make an all-out effort to justify the decision, terming it 'fiscally prudent' and claiming

that "it will be preventing fiscal hardship to future generations of citizens." Certainly, there is no one against an assured pension for employees. But if the employees can be assured of social security, there is no reason why economic security cannot be assured for farmers. They also contribute significantly to the national progress, and it is because of their relentless hard work that the country has food security.

When Kamlesh Patidar, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district, reploughed his standing soybean crop on 10 acres, he did not realize that it would trigger a chain reaction. Just few days after a video of the incident went viral, reports of several anguished farmers uprooting the crop poured in.

The crash in soybean prices - and that too, a month and a half before the harvesting season - has negated another economic belief that suggests farmers should hold on to harvest till the time they can realize a better price. Patidar had saved his last year's harvest in the hope of getting a higher price later. But even that did not work.

While the ruling soybean prices have dropped to a level that existed 12 years back, the destruction of farm livelihoods leaves hundreds of thousands of soybean farmers seething with anger. The prices, which are much lower than the MSP, are not even enough to cover the production

PROVIDING A LEGALLY GUARANTEED MSP TO FARMERS WHO HAVE MARKETABLE SURPLUS AND PROVIDING DIRECT INCOME SUPPORT TO MARGINAL FARMERS IS THE BIG REFORM THAT AGRICULTURE AWAITS.

costs. I wonder when we will have an assured price policy for farmers that will prevent fiscal hardship for not only future generations of farmers but also the present one.

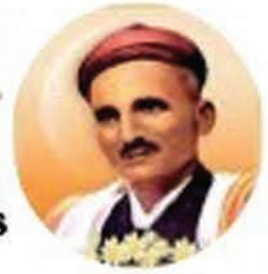
Soon thereafter, reports about tomato prices crashing by 60 per cent to a low of Rs 300 per crate of 25 kg poured in. And then came news reports about basmati prices falling by 28 per cent to Rs 2,500 per quintal. It is not something unique happening this year; it has emerged as a painful annual trend that the nation does not feel concerned about.

Providing a legally guaranteed MSP to farmers who have marketable surplus and providing direct income support to marginal farmers is the big reform that agriculture awaits.

(Devinder Sharma is a Writer, Researcher, Columnist, Author. He specializes in economics, global trade, food and agricultural policy, environment, and development. @Devinder_Sharma)



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AMIT CHATTERJEE
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HARMONIUM



BISHNUPRIYA CHAKRABARTY
VOCAL



ROSY DUTTA
VOCAL

PART II – 2 PM TO 5 PM - \$21



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DUTTA
VOCAL



KANKANA
BANERJEE
VOCAL



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CHATTOPADHYAY
TABLA



AMIT
CHATTERJEE
TABLA



INDRO ROY
CHOWDHURY
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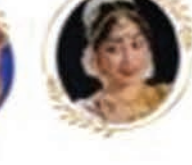
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SAROD



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MUKHERJEE
SITAR



ANJAN
SAHA
SITAR



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TROUPE
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MADHUSHREE
VOCAL



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Sonalee Vyas Dance Company Enchants Audiences with Captivating Krishna Ballet in Krishna Temple, Fort Myers, Florida

AUGUST 27, 2024

FORT MYERS, FL (TIP): The Sonalee Vyas Dance Company delivered an enchanting Krishna Ballet performance at the local Krishna temple in Fort Myers, FL, captivating over 300 attendees during the Janamashtmi celebration with a unique and imaginative take on mythological tales. This 90-minute spectacle vividly brought to life the cherished stories of the compassionate and loving Krishna, appealing to a diverse audience through its rich narrative and emotional resonance.

The performance dazzled with a striking array of costumes and intricate choreography, offering an immersive experience that profoundly moved the audience. A talented ensemble of 15 actors and performers expertly embodied the characters, evoking tears and powerful



The talented ensemble of performers

emotions among the spectators.

Choreographed and directed by the esteemed Sonalee Vyas Jani, the ballet showcased the extraordinary talents of Aayushman Jani, Ismael Gracia, Dhilan Shetty, Bhumit Patel, Ashwin Kumar, Shayna Malhotra, Anastasiia Bila, Anondita Paul, Tanya Chauhan, Ankita Khanna, Sharmita Saha, Hitanshi Patel, and Meha Sadana. Their dedication and artistry contributed to an unforgettable evening celebrating the beauty of dance and storytelling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sonalee Vyas Jani
Sonalee Vyas Dance Company
732-213-4333
Sdancestudio@gmail.com

North American Punjabi Association condemns attack on Indian American in Amritsar



AUGUST 25, 2024

SACRAMENTO (TIP): The North American Punjabi Association on Sunday condemned the attack on an NRI in Amritsar by two assailants and described the incident as "deeply troubling."

Sukhchain Singh was shot at by two people in front of his family at his home in the Daburji village of Amritsar on

Saturday.

Singh, who recently returned from the US, was shot at in front of his wife and his two children from his first marriage.

Satnam Singh Chahal, executive director of the US-based North American Punjabi Association, said, "The attack on an NRI in Punjab is deeply troubling and warrants condemnation."

"Such acts of violence not only harm individuals but also create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among the diaspora community. The Punjabi diaspora, who often invest significantly in their home state and maintain strong cultural ties, have every right to feel safe and respected," he said in a statement.

"The situation should be treated with utmost seriousness to prevent further incidents and to restore confidence among the NRI community," Chahal said.

On Saturday, Singh was intercepted outside his house by two motorcycle-borne assailants who asked him about the registration documents of his luxury car.

Before he could understand anything, the two took out their pistols and forcibly took him inside his house.

Inside, the assailants fired three shots at him and fled.

A bullet each hit Singh in the head and near the chest. He was rushed to a private hospital where he is currently out of danger.

On Sunday, police arrested five people, including the father of Singh's first wife, in connection with the attack. Efforts are being made to nab the two criminals who shot at him.

Hindus in US create group to rally support for Kamala Harris



Some Hindus in the US have come together to create "Hindus For Kamala Harris",

AUGUST 23, 2024

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Some Hindus in the US have come together to create "Hindus For Kamala Harris", a support group for the Democratic presidential nominee, saying she would be good for India, America and the world.

The group has been created "to support Kamala Devi Harris to become the 47th President of the United States of America", its founding members said.

On Thursday, Harris, 59, formally accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party to be its presidential nominee.

"We must help her win. This is the best outcome for America, India and the World! The alternative Trump is a disaster!" one of the members of the group said.

"There is a simple path to victory. Without rejecting the other side, promote Harris candidacy because of what it stands for and the solution it will provide," another member said, adding that the candidacy has a unique momentum to win.

The group is urging Hindus to vote in the elections, display signs of support near their house, and make donations in support of the Harris campaign.

Desi President': Indian-Americans launch website for Kamala Harris campaign



US Vice President Kamala Harris

File photo August 23, 2024

AUGUST 23, 2024

CHICAGO (TIP): Electrified by the fact that someone among their community has become the Democratic presidential candidate, a group of enthusiastic Indian-Americans have launched a new website - DesiPresident.com, with the tagline 'Kamala Ke Saath'.

Harris, 59, is of mixed parentage; her mother immigrated to the United States from Chennai and her father moved to the country from Jamaica.

"The coming months are filled with excitement and promise as we rally together to make history. Your participation and enthusiasm are key to our success, and we can't wait to embark on this journey with you," the website said.

The Desi President, a project of the Indian American Impact Fund, has launched a T-shirt with the tagline "Kamala Ke Saath: Vote Kamala", which has become an instant hit on social media platforms.

Among other activities, the group is organizing a weekly virtual phone bank "Kamala Ke Saath" to canvass voters and supporters over the phone. A T-shirt was presented to Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi by the Indian American Impact Fund at an event this week.

This is not the first time that a Hindi slogan is used by a presidential campaign. In the 2016 elections, the Trump campaign had used the slogan "Ab Ki Baar Trump Sarkaar".

"The Indian American Impact Fund supports Kamala Devi Harris for President. We're mobilizing South Asian voters to help elect the first Indian-American president. Kamala Harris stands for our values and communities," it said.

Connecticut General Assembly Honors India and Indian Americans at India's 77th Anniversary



through involvement in community events and local politics, and by providing services to the Indian community at large here in Connecticut. This lofty goal of providing services and a political voice to the local Indian population has evolved into an exemplary community service organization thanks to the tremendous support of our local Indian community."

Indian Consul Pragma Singh who is the Consul for Visa and Community Affairs at the Indian Consulate was the honored guest. In her address, she highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of the Diaspora. "I'm very proud to say that the numbers prove that you have broken many barriers to become one of the most successful immigrant groups in the US.

values that govern the strategic relationship between India and the US. They included Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, CT State Senator Ryan Fazio (Senate 36th District, Greenwich/Stamford/New Canaan), CT Senator Patricia Billie Miller (Senate 27th District Stamford/Darien), and State Representatives Matt Blumenthal (147th District, Stamford/Darien), Anabel Figueroa (148th District, Stamford) and Rachel Khanna (149th District, Greenwich/Stamford). The elected officials were introduced GOPIO Chairman and Advisor/Trustee to GOPIO-CT Dr. Thomas 'Abraham.

Furthermore, all the elected officials who spoke at the event acknowledged India's success as the world's most populous and



AUGUST 13, 2024

GREENWICH, CT (TIP): Celebrations have already started in the US cities to honor India for its 77th Anniversary of Independence, being organized by the 4.5 million strong Indian American community. The Connecticut Chapter of the Global Organization (GOPIO-CT) had a highly successful celebration on August 11th with flag hoisting at the Stamford Government Center, a ceremony with elected Connecticut officials and dignitaries. The celebrations, with a colorful festival, then continued at the Mill River Park in Stamford.

A floating crowd of over 2,000 people attended flag hoisting at 11.30 am followed by the India Festival and Kite flying at the Mill River Park from 12 Noon to 4.00 pm. Dressed in colorful traditional Indian attire, with melodious music from the popular Bollywood world, dances depicting the wide variety of Indian culture, kite flying, spicy Indian cuisine, and booths decorated with Indian symbols and face art, the festivities were a treat to the fast-growing Indian American community in the state of Connecticut and New York's Westchester County.

The celebration had a combination of

everything that one would want, catering to the diverse needs of the attendees ranging from a toddler to seniors. Over 20 performances by over 100 performers were presented at cultural programs.

The day-long celebrations began with the hoisting of the American and Indian flags at the Stamford Government Center by Darien First Selectman Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, Rep. Matt Blumenthal (Stamford/Darien) and Rachel Khanna (Greenwich/Stamford) and Indian Consul Pragma Singh. American and Indian national anthems were sung by students of Stamford's Hindi School.

The program then continued to the adjacent Mill River Park with an Independence Day Ceremony which was addressed by Indian Consul Pragma Singh and several CT state officials. The ceremony was started by the program Chair Sushanth Krishnamurthy and program co-chair Sonali Gannu served as the MC who introduced GOPIO-CT President Dr. Jaya Daptardar.

In her presidential address, Dr. Jaya Daptardar described the mission and vision of GOPIO-CT under her leadership. "Our mission at GOPIO-CT is to be active participants in the local community

Indian Americans comprise only 1% of the US population, but across all the sectors, you pay 5 to 6% of income tax. You lead 16 of the Fortune 500 companies, which collectively employ 7 million Americans and generate nearly 1 trillion USD in revenue."

Half a dozen elected officials from Connecticut spoke and lauded the contributions of the Indian Diaspora locally and nationally, and praised the strong

largest democracy. Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky recognized the "resilience and spirit that drove India to independence," and appreciated the bonds between India and the United States through shared history. Connecticut State Senator Ryan Fazio remarked, "The United States and India share a lot in common," proceeding to emphasize the difficulty of running a democracy within a large and diverse population while respecting every citizen's voice.

CT Rep. Anabel Figueroa, State Representative for District 148, not only pointed out the achievements India has made in the United States in areas such as medicine and culture but also emphasized the room for improvement in both democracies, as "India and America face issues with inequality and justice and the need for greater harmony among our diverse populations."

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news



LAC talks: India, China for 'intensified contact' to 'narrow down differences'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Signalling some progress in diplomatic negotiations to resolve the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops that began in May 2020 along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, India said Thursday that the two sides had a "frank, constructive and forward-looking" exchange of views in Beijing on the situation along the LAC to "narrow down the differences" and "find early resolution of the outstanding issues".

The two sides, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, also agreed on "intensified contact through diplomatic and military channels".

The expression "narrow down the differences" has been used for the first time in the bilateral talks on the border standoff and, in diplomatic parlance, indicates progress in the negotiations.

It assumes significance given that the Kremlin said two days ago that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "confirmed his readiness" to take part in the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, in October. It will provide the Prime Minister and Chinese President Xi Jinping an opportunity to meet on the summit sidelines.

The MEA, in its statement, said, "The 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on



India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held on 29th August 2024 in Beijing. Gourangal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary & Ocean Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

"In line with the guidance provided by two Foreign Ministers' meetings in Astana and Vientiane in July 2024 to accelerate their discussion, and building on the WMCC meeting held last month," it said, "the two sides had a frank, constructive and forward-looking exchange of views on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to

narrow down the differences and find early resolution of the outstanding issues".

"For this, they further agreed for intensified contact through diplomatic and military channels," it said.

After the WMCC meeting in July, the MEA had said that both sides agreed to "maintain the momentum" through established diplomatic and military channels. This time, "intensified contact" has been underlined, suggesting a sense of urgency in the negotiations.

"In the meantime", the MEA statement said, "they decided to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in border areas in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements, protocols and

understandings reached between the two Governments. It was reiterated that restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for LAC are the essential basis for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations."

After the July meeting, the MEA had said that restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are "an essential basis" for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations. This time, the statement said that respect for LAC is "the essential basis" – giving a more definitive tone to the statement.

The leader of the Indian delegation also called on the Vice Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the MEA said.

Usually, Corps Commander-level talks take place between two WMCC meetings. But it did not happen this time, indicating that the diplomatic track is being pursued currently, rather than the military talks.

The remaining friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh primarily include legacy ones such as Depsang Plains and Demchok. The last formal disengagement along the LAC took place in September 2022 when both sides pulled back troops to disengage from Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh.

Source: *The Indian Express*

Farmer remark out of line, Nadda ticks off Kangana

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Days after she made objectionable remarks against protesting farmers, actor Kangana Ranaut, the Lok Sabha MP from Mandi, on Thursday, August 29, met BJP president JP Nadda, who asked her to honour the party discipline and refrain from speaking out of line on sensitive policy matters.

The BJP reined in the actor a little more today after earlier reprimanding her through a rare letter in which the party dissociated itself from the MP's remarks and instructed her to avoid commenting on policy matters such as farmers' issues.

"The BJP's approach is sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas and that is our guiding principle. Anything stated to the contrary is not our view," said a BJP source on Kangana's statements against farmers — a development having the potential to harm the party's prospects in poll-bound Haryana. Nadda met Kangana minutes before the Haryana core committee of the BJP assembled at his residence to



draft panels of candidates for the state elections.

Later during the day, these panels were presented for final approval to the BJP central election committee, which met under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The CEC meeting was attended by Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah and the top Haryana BJP brass — CM Nayab Saini, former CM ML Khattar, Union Minister Rao Inderjit, former Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij, Haryana BJP election in-charge

Dharmendra Pradhan and Haryana BJP in-charge Satish Poonia among others.

Earlier at his meeting with Kangana, Nadda is learnt to have reminded her about Modi's serial admonitions to MPs on the needlessness of irrelevant public utterances. It is further learnt that Kangana was asked not to speak on political and policy matters while promoting her work.

Kangana has been on a promotion spree for her film "Emergency" in which she plays late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

SAD (Amritsar) president and former MP Simranjit Singh Mann on Thursday triggered outrage among women organisations by making "derogatory remarks" in Karnal against BJP MP Kangana Ranaut.

Hours after meeting Nadda, Kangana reposted a tweet by one Nilesh Waghela who had asked if what she stated about farmers' protests was wrong. He had also posted news clippings from the days of the stir.

SC slams Telangana CM over remark on Kavitha's bail

"Do we decide on political considerations?" the Supreme Court on Thursday asked Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy, irked by his comment alleging a political hand behind the top court granting bail to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in the Delhi excise policy case. The issue at hand was a petition to shift the trial in a 2015 cash-for-vote case against Revanth outside the state, and a bench headed by justice BR Gavai took the occasion to pull up the CM for his remarks.

"If somebody has the audacity to say that we pass orders in consultation with political parties, that alone should be sufficient to entertain the transfer petition. Let him face trial outside the state," the bench said, adding that it would take up the matter on Monday, September 2.

Earlier, the court appeared inclined to dismiss the petition, but the matter took a dramatic turn post-punch as the court, while consulting on the name of prosecutor, learnt about CM's utterances against the top court before reconvening for the hearing.

Revanth, while reacting to his political rival K Kavitha getting bail from top court on Tuesday, raised doubts on how she was in custody for only five months, while her co-accused and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia spent 15 months behind bars. Speaking to mediapersons during a press event, Revanth alleged that Kavitha may have got bail due to a "deal" between the BRS and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre.

Pak invites PM Modi for SCO meet in Islamabad, India yet to take call

Pakistan on Thursday, August 29, invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government meeting to be held in Islamabad in October.

Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) and in that capacity, will be hosting the two-day in-person SCO Heads of Governments Meeting.

Sources on the Indian side confirmed having received the invite. Sending an invite to all SCO members was part of the protocol for the host nation, the sources said, adding a decision on the participation was yet to be taken. "Invitations have been sent to the heads of countries to participate in the meeting, which will take place on October 15-16. An invitation has also been sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at the weekly press briefing. Some countries had already confirmed participation, which would be informed in due course, she said.

About ties with India, the spokesperson said, "Pakistan does not have direct bilateral trade with India." The Islamabad summit will be preceded by a ministerial meeting and several rounds of senior officials' meetings focused on financial, economic, socio-cultural and humanitarian cooperation among SCO member states.

Assam first state to clear Muslim marriage, divorce registration Bill

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Assam Assembly on Thursday, August 29, passed a bill that makes the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces compulsory in the state. Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the bill – Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Bill, 2024 – aims at improving the quality of life for young girls.

The Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Bill, 2024 was introduced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan on Tuesday. With the enactment of this new law in Assam, child marriage registrations will be completely banned.

While replying to queries, Sarma said all earlier registrations of marriages conducted by Kazis will remain valid and only new ones will come under the purview of the legislation.

"We are not interfering with the marriages solemnised by Islamic rituals under Muslim Personnel Law at all. Our only condition is that Islam prohibited marriages will not be registered," he added.

All about the bill

According to the new rule implemented in Assam, the registration of all Muslim marriages and divorces with the government is now mandatory. The bill also states



that marriage between people not of the legal age (18 years for women and 21 years for men) will not be registered and considered valid.

The bill is aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy, child marriage, and marriages without the consent of both parties. The bill will also prevent men from deserting their wives after marriage, Mohan said in the state assembly.

It will help check polygamy, enable married women to claim their right to live in matrimonial house, maintenance, etc, and enable widows to claim their inheritance rights and other benefits and privileges which they are entitled to after the death of their husband.

Earlier, Muslim marriages were registered by Kazis. However, this new bill will ensure that all marriages of the community will be registered with the government.

Earlier in the day, the Assam assembly passed The Assam Repealing Bill, 2024, which abolished The Assam Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935 and the Assam Repealing Ordinance 2024.

Taking part in the discussion, the chief minister said: "Our aim is not only to abolish child marriages, ... also to get away with the Kazi system. We want to bring registration of Muslim marriages and divorces under the government system."

'Unwell, critical, suicide': 3 lies RG Kar told victim's parents

KOLKATA (TIP)

The disgraced former administration of the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital had lied thrice to the rape-murder victim's family, audio clips of recorded conversations between hospital authorities and the victim's parents, which surfaced on Thursday, August 29, suggest. The first of these three calls — made over a span of eight minutes — informed the family that she was ill, the second said she was critical and the third, that she appeared to have died by suicide.

The first call was made at 10.53am on Aug 9, more than an hour after Sumit Roy Tapadar, the hospital's assistant professor of respiratory medicine, had alerted the Tala police station, saying a 31-year-old intern had been found dead on campus.

Sandip Ghosh, the former principal, has told CBI that he learned of the incident from Tapadar at 10.30am.

The calls — recorded by the victim's father — have gone viral.

Two of the three calls — the first and the third — had been from Sucharita Sarkar, the hospital's non-medical assistant superintendent. The second call was made by the victim's father to her. Sarkar, who was questioned by CBI and Kolkata



Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT), did not respond to TOI's calls and texts. In her statement to CBI and the cops, she claimed she called the family "under instructions" from the hospital's head of respiratory medicine, Arunabha Dutta Chowdhury, because they had feared that the victim's family would not be able to bear the shock.

CBI sources said Sarkar told them she had blurted out "suicide" in her nervousness.

This attempt to mislead the family had prompted the victim's parents to allege a

"cover-up".

"During each call, a woman provided conflicting information about my daughter's condition," the father said on Thursday.

The parents, however, claimed that they did not know how the audio clips went viral. According to the parents, the first two calls offered varying explanations for their daughter's situation, but it was during the third call that the caller identified herself as an assistant superintendent of the hospital. "In this final call, she told us that our daughter

might have died by suicide, a statement that had added to our distress and suspicion regarding the true circumstances of her death," the father said.

The audio clips are a part of the probe docket handed over by police to CBI. The first call came at 10.53am and lasted 32 seconds. "Can you come immediately?" the caller is heard telling the father, saying his daughter was ill, but without elaborating. When he asked her repeatedly what sort of illness she had suffered, the caller is heard saying, "Doctors will tell you that once you come. We have gathered your number and called you."

The second call was made by the father of the victim within five minutes. It is 18 seconds long. "We have taken your daughter to the emergency room. She is critical. Please come fast," the caller said, hanging up. The victim's mother was heard saying that her daughter was on duty. The third call came from the hospital within three minutes of the second, where the caller said the trainee doc had perhaps died by suicide. "She has committed suicide perhaps.... We are in front of everyone at the hospital. Please come fast," the caller said. This call was the longest, lasting 56 seconds.

India in history this Week

AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 5

30 AUGUST

1559 Birth of Jahangir, son of the great emperor Akbar and ruler of the Mughal dynasty.

1659 Aurangzeb hanged his elder brother Dara Shikoh to occupy his father's throne.

1928 Ras Bihari Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru founded The Independence of India League in India. Its purpose was to inspire the diaspora to remove the British rule in India.

1947 A committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar to draft the Indian Constitution.

1952 Osborne Smith, the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India passed away.

1976 Good storyteller, storyteller, besides a better actor G.P. Shrivastava passed away.

2003 Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the third time.

2008 The death of the famous industrialist of the Birla family, Krishna Kumar Birla.

2014 The famous historian Bipin Chandra passed away.

1574 Guru Ram Das became the fourth Guru of the Sikhs.

2013 India's first defense satellite GSAT-7 was launched from French Guiana in South America.

31 AUGUST



1919 Famous litterateur Amrita Pritam was born.

1778 During the British Revolution, 17 Sharebridge Indians were killed in the British Bronx.

1956 The then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad approved the State Reorganization Bill.

1968 Two-stage rounding rocket Rohini-MSV1 was successfully launched in India.

2010 The Indian Parliament passed the Nuclear Public Liability Bill to ensure prompt compensation in the event of an accident at the nuclear plant.

1983 India's satellite INSAT-1B was aired from the US space shuttle Challenger in 1983.

2010 In 2010, the Government of India increased the amount of assistance for Pakistani flood victims from 50 lakh to 25 million dollars.

01 SEPTEMBER

1956 India's largest life insurance company "Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)" was established.

2008 Thomas J. Bata passed away as CEO of Bata Shoe Company

1947 Indian Standard Time was adopted.

1956 Tripura was made a union territory after the

reorganization of Indian states.

1964 Indian Petroleum Company Indian Oil Refinery and Indian Oil Company were merged to form Indian Oil Corporation.

2000 India's neighboring country China had closed its only route to Nepal via Tibet.

2008 Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram announced the appointment of D. Subbarao as the 22nd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

02 SEPTEMBER

1573 Akbar, the third ruler of the Mughal dynasty, won the decisive battle near Ahmedabad and captured Gujarat.

1946 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Interim Government of undivided India.

2009 Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and National Congress Party leader Dr. Yeduguri Suspicious Rajasekhara Reddy died in an air crash.

1956 125 people died after a bridge collapsed between Jadcherala and Mehboob Nagar, 100 km from Hyderabad.

1970 Vivekananda memorial was inaugurated at Kanyakumari in 1970.

1999 Indian swimmer Bula Chaudhary became the first Asian woman to cross the English Channel twice.

2008 In 2008, the former vice chancellor of Kanpur University, Prof. B.N.Asthana was announced by the Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Department for the Saraswati Samman.

1941 Famous Indian actress Sadhana was born.



03 SEPTEMBER

1923 Country's tabla player Pandit Kishan Maharaj was born.

1906 India's famous film actor Prithviraj Kapoor was born in Peshawar (now Pakistan).

1940 Famous composer of Hindi cinema Pyarelal was born.

2014 More than 200 people died due to floods in India and neighboring Pakistan.

2008 In 2008, Rajendra Kumar Pachauri was re-elected head of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations organization.

04 SEPTEMBER

1825 India's great freedom fighter Dada Bhai Naoroji was born in Mumbai. He is also called the "Grandfather of Indian Politics".



1952 India's famous actor Rishi Kapoor was born.

1665 Purandar was signed between the Maratha ruler Shivaji and the Mughals.

1927 The riots in Nagpur killed 22 people and injured over 100.

1946 In Bombay, street violence erupted between Muslims and Hindus.

1967 More than 200 people died as the 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit the Kayna Dam in Maharashtra.

2009 Gujarat High Court lifts ban on Aswant Singh's book written on Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Gujarat.

1888 Mahatma Gandhi embarked on a voyage to England.

2008 The Mayawati government decided to withdraw the Uttar Pradesh Organized Crime Act (UPCOCA) Bill-2007 with immediate effect.

2009 Coal Company SCCL was awarded the Autonomy of Mini Ratna Company.

2012 Girish Hosangara Nagaraje Gowda gave India the first medal at the Paralympic Games.

05 SEPTEMBER



1888 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born.

1997 Founder of Missionary of Charity and Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa died in Kolkata.

2009 The National Stock Exchange banned ten companies from trading in the stock market.

2011 The technical system of clearing checks through ATMs prepared by the Indian Banks' Association and the National Payments Corporation of India was finalized.

1872 Chidambaram Pillai, a Tamil-language scholar and noted social reformer, was born.

1905 The famous novelist Vachaspati Pathak was born.

2008 A delegation of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) led by Ratan Tata called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

EMBASSY OF INDIA, GUATEMALA CELEBRATES INDIA'S 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra hoisted the Indian National Flag and read the Hon'ble President of India's Message to the Nation

AUGUST 16, 2024

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala, along with the Indian diaspora and friends from Guatemala, celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. The event was marked by a series of activities that reflected the spirit of unity, pride, and patriotism.

The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the Indian national flag by Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra. Following this, Ambassador read out the Hon'ble President of India's address to the nation, providing a moment of reflection on the significance of the day and India's journey since independence.



Flag hoisting ceremony at the Embassy attended by Indian community and friends of India.

A highlight of the event was the vibrant cultural program that showcased India's rich and diverse heritage. The performances included traditional dances and music, providing a colorful display of Indian culture. Students from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and the group led by Ms. Satva Anand delivered captivating performances that left attendees with a profound sense of unity and cultural pride.



Embassy organized the inauguration of the Exhibition of Partition Horror Remembrance Day to honor and remember the lives affected by the partition of India in 1947

The Embassy also organized the Inauguration of the Exhibition of Partition Horror Remembrance Day. This exhibition aimed to honor and remember the lives affected by the partition of India in 1947. The displays included photographs and personal accounts that highlighted the pain and resilience experienced during this significant historical event.



Members from Brahma Kumaris Guatemala organized a Rakhi festival. Tying of Rakhi threads to the Indian Diaspora and friends of India in Guatemala

In collaboration with Brahmkumaris, Guatemala, the Embassy hosted a Rakhi festival. The tying of Rakhi threads during the festival fostered a sense of unity and cultural pride among the attendees. The event brought together the Indian diaspora and friends of India in Guatemala, celebrating this beautiful tradition with joy and camaraderie.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra handed over medicines to Mayors of Chiquimula, Huhuetenango, and Izabal

During the event, Embassy of India in collaboration with Lukah Medical S.A donated medicines to Mayors of Chiquimula, Huhuetenango, and Izabal. These efforts echo India's commitment to global health as the Pharmacy of the World.



The event featured vibrant cultural performances showcasing India's rich and diverse heritage

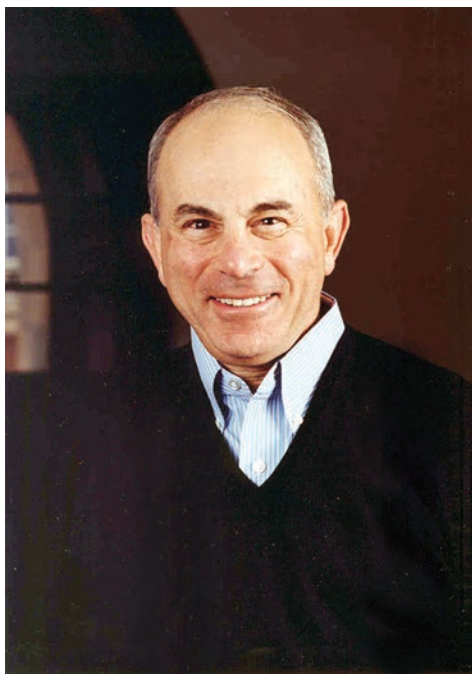
The Independence Day celebrations at the Embassy of India in Guatemala were a resounding success, reflecting the deep connections between India and Guatemala. The various activities and programs highlighted India's cultural richness and historical significance while strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual respect. The day served as a reminder of the enduring spirit of independence and the shared heritage that continues to unite people across borders. Pictures of the event are posted on Embassy's twitter, facebook and Instagram account.

WALL STREET EXEC INSPIRES TEACHING TEENS LIFE LESSONS

BY MABEL PAIS

"I believe it is important for all young people to have time, resources and opportunities to think about the life they want to make for themselves and not just how they will make a living," Ed Hajim

WHAT IS THE ED HAJIM PROFESSIONAL READINESS PROGRAM?



Ed Hajim Credit: NJPAC.org

This fall, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) will launch a new initiative for its arts education students, the Ed Hajim Professional Readiness Program, which will offer rising teen artists, 14 and up, a series of free classes and opportunities that will propel them towards a successful career in the performing arts. The program will equip student performers with skills and strategies necessary to succeed professionally in the performing arts.

Inspired by Hajim's book, 'Island of the Four Ps: A Modern Fable About Preparing for Your Future,' a guide to success in life and business told in the form of a fable, the program is designed to let young artists harness the elements of success that propelled Hajim himself from foster care to Wall Street board rooms.

Hajim, a leading business executive who held senior management positions with the Capital Group, E.F. Hutton, and Lehman Brothers before becoming

chairman and CEO of Furman Selz, is supporting the program with a significant gift to the Arts Center. He will also meet with participants to share with them how he made his way from an orphanage to Harvard Business School and the C-suite of multiple financial firms.

Watch 2015 Horatio Alger Award Winner Edmund Hajim speak of the troubles of his youth during the Depression, including time spent in foster care while his father was at sea during World War II, and how he discovered his passion for financial management while at Harvard Business School - youtu.be/i-9q2bKSCwM

While career preparedness has always been an element of NJPAC's extensive arts education programs - which offer thousands of young people skills instruction in vocal and instrumental jazz music, acting, musical theater and hip-hop arts every year - the PREP initiative will formalize and significantly expand those offerings.

"Ed Hajim's life story is a remarkable one, and the lessons he's gleaned from his extraordinary career have inspired us to create a series of workshops and programs for our students to ensure they're fully prepared for their professional lives. Success in the performing arts requires talent, of course, but also practical and interpersonal skills that Ed has uniquely identified," says John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC. "The career-readiness aspect of our arts education programming will be turbocharged by this gift and by Ed's personal engagement with our students."

"These initiatives will help our students marry their raw talent with the skills they need to become thriving businesspeople as well as great performers. They'll be able to explore their passions, and develop the skills that will allow them to make informed plans for their futures, all here at the Arts Center," says Rosa Hyde, Senior Director Arts Ed Performances and Special Events at NJPAC.

PROGRAM

The program - which is FREE to current NJPAC students who desire to pursue a profession in the arts, and to alumni of the Arts Center's arts training programs - will guide students through a series of steps that will advance their career readiness. Starting at age 14, and continuing through their university-level education and the early years of their professional work, students will receive both instruction in key skills and access to a ready-made professional network. The programs that will be available to NJPAC students beginning in Fall 2024 include:

- **Business of the Arts Workshops:** For students ages 14 to 18

A year-long series of two-hour Saturday seminars (offered immediately following NJPAC's Saturday arts training classes) on the practical skills young artists will need to advance their careers, including resume-writing, social media management, contract and financial literacy and audition etiquette, taught both by working artists and professionals in other fields.

- **The Production Education Assistants program:** For students and alumni ages 18-30

Students and alumni will be offered the opportunity to take a month-long series of bi-weekly classes in technical theater skills, from light and sound design to stage management. Once classes are completed, they will have the opportunity to learn



NJPAC Arts Ed Students

Credit: NJPAC.org

from and shadow professional stagehands. Participants will have the opportunity to sit for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) BACKstage Exam (Basic and Comprehensive Knowledge Exam for High School Technical Theatre Students), a prerequisite for consideration for union membership.

- **NJPAC Alumni Network:** For graduates of the Arts Centers arts training programs New alumni will now be able to join and learn from a community of NJPAC-trained artists. Through this network, not only will alumni be able to share insights and information with fellow artists, but the Arts Center will be able to call upon its graduates to provide mentorship to younger artists, perform at events, advise on programming and share their success stories. Through a new online platform, alumni will be able to network with peers who can provide advice, share job leads, and collaborate creatively. These additions to the Arts Center's arts education curriculum will also include expansions of career-focused initiatives that have been piloted at NJPAC in recent years including:

- **Creative Coaching:** For student artists ages 14 through 18. The Creative Coaching program pairs arts training students with teaching artists who serve as their mentors for two years. Working together, student and mentor identify a career-focused goal for the year - from producing a student's first EP to preparing a repertoire of songs and monologues for auditions - and work together on the steps toward achieving that goal. Mentors and students meet twice a week throughout the school year.

- **The Creator's Room:** For students ages 16 to 18 A quarterly series of conversations at which students can meet with working professional artists to both network and pick up tips and insight on how to handle auditions, how to find representation, where best to seek our job opportunities in today's market, even how to dress for auditions and rehearsals. These meetings are designed to offer students the nitty-gritty details of pursuing a career in the arts, from artists who are currently working in the field.

Finally, with this training supporting them, students engaged in the program will be able to take on paid performance jobs through the Arts Center's unique placement service for the students it trains:

- **Brick City Booking:** For current students aged 14 and up, and NJPAC alumni Student artists and recent alumni can access paid performance opportunities, and work with staff and mentors to negotiate contract terms, prepare repertoire, and nurture ongoing relationships with clients, through this service, NJPAC's student and alumni "booking agency."

Watch the video of Arts Ed Students - player.vimeo.com/external/351250473.hd.mp4?s=0659a112ecadb56e1f8e83d3c38de29ca4c3b345&profile_id=175

For more information about NJPAC's arts education and career readiness programs, visit njpac.org/arts-education.

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NJPAC ACCEPTING STUDENTS FOR FALL PROGRAM: JAZZ FOR TEENS



Jazz Student

Credit: NJPAC.org



Jazz Student

Credit: NJPAC.org

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the state's anchor cultural institution, celebrates 27 years of offering thousands of high schoolers from Newark and beyond, music lessons and performance experiences through its popular 'JAZZ FOR TEENS' program. One of the first of many arts education institutions at NJPAC, it has grown into a nationally recognized and revered program producing stellar alumni such as MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Tyshawn Sorey.

The 2024-25 school year is about to begin and is now accepting students for both the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters. Registration is now open and closes Sep 23.

'Jazz for Teens' is a comprehensive and sequential jazz education program that provides access to top-notch musical training and study with world-class working artists, opportunities for artistic exchange within the community, and college and career exploration.

This school year offers a new program "Business of the Music Business" with class topics including: financial wellness and budgeting; contracting; marketing and publicity; production and more. Classes include jazz history, theory/composition, technique, ensembles, and more. Prospective college students are guided through the application process. Students are given many performance opportunities as members of the James Moody Jazz Orchestra and/or George Wein Scholars Ensemble (performing at the Newport Jazz Festival). All students record their own compositions together in a studio setting. Field trips to Rutgers University-Newark's remarkable Institute of Jazz Studies, the largest archive of jazz-related materials in the world, are regular treats for students.

Since 2015, 'Jazz for Teens' has been at the helm of Mark Gross, the Director of Jazz Instruction for NJPAC. A multiple GRAMMY-winning alto sax player and composer, Gross has performed and recorded with a roster of greats, including Dizzy Gillespie, Buster Williams, Nat Adderley, Dave Holland, Wynton Marsalis, and more. In addition to Gross, a roster of more than a dozen working jazz musicians including saxophonist Wayne Escoffery and guitarist Alex Wintz (himself an alumnus of the program) as well as celebrated percussionist Alvester Garnett and acclaimed, Russian-born trumpeter Valery Ponomarev, a Jazz Messenger, to name a few - make up the 'Jazz for Teens' faculty. Even more bold-faced names, including eight-time

GRAMMY-winning bassist Christian McBride, the Arts Center's Jazz Advisor, vibraphonist Stefon Harris, and MacArthur "Genius" and Doris Duke Artist award winner Regina Carter offer master classes, working directly with students.

PROGRAM

WHEN: Fall Semester: Oct 5-Dec 14, 2024; Spring Semester: Jan 25-May 17, 2025, 10:00am-5:00pm (schedules vary)

WHERE: New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Colton Institute for Research and Training in the Arts, 24 Rector Street, Newark, NJ, 07102.

WHO: Student musicians ages 13-18.

Registration and Fees: Registration is required.

For more information and Fee Schedule, visit NJPAC.org/education or call 973.353.7058. Scholarships and/or financial aid are available.

Arts Education @ NJPAC

LEARN MORE AT NJPAC.ORG/EDUCATION

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

CONTD FROM PAGE 18

ED HAJIM

Ed Hajim is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir, 'On The Road Less Traveled: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom' and 'The Island of the Four Ps: A Modern Fable About Preparing for Your Future'.

The son of a Syrian immigrant, he is a seasoned Wall Street executive with more than 50 years of investment experience. He has held senior management positions with the Capital Group, E.F. Hutton, and Lehman Brothers before becoming chairman and CEO of Furman Selz. Hajim has been the co-chairman of ING Barings, Americas Region; chairman and CEO of ING Aeltus Group and ING Furman Selz Asset Management. He is now non-executive chairman of High Vista, a Boston-based

money management company.

In 2008, after 20 years as a trustee of the University of Rochester, Hajim began an eight-year tenure as chairman of the university's board. Upon assuming that office he gave the school \$30 million-the largest single donation in its history-to support scholarships and endow the Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Through the Hajim Family Foundation, he has made generous donations to organizations that promote education, health care, arts, culture, and conservation.

In 2015, he received the Horatio Alger Award, given to Americans who exemplify the values of initiative, leadership, and commitment to excellence and who have succeeded despite personal adversities. Married for 59 years, Ed and his wife Barbara have three children and eight grandchildren. Learn more at edhajim.com.

'THE THORN' DEPICTS EVERY HUMAN'S SPIRITUAL BATTLE

BY MABEL PAIS

Do you wish to take a front seat to experience the thrilling live theatrical performance of 'THE THORN' portraying the passion of Jesus?

Then don't miss this incredible opportunity to witness the passion of Jesus brought to life at one of the few select venues: the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) for this compelling theatrical event taking place on Wednesday, September 18 at 7 pm.

'THE THORN' tells the story of Jesus and the epic spiritual battle for every human being. The story begins with the creation of the world and weaves through time, highlighting the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus and ending with the beginning of the early church.

With a powerful theatrical portrayal of the passion of Jesus, this highly popular production has been

him: "to tell stories on the page, stage, and screen," an assignment he has now completed with the film version of 'The Thorn.' His books include novels (The Eden Project) and Christian growth guides ('So Loved', 'The Two Doors of Heaven', and 'Life Unlimited').

John's wife, Sarah Bolin helped create the show and is the Executive Producer, managing the show's national touring troupes. When asked about why she tours and has participated in 'The Thorn' for so long, Sarah said, "God asked us to trust him and open our hands, and he promised to make something beautiful happen." Over the years, Sarah has been witness to seeing God move in tangible ways across audiences and cast members alike.

JESUS TRENDING

Although polls show that U.S. church attendance is declining, interest in Jesus is growing. 'The Chosen,' the

this Spring.

TICKETS

For Tickets to The Thorn, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

The performance is recommended for adults and children ages 12+. Not advisable for children below 12.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC is located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse



The Passion of Jesus -Credit: Courtesy NJPAC.org

witnessed by over one million people. 'The Thorn' captivated audiences across the country, with over 50 performances from Spokane to Miami, most of which were nearly sold out.

'The Thorn' offers audiences a unique theatrical experience in a show that has been hailed as "Cirque meets 'The Passion'" thanks to its compelling mix of drama, music, dance, martial arts, aerial acrobatics, emotionally evocative performances, and timeless spiritual perspectives. The story spans from creation to the formation of the early church.

THE THORN STORY

Author John Bolin created the show 25 years ago to convey the meaning of Christ's sacrificial death to a group of young people who knew little about the story of Jesus' suffering but were familiar with pain through their own practice of cutting and self-harm.

The show has evolved ever since, with the current live version returning to the original format featuring St. John, "the beloved disciple," recalling his many amazing encounters with Jesus.

"It's a story full of love, sacrifice, spiritual warfare, and redemption," said Bolin.

Watch the video - youtu.be/m-CrGi3KPTo

THE THORN' CREATORS

"The Thorn" creator John Bolin, says God called

popular streaming series about Jesus, has racked up over 400 million episode views.

"As I first saw with my students 25 years ago, people who may have jaundiced views of Christians or churches are more open to learning about who the real Jesus was, how he lived, and what he taught," said Bolin.

While previous incarnations of 'The Thorn' live show have been performed mostly at churches, the new touring model makes the show available to everyone at mainstream performing arts venues and arenas.

"Jesus believes in accessibility," said Bolin. "He wants everyone to have access to the ultimate story of love and hope. That's why he came to earth in the first place."

PARTNERS/SPONSORS

'The Thorn' partners with Compassion International, a child sponsorship and Christian humanitarian aid organization, headquartered in Colorado Springs, CO, the same town where 'The Thorn' was created. In an effort to assist in the sustainable development of children living in poverty around the world, Compassion works with the local church to provide food, clothing, education, healthcare, discipleship and more. With a partnership spanning over 12 years, 'The Thorn' is proud to have the touring cast and audiences be participants in seeing thousands of children sponsored and is expectant to see many more sponsored

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, which have reached almost 2 million children, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 10 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Learn more at njpac.org or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

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Website: njpac.org/takeastand

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Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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



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Gangs of Wasseypur franchise to re-release in cinemas on Aug 30

Two-part modern classic *Gangs of Wasseypur* will re-release in theatres on August 30, director Anurag Kashyap announced on Tuesday. The 2012 intergenerational revenge saga starred Manoj Bajpayee in the lead, along with the then-budding actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Richa Chadha, Huma Qureshi, Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi and Jaideep Ahlawat. *Gangs of Wasseypur* received critical acclaim upon its release with mostly positive reviews and also emerged as a commercial success.

Kashyap shared the update on his official Instagram page. "In three days the Gang will be back... GOW back in cinemas (sic)" he wrote. According to a poster shared by the filmmaker, *Gangs of Wasseypur* will be available for theatrical viewing from August 30 to September 5. Tickets are available at the official website of Miraj Cinemas.

Set in Wasseypur, a small town near Dhanbad in Jharkhand, the film series chronicles the story of the coal mafia spread across three generations of a family entangled in crime, extortion and murder.

Source: HT

Salman Khan to revive action image with new movie 'Sikandar'

Bollywood star Salman Khan is all set to revisit his action image in his upcoming project, *Sikandar*. The actor is set to perform some heavy-duty action scenes in the AR Murugadoss directorial.

The actor, who was battling a nerve injury a few years ago, was advised against performing action scenes. But sources told India Today that Salman has been losing weight and also getting into a rigorous fitness regime to look his fittest best for *Sikandar*.

The film also stars Rashmika Mandana, and a special workshop was held with Salman and Rashmika before they commenced the shoot.

The actor is set to do a month-long schedule in Mumbai for the same. Special fight sequences that include hand-to-hand combat have been choreographed for the film. Salman has also been training to get in shape for his role. The actor was last seen in *Tiger 3*, where he shared screen space with Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi. Salman also has Karan Johar's *The Bull* and the actioner, *Tiger vs Pathaan*, in the pipeline, where he will once again share screen with close friend and superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

Giving more information on it, the source further said, "While *Sikandar* has a lot of action in it, there are ample of emotional and dramatic moments in the screenplay, and Salman is looking forward for the high-octane moments under the direction of AR Murugadoss. Rashmika, Sathyaraj and Prateik Babbar too will be a part of this schedule. "The team is in the process of identifying a palace which brings scale and rich production values to the film. The third schedule will take place around November."



Kangana Ranaut calls Bollywood a 'hopeless place'



Kangana Ranaut is busy promoting her upcoming film *Emergency*. The actor talked about her career and films in the latest episode of *The Bombay Journey* with Mashable India, where she said that she considers that Bollywood is a 'hopeless place' which thrives on people who got it easy.

During the conversation, the actor said, "Only a people have a problem with me otherwise if you see me, I won an election and the kind of love that I receive from the industry, proves my point. So the problem is me or with them?"

When the host asked about her stance on boycotting Bollywood, Kangana said, "Bollywood is, honestly I am saying, it is a very hopeless place. Kuch nahi hone wala inka. Ek toh talent se ye jalte hain. Jo bhi inko talented dikhta hain na uske piche pad ke ya toh usko khatam kar dete hain unka career barbaad kar dete hain unko boycott kar dete hain. Itna ganda PR kar ke unko badnaam karte hain (Nothing will happen with them. They are jealous of talent. If they see someone talented they go after them to destroy their career. Horrible PR is written on them and they are boycotted from the industry)."

Kangana made her acting debut with *Gangster*, and went on star in several films like *Woh Lamhe*, *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai* and *Double Dhamaal*. She had a career breakthrough with *Queen*, and achieved more box office success with *Tanu Weds Manu Returns*, and went on to win National Awards for both these films. Earlier this year, she won from the Mandi Lok Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh on her electoral debut.

Emergency will see her in the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Releasing in theatres on September 6, it also stars Anupam Kher, Mahima Chaudhary, Milind Soman, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, and the late Satish Kaushik.



Why Selena Gomez was 'nervous' to join cast of 'Only Murders in the Building'

Actress-singer Selena Gomez has revealed that she was "nervous" about joining the cast of her comedy-drama streaming series, 'Only Murders in the Building'.

Selena made her name as a teenager with the leading role of 'Wizards of Waverly Place' but carved out a pop career in the years that followed, reports Female First UK.

However, when she gave her nod to star in the Apple+ series alongside Steve Martin and Martin Short, it proved to be a major comeback to the small screen for her.

Selena, who has been nominated for an Emmy for her role in 'Only Murders in the Building', told Extra: "I was nervous. This was my second TV show that I'd ever done. I was really excited, but I have to be genuine. The first day we shot I felt I could take a deep breath because I knew I was in good company."

As per Female First UK, the actress-singer is also a part of the reboot of 'Wizards of Waverly Place'. However, she will be seen serving as an executive producer for the show, and will also appear in the first episode as she prepares to return to the role of Alex Russo on the magical show, admitted that she is "honoured" to be going back to her roots.

She said: "It took years, honestly. It was just an idea and then after probably four years we came up with an idea. I was immediately on board, and I can't wait to bring this show to a whole new generation. And I'm honoured to pay homage to where I started."

Selena's Emmy nomination is the first time she has been up for any major award in the field of television and recently revealed that she had no clue about her sudden career milestone until her friend texted her. *Source: IANS*

It Ends With Us sequel in trouble over Blake Lively-Justin Baldoni rift

The drama around the rift between It Ends With Us co-stars Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni may just spill into the film's sequel. After the first part earned over \$200 million globally, it's no surprise that the producers must be raring to start working on the sequel already. However, the rumoured rift between Justin and Blake, who aren't only actors but also co-producers on the film, refuses to die down, as per a Variety report.

The story for the sequel to It Ends With Us is already there in the form of Coolleen Hoover's 2022 bestseller It Starts With Us, the direct sequel to her 2016 book on which Blake and Justin's film is based. It's set a few months after where the first part ends. While Justin's character Ryle has a relatively smaller part in the sequel, his production house Wayfarer Studios owns the rights of both the books.

Justin, who helmed the first part, is also willing to step back from direction in the sequel. He told Entertainment Tonight at the film's premiere, "I think there are better people for that. I think Blake Lively's ready to direct." Even if Blake directs (she's previously directed BFF Taylor Swift's 2022 music video I Bet You Think About Me), she'll have to negotiate with Justin in his capacity as the leading producer, who owns the rights to the book adaptations.



Rumors of their rift began surfacing when the two didn't promote the film together. They weren't clicked together at the premiere either. Reportedly, Blake commissioned an edit of the film, which was different from that of Justin, which eventually made it as the final cut. She's also been reportedly telling people that Justin fat-shamed her and kissed her for too long in an intimate scene. The

Variety report also states that Blake's actor-husband Ryan Reynolds also wrote a key scene of the film, thus undermining Justin's credit. "This is uncharted territory, and nobody has any idea of what a sequel could look like. There's probably no world where these two will work together again," the report quotes a source as saying.

Source: HT

Amy Jackson, Ed Westwick get married in dreamy Italian wedding

Actors Amy Jackson and Ed Westwick have officially tied the knot, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. The couple delighted their fans by sharing the first official pictures from their picturesque wedding held in Italy, offering a glimpse into their magical day.

Amy Jackson looked radiant in a classic white gown that featured an ethereal veil cascading elegantly to the floor. She carried a delicate bouquet of white roses, complementing the serene and sophisticated ambience of the ceremony. Ed Westwick matched her grace in a white suit.

Their joint Instagram post included a pair of photos from the event, capturing both the splendid decor and their tender moments. The first image showcased the wedding venue, adorned with an abundance of white flowers, creating a dreamy and romantic setting. Ed was seen holding Amy close, their love palpable in the intimate shot. The second image presented the couple gazing directly at the camera, exuding joy and excitement.

The caption read, "The journey has just begun."

The couple's engagement in January was equally charming, with Ed's surprise proposal leaving Amy overjoyed. They also hosted an engagement dinner party in London, where Amy was seen arriving with her son Andreas, from her previous relationship with George Panayiotou.

Amy Jackson made her relationship with Gossip Girl actor Ed Westwick Instagram official in 2022. *Source: ANI*



TYPHOON SHANSHAN LASHES JAPAN WITH TORRENTIAL RAIN, STRONG WINDS CAUSING 3 DEATHS

TOKYO (TIP): A typhoon lashed southern Japan with torrential rain and strong winds August 29, causing at least three deaths as it started a crawl up the length of the archipelago and raised concerns of flooding, landslides and extensive damage.

Typhoon Shanshan made landfall in the morning on the southern island of Kyushu and about 60 cm of rainfall had fallen in parts of Miyazaki prefecture, Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said. That 24-hour total was more than the August rainfall average and swollen rivers were threatening floods, it said.

The typhoon was forecast to bring strong winds, high waves and significant rainfall to most of the country, particularly the southern prefectures of Kyushu. Around midday, Shanshan was moving north at 15 kph and its winds had weakened to 126 kph, JMA said.

More than a dozen people were injured in Miyazaki, many of them thrown to the ground. One each was also injured nearby Kumamoto and Kagoshima prefectures on their way to shelters, Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) said.

Nearly a quarter million households were without power across Kyushu, most of them in the Kagoshima prefecture, Kyushu Electric Power Co. said.

Ahead of the typhoon's arrival, heavy rain caused a landslide that buried a house in the central city of Gamagori, killing three residents and injuring two others, according to the city's disaster management department. On the southern island of Amami, where the typhoon passed, one person was injured by being knocked down by a wind gust while riding a motorcycle, FDMA said.

Weather and government officials are concerned about extensive damage as the typhoon slowly sweeps up the Japanese archipelago over the next few days, threatening floods and landslides. The typhoon's impact was yet to be felt in the Tokyo region, where business was as usual and heavy rain was predicted later this week.

Disaster Management Minister Yoshifumi Matsumura said the typhoon could cause "unprecedented" levels of violent winds, high waves, storm surges and heavy rain. At a task force meeting Wednesday, he urged people, especially older adults, not to hesitate and to take shelter whenever there is any safety concern.

Hundreds of domestic flights connecting south-western cities and islands were cancelled Thursday, and bullet trains and some local train services were suspended. Similar steps were taken Thursday in parts of the main island of Honshu that were experiencing heavy rain. Postal and delivery services have been also suspended in the Kyushu region, and supermarkets and other stores planned to close. (AP)

Russia bans 92 more Americans from country, including journalists in response to 'Russophobia'

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's Foreign Ministry announced 92 additions on August 28 to its list of Americans banned from entering the country, including some journalists who formerly worked in Russia, and law enforcement and business people.

A ministry statement said the bans were imposed "in response to the Russophobic course pursued by the Biden administration with the declared goal of 'inflicting a strategic defeat on Moscow.'"

It said the banned journalists represent "leading liberal-globalist publications involved in the production and dissemination of fakes' about Russia and the Russian armed forces."

The new list of banned Americans includes 11 current or former staff members of the Wall Street Journal — including its editor-in-chief Emma Tucker. She had repeatedly criticised Russia for the arrest and conviction on espionage charges of WSJ reporter Evan Gershkovich, who spent 16 months behind bars before being released in



August in a prisoner exchange.

The ban has also been imposed on five New York Times journalists, including Kyiv Bureau Chief Andrew Kramer, and four from The Washington Post.

Other Americans on the list include

people working for law enforcement agencies, academics, and figures from businesses and think tanks.

Russia has banned more than 2,000 Americans from entry, according to a ministry list. (AP)

Houthi video shows the Yemeni rebels planted bombs on tanker now threatening Red Sea oil spill

DUBAI (TIP): Yemen's Houthi rebels released footage on Thursday showing their fighters boarded and placed explosives on a Greek-flagged tanker, setting off blasts that put the Red Sea at risk of a major oil spill. The vessel was abandoned earlier, after the Houthis repeatedly attacked it.

In the video, the Iran-backed Houthis chant their motto as the bombs detonated aboard the oil tanker Sounion: "God is the greatest; death to America; death to Israel; curse the Jews; victory to Islam."

The blasts capped the most-serious attack in weeks by the Houthis in their campaign disrupting the \$1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen.

The Sounion carried some 1 million barrels of oil when the Houthis initially attacked it on Aug. 21 with small arms fire, projectiles and a drone boat. A French destroyer operating as part of the European Union's Operation Aspides rescued the Sounion's crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, after they abandoned the vessel and took them to nearby Djibouti.

The footage released Thursday shows



masked Houthi fighters carrying Kalashnikov-style rifles boarding the Sounion after it was abandoned. The bridge appeared ransacked. Fighters then rigged explosives over hatches on its deck leading to the oil tankers below. At least six simultaneous blasts could be seen in the footage.

The footage, as well as comments by the Houthi's mysterious leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi, confirmed an earlier analysis by The Associated Press that the Houthis boarded and planted explosives on the Sounion. The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency described

al-Houthi as saying the Sounion attack shows America "is lying in its claims regarding any deterrence of Yemeni operations supporting Palestine."

"The effectiveness of our operations and their control of the situation is acknowledged by the enemies," al-Houthi said.

Western countries and the United Nations have warned any oil spill from the Sounion could devastate the coral reefs and wildlife around the Red Sea. However, the EU's naval force in the region says it has yet to see any oil spill from the Sounion. (AP)

Israeli forces launch strikes across Gaza Strip, 34 killed

CAIRO (TIP): Israeli forces sent tanks deeper into Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip and launched strikes across the enclave as they battled Hamas-led militants, killing at least 34 Palestinians on August 28, medics said.

Residents of Khan Younis said Israeli tanks made a surprise advance into the centre of the city, and the military ordered evacuations in the east, forcing many families to run for safety, while others were trapped at home.

Palestinian health officials said the Israeli strikes in Khan Younis killed at least 11 people. In the central city of Deir Al-Balah, where at least a million people were sheltering, an Israeli airstrike killed eight Palestinians near a school housing displaced families, medics said.

In Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip, journalist Mohammed Abed-Rabbo was killed along with his sister in an Israeli attack on their house, medics said.



Gaza's Hamas-run government media office said Abed-Rabbo's death raised the number of Palestinian journalists killed by Israeli fire to 172. (Reuters)

JAPAN SCRAMBLES JETS AS CHINESE PLANE BREACHES ITS AIRSPACE

TOKYO/BEIJING (TIP): Japan's defence ministry said it had scrambled jets against a Chinese reconnaissance aircraft that had briefly breached its airspace on August 21 morning.

The aircraft was identified as a Y-9 reconnaissance plane that flew over the Danjo Islands to the west of the southern island of Kyushu between around 11:29 am and 11:31 am.

The ministry said it was the first time a Chinese military aircraft had breached Japan's airspace, and that the government had lodged a strong protest against Beijing through diplomatic channels.

Separately, the Japanese foreign ministry said Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano had summoned a senior official at the Chinese embassy in Tokyo to lodge a protest against the incursion and to strongly demand the prevention of such breaches.

Chinese foreign ministry officials were not immediately available for comment. (Reuters)

MANSLAUGHTER PROBE OPENED INTO YACHT SINKING

TERMINI IMERESE (ITALY) (TIP): An Italian prosecutor has opened a manslaughter investigation into the deaths of British tech magnate Mike Lynch and six other people who were killed when a luxury yacht sank in stormy weather off Sicily this week.

The head of the public prosecutor's office of Termini Imerese, Ambrogio Cartosio, said while the yacht had been hit by a very sudden meteorological event, it was "plausible" that crimes of multiple manslaughter through negligence had been committed.

So far the investigation was not aimed at any individual person, he told a news conference. (Reuters)

THREE STABBED TO DEATH AT GERMAN FESTIVAL; 1 DETAINED

SOLINGEN (TIP): Police hunting for an unknown assailant hours after he killed three people and wounded eight in a stabbing attack at a festival in the western German city of Solingen said on August 21 they had detained an individual. The police said in the afternoon they were investigating whether there was a possible terrorist link to the attack.

"The investigation and manhunt for possible further perpetrators and reasons for the crime are in full swing," the police said. The incident occurred around 9.40 pm when the man attacked multiple people with a knife. (Reuters)

North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversees tests of 'suicide drones'

SEOUL (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched as new "suicide drones" took off and destroyed test targets, including a mock tank, and urged researchers to develop artificial intelligence for the unmanned vehicles, state media reported on August 21.

KIM VISITED THE DRONE INSTITUTE OF NORTH KOREA'S ACADEMY OF DEFENCE SCIENCES ON SATURDAY AND VIEWED A SUCCESSFUL TEST OF DRONES CORRECTLY IDENTIFYING AND DESTROYING DESIGNATED TARGETS AFTER FLYING ALONG DIFFERENT PRESET ROUTES, STATE NEWS AGENCY KCNA SAID.

Kim called for the production of more suicide drones to be used in tactical infantry and special operation units, such as underwater suicide attack drones, as well as strategic reconnaissance and multi-purpose attack drones, KCNA said.

Also known as loitering munitions, such weapons been widely used in the war in Ukraine as well as in the Middle East.

Loitering munitions can typically be



aloft and ready to strike before a specific target is located, then attack by crashing into the target with a built-in warhead.

Photos released by state media showed at least four different types of drones, some of which were launched with the aid of small rocket engines before their propellers took over.

When asked about visual similarities between some of the North Korean drones and Russia's ZALA Lancet and the Iranian-designed Shahed, which is also used by Russia, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said more analysis is necessary.

"We understand that some gifts (drones) were given in an exchange between North Korea and Russia in the past... We need to analyse various measures to see if those have improved

performance," a spokesperson for the JCS said in a briefing.

Nuclear-armed North Korea has close ties to Russia and Iran and a history of military cooperation with both.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said it was the first time Pyongyang had unveiled suicide drones.

South Korea has said it will deploy laser weapons to shoot down North Korean drones this year, becoming the world's first country to deploy and operate such weapons in the military, and some skyscrapers in Seoul host anti-aircraft guns on their roofs.

South Korea and the US kicked off annual summertime military exercises last week, including practising responses to North Korean drones. (Reuters)

IMRAN KHAN EYES OXFORD UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR POST

LONDON (TIP): Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has decided to enter the race to be elected the new Chancellor of the University of Oxford to "give back" to the world.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician studied philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) at the world-famous university's Keble College from 1972 to 1975 and also captained the university cricket team.

He told 'The Daily Telegraph' from his prison cell in Rawalpindi this week that he would be a passionate advocate for the university.

"Oxford University helped me a lot in my formative years. As Chancellor, I would passionately advocate for Oxford, championing its values of diversity, equality and inclusion, both in the UK and abroad," said Khan in his application. (PTI)

INTERIM GOVT REVOKES BAN ON BANGLADESH JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's interim government on August 28 revoked a ban on the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, less than a month after it was imposed on the Islamist party by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was forced to resign following massive protests against her government.

"It (lifting the ban) will come under effect immediately," the Home Ministry said in a gazette notification, noting that there was no particular evidence against the organisation. The erstwhile Awami League government led by Hasina had imposed a ban on Jamaat on August 1, 2024, accusing the Islamist party as a "militant and terrorist" organisation.

The development came a day after Attorney General Mohammad Asaduzzaman urged the High Court to summarily reject a writ petition seeking an order on the government to ban Hasina's Awami League as a political party and scrap its registration.

The interim government's law adviser, equivalent to a minister, Asif Nazrul on Wednesday told reporters he was opposed to the call for a ban on Awami League or any other political parties unless there was any strong evidence of their involvement in terrorist activities.

The Jamaat opposed Bangladesh's 1971 independence from Pakistan and sided with the Pakistani troops during the Liberation War. The Jamaat, founded in 1941 in undivided India, was first banned in 1972, the year Bangladesh framed its Constitution. (PTI)

Ex-Bangladesh Speaker, former Commerce Minister arrested in murder case

DHAKA (TIP): Former Bangladesh Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and ex-Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi have been arrested for the killing of a goldsmith during the recent quota reform protests that led to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, media reports said on August 29.

Munshi, 74, was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion in Gulshan, Dhaka, on Wednesday night in the murder case filed in Rangpur, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The case was filed against 17 people, including Munshi and former speaker of Parliament Chaudhury, for the killing of Muslim Uddin Milon, a 38-year-old goldsmith.

Besides, many unnamed people were accused in the case.

Chaudhury, 46, served as the first female Speaker of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad from April 2013 until August 2024.

Milon was shot dead on July 19 in Rangpur during the student-led movement against a controversial quota system in government jobs, which later turned into a mass uprising that ousted 76-year-old Hasina's Awami League government on August 5, according to 'The Daily Star' newspaper.

According to the case statement, when a clash broke out between students and Awami League activists during a protest



in the City Bazaar area, police opened fire indiscriminately under the orders of the accused persons.

Milon was hit by a bullet at that time and taken to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, where he was declared dead, the report said.

Over 230 people were killed in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina-led government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students first started in mid-July.

Many senior Awami League leaders, lawmakers and former ministers went into hiding following the fall of Hasina-led government.

Munshi had also been hiding since August 5, according to the leading Bengali-language newspaper Prothom Alo.

He became the Commerce Minister during the third consecutive term of Awami League government led by Hasina, according to the report.

Hasina, who fled to India on August 5, is facing at least 75 cases, including murder charges, against her. (PTI)

Former Malaysian PM Muhyiddin Yassin charged with sedition for 'mocking former king'

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged on August 27 with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king.

Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state. According to the charge sheet, Muhyiddin made the seditious remarks last month during a by-election campaign in Kelantan.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The monarchy plays a largely ceremonial role, but are revered by the nation's majority Muslims.

In his speech on August 14, Muhyiddin had questioned why then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah didn't invite him to be prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers.



Sultan Abdullah appointed then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after Anwar cobbled up support from rival parties to form a unity government.

Sultan Abdullah from central Pahang state didn't comment on the case. But his

son issued a strong rebuke to Muhyiddin, saying his remarks were dangerous and could divide the people and cause them to lose faith in the royal institution. Muhyiddin had then denied insulting the royalty, saying that his remarks were factual. (AP)

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

ਬਾਣੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੈ ਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਿ ਬਾਣੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਸਾਰੇ ॥ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਕਹੇ ਸੇਵਕ ਜਨ ਮਾਨੇ ਪ੍ਰਤਖ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਿਸਤਾਰੇ ॥

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ

95-30-118 ਸਟਰੀਟ, ਰਿਚਮੰਡ ਹਿੱਲ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ 11419 ਵਿਖੇ



ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸੱਚੇ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪਹਿਲੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਉਤਸਵ ਮੌਕੇ

14ਵਾਂ ਮਹਾਨ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ

ਪੰਜਾਂ ਪਿਆਰਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ

ਟ੍ਰਾਈਸਟੇਟ ਦੇ ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਅਸਥਾਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਰਿਚਮੰਡ ਹਿੱਲ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਦੀ ਸਮੁੱਚੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਮੁੱਚੀਆਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਪੰਥਕ ਜਥੇਬੰਦੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ

1 ਸਤੰਬਰ 2024 ਦਿਨ ਐਤਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਖੇ ਕੱਢਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ



ਵੱਲੋਂ : ਗੁਰੂਘਰ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ

ਗੁਰੂ ਕਾ ਲੰਗਰ ਅਤੁੱਟ ਵਰਤੇਗਾ

ਸਮੁੱਚੀਆਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਸਮੇਤ ਵੱਧ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਆਂ ਭਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਸੱਚੇ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਬਖਸ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਰਹਿਮਤਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੋ



ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੰਗ
ਕੋਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ



ਗਿਆਨੀ ਪਰਮਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ
ਹੋਡ ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ



ਗਿਆਨੀ ਤੇਜਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ
ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ



ਹਰਖੰਸ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲੋਂ
ਕੋਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ



ਜੁਪਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੋਪਾਰਾਏ
ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ



ਜਾਸੂ ਜਗਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਲਾਲੀ



ਜੀ ਐਸ ਜਹੌਰੀ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਲੀਲ



ਬਲਾਕਾ ਸਿੰਘ



ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਕੋਸ਼ੀਅਰ



ਦੀਦਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਮਾ
ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ



ਜਾਸੂ ਜਗਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ



ਜਾਸੂ ਹਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ



ਜਸਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਿੱਲ ਕੋਸ਼ੀਅਰ



ਬਲਕਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਲਾ

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਤਾ



ਬਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ
ਪੀ ਆਰ ਓ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ



ਨਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ



ਬਲਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਤਾ

ਸੰਤ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਯੂ ਐਸ ਏ

How to make lipstick last longer: Tips & tricks

Lipstick fading throughout the day can be frustrating, but understanding why it happens is the first step to finding a solution. Several factors contribute to the quick fading of lipstick, including:

Natural oils on the lips: Our lips naturally produce oils, which can break down the lipstick formula and cause it to fade or transfer.

Eating and drinking: When we eat or drink, the constant contact with our lips can cause the lipstick to wear off more quickly.

Lip texture: Dry or chapped lips can make it difficult for lipstick to adhere properly, leading to faster fading.

Now that we understand why lipstick fades quickly, let's explore some tips and tricks to make it last longer.

Prepping your lips for long-lasting lipstick

Before applying lipstick, it's essential to prep your lips to create a smooth canvas for better adherence. Here's how to do it:

Exfoliate: Gently exfoliating your lips removes dead skin cells and creates a smoother surface for the lipstick. You can use a lip scrub or make your own by mixing sugar and honey.

Moisturize: Hydrated lips hold onto lipstick better. Apply a lip balm or moisturizer before applying any lip products. This step helps prevent dryness and promotes longer-lasting color.

Use a lip primer: Lip primers can create a barrier between your lips and the lipstick, helping it adhere better and last longer. Look for a primer specifically designed for lips.

By prepping your lips, you'll provide a solid foundation for your lipstick, ensuring it stays put for hours on end.

Choosing the right lipstick formula

The type of lipstick formula you choose plays a significant role in its longevity. Here are some formulas known for their long-lasting properties:

Matte lipstick: Matte lipsticks are known for their excellent staying power. They often have a drier formula, which helps them adhere better to the lips and prevent smudging or fading.

Liquid lipstick: Liquid lipsticks offer intense color payoff and long-lasting wear. They typically dry down



to a matte or satin finish, creating a smudge-proof and transfer-resistant lip look.

Stain or tint: Lip stains or tints provide a natural-looking, long-lasting flush of color. They penetrate the lips, leaving behind a stain that lasts even after the initial application wears off.

When selecting a lipstick, consider your preferences and the occasion. Matte lipsticks are great for events where you need long-lasting color, while lip stains are perfect for a more casual, everyday look.

Lip liner and its role in making lipstick last longer

Lip liner is an often overlooked but essential step in making your lipstick last longer. Here's why lip liner is a game-changer:

Creates a barrier: Lip liner can create a barrier around the edges of your lips, preventing the lipstick from feathering or bleeding outside the lip line.

Enhances longevity: By filling in your lips with lip liner before applying lipstick, you provide a base for the color to adhere to, resulting in extended wear time.

Adds definition: Lip liner helps define the shape of your lips, giving you a more precise and polished look.

To ensure long-lasting lipstick, choose a lip liner that matches your chosen lipstick shade or use a universal lip liner that works well with various colors.

Beauty tips for healthy, glowing skin

Chilled tea bags for puffy eyes

Sipping green tea daily and throwing away the used tea bags? You may want to save it the next time. Other than flushing out toxins from your body, chilled black or green tea bags work wonders for your skin.

Using this natural face beauty tip can instantly reduce puffiness around the eyes and make them look brighter and more awake. Put the bags on your eyelids and relax for 5 to 15 minutes as the tea bags work their magic.

Gram flour for tan

Gram flour or besan is used as a natural, mild exfoliator to get rid of dead skin cells, tan and sunburns. If you want clear, soft and naturally glowing skin here's the natural face beauty tip you need to know. Take



equal amounts of gram flour and curd in a bowl and mix them well to form a paste. Apply this paste evenly on your face and neck, let it dry for half an hour before rinsing off with water. It will gently lift away dead skin cells and deep-set dirt, thereby lightening your skin

tone and making it even.

Tomatoes to control excess oil

Excessive oil on the face doesn't only affect those with oily skin, in a country like India where the weather is humid in most parts, excessive oil is quite common. Enriched with lycopene, tomatoes contain anti-oxidants along with great cooling and astringent properties.

It helps balance the natural oils of the skin and gets rid of any excess oil that you may be struggling with. This natural face beauty tip is also used for reduces signs of aging such as wrinkles and fine lines. Scoop the pulp one tomato and apply evenly on your face. Allow it to dry for 15 minutes and wash off with warm water and reveal naturally glowing skin.

FOOD CORNER



Roasted Chicken

Ingredients

- 1 Kg Chicken (broiler-with skin)
- 6 Tbsp Butter
- To taste Salt and Black Pepper ,
- For gravy
- 1 Tbsp Cornflour
- Tbsp Vinegar
- To taste Black Pepper and Salt,
- 1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 Tbsp Tomato ketchup

How to Make Roast Chicken

- Place 1 1/2 cups water, gizzard, heart and neck, salt and pepper in a pan and cook for 2-3 minutes.
- Wash and wipe the chicken.
- Mix butter with salt and pepper and apply inside and out side the chicken.
- Truss the chicken (tie so that it stays in shape).
- Place the chicken, in a roasting pan with the stock and cook in a pre-heated oven for one hour, basting and turning every 15 minutes.
- Remove from oven.
- Strain the drippings from the pan into a cup and add water to make up one full cup.
- Untie chicken Add the gravy ingredients to the drippings solution and cook the mixture till a little thick.
- Serve this on the side with the chicken.

Sabudana Khichdi

- Rinse 1 cup sabudana, sago or tapioca pearls a couple of times in running water until all the starch is washed away. Soak sabudana in water.
- Using a strainer or colander, strain all the water from sabudana.
- While sabudana is getting soaked, you can boil 2 medium-sized potatoes in a pan or in a cooker and keep aside.
- Heat 3 tablespoons peanut oil or ghee (or your preferred oil) in a heavy kadai or pan. Keep the heat to a low or medium-low.
- Add 1 teaspoon cumin seeds. Then, add 1 chopped green chilli
- Now, add the chopped boiled potatoes. Next, add the sabudana-peanut powder mixture.
- Sauté on a low heat, stirring continuously, for about 3 to 5 minutes.
- Once cooked, turn off the heat. Do not overcook. Then, add 1 teaspoon lemon juice for some tang.
- Serve Sabudana Khichdi hot or warm.



Is HPV secretly hurting men's fertility?

Men having the high-risk form of the cervical cancer-causing virus, or HPV, were found to possess higher amounts of dead sperm, thereby negatively affecting their fertility, according to a new study.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, comprises high-risk and low-risk viruses. While the former is known to pose a high risk for developing malignancies and the latter is known for causing largely benign warts or marks, researchers explained in the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*.

The researchers from Argentina, including those from the National University of Cordoba, looked at the quality of 205 adult men's semen.

About a fifth of them, or 39, tested positive for HPV -- 20 having the high-risk form of the virus, seven with the low-risk form and 12 in whom the team could not identify high-risk or low-risk. The 39 HPV-positive men were compared with 43 HPV-negative men.

While semen quality of men across these groups did not differ, upon looking more closely, the researchers found that the samples taken from the men infected with the high-risk virus contained a significantly lower count of immune cells known to help fight infection -- CD45 white blood cells.

Senior author Virginia Rivero explained that the lower count of immune cells seen in these samples were a result of the HPV's known ability to dodge an immune response.

This would lead to fewer white blood cells moving to the site of HPV infection, thereby impairing their ability to clear this infection, Rivero, a professor at the National University of Cordoba, said.



The researchers also found evidence that sperm of the men infected with the high-risk version of the HPV could suffer repeated damage due to oxidative stress, judging by these men's elevated production of reactive oxygen species (ROS).

While low levels of ROS are a product of normal sperm function, elevated levels can lead to rupturing of cells' outer covering, breaks in genetic material and cell death. Consistent with this, the researchers found more numbers of dead sperm cells in HPV-positive men having the high-risk virus.

"... higher frequencies of ROS dead spermatozoa were shown by HR-HPV infected individuals with respect to those infected with LR-HPV genotypes," the authors wrote.

"We concluded that men infected with high risk-HPV, but not men infected with low risk-HPV, show increased sperm death due to oxidative stress and a weakened local immune response in the urogenital tract," Rivero said.

Source: PTI



Even placebos can help reduce stress, anxiety: Study

A team of scientists has found that even placebos can help reduce stress, anxiety and depression in people remotely.

The study, published in the journal *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, found that the non-deceptive group showed a significant decrease in stress, anxiety and depression in just two weeks compared to the no-treatment control group.

Participants also reported that the non-deceptive placebos were easy to use, not burdensome and appropriate for the situation.

For the study, researchers recruited participants experiencing prolonged stress from the pandemic for a two-week randomised controlled trial.

The participants interacted with a researcher online through four virtual sessions on Zoom.

Those in the non-deceptive placebo group received information on the placebo effect and were sent placebo pills in the mail along with and instructions on taking the pills.

Jason Moser, co-author and professor in Michigan State University's Department of Psychology, said that exposure to long-term stress can impair a person's ability to manage emotions and cause significant mental health problems long-term.

"We are excited to see that an intervention that takes minimal effort can still lead to significant benefits," Moser added. "This minimal burden makes non-deceptive placebos an attractive intervention for those with significant stress, anxiety and depression."

The researchers are hopeful in the ability to remotely administer the non-deceptive placebos by health care providers. "This ability to administer non-deceptive placebos remotely increases scalability potential dramatically," said Darwin Guevarra, co-author of the study and postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, San Francisco.

Source: IANS

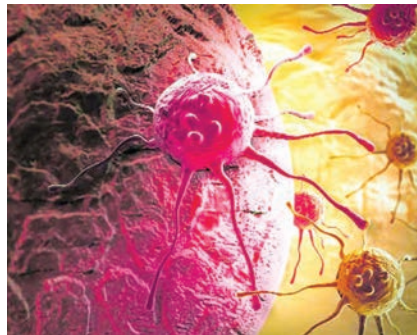
Neoadjuvant chemotherapy may boost cancer treatment outcomes: Experts

Neoadjuvant chemotherapy -- used to shrink tumours before cancer surgery -- can significantly improve treatment outcomes and boost survival rate, said experts.

Neoadjuvant chemotherapy is a type of cancer treatment where chemotherapy drugs are administered before surgical extraction of the tumour just before primary cancer treatment. It can shrink a cancerous tumour before moving on to other treatments such as surgery. It can also allow doctors to test a chemotherapy drug to gauge how the body responds to it.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), the treatment shrinks cancerous tumours which then helps surgeons to remove them easily.

Neoadjuvant chemotherapy may also kill cancerous tissue that is not yet visible on imaging tests. The effectiveness of neoadjuvant chemotherapy depends on many factors, including the type and stage of cancer a person has, as well as their response to different drugs.



"When chemotherapy is your first treatment for cancer, it's called 'neoadjuvant therapy'. It's often used for advanced breast cancer or large tumours that complicate surgery and it has other equally important benefits," said Dr Ashish Gupta, Chief of Medical Oncology at Unique Hospital Cancer Centre in New Delhi.

"Oncologists recommend neoadjuvant chemotherapy depending on various factors, including, cancer type, cancer progression, and treatment goals, such as easing symptoms or slowing growth. Neoadjuvant therapy is widely used across the world and it has the potential to improve cancer

treatment outcomes and boost survival in India," he added.

The use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy is gaining popularity in both the US and Europe, particularly for older and frail patients, because it is associated with less surgical toxicity.

A prospective randomised study of neoadjuvant chemotherapy from the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer found that it has the potential to improve survival rates.

"Neoadjuvant chemotherapy can revolutionise cancer treatment in India by shrinking tumours before surgery," said Dr Rahul Bhargava, Principal Director of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant at Fortis Memorial Research Institute.

He added that the line of treatment also helps reduce cancer recurrence, and improves survival rates. "Scaling its use nationwide would allow more patients to access this life-saving intervention, ultimately enhancing the quality of care and outcomes in oncology," Bhargava said.

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iPhone 16 event, launch set for September 9

Apple has finally announced the launch event of the iPhone 16 series. After months of leaks and rumours, the company has confirmed that its 2024 iPhones are coming soon. Apple has started sending out special Apple event invites with a mysterious message. The iPhone 16 launch event will take place on September 9.

The brand was heavily rumoured to launch its new iPhone 16 series on September 10 but it seems that Apple might have made some last-minute changes. The official Apple announcement also includes the Apple logo with a cryptic message - "It is Glowtime." Well, this sounds quite interesting, but no one really knows what it means. We will likely get clarity in the coming days and hopefully before the iPhone 16 launch event. The latest Apple event will include an in-person component at Apple Park but those who are interested in watching the full iPhone 16 series launch event will be able to livestream it online. In India, the iPhone 16 event will start at 10:30PM, just like every year. The event will likely be live-streamed via Apple's official YouTube channel.

Apple will likely introduce four models, including iPhone 16, iPhone 16 Plus, iPhone 16 Pro, and iPhone 16 Pro Max. The standard models are expected to receive minor upgrades. The standard and the Plus models are said to retain the old displays and camera setup but offer a new chipset, a bigger battery, a new vertical rear camera layout, and a new Action button. The Pro models, on the other hand, are tipped to come with big camera upgrades, a slimmer design, a larger display with minimal bezels, a new chipset and a bigger battery. It is currently unknown whether Apple will offer faster charging or not. We do know that all the iPhone 16 models will likely come with support for Apple Intelligence features.

The price details have also leaked online ahead of the official Apple event. The iPhone 16 base model is tipped to cost \$799 (about Rs 67,100 in India). The larger iPhone 16 Plus may cost \$899 (around Rs 75,500), as per leaks. The iPhone 16 Pro with 256GB might be priced at \$1,099 (about Rs 92,300), and the iPhone 16 Pro Max with the same storage is tipped to start at \$1,199 (around Rs 1,00,700). The India prices will likely be higher, as is the case with every launch because of customs charges.

WhatsApp for iOS reportedly testing AR capabilities for call effects and filters in Beta

WhatsApp for iOS is testing a new feature that leverages augmented reality (AR), according to claims by a feature tracker. The said feature is said to bring AR capabilities for video calls on the platform, enabling users to customise factors such as lighting conditions and surroundings. The feature, available via a beta update, also reportedly includes the ability to add touch-up filters that tweak the appearance in real time and a dedicated low-light mode.

WhatsApp Update

According to the feature tracker WABetaInfo, AR support was first spotted on WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.24.16.7 in July. It has now arrived on its iOS counterpart too, following the reported rollout of WhatsApp beta for iOS version 24.15.10.70 update via the TestFlight program.

As per the shared screenshot, WhatsApp's new AR capabilities include dynamic facial filters. Users can now reportedly tweak their appearance, such as the overall colour tone of the video feed. It is also said to include a background editing tool that enables users to blur their background or replace it with a preset background provided by the instant messaging platform. Additionally, the WhatsApp for iOS beta update is also reported to include two dedicated modes: touch-up and low-light. While the former is said to add a facial filter that removes blemishes and smoothens the skin akin to face beauty filters present on smartphones, the latter is claimed to enhance visibility in low-light environments.

The feature tracker suggests this new functionality is still in development and only beta testers who have registered themselves via Apple's TestFlight program may have access to it. The will likely be rolled out to more users over the next few weeks.

Other New Features

In addition to in-development AR capabilities, WhatsApp also recently expanded its sticker lineup with the introduction of GIPHY-powered stickers. Users can also now search for



relevant stickers without leaving the app. Additionally, the custom sticker maker, which was introduced on iOS in January, is now available on Android.

If users still cannot find a relevant sticker from the library, they can simply generate their own using Meta AI – the conversational artificial intelligence (AI) assistant which is available on Meta Platforms' apps such as WhatsApp and Instagram.

WhatsApp has been working on adding support for chat themes on more than one occasion, and a feature tracker has now given us a peek at what the feature could look like when it is launched. The messaging app is expected to let users change the colour of the chat bubbles as well as the background using preset themes, or pick their own colour and wallpaper. The company was also spotted working on the ability to pick a username and set a PIN that protects them from unknown users on WhatsApp.

WhatsApp has been developing a username feature that will allow users to start new conversations without sharing their phone numbers, but that feature is yet to be released to beta testers. It appears that the company is now working a feature that will protect users from unwanted contact after they set up a username. *Source: NDTV*

NASA to keep 2 astronauts in space until Feb, nixes return on troubled Boeing capsule

NASA has decided that it's too risky to bring two astronauts, including Indian-American Sunita Williams, back to Earth in Boeing's troubled new capsule, and they'll have to wait until next year for a ride home with SpaceX.

What should have been a week long test flight for the pair will now last more than eight months.

The seasoned pilots have been stuck at the International Space Station since the beginning of June. A cascade of vexing thruster failures and helium leaks in the new capsule marred their trip to the space station. They ended up in a holding pattern as engineers conducted tests and debated what to do about the trip back.

After almost three months, the decision finally came down from NASA's highest ranks on Saturday. Butch Wilmore and Williams will come back in a SpaceX spacecraft in February. Their



empty Starliner capsule will undock in early September and attempt to return on autopilot.

As Starliner's test pilots, the pair should have overseen this critical last leg of the journey, with a touchdown in the US desert.

"A test flight by nature is neither safe nor routine," said NASA Administration Bill Nelson. "And so the decision ... is a

commitment to safety."

"This has not been an easy decision, but it is absolutely the right one," added NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free.

It was a blow to Boeing, adding to the safety concerns plaguing the company on its airplane side. Boeing had counted on Starliner's first crew trip to revive the troubled program after years of delays and ballooning costs. The company had insisted Starliner was safe based on all the recent thruster tests both in space and on the ground.

Boeing did not participate in Saturday's news conference by NASA but released a statement, "Boeing continues to focus, first and foremost, on the safety of the crew and spacecraft. We are executing the mission as determined by NASA, and we are preparing the spacecraft for a safe and successful uncrewed return." *Source: AP*

US second quarter growth stronger than estimated: Govt

The US economy expanded more than initially estimated in the second quarter this year, the Department of Commerce said Thursday, August 29, on stronger consumer spending than originally anticipated.

The world's biggest economy grew at an annual rate of 3.0 percent in the April to June period, up from 2.8 percent according to an earlier estimate.

Analysts had expected no revision to the figure.

"The update primarily reflected an upward revision to consumer spending," said the Commerce Department.

Unexpectedly robust consumption -- even in the face of high interest rates -- has helped to bolster the US economy in recent times.

But with households depleting pandemic-era savings, the anticipation was for consumption to pull back.

In the latest revision, the higher spending was partly offset by downward revisions in other areas like business investment, exports and government spending.

Imports, however, were revised higher.

The 3.0 percent number for the second quarter this year was an uptick from 1.4 percent growth in the first quarter.

Although the Federal Reserve has rapidly hiked interest rates to tackle surging inflation in 2022, it is widely expected to make its first post-pandemic rate cut in September. This could provide a boost to the economy.

Source: AFP

Apple eyes bigger slice of India's streaming market with Airtel deal

BENGALURU (TIP)

Apple is tying up with India's Airtel to offer the telecom firm's premium customers its music and video streaming services for free, potentially giving the US firm access to thousands of consumers in a price-sensitive market. The move comes as competition tightens in India's \$28-billion entertainment market and an \$8.5-billion merger of the Indian media assets of Reliance and Walt Disney faces close scrutiny from regulators.

"Apple TV+ will come bundled with premium Airtel WiFi and Postpaid plans," Airtel said in a statement on Tuesday, though the companies did not disclose a deal value for the partnership or information on costs.

With mostly English-language content, Apple TV+ is a small player in the Indian market, where its rivals include Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's JioCinema.

Apple is following competitors in bundling streaming services with telecom plans to grow its audience more quickly.

Premium users of Airtel's broadband and postpaid services can access Apple TV+ and Apple Music later this year as part of their plans. Airtel will shut its music app Wynk in this process, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Airtel has about 281 million subscribers for its India telecom offerings, while its top rival, Ambani's Reliance Jio, has about 489 million.

Ambani announces suite of AI tools called 'Jio Brain'

Reliance Jio is developing a suite of tools and applications that span the entire artificial intelligence (AI) lifecycle called 'JioBrain,' Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani said during the conglomerate's 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, August 29.

The company will set AI-ready data centres at Jamnagar, in Gujarat powered by the company's green energy, said Ambani.



"We are also starting to use JioBrain to drive a similar transformation across other Reliance operating companies, and to fast-track their AI journey as well," Ambani said.

"I anticipate that by perfecting JioBrain within Reliance, we will create a powerful AI service platform that we can offer to other enterprises as well," he added.

JioBrain integrates 5G's high speed, and low latency with machine learning capabilities such as anomaly detection, predictive forecasting and automation. The platform can train and apply machine learning (ML) models at the network edge and in the service provider cloud.

"This enables CSPs (cloud service providers) to apply machine learning to not only the network but also to a wide range of 5G services and industrial applications including image and video AI at the edge, probing at the edge, healthcare, education, gaming, and entertainment use cases," as per Jio Brain's website.

CCI greenlights Rs 70,350-cr Reliance-Disney India merger

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's competition watchdog has approved Reliance Industries Ltd's Rs 70,350-crore merger with Disney's Indian media assets, subject to certain voluntary modifications, setting the stage for a media powerhouse.

"Commission approves the proposed combination involving Reliance Industries Ltd, Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd, Digital18 Media Ltd, Star India Pvt Ltd and Star Television Productions Ltd, subject to the compliance of voluntary modifications," the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in a post on X platform.

The voluntary modifications pledged by the parties will lead to swift regulatory approval, Dharmendra Kumar, former chairperson of the CCI, Ltd, told CNBC-TV18 in an interview.

"This is a very significant development, as it will lead to a large entertainment conglomerate with a large viewership base," Kumar said.

Kumar said that the CCI was likely concerned about the formation of a dominant player in the cricket broadcasting space. He added that the proposed modifications were likely aimed at preventing any adverse impact on competition while ensuring broader access to cricket coverage across India.



Disney-Star holds the exclusive digital and TV rights to ICC events from 2024 to 2027 and IPL broadcasting rights from 2023 to 2028), while Jio has secured IPL streaming rights.

The CCI's decision comes on the eve of Reliance Industries' 47th AGM on August 29, setting the stage for the annual shareholders' meeting.

In February, Viacom18, a unit of Reliance Industries, and Disney's Star India merged their media businesses

in a bid to create India's largest TV and digital streaming entity. Under the terms of the agreement Viacom18's media operations will be merged with Star India Pvt Ltd (SIPL) through a court-approved scheme of arrangement. The joint venture, valued at Rs 70,350 crore (\$8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, will see RIL injecting Rs 11,500 crore (\$1.4 billion) into the venture to support its growth strategy.

The Reliance-Disney combine will compete with Sony, Netflix and Amazon, with 120 TV channels and two streaming services.

The new board will have 10 members, with RIL nominating five, Disney three, and two independent directors. The merger is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2024 or the first quarter of 2025.

Nita Ambani will assume the role of Chairperson of the merged entity, with former Walt Disney executive Uday Shankar, joining as Vice Chairperson.

The joint venture's ownership structure will consist of RIL holding 16.34 percent, Viacom18 with 46.82 percent, and Disney at 36.84 percent, with RIL retaining control under the merger terms.

On August 28, RIL's shares were little changed at Rs 2,999 on the NSE. CCI's announcement came after the end of trading in Mumbai.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, Aries people will get support from family members. You will get a chance to go out somewhere with your family, where everyone will look very happy. You will achieve success in the field of education. Sweetness will remain in love relationships. Married people will seem happy in their domestic life. The obstacles coming in the way of the brother's marriage will be removed. A promising program will be organized at home. Employed people will have to complete the tasks given in the job on time. Will get support from higher officials. You will be a business success. There are chances of getting financial benefits, expenses will also be more, but income will also be more. You can buy a new vehicle for yourself. Your health will be fine. Students will study diligently. Instead of paying attention here and there, concentrate completely on your studies, by doing this you will get the desired results. Trying to go out may be successful. Avoid lending your money to anyone this month. There is also a possibility of buying a new car, so get ready to be happy and ready to distribute sweets.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week is going to be good for the people of the Taurus zodiac sign. Married people will look happy in their life. The blessings of senior members will remain on you. You will get your mother's company and support. Your love life will be better. You can get into a new relationship with your love partner. The financial situation will be good. You will be a business success. There is a possibility of getting benefits from government sectors also. There will be opportunities for advancement in jobs. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. Time is good for higher education. You will get a chance to show your performance. A puja will be organized at home, in which everyone will be coming and going. Your health will be better than before. People who do import-export work from abroad will get good news. You will achieve success in the field of education. Students will get guidance from their special teacher, which will greatly benefit them in their studies.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEPTEMBER 2 TO SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week is going to be better for the financial situation. You will get new contacts, through which you will be successful in taking your business forward. You will be ready to bear all the expenses. You will also spend a lot of money on home decoration and repairs. The obstacles coming in the way of my sister's marriage will end. Auspicious programs will be organized. Everyone will go shopping together. Employed people will have to complete the tasks given in the job on time. While talking to a senior, it is better to think carefully before speaking. You will get a chance to do good to the society. For this, you can join any social organization. There will be happiness and peace in family life. Will sing love songs with your spouse. People living a love life will express their feelings to their beloved, which will make them look very happy. You will participate in religious programs with your family, where your mind will get peace. A plan will be made to go on a pilgrimage.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week there will be ups and downs in the lives of married people with the Cancer zodiac sign. Due to ego, you will say something which may make your spouse feel bad. There will be great coordination between you and your beloved character. You will plan a trip to a pilgrimage place with your family. Students will study diligently. Time is good for higher education. Your financial condition will be good. Daily income will increase. You can also make any investment. People doing business will get the desired profits. Working people will seem happy in their jobs. There will be ups and downs in health due to changing weather. There is a possibility of success in the competition. Your hard work will bear fruits. Worship will be organized at home. You will get the company of your mother. Will get their affection. Avoid being too emotional and listen to your mind, this will benefit you a lot this week.

LEO



Ganesha says people of the Leo zodiac sign will have to learn to have confidence in themselves, due to which they will start getting good results this week. Be it love relationships or family life, you will feel happy and satisfied. Your confidence will increase by getting support from your partner in some

important tasks. You will be successful in earning a good income amid economic ups and downs. Time is good for business, you will get a chance to take your business in a new direction. Employed people may be successful in getting a good position. Students will get pleasant results in education by studying purposefully and their inclination towards education will also increase. This week you should pay maximum attention to your health because weakness may occur.

VIRGO



Ganesha says people with the Virgo zodiac sign will get support from their spouse. Will spend loving moments with your spouse. You will get full support from your children. The blessings of senior members will remain on you. There is a possibility of getting financial benefits from ancestral property. Your health will be better than before. There will be ups and downs in love life. Your financial condition is going to be good. Expenses will increase. You will achieve success in the field of education. Employed people will get opportunities for promotion in the job. Income will increase. You will be successful in business. There will be new opportunities. Will get success in competition. People who are working away from home will miss their families. For single people, there can be talk of a relationship. All the family members will together plan a trip to some religious place.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is going to be good for love relationships. Your relationship will become even stronger. You can introduce your lover to your family so that the marriage is not delayed. There will be happiness and peace in family life. You will spend happy moments with your spouse. People who are employed will do some side work along with their job, in which their spouse will fully support them. People doing business will be successful in whatever efforts they are making to take the business forward. The economic situation will be strong. The pending money will be returned. If you have borrowed money from someone then you will return it on time. Will achieve success in politics. Havan, puja, recitation, bhajan, kirtan, etc. will be organized in the house, in which everyone will be seen working together.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, that people with the Scorpio zodiac sign can express their

feelings to their lover. You can also give them a gift, which will make them look very happy. Interference with another person in family life can create tension, so be careful. You will get the pleasure of a new vehicle. There is a possibility of getting financial benefits from ancestral property. Your financial condition will be good. Your expenses will increase a lot, but your income will also increase. You will also get benefits from government sectors. You will get a promotion in your job. You will get new contracts in business. Students will pay full attention to their studies, which will bring them success. Time is good for higher education. You will get a chance to study your favorite subject. The obstacles coming in the way of the brother's marriage will be removed. An auspicious program will be organized at home.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says will get support from family. Will spend time with family members. You will be seen sharing your happiness and sorrow. You will learn from senior members how to save money so that there is no problem in the future. You will feel ups and downs in family life. There are chances of going on a trip, which will be pleasant for you. Your love life will be full of happiness. You may have to face challenges in the workplace. There are signs of the arrival of money. You can also buy a property. People doing business will have to be a little careful. Employed people will get success through their hard work and honesty. Students will not feel interested in studies at all. Parents will look very sad. Time is favorable for higher education. This week is going to be weak from a health point of view.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week, married people will enjoy their domestic life and can get their spouse to do some new work. Sister's health will improve. Parents will look very happy if their child gets a good job. You will get new income opportunities, which will strengthen your financial position by earning profits. You will also spend a lot of money on household chores. You will attend a wedding at a distant relative's place and will interact with everyone. Time is good for higher education. There will be opportunities for education from abroad also. There will be ups and downs in love relationships. You will be successful in taking your business forward. In the workplace, you will do your assigned work with full dedication. You will get

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 2 TO SEPTEMBER 8 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

SEPTEMBER 2 : Ganesha says although you have a pleasant disposition and are highly diplomatic, you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act spendthrift, fickle-minded, and restless. You may face unexpected issues at work that are to be expected. You must approach these issues with more poise and tact. Traveling during this time will not only provide you with crucial information but also guarantee financial rewards. Later in the year, some couples will tie the knot.

SEPTEMBER 3 : Ganesha says you live each day to the fullest and have the potential to become a writer, philosopher, or thinker, but you need to learn to regulate your often restless and stubborn behavior. If you mingle with your coworkers, clients, and clients after work this year, you will build stronger relationships with all of them. Your investments will soar to new heights, and your financial situation will improve, causing you to spend more on comforts and luxuries. There will be nice romantic entanglements and good opportunities to form a marriage union.

SEPTEMBER 4 : Ganesha says you'll

face new problems this year, but your perseverance and the support of your friends and family will assure your success. With time, your financial situation will get better. Gains from investments and speculation are both possible. Being a responsible parent, you'll provide your kids with nothing but the best. Towards the middle of the year, some unsettling news from a faraway location is to be anticipated. A spiritual person offers consolation and mental calm.

SEPTEMBER 5 : Ganesha says if you put your best effort forward, you can turn sand into gold. However, you need to curb your tendency to act vindictively, stubbornly, and moodily at times. Your international business activities will be very profitable and prosperous for you. Your financial situation will improve and your confidence level will be at its highest if you find new sources of income. Professional modifications that are made in the middle of the year will be advantageous.

SEPTEMBER 6 : Ganesha says if you have been concerned about the lack of advancement in your professional career,

now is the time to rejoice and celebrate. Your work will be much valued and will earn you the respect of your superiors, coworkers, and clients. Gains will also come from property-related issues. The home's renovation and other construction-related tasks will likewise be high on your priority list. Patients with chronic conditions need to pay closer attention to their health. At all costs, preventative medications shouldn't be ignored.

SEPTEMBER 7 : Ganesha says you have a fantastic personality and may quickly make friends because of your helpfulness, but you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act gloomy, wasteful, and inconsiderate. Gains and rewards are guaranteed this year, but you must remain entirely committed to your objectives. You will suffer losses or suffer a great deal of embarrassment if you are unable to obtain appropriate and reliable information. Financial transactions will go much smoother during the second half of the year, but partnerships and joint ventures should be avoided.

SEPTEMBER 8 : Ganesha says although you have a fantastic imagination

and can easily outsmart your competitors, you need to curb your occasionally vengeful, impulsive, and stubborn behavior. Gains in both health and wealth are anticipated in the upcoming year. There will be lots of praise and incentives for your achievements. Your self-assurance and tenacity will grow, helping you to complete challenging tasks with ease. You'll spend more money on entertainment at this time, and you'll also buy costly items for your home.

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support from your seniors and juniors. Take blessings by touching the feet of senior members, all your work will be completed.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says love relationships will become stronger this week. You can introduce your loved one to your family so that your marriage does not get delayed. Married people will feel good in their domestic life. You will be seen working with your spouse for the welfare of the family. The financial situation will be fine. You will get the full benefit of the investment made earlier. Your friends and relatives will help you in strengthening your income. People who are doing business in partnership will get good profits. Employed people will have to complete the tasks given in the job on time. This week looks weak for higher education. You will feel less interested in your studies. You will get guidance from senior members. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people.

PISCES



Ganesha says, this week married people will live happily in their domestic life. Will plan to travel somewhere with the family. There are chances of a love marriage. For those who are alone, a good relationship will come as they want. From the financial point of view, this week will be full of expenses. Daily income will be good, due to which you will not have to face any problems. People doing business will get good profits. Your health will

improve. Time is good for higher education. You will get a chance to study your favorite subject. The blessings of senior members will remain on you. You will get success in your desire to buy a house, shop, plot, etc. Parents will look very happy if their child gets a good job. This week, family problems will attract your attention, due to which you will not be able to concentrate on your studies.

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

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First Prakash Divas of Shri Guru Granth Sahib

THE FIRST PRAKASH DIVAS OF SHRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB FALLS ON SEPTEMBER 1. THE COMPILATION OF THE ADI GRANTH WAS COMPLETED ON AUGUST 29, 1604, AND ITS FIRST PARKASH (I.E. THE FIRST READING) TOOK PLACE INSIDE THE DARBAAR SAHIB AT AMRITSAR ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1604.

The first Prakash Divas of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, also known as the First Parkash, took place on September 1, 1604 at the Golden Temple, also known as Harmandir Sahib, in Amritsar. The fifth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji, illuminated the Guru Granth Sahib on this day. Baba Budha Ji was appointed as the first Head Granthi, or priest, to care for the Adi Granth Sahib and recite its Bani to all. Baba Budha Ji read the Hukamnama Sahib, which said, "Santa ke karaj aap khloya har kam kravan aya ram," which means "the Lord himself has stood up to resolve the affairs of the saints; he has come to complete their tasks".

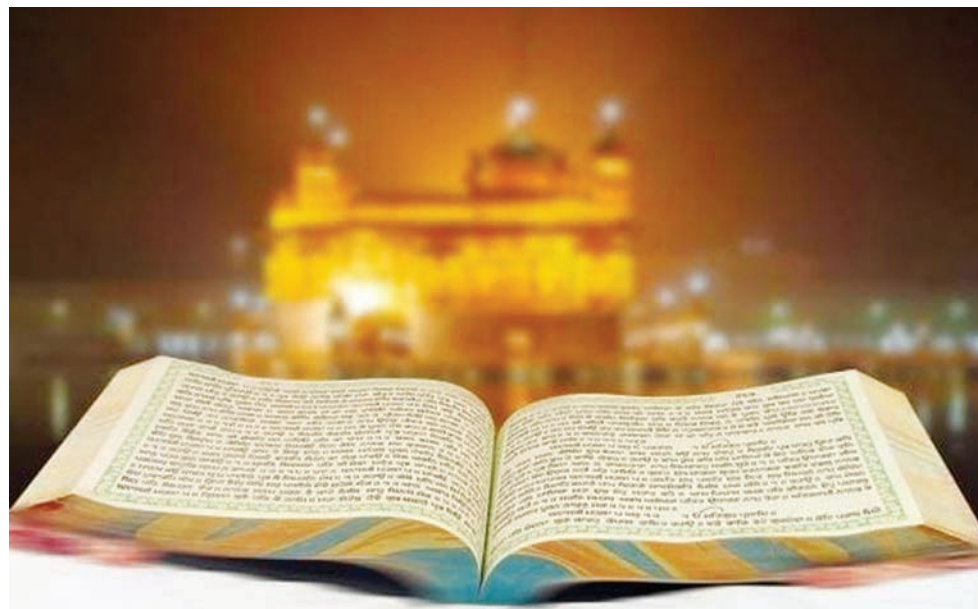
The Guru Granth Sahib is considered the spiritual authority in Sikhism and is installed in every Sikh gurdwara, or temple. Sikhs often prostrate before the Guru Granth Sahib when entering a gurdwara. The Guru Granth Sahib's vision is of a society that is based on love, mercy, divine freedom, justice, and belief in one god. It also acknowledges and respects the scriptures of Hinduism and Islam, but it doesn't imply a moral reconciliation with either of these religions.

Today, the Prakash Guruparv of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is celebrated annually with great religious devotion and respect. During this occasion, the Sri Darbar Sahib is decorated with colorful flowers from all over the world.

The Guru Granth Sahib is Sikhism's sacred scripture, and it is regarded by Sikhs as the eternal Guru after the tenth Guru's commandment to the Sikhs: Sabh Sikhian ko hukam hai guru maneyo granth.

As Bhai Kahan Singh's Mahankosh tells us, the Guru Granth Sahib contains the bani (sacred compositions, literally utterances) of six Gurus, 15-non Sikh bhagats (saints) whose bani was in consonance with the teachings of the Gurus, 17 bhattas (bards) and four others. Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Guru of the Sikhs, had the bani of the first four Gurus compiled in a manuscript for which he asked Bhai Gurdas, a major Sikh theologian, to be the scribe. It was this manuscript, the Adi Granth, which was ceremoniously installed in the sanctum sanctorum of Harmandir Sahib at Amritsar in 1604 AD.

According to Professor Sahib Singh's book Kuch Hor Dharmik Lekh, the Bani compilations of the first Guru, Guru Nanak Sahib, were recorded in a written work known as the "Pothi" which he wrote and compiled during his life and travels. The Pothi was handed down to



the succeeding three Gurus who also added their own compositions to the Bani. The Pothi and the succeeding Gurus' Bani compositions were handed down to the fifth guru, Guru Arjan Sahib (1563-1606), when he commenced his Gurgaddi. Guru Arjun Sahib took on the responsibility of not only adding to Guru Nanak Sahib's Pothi and the Bani compositions of the three succeeding Gurus' before him, but also commenced the work of rearranging and editing all these compositions into the first version of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib - the Adi Granth.

In the selection of the Bani included in the Adi Granth, Guru Arjan kept 'Anubhavi Rachna' (Personal experience) as the criterion. The compilation of the Adi Granth was completed on August 29, 1604, and its first Parkash (i.e. the first reading) took place inside the Darbaar Sahib at Amritsar on September 1, 1604.

The only further additions made to the Adi Granth after this were undertaken by the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who added the compositions of the ninth guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib. This was done in 1705 - 1706 at Talwandi Sabo near Bhatinda (now known as Takht Sri Damdama Sahib) where Bhai Mani Singh Ji scribed the sacred text. This became the Guru Granth Sahib as we have it today.

Guru Arjan Sahib gave the responsibility of scribing the text of the Adi Granth to Bhai Gurdas Ji. Bhai Gurdas was the nephew of Guru Amardas Ji and a great scholar of the time, who PEHLA (FIRST) PARKASH PURAB OF GURU GRANTH SAHIB Ji composed "Varaan" and "Kabit". Though his compositions are not included in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, they are held in high esteem by Sikh religious scholars. Guru Arjan Sahib

referred to his writings as the Kunji (key) to better understand Gurbani.

Thus it took almost 3 years between 1601-1604 to edit, compile and scribe the sacred text in Amritsar, Punjab. In all, the Adi Granth contained the compositions of the first five gurus, fifteen Hindu and Muslim saints (e.g. Bhagats Ramanand, Kabir and Namdev and Sheikh Farid among others), eleven Hindu bhattas (bards), and three Gursikhs. The message of the Adi Granth centered around the theme of One God, One Creation and One Humanity. It conveyed the message of tearing down divisions of caste, race, religion, gender, etc that were then prevalent in Indian society and espoused us to become better human beings everyday by imbibing virtues in our daily living in lieu of letting ourselves being controlled by vices.

The First Parkash on 1 September 1604

On the day of the first Parkash, Baba Budha Ji carried the Adi Granth Sahib Ji on his head while Guru Arjan Sahib Ji did chaur seva, and a procession of sangat lined behind to escort the Adi Granth Sahib Ji to the darbar hall in Darbaar Sahib, Amritsar. In reverence of the scripture, Guru Arjan Sahib Ji sat on ground along with the sangat and placed the Adi Granth on a platform as a mark of respect of the eternal wisdom enshrined in it and as a mark of its high status. Baba Budha Ji was appointed as the first Head Granthi (Priest) with the responsibility of taking care of the Adi Granth Sahib and reciting its Bani to all. The first Parkash's Hukamnama Sahib read by Baba Budha Ji was: Santa ke karaj aap khloya har kam kravan aya ram which means the Lord himself has stood up to resolve the affairs of the saints; he has come to complete their tasks (SGGS Ji, ang 783).

Conclusion

Guru Arjun Sahib Ji preached that the Adi Granth is akin to a Ship that lets us cross this worldly ocean; that whosoever will listen, recite, abide and act according to its teachings, will easily make their way across this deep, treacherous sea. Guru Arjan Sahib Ji urged Gursikhs to respect the Gurbani more than they did him by explaining that the physical body will eventually vanish away, but Gurbani would always be present to enlighten their lives. Gurbani is thus referred to by Sikhs as Guru and Nirankar (God).

Nanda Vrat: Dedicated to Shiva

Nanda Vrat is dedicated to Shiva and it is believed that Goddess Sati observed this fast to get Shiva as her husband. Sati followed the rituals of Nanda Vrat and made a Shivling of clay and followed the Vidhi Poorvaka Vrat and got Lord Shiva as her husband.

This fast is especially observed to get a good husband or wife. Goddess Sati observed this fast to get Shiva as her husband as she only wanted him to be her husband.

Goddess Sati observed Nanda Vrat to get Lord Shiva as her husband. She worshipped Lord Shiva with various food items and flowers at home with great devotion and concentrated mind on the following days:

Ashwin month

On Pratipada, Shashthi and Ekadashi, worshipped Lord Shiva with some rice and salt.

After offering Namaskar, spent the entire month with the same ritual.

Kartik month

On Chaturdashi, worshipped Shiva with Malpuas and spent time in contemplation.

Margashirsha month

Worshipped Shiva with sesame, barley and rice on Ashtami of Krishna Paksha.

Spent the day by showing a lighted lamp or performing aarti.

Paush month

Stayed awake all night on Saptami of Shukla Paksha and offered Khichdi as naivedya in the morning and worshipped Shiva.

Magh month

Stayed awake all night on Poornima and bathed in the river in the morning and worshipped Lord Shiva with wet clothes.

Phalgun month

Stayed awake at night on Chaturdashi of Krishna Paksha and worshipped Lord Shiva in all four prasads.

Chaitra month

Remembered Shiva day and night on Chaturdashi of Shukla Paksha. Worshipped Lord Shiva with Dhaak flowers and Davan.

Vaishakh month

On Shukla Tritiya, ate sesame and worshipped Lord Rudra with new barley rice.

Jyeshtha month

Worshipped Lord Shankar at night on Poornima with beautiful clothes and Bhatkataya flowers. Spent the month without food.

Ashadha month

Worshipped Rudra Dev with black clothes and Bhatkataya flowers on the Chaturdashi of Shukla Paksha.

Shravan month

Worshipped Shiva with Yagyopavit clothes and Kusha pavitri on the Ashtami and Chaturdashi of Shukla Paksha.

Bhadrapada month

Worshipped Shiva with various types of flowers and fruits on the Trayodashi of Krishna Paksha.

On Chaturdashi, took only water as diet.

Sati worshipped Shiva with different types of flowers and grains produced from them in all the months. She remained engaged in chanting only, taking very regular diet throughout the month. Sati remained engrossed in worshipping Shiva day and night in all the months.

In her human form, Sati used to observe Uttam Vrat as



Important information

Nanda Vrat, Bhadrapada, Trayodashi of Krishna Paksha

Saturday, 31 August 2024

Trayodashi tithi start : 31 August 2024 at 02:25 am

Trayodashi tithi end : 01 September 2024 at 03:41 am

per the prescribed method. Thus, after completing the Nanda Vrat, Sati meditated with great love, concentrating on Lord Shiva with exclusive devotion and became steadfast in that knowledge.

Procedure of Nanda Vrat

This fast can be observed on Shukla Paksha Saptami, which is the seventh day during the rising phase of the moon in any Hindu month, particularly in Phalguna, Chaitra, Ashadha and Shravan. The procedure of the fast is as follows:

- Fasting: Fasting has to be observed from sunrise on the day of the fast to sunrise the next day.
- Purification and worship: Purify yourself before sunrise and worship Shiva.

“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

- Mantra chanting: Include chanting the mantra ‘Om Namah Shivaya’ in the prayers.
- Prasad: Offer Bilva leaves and white coloured flowers to Shiva. You can make a simple sweet dish and offer it as prasad.
- Fasting foods: Fruits or other fasting foods can be eaten during the fast.
- Prayers: Offer prayers in the morning and evening.
- Ending the fast: The fast ends after sunrise the next morning. After completing the fast, donate food to poor children or elderly on any date.

By following this simple procedure of Nanda Vrat, devotees receive the blessings of Lord Shiva and get their desired life partner.

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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.”

Why did India return from Paris with 16 and not 18 hockey Olympians?



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

While fervor, gaiety, celebrations, and felicitations to mark back-to-back bronze medal triumphs in the Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games are almost nearing their end, at least two members of the Indian hockey squad must have been left wondering why they did not return home as "Olympians" with bronze medals hanging down their necks.

This million-rupee question probably did not agitate the minds of officials of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Hockey India (HI), who were part of the official entourage to the Paris Olympic Games.

When the medal ceremony was held after the gold medal match, there were 18 players each of the new champions, the Netherlands, and the runners-up Germany, on the podium, and India, the winner of the bronze medal, had only 16 players.

After the conventional ritual was gone through, three of the Indian players - Krishan Bahadur Pathak (goalkeeper), deep defender and drag-flicker Jugraj Singh and midfielder Neelkanta - who watched all the games from the stands, joined their colleagues on the ground to celebrate the bronze medal triumph.

The Indian hockey team's bronze medal win at the Paris Olympic Games was a moment of triumph, but two reserve players, Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Jugraj Singh, were left wondering why they didn't receive medals.

Despite being part of the team throughout the tournament, they were not included in the medal ceremony as they did not take the field of play. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) clarified that only athletes who participate in a match can be considered Olympians and receive medals.

India did not utilize the Alternate Athlete (Ap) rule, which allows teams to swap in reserve players during the tournament. In contrast, other teams, including the Netherlands and Germany, used this rule to give more players the opportunity to participate and receive medals. The Indian team management's decision not to invoke this provision has left the reserve players feeling disappointed and wondering what could have been.

With bronze medals hanging around their necks, 16 Indian players were busy greeting each other besides acknowledging compliments from their accompanying family members, friends and well-wishers, Indian reserve players looked heartbroken as their opportunity to return home as Olympians with a



The medal ceremony: The Netherlands, Germany, and India on the podium before the presentation of medals.

similar bronze medal hanging down their necks had slipped away without any fault of theirs. They were with the team throughout, discharging their roles as well as they could.

They wondered why reserve players of other teams, including new champions, the Netherlands, and the silver medalist Germany, had blooded 18 players each during the Games, they were denied a legitimate chance of sharing the same honors. Understandably such questions are seldom asked as they have their future in sport at stake.

When contacted, Nicolas Maingot, Senior Communications Manager of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), said that the IOC rules state that to become an Olympian, and to be awarded a medal, an athlete needs to take the field of play. Any athlete who does not, even if they are named as a reserve, is neither an Olympian nor can they be awarded a medal. This is true of all sports.

Therefore, for hockey, only those athletes from the medal-winning teams who were named in a matchday squad of 16 and took the field of play during a match, were awarded medals.

The Netherlands and Germany both used the new Ap athlete rules in place during Paris to swap in their Ap athletes during different matches in the tournament and, therefore 18 athletes received medals. Neither reserve goalkeeper did, however.

India did not make any changes during the tournament to their matchday 16 and therefore only 16 medals were awarded and their 3 Ap athletes are not considered Olympians or medalists for Paris as they did not play at any stage.

What is the Ap rule?

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) circulates rules and guidelines for all participating National Olympic



Jugraj Singh, with hands in his pockets must be wondering why he was not on the podium when medals were presented.

Pics by author in Paris

Committees (NOCs) and their affiliates National Sports Federations (NSFs) for their teams and players participating in the Olympic Games. It notified the Alternate athlete (Ap) as follows:

Alternate athlete (Ap)

As per the "Accreditation at the Olympic games - Detailed applications" NOCs can activate alternate athlete (Ap) in the following sports and disciplines: Artistic swimming, Athletics, Cycling - BMX racing, Cycling - Track, Equestrian, Fencing, Handball, Hockey, Football, Rowing, Rugby, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Water Polo (TBD).

All Ap athletes need to be identified at the time of the final Entries Submission. In addition, before the

sport-specific deadlines set in the Late Athlete Replacement Detailed Annex by Discipline, the NOCs can either activate their Ap athlete(s) or to use a replacement from the long list and be in a position to appoint another Ap athlete. To replace an Ap athlete the LAR process using the e-LAR process using the e-LAR tool as described above is applicable.

Once competition has started, the activation of the Ap athlete has to follow the same e-LAR process as above and adhere to the timelines stipulated in the Late Athlete Replacement Detailed Annex by discipline.

Why did India decide not to make use of the Ap rule?

The Indian team management in its prudence may have decided not to invoke this provision so as not to upset the rhythm of the team. There could be other reasons, including some technical aspects which are not out in the public domain.

Statistically speaking, India needed to use this rule more than other teams as it was the only team to be given a red card and that too at the beginning of the second quarter of a crucial quarterfinal match against Great Britain. Losing a dependable deep defender and an alternate drag flicker with a semi-final against the defending world champions Germany in hand, India needed reinforcements to tighten its defense line. It was available under the Ap rules. India had the option to bring in Jugraj Singh.

Though the Indian team played the semi-final against Germany without Amit Rohidas by using former captain and midfielder Manpreet Singh as a deep defender, it did affect two positions, one at which Manpreet plays originally and the second at the position he played in the semi-final. Had Jugraj been there, it would have come as a blessing for he would have come in deep defense and allowed Manpreet to play at his natural position.

Though Amit Rohidas was the only player to get a red card and two-match suspension, Germany had landed in a similar but a little less severe situation after its opening game against France. Christopher Rueher, one of their most experienced players, was shown a yellow card during the game. After the game, a one-match ban was imposed on him for arguing with the umpire.

Germany managed the challenge and used the Ap rule. It was not only Germany but almost all teams that made use of the Ap rule. Interestingly, none of the teams used it for bringing in their reserve goalkeepers.

Rest, all is history.

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

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Mamata Banerjee vows to pass a...

Governor. If he doesn't pass, we will sit outside Raj Bhavan. This bill must be passed and he cannot evade accountability this time," Ms. Banerjee said. She was addressing an event on the foundation day of the student wing of Trinamool Congress.

The Chief Minister praised the efforts of the State police in confronting protesters who marched to the State Secretariat on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

"I salute the police for their role yesterday. They had given their blood but did not yield a dead body to the BJP conspiracy," she said.

Amidst demands by Opposition parties demanding her resignation over the gruesome rape and murder, the Chief Minister targeted the Prime Minister and said those seeking her resignation should ask for Prime Minister's resignation. "They don't want the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over incidents in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. In Assam, the accused was killed in encounter," she added.

Referring to rape and murder of the doctor Ms. Banerjee said that her government wanted to give capital punishment within seven days to the accused with the case being tried in fast-track court. "Sixteen days have passed since CBI took over doctor's rape-murder probe, where is justice," she said.

The Chief Minister urged agitating resident doctors to join work and said that her government does not want to lodge police complaint against them which will adversely affect their career.

Facing relentless attack over her government's handling of the gruesome crime, the Trinamool chairperson called for change of her party's slogan, "Badla noi Badal chai (Want Change not Revenge)". Ms. Banerjee said that she had earlier given slogan but now the workers can decide for themselves as to what they will do. " At least you can hiss and those who are spreading canards against us," she said.

Reacting to Chief Minister's remarks, State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said that the remarks point out that the Chief Minister was in fear.

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee also emphasized for stricter laws for rape and referred to alleged incidents of atrocities on women at Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh and said, "Those who are seeking the resignation of Mamata Banerjee, should ask for Yogi Adityanath's resignation," he said.

Mr. Banerjee said that Trinamool Congress will take to the streets if the Centre does not enact a new law to ensure a time-bound trial and sentencing of the accused found guilty of rape charges.

"If the central government does not enact this law, I will move a private member's bill for the new law," he said. (With inputs from The Hindu)

Rahul Gandhi to address the Indian...

This will be Rahul's first visit to the US after becoming the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha.

The Indian Panorama was informed by sources in the Indian Overseas Congress that Rahul will be visiting Washington, D.C. after his visit to Dallas. Details of his meetings in Washington, D.C. have not yet been announced.

Telegram founder Pavel Durov...

Both free-speech advocates and authoritarian governments have spoken out in Mr. Durov's defense since his weekend arrest. The case has also called attention to the challenges of policing illegal activity online, and to the Russia-born Durov's own unusual biography and multiple passports.

Mr. Durov was detained on Saturday, August 24, at Le Bourget airport outside Paris as part of a sweeping investigation opened earlier this year, and released earlier Wednesday, August 28, after four days of questioning. Investigative judges filed preliminary charges Wednesday, August 28 night and ordered him to pay 5 million euros bail and to report to a police station

twice a week, according to a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office.

Allegations against Mr. Durov, who is also a French citizen, include that his platform is being used for child sexual abuse material and drug trafficking, and that Telegram refused to share information or documents with investigators when required by law.

The first preliminary charge against him was for "complicity in managing an online platform to allow illicit transactions by an organized group", a crime that can lead to sentences of up to 10 years in prison and 500,000 euro fine, the prosecutor's office said.

Preliminary charges under French law mean magistrates have strong reason to believe a crime was committed but allow more time for further investigation.

David-Olivier Kaminski, a lawyer for Durov, was quoted by French media as saying, "it's totally absurd to think that the person in charge of a social network could be implicated in criminal acts that don't concern him, directly or indirectly".

Prosecutors said Mr. Durov is, "at this stage, the only person implicated in this case." They did not exclude the possibility that other people are being investigated but declined to comment on other possible arrest warrants. Any other arrest warrant would be revealed only if the target of such a warrant is detained and informed of their rights, prosecutors said in a statement to the AP.

French authorities opened a preliminary investigation in February in response to "the near total absence of a response by Telegram to judicial requests" for data for pursuing suspects, notably those accused of crimes against children, the prosecutor's office said.

Mr. Durov's arrest in France has caused outrage in Russia, with some government officials calling it politically motivated and proof of the West's double standard on freedom of speech. The outcry has raised eyebrows among Kremlin critics because in 2018, Russian authorities themselves tried to block the Telegram app but failed, withdrawing the ban in 2020.

In Iran, where Telegram is widely used despite being officially banned after years of protests challenging the country's Shiite theocracy, Mr. Durov's arrest in France prompted comments from the Islamic Republic's supreme leader. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei weighed in with veiled praise for France for being "strict" against those who "violate your governance" of the internet.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday, August 26, that Mr. Durov's arrest wasn't a political move but part of an independent investigation. Macron posted on X that his country "is deeply committed" to freedom of expression but "freedoms are upheld within a legal framework, both on social media and in real life, to protect citizens and respect their fundamental rights".

In a statement posted on its platform after Mr. Durov's arrest, Telegram said it abides by EU laws, and its moderation is "within industry standards and constantly improving".

"Almost a billion users globally use Telegram as means of communication and as a source of vital information. We're awaiting a prompt resolution of this situation," it said.

In addition to Russia and France, Mr. Durov is also a citizen of the United Arab Emirates and the Caribbean island nation of St Kitts and Nevis.

The UAE Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, August 27, that it was "closely following the case" and had asked France to provide Mr. Durov "with all the necessary consular services in an urgent manner".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he hoped that Durov "has all the necessary opportunities for his legal defense" and added that Moscow stands "ready to provide all necessary assistance and support" to the Telegram CEO as a Russian citizen.

"But the situation is complicated by the fact that he is also a citizen of France," Mr. Peskov said.

Telegram was founded by Mr. Durov and his brother after he himself faced pressure from Russian authorities.

In 2013, he sold his stake in VKontakte, a popular Russian social networking site which he launched in 2006.

The company came under pressure during the Russian government's crackdown following mass pro-democracy protests that rocked Moscow at the end of 2011 and 2012.

Durov had said authorities demanded that the site take down online communities of Russian opposition activists, and later that it hand over personal data of users who took part in the 2013-2014 popular uprising in Ukraine, which eventually ousted a pro-Kremlin president.

Durov said in a recent interview that he had turned down these demands and left the country.

The demonstrations prompted Russian authorities to clamp down on the digital space, and Telegram and its pro-privacy stance offered a convenient way for Russians to communicate and share news.

Telegram also continues to be a popular source of news in Ukraine, where both media outlets and officials use it to share information on the war and deliver missile and air raid alerts.

Western governments have often criticized Telegram for a lack of content moderation. (Agencies)

India's Prime Minister Modi to...

The 'Modi & US' Progress Together' event will be held on September 22 at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which has a capacity of 15,000.

The Indo-American Community of USA (IACU) said Tuesday, August 27, that over 24,000 Indian-Americans have signed up to attend the mega event, a community gathering that will be addressed by Modi.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to address the high-level UN General Assembly session here on September 26, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN.

The IACU said in a statement that registrations for the event in Uniondale, Long Island have come through 590 community organizations, all of whom have signed up as 'Welcome Partners', from across the United States.

While Indian-Americans from at least 42 states are expected to attend, the response has been particularly strong from the tri-state area, it said.

"We're committed to ensuring as many people as possible can participate in this historic event," said a key organizer of the event.

"We're going to do our best to expand seating arrangements and coordinate with our Welcome Partners to prioritize final seat allocations to those who will confirm they expect to attend."

The IACU said the 'Modi & US' event "promises to be a significant gathering celebrating the interconnected diversity of the Indian-American community." Attendees and participating organizations will include a wide range of religious communities, including members of the Jewish, Zoroastrian, Jain, Christian, Sikh, Muslim, and Hindu communities. They also represent a significant cross-section of India's diverse languages, including Hindi, Telugu, Punjabi, Tamil, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and others, IACU said.

In addition to an address by Prime Minister Modi, the event will showcase cultural performances and appearances by prominent Indian-Americans in business, science, entertainment, and the arts.

A not-for-profit organization, the Indo-American Community of USA (IACU) fosters understanding of and unity within the Indo-American community through cultural events and public programs.

In 2014 September 2014, Modi addressed a massive community gathering at the famed Madison Square Garden in New York just months after he had first taken over as Prime Minister and visited the city to attend the high-level annual General Assembly session.

In 2019, Modi addressed the mega community event 'Howdy Modi' at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, where he was joined by former President Donald Trump.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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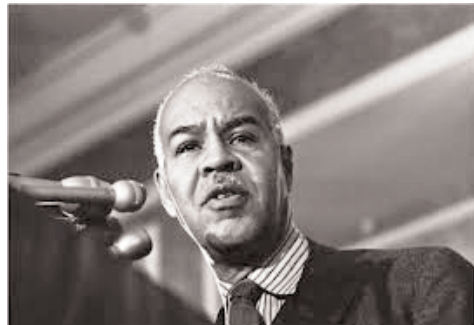
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History This Week

AUG 30 - SEP 05

AUGUST 30

Birthday - Frankenstein author Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was born in London.



Birthday - Civil rights leader Roy Wilkins (1901-1981) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. The grandson of a Mississippi slave, he was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

AUGUST 31

August 31, 1786 - Shays' Rebellion began in Massachusetts as ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays led an armed mob. The rebellion prevented the Northampton Court from holding a session in which debtors, mostly poor ex-soldier farmers, were to be tried and likely put in prison. Following this, in September, Shays' troops prevented Supreme Court sessions at Springfield, Massachusetts. Early in 1787, they attacked the Federal arsenal at Springfield, but were soon routed and fled. Shays was sentenced to death but was pardoned in 1788.

August 31, 1980 - Solidarity, the Polish trade union, was formed at Gdansk, Poland. Led by Lech Walesa, Solidarity opposed Communist rule and was outlawed in 1981. Seven years later, the re-legalization of Solidarity occurred and the government agreed to hold partially free parliamentary elections. Solidarity candidates scored stunning victories in the elections that followed, gaining power in Poland and paving the way for the downfall of Communism there.



August 31, 1997 - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River at the Pont de l'Alma bridge, less than a half mile north of the Eiffel Tower. Also killed in the crash were Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul. A fourth person in the car, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, was seriously injured.

SEPTEMBER 1

September 1, 1715 - The "Sun King" (King Louis XIV of France) died. He had ruled since the age of five and was succeeded by his 5-year-old great-grandson Louis XV.

September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.

September 1, 1969 - Military officers overthrew the Libyan government. The Libyan Arab Republic was then proclaimed under Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

September 1, 1983 - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 100 miles off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.

Birthday - Tarzan of the Apes creator Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was born in Chicago. Before becoming a novelist, he was as a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times.



Birthday - Boxing champ Rocky Marciano (1923-1969) was born in Brockton, Massachusetts (as Rocco Francis Marchegiano). He fought Jersey Joe Walcott for the heavyweight title on September 23, 1952, and knocked him out. In 1956, he retired as the only undefeated heavyweight champion. He died in a plane crash in 1969.

SEPTEMBER 2

September 2, 31 B.C. - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Anthony's naval force at Actium.

September 2, 1666 - The Great Fire of London began in a bakery in Pudding Lane near the Tower. Over the next three days more than 13,000 houses were destroyed, although only six lives were believed lost.

September 2, 1752 - The British ended their use of the Julian calendar, switching instead to the Gregorian calendar, resulting in a major adjustment as Wednesday, September 2, was followed by Thursday, September 14. The correction resulted in rioting by people who felt cheated and demanded the missing eleven days back.

September 2, 1789 - The third Presidential cabinet department, the U.S. Treasury, was established by Congress.

September 2, 1864 - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.

September 2, 1870 - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the

Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.

September 2, 1923 - The first elections were held in the Irish Free State after achieving independence from Britain.

September 2, 1930 - French aviators Dieudonne Coste and Maurice Bellonte made the first non-stop flight from Europe to the USA.

September 2, 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

September 2, 1945 - Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

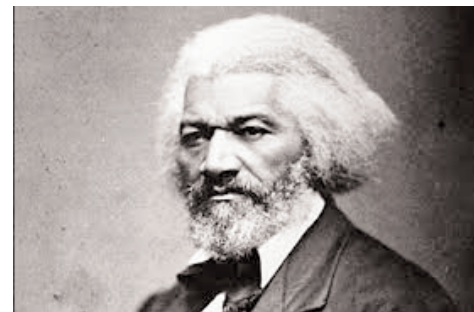
September 2, 1962 - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, leading to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.



September 2, 1963 - Alabama Governor George Wallace forcibly halted public school integration by encircling Tuskegee High School with state troopers.

Birthday - Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986) was born in Boston (as Sharon Christa Corrigan). On January 28, 1986, the 37-year-old high-school teacher, the first "ordinary citizen" in space, died with six crew members in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion.

SEPTEMBER 3



September 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network.

September 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.

September 3, 1943 - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.

SEPTEMBER 4

September 4, 1609 - The island of

Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson.

September 4, 1781 - Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish Governor of California, Felipe de Neve, near the site of the Native American village of Yang-na. The original name was El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles (The Town of the Queen of the Angels).

September 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



Birthday - Austrian composer Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) was born in Ansfelden, Austria. Best known for his monumental ten symphonies.

SEPTEMBER 5

September 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

September 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.

September 5, 1975 - The first of two September assassination attempts on President Gerald Ford occurred as a woman pointed a gun at the President in Sacramento, California. Two weeks later, a second attempt occurred as another woman fired a shot at Ford in San Francisco. Ford was not harmed in either incident.



September 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.

Birthday - Wild West legend Jesse James (1847-1882) was born in Centerville, Missouri. Following the American Civil War, Jesse and his brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse in the back of the head and claimed the reward.

An abode of clouds, the rolling hills around the town and the hill station of one of the smallest states of India, Meghalaya. With the best places to visit in Shillong, it is geography synonymous to heaven, is the painting hung on your drawing-room wall, a collage of memories yet to be lived.

This prepossessing land is a beauty that floats on high over vales and hills, where the tall pine trees are seen fluttering and dancing in the breeze, and the clouds find a space along the margins of a hill unfolding the enchanting blue sky. The mystique land perched on an escarpment is more than enough to leave your imagination spellbound.

The capital city of the state Meghalaya - a perfect blend of old charm and fresh essence, this bliss of solitude carries a number of things like falls, parks, peaks, landscapes and museums to keep a traveller's head tossing in sprightly dance.

With the best places to visit in Shillong, this surprising holiday destination will make you forget to stop the shutters of your cam. The god's honest harvest is ready to find a space among the favourites in your travel diary.

What to see

Living Root Bridge

In Meghalaya, bridges aren't built, they are grown. The Living Root Bridge is an example of that. About a two-hour drive from Shillong, near Mawlynnong, the bridge is made of sturdy roots and is often used by villagers. While this bridge is a popular tourist attraction because of its accessibility, the one situated in Cherrapunji is not for the weak-hearted; it involves trekking down over 3,000 steps.

Mawlynnong

You'll pass through this village on your way to the Living Root Bridge. We suggest making a pit stop here, on your way back. The village is very clean and the people from the village are friendly and welcoming. Walk through the tiny lanes and make it a point to check out the neatly-divided residential areas, small drainage canals built along the huts and the bamboo dustbins installed every few meters. Make it a point to grab a meal at the local shacks; these offer a peek into the cuisine from the state. A vegetarian meal here consists of plain dal, rice and a curry, and a non-vegetarian meal is usually chicken cooked with bamboo shoots and served with rice and spicy pickle.

Dawki, Umngot River

Crystal clear water is not just an expression, but a reality at Dawki. Passing through the India-Bangladesh border, the Umngot River makes for an ideal spot for camping and barbecues, or just to laze around. Take a boat ride (priced at ₹400 per hour) along the river and go nuts gawking at the large pebbles on the river bed. Yes, you can see through the water — even 15ft deep at some places.

Mawphlang Sacred Forest

Shillong: An abode of clouds, rolling hills



The Khasi Hills have many forests that have been preserved by local religious sanctions, which means that these forests cannot be harmed or tampered

with. "Don't even dare picking up a leaf as a souvenir," instructed our guide. About 25km from Shillong, this sacred forest is an ideal spot for nature lovers, and those who are looking for a moment of peace and quiet. Dense trees, orchids and butterflies are in abundance, and so are religious stones that stand tall in the forest.

Elephant Falls

Named after an Elephant like stone at its foot, the Elephant Falls are amongst the most popular falls in the North-East, situated next to Shillong. It is a tourists' paradise with three layers of the falls accessible to the layman from different vantage points. The Britishers named this fall so owing to the presence of an elephant-shaped rock on one side of the fall. However, the stone disintegrated and was washed away due to an earthquake in 1897. Elephant Waterfalls is a superb place for spending some time in the midst of nature while capturing the incredible moments for your keepsake.

The breathtaking Elephant falls were referred to as 'Ka Kshaid Lai Pateng Khohsiew' by the local Khasi people, which means 'The Three Step Waterfalls', as these falls consist of three mesmerising falls in succession. The first of the three waterfalls are tucked between the dense trees and are very broad. The second waterfall reduces to thin strands of water and is almost negligible in winters due to the receding water levels. The third and the most visible waterfall is the tallest with clear water flowing like a sheet of milk on the dark rocks in the backdrop. Out of the three, the third waterfall tends to strike the visitors as the most impressive. Elephant Falls is a great stopover destination before one head for further journeys into Meghalaya. Located 12 km away from the capital city of Shillong, it is one of the most visited falls in the beautiful state.

Umiam Lake

Umiam Lake, a mesmerizing man-made reservoir, is located at a distance of 15 kilometres north of Shillong which is the capital of the north-eastern Indian state of Meghalaya. The lake was formed after a dam was constructed to generate hydroelectric power. The scenic Umiam Lake is encircled by lush green East Khasi hills that form one of the best panoramic sights for nature-lovers in the country. The sunrise at the lake is a treat to watch and shouldn't be missed. The Umiam Lake has a park adjoining it which is a hotspot for picnics and frequented by locals for a getaway from their busy scheduled.

The serene lake or the reservoir is surrounded by thick coniferous forests and expands over an area of about 222 square kilometres.

Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 5

30th August

1845 Murder of Kanwar Peshaura Singh.

31st August

1923 Famous encounter at Babeli village between Babbar Akalis and the Police that left 4 Babbar killed.

1930 Baba Kharak Singh was brought on a stretcher to the SGPC meeting. He threatened to resign unless the Shiromani Akali Dal refused to fight under the Congress flag which did not include the Sikh color. He did not want the Sikhs to be taken for granted. The Punjab Provincial Congress Committee (PPCC) recommended the incorporation of the Sikh color in the national flag. But Jawaharlal Nehru, then Congress President, was amused and termed the PPCC decision as hasty and untimely.

1981 Marked the ultimatum date for acceptance of Sikh demands. This ultimatum was issued by Shiromani Akali Dal at the World Sikh Convention.



1995 Beant Singh, then 73-year-old chief minister of Punjab, was killed in a powerful car bomb blast at the high-security State Secretariat in Chandigarh, India. A dozen security personnel were also killed and 30 others injured as the blast blew off the Chief Minister's car to smithereens and damaged other vehicles. Under Beant Singh's chief ministership, Sikh youth were specifically targeted for elimination while the Indian government credited him with putting down terrorism and restoring peace in the State.

1st September



1574 Joti Jot, Patshahi Third, Guru Amardas Ji. Guru Amardas Ji, left this world for heavenly abode from Goindwal Sahib. Guru Amar Das served the house of Guru Nanak for about twelve years with unbounded devotion, impeccable obedience and impeccable love. Today is the actual date of third Patshahi's Joti Joti, though it is observed on a different day by Guru Khalsa

Panth. Furu Amar Das (1479-1574), the seventy-three years old disciple who had distinguished himself for his humility and simplicity in Guru Angad's holy company was nominated Guru in 1552. Born of orthodox Hindu parents in Baserke, a Punjab village, in Vaisakh sudhi 14th sunmat 1536 (May 5, 1479) to father TaejBhan and mother Sulakhani, Guru Amar Das married Srimatti Mansa Devi Ji on Magh 11th sunmat 1559. The marriage resulted in two daughters, Bibi Dani and Bhani, and two sons, Baba Mohan and Mohari.

Guru Amar Das was a great pilgrim. Once he happened to listen to a rapturous chanting of Guru Nanak's Japji by Bibi Amro, Guru Angad's daughter and his nephew's wife. He was so much enthralled by its supernal note that he repaired instantly to Guru Angad, the Second Master. He spent about 12 years, from 1540 to 1552 in selfless service and deep meditation, amidst an aura of holiness and splendor radiating from his beloved Guru. Amar Dass became a sikh of Guru Angad Patshah in sunmat 1597 and ascended to Guru Gadhi on Vaisakh 3rd sunmat 1609.

While expounding the gospel of Guru Nanak, the Third Master laid special stress on the service of the Guru and contemplation of the Lord's Name. He asserted that man could attain Sahaj (tranquility) through the path of the holy name. All doubts disappear and he attains Ananda (bliss) a stage achieved by the Bhakts through God-realization. He also held that these values could be acquired only through the Guru's grace.

During the 22 years of his ministry, Guru Amar Das took quite a few significant measures to consolidate the Sikh religion, as also to endear it to the masses of men. To widen the scope of the movement, he made Goindwal his missionary centre. Here he caused a big bavalli (a sort of well) dug and organized festivals on the occasion of Deepavall and Baisakhi. A large number of Sikhs from far-flung places flocked to Goindwal. Indeed it became the first place of pilgrimage.

Besides, the Guru set up twenty-two manjis, or dioceses in different parts of the country where Sikhism had taken roots. Each Manji was placed under the charge of a pious Sikh with whose effort the Sikh Sangats (congregations) met daily and chanted the Guru's hymns. The Third Master invested the institution of langar with a kind of inviolable sanctity. Thus, no one could, have darshan of the Guru without first partaking of food in the langar. This had the desired effect of proclaiming and establishing the essential equality of all mankind. In the Guru's Temple of Bread, the rich and the poor, the high-born and the untouchable, ate together as members of an integrated human family. The Guru also fought other rampant social evils like Sati, drink and Purdah. With a view to marking out the Sikhs as a distinct people, Guru Amar Das prescribed a set of rites to be followed on occasions such as birth and death. The Guru also visited Hindu cities of pilgrimage and there, too, he propagated the gospel of Guru Nanak.

2nd September

1922 Pandit Madam Mohan Malviya, a great National Leader, arrived in Amritsar to witness the brutal Lathi Charge of police on the non-violent Akali Satyagrahies in Guru-Ka-Bagh Morcha.

1926 Hira Singh, an accomplished Panthic ragi passed away.

1953 Sirdar Kapur Singh, a Sikh Philosopher and an ICS officer, was dismissed from service on flimsy grounds.

1984 Sarbat Khalsa convened as Sarab Sansar Sikh Smmelan that confirmed the excommunication of Giani Zail Singh, Buta Singh, and others from Guru Khasla Panth for their part in the operation Bluestar.

3rd September

1708 Madho Dass Baeragi was baptised and became Banda Singh Bahadur.

Madho Dass Baeragi was administered baptism by Guru Gobind Singh himself to the accompaniment of Bhai Daya Singh and three other Sikhs. He was renamed Gurbakhash Singh. Madho Das was an Udasi Sikh, and he submitted to the protection of the Guru, saying he was his "banda," devotee. Keeping in view the susceptibilities of Bairagi followers of Gurbakhash Singh, Guru Gobind ordained that henceforth Guru Ka Langar would cater to the people of all faith; only vegetarian food shall be served in Langar. Subsequently, he was sent to Punjab to punish the cruel Mughal Nawabs and came to be known as Banda Bahadur.

1922 Sardar Bhagat Singh of village Todha Khurad and his two sons, Sardar Tara Singh and Sardar Asa Singh, were badly tortured for suspicion of their sympathetic views regarding Guru-Ka-Bagh Morcha. As a result, Sardar Bhagat Singh died on Sep. 4 and Sardar Tara Singh died on Sep. 6, 1922.

1965 Fateh Singh declared that Punjabi Suba was more dear to him than India.

4th September



Gur Gadhi, Fourth Patshah, Guru Ram Das Ji. Guru Amar Das 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.



1838 Maharaja Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born at Raj Mahals to Mother Jinda.

5th September

1922 Sardar Pritpal Singh Ji received 100 lathi charges from the police in Guru-Ka-Bagh morcha but refused to depart with his Sikh faith.

By Albert Baldeo

“Chanderpaul, eyes focused like a laser on the ball from run up to the moment he demolishes it with his trademark pull/sweep, raises his bat, and kisses the pitch as the ball ricochets back off the boundary. The "Tiger" has reached yet another half century, this one the most important of all." That was a few days ago, as Guyanese and Caribbean cricket legend Shivnarine Chanderpaul, former captain of the West Indies team, ICC's Hall of Fame inductee, West Indian hero, and one of cricket's most celebrated players, attained 50 years old.

Deserving appreciations for this unsung hero from Unity village, Guyana, who was denied the chance to become the leading test scorer in West Indies cricket, and "forced to retire," when his career was unceremoniously derailed by Dave Cameron's and the WICB's whimsical and spiteful actions, poured in, not least in "Little Guyana," where he is revered. The left-handed batsman scored 11,867 runs at an average of 51, with 30 centuries in an illustrious career of 164 Tests to end at the second place in the list of all-time West Indies run scorers, 86 runs short of legendary Brian Lara with 11,953 runs.

In a wider national context, it was Shiv's batting that lifted our spirits, exemplifying our collective strength and resilience we must all endeavor to espouse as a people, united in our duty never to surrender an inch of our republic to Venezuela, or our oil resources, to anyone. Regional political integration has its genesis in the exploits of sports champions like Chanderpaul, whose achievements helped foster a unifying and defining force. Test captain Kraigg Braithwaite, of Barbados, a country which has produced batsmen of the ilk of Garry Sobers, Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes, Clyde Walcott, Conrad Hunte, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes and other stalwarts, idolizes Chanderpaul and his batting style.

After all, Shiv was the man who personified longevity and tenacity and survived while 519 Test batsmen perished at the other end, and sharing a record 771 different partnerships in Tests, worthy world records that speak volumes about his singular durability and dependability. Rahul Dravid, the Indian "Wall", is next, but quite some distance behind at 453 Test dismissals at the other wicket, and 738 partnerships. Yet, Chanderpaul has rarely been given deserving accolades, like Dravid and Tendulkar. "That guy with the most Test matches for the West Indies, playing for over 20 years, I don't think people in the West Indies understand exactly his contribution," the Brian Lara acknowledges, reminding us that Shiv was instrumental in his many batting feats, even conceding that his compatriot deserved to go past his record for the most Test runs by a West Indian.

Many cricket connoisseurs have told me that if their lives depended on the professional application and dedication of a batsman to combat, survive the best bowling, including the most hostile, and keep his wicket intact, they would choose Shiv Chanderpaul. Indeed, Shiv famously faced 1,051 deliveries against India in 2002 without being dismissed, batting for 1,513 minutes. He was the consummate professional, blessed with the heart of a lion. Brett Lee knocked him out cold where he "could not feel anything, and could not stand or move any limb," with a fast, vicious bouncer; yet Chanderpaul refused the stretcher, and was up and running in a few minutes and even went on to score a brave century. Like another Guyanese icon, David Martins, reminds us, "Where are your heroes, Caribbean...show them to me..."

Such was his dedication to his craft, that he is the only notable international batsman who used dark stickers below his eyes, as anti-glare patches used to reduce light entering the peripheral area of the eyes so that he could bat and field without being affected by the sun's glare. Such attention to minute detail in his improvement and comfort as a cricketer, defines the man appropriately called "Tiger." Shiv has been the rock and anchor of the West Indies since 1994, a veritable Atlas, and has been one of the Caribbean's most accomplished, yet overlooked heroes. His premature retirement severely diminished the West Indies team. Chanderpaul's first Test century came in his 19th match, a testimony to his application and determination, after scoring as many as 15 half centuries

Shiv Chanderpaul-A batsman for all seasons



FLASHBACK: Albert Baldeo (left) presented an appreciation award to Shiv Chanderpaul in recognition of his inspiring and gigantic contribution to West Indian cricket.

in the previous 18 matches. From the small fishing village in Guyana, Shiv became the people's hero of David vs. Goliath vintage, and became a lone warrior after Hooper's, Lara's and Sarwan's retirements. He soldiered on as the people's champion, whose struggles and ultimate successes reflected their daily struggles to overcome the odds, the proverbial underdog defeating social and economic barriers that suppressed them.

The paucity of the team's batting in his career caused him to curtail his aggression. He became the proverbial Rock of Gibraltar, while supposedly better talents than him perished meekly at the other end. His detractors fail to appreciate that he honed his technique to make the very best of what God gave him and made up for deficits overwhelmingly in other areas. It is this single-minded dedication and adaptability that made him the champion and master he became.

Shiv did not have the genius of Rohan Kanhai or Sir Gary Sobers, the power of Sir Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge or Clive Lloyd, the dominance of Roy Fredericks, the technique of Alvin Kallicharran or the finesse of Carl Hooper, Lawrence Rowe or Ramnaresh Sarwan, but the statistical achievements he accumulated that determines how a batsman is measured—runs, centuries, averages—surpassed theirs. This is not to say he was better in the wider context by which batsmen are assessed, but it ensures that one cannot deny his status amongst the greats of the game. The ICC stamp is the imprimatur of greatness that puts Shiv in the top tier of cricket's immortals.

Those who are critical of his doggedness fail to appreciate that he was often the lone warrior in many lost causes at a time when West Indian cricket sank to unfathomable depths, and responsibility forced him to eschew glamor and style for dependability, audacity for attrition. Like all the great players, the breadth and depth

of his achievements provide sound rebuttals, considering that Chanderpaul has the record for the 4th fastest Test century, off just 67 balls against the worthy visiting Australians in 2002. In 2008, he hit a four and a six against the bowling of Chaminda Vaas, with 10 needed off two balls to win a One-Day International (ODI) against Sri Lanka.

He also created history with Sarwan when they monumentally combined to help West Indies chase down a 418-run target at Antigua in 2003 against Australia, scoring 105 and 104 runs each. He was named the captain of the team to face the visiting South Africans in 2005 and celebrated it by becoming only the second player to make a double century on debut as a Test captain, scoring an unbeaten 200 in Guyana. Another absolutely stunning record Chanderpaul holds is that of being stumped for the first time after having batted in 266 innings, while batting with as many as 82 different Test partners.

When I interviewed him about the reason for his longevity and success, he told me that, "I have an immense skill and unique gift - concentration, a divine gift bestowed by Lord Shiva" I marveled at him, then in 2005, and he cemented that belief to all, subsequently. There is no doubt that he must have a divine connection when you survey his immense accomplishments, longevity and humility. Ian Bishop, now an international cricket commentator, said it best, in tribute to Chanderpaul, 2008 Wisden Cricketer of the Year, "I played several Test series with him (Shiv), and have seen more esteemed team-mates shrink in the face of the fastest bowling, but never Chanderpaul...That no other West Indian managed a score of more than 60 in the Tests speaks of the yawning gap between his skill, commitment and experience - and theirs."

See other interviews and tributes here:

<https://caribbeancricket.com/news/xxxx/xx/xx/1076>

Indian American Teen Varshini Nagam gives a dazzling Bharatanatyam Rangapravesam performance



Varshini Nagam portraits at Harris Center Theater at Folsom



Varshini with mentors and family

AUGUST 26, 2024

SACRAMENTO (TIP): NRI high school 11th grade girl Varshini Nagam Bharatanatyam Rangapravesam program was held with impressiveness at Harris Center Theater at Folsom, California State - USA on August 18th 2024. Varshini has been interested in dance since childhood. Varshini was trained in Bharatanatyam from the age of 6 under the tutelage of Guru Smt. Hema Satyanarayanan. Varshini embarked on Bharatanatyam debut. These days, when there is little patronage for the ancient dance arts, the performance of this Telugu dynamism of Bharatanatyam is thoroughly entertaining. Varshini mesmerized the audience for almost three hours with her gestures and dance poses.

Varshini performed Varnam - Mathe Malayadwaja, a composition of Sri H.N. Muttayyah Bhagavata. The phrase Mathe Malayadwaja itself means "Mother with the flag of the mountains" in Sanskrit, symbolizing the divine feminine force. This Varnam is a unique composition as it consists of two different sets of sahityas. One being a poetry describing King Malayadwaja Pandya, and the other featuring Solkattu Swaras. For this varnam, Varshini showcased two sancharis. The first sanchari tells the story of how Lord Ganesha was born. Goddess Parvati creates a little boy out of turmeric and sets him to guard while she takes a shower. When Lord Shiva arrives and tries to enter, the boy refuses to let him pass. In his anger, Shiva beheads the boy. Parvati, devastated, demands her son to be brought back to life. Shiva, realizing his mistake, places an elephant's head on the boy, and hence the boy was called Ganesha. This sanchari is particularly special to Varshini and her family, as her

great-grandfather, Sri Bonam Anjaneyulu Garu, wrote the story and was the production executive for the classic Telugu movie "Vinayaka Vijayam," which depicts the birth of Lord Ganesha. The second sanchari portrays the fierce battle where Goddess Kalika Devi, an avatharam (or incarnation) of Goddess Parvathi, kills the demon Raktabeeja. Raktabeeja had the ability to reproduce from every single drop of his blood that touches the ground. As he fought, each drop of blood that fell spawned another demon, making him nearly invincible. Kalika Devi, in her wrathful form, consumed all his blood before it could touch the ground, ultimately vanquishing him and restoring peace. The exquisite footwork and scintillating beats Varshini demonstrated for this varnam had the audience applauding repeatedly.

On this occasion, distinguished guests Folsom City Council Member Mr. Chalamcharla Edukondalu said that the youth must continue the legacy of dance which is a part of Indian tradition. Rancho Cordova City Planning Commissioner Mr. Surender Devarapalli said that Bharatanatyam can bring balance to life and the power to harmonize emotions better. Bhaskar Vempati, the founder of Suvidha International Foundation, said that the youth of this generation should have access to some form of art. Mr. Vempati said that it causes decidedly good changes in their personality. They felicitated Varshini Nagam and presented her with certificates of appreciation. Varshini Nagam was given a certificate of appreciation from the office of California State Legislator Josh Hoover and US Congressman Kevin Kelly. Varshini was congratulated on the occasion of her

Bharatanatyam debut and also appreciated her for achieving a junior certificate in the 'SiliconAndhra Sampada' program. On behalf of 'Sampada' liaison Mrs. Shanti Konda, the

Congressman Kevin Kelly on the occasion of completing her 10th Rangapravesam as Guru.

During Rangapravesam, Varshini popularly performed a variety of Bharatanatyam dances at the Harris Center Theatre. Varshini gave a treat to the audience during her Rangapravesam: She danced for pushpanjali, alarippu, jatiswaram, varnam, Sivastuti and thillana songs. More than five hundred Sacramento Indian Americans and friends attended the event and congratulated Varshini. The program started with the prayer song of Ganesha sung by Vishruth Nagam, the elder brother of Varshini. On this occasion, Vishruth Nagam sang Ekadantaya Vakrathundaya, Anandamruthakarshini and Annamayya Keertana "Srimannarayana" melodiously on the stage. Vishruth Nagam performed his Rangapravesam in Carnatic music in Vijayawada at the age of 15 in 2018. It is a rare thing that two children from the same expatriate family make their debut in different disciplines within six years, and with this inspiration, expatriates should introduce traditional Indian arts to their children. In this way, many have suggested that the Indian art tradition will surely spread beyond the country and abroad.



Varshini gave a dazzling performance of Bharatanatyam

organizers have presented an appreciation certificate signed by "SiliconAndhra Founder and Chairman Mr. Anand Kuchibhotla".

With this program under the guidance of the local Kalashraya dance school, the famous Guru Smt. Hema Satyanarayanan was congratulated for completing 10 Bharatanatyam Rangapravesam programs. On this occasion and acknowledging Guru Hema's Bharatanatyam training skills, Folsom City Councilor Mr. Chalamcharla Edukondalu awarded her certificates of appreciation on stage amid loud cheers. Guru Hema also received appreciation certificates from California State Legislator Josh Hoover, and US National

This Bharatanatyam Ranga Pravesam performance features Sri Sai Rathina Sabhapati on vocals, Sri Gajendran Ganesan on mridangam, Sri Radhakrishnan Selvaprasad on violin, Sri Kadapa Raghavendran on flute and Sacramento local teen Vishal Venkateswaran on Kanjira. Varshini said that it was Guru Srimati Hema Satyanarayanan who taught her Bharatanatyam education with love. Varshini said, "I would like to express my humble gratitude to my parents, brother, dear guests, the audience who watched the Bharatanatyam Rangapravesam performance, and the orchestra who supported me." On this occasion, many artworks and pictures showing the excellence of Bharatanatyam, and India's rich culture were displayed in the lobby of the Harris Center Theater and impressed the audience. The Bharatanatyam Rangapravesam event was completed with an authentic Telugu dinner served by the local Folsom Ruchi restaurant.

(Based on a Press release)



Varshini is being honored

Renowned Bollywood Journalist Geeta Sharma Ventures into Mexico's Destination Wedding Market

LOS CABOS, MEXICO (TIP): Noted Bollywood journalist Geeta Sharma, known for her extensive experience in entertainment journalism, is making a significant move into the booming destination wedding industry in Mexico. Having started her career with Zee News in 2000, Geeta's journey has been marked by international travel, yoga instruction, and volunteer work with prominent figures like Sadhvi Ritambhara and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji. Now, she is poised to bring her unique expertise to the vibrant and culturally rich setting of Mexican weddings.

After returning to India in 2011 and resuming her role at Zee News, Geeta has continued to make waves in the entertainment industry. However, her latest venture represents a bold shift in focus. Geeta has identified Mexico as a prime location for Indian destination weddings, particularly in stunning locales like Los Cabos and Cancun, which boast crystal-clear blue waters and white sandy beaches.

"Indian weddings in Mexico are an untapped market with immense potential," Geeta Sharma observes. "While the trend of destination weddings in Mexico has been ongoing, there is a significant opportunity to cater specifically to Indian-origin couples, including North Indian, Sikh, Gujarati, and South Indian communities."

Geeta has noted that Indian weddings in Mexico are often organized by Spanish-speaking coordinators, but



Geeta Sharma who made waves in the entertainment industry has now made her foray into destination weddings in Mexico

she sees a unique niche in offering services that are tailored to the cultural and emotional needs of Indian

couples. She emphasizes the similarities between Indian and Mexican cultures, particularly in their shared values of family, emotional connections, and the belief in living for the moment.

Geeta's move is greatly bolstered by her collaboration with Pradeep Agarwal, a cultural mogul who has spent the last 27 years tirelessly promoting Indian art and lifestyle in Mexico. From Indian art and artists to Ayurveda, Indian food, spices, and technology, Agarwal's influence has been profound.

"You can take a man out of India but you cannot take India out of a man. Regardless of wherever I live, I have always taken great pride in promoting Indian culture," rejoices Agarwal. "The country's cultural similarities with India, such as a deep respect for family values and emotional connections, make it an ideal location."

Geeta's entry into the wedding industry follows her time in Mexico between 2008 and 2009, where she witnessed the rise of Indian weddings in the region. With her strong grasp of Indian culture and global entertainment, she is set to make a significant impact by offering unique wedding experiences that merge the best of both worlds. As more Indian couples seek picturesque locations for their big day, her entry into the Mexico destination wedding market is perfectly timed.

ITServe's Synergy 2024, A Thrilling Tech Conference Planned In Las Vegas

AUGUST 26, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): ITServe Alliance's annual signature event, Synergy 2024 is a thrilling tech conference planned to be held at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas from October 29th and 30th, 2024," Suresh Potluri, Director of Synergy 2024 announced. "At Synergy, you'll get to network with peers, learn from experts, and discover new and exciting developments in the IT Industry. Don't miss the chance to hear from inspiring speakers who will show us how to conquer the upcoming challenges and opportunities in information technology."

According to the Synergy Organizing Team, packed with educational and entertainment sessions, Synergy is a unique event that caters to one's body, soul, and mind. "As you invest time to build your thought leadership, you can unwind from your daily stress at the breakout sessions. Synergy 2024 is a promising two-day event for the entire IT community in the US. The floor at the event has fun and entertainment packed for the participants. They can add more fun to their productive experience with an extended stay in Caesars Palace, Las Vegas."

At Synergy 2024, an esteemed panel of industry leaders and visionaries will share their invaluable insights and share their expertise on ways to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of technology and business. Participants will hear from influential figures and leaders from various sectors, providing unique perspectives and actionable strategies for driving innovation and growth.

"Synergy continues to add prominent speakers, valuable sponsorships, and help grow a community network of industry professionals across the country," said Amar Varada, ITServe's Governing Board Chair. "Participants at Synergy 2024 will have a platform for IT company heads to come together to hear industry leaders speak, engage in discussions with lawmakers, participate in interactive breakout sessions, and



deliberate on the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the world of IT Staffing and Technology."

Past speakers at Synergy included President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, 67th United States Secretary of State, Nikki Haley, the first female governor of South Carolina, Steve Forbes, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, Sheila Bair, Former Chair of FDIC, Kevin O'leary, Venture Capitalist & Star of ABC's Shark Tank, Zack Kass, Technology Futurist, Specialist in Generative AI Solutions, Yuvraj Singh, International Cricketer Entrepreneur & Philanthropist, Sadhguru J V, Founder of ISHA foundation, Jason McCann, Co-Founder & CEO Vari, and, Verne Harnish, Founder, Author & CEO Scaling Up.

"Synergy 2024 is a unique venue for the collision of brilliance, a networking supernova, and a tech safari all rolled into one," said Jagadeesh Mosali, National President of ITServe Alliance. "As you are aware, ITServe Alliance's Synergy is the only one-of-a-kind conference delivering innovative strategies, unique insights, and proven tactics for success, exclusively for IT service companies and individuals."

Synergy 2024 will focus on developing strategic relationships with partner organizations, sponsors, and supporters, to work for a better technology environment by building greater understanding. Breakout Sessions are other unique ways for every

member to dive deep into specific topics and explore practical solutions to common challenges faced by executives in today's competitive market, with interactive sessions tailored to your professional interests and expertise.

With Panel Discussions that are vital to the ITServe members, who are entrepreneurs, Synergy 2024 will be packed with sessions on Startup Cube Panel, CIO/CTO Panel, Financial Panel, Workforce & Contingency, Staffing Panel, Contracts & Litigations Panel, Mergers & Acquisitions Panel (M&A), Immigration Panel & Federal Contracting.

Networking and connecting with fellow CEOs and CxOs from leading organizations gives participants a platform to exchange ideas, forge new relationships, and uncover potential opportunities for collaboration and expansion in an environment designed to foster growth and success.

At the dozens of Business Expo Booths, Synergy delegates can explore a dynamic marketplace featuring a diverse range of vendors and service providers, offering unparalleled opportunities for networking, collaboration, and strategic partnerships.

It's crucial to stay informed about financial trends, budgeting strategies, and navigating fund crises, especially when dealing with delayed payments. Being part of and attending a financial panel at Synergy is a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field.

Understanding Mergers and Acquisitions tactics is essential for strategic growth, successful integrations, and maximizing business value. By attending our Mergers and Acquisitions panel, one will gain valuable insights from industry leaders.

In addition, participants will have opportunities to discover cutting-edge solutions and innovative technologies from ITServe's trusted partners, designed to optimize their business operations, enhance efficiency, and drive sustainable growth.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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

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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.