



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TIM WALZ IS KAMALA HARRIS'S V-P PICK



"I'm pleased to share that I've made my decision: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will join our campaign as my running mate," VP Kamala Harris announced.

AUGUST 6, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate on Tuesday, August 6, choosing a progressive policy champion and a plain speaker from America's heartland to help win over the rural, white voters.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim government

STUDENT LEADERS NADID ISLAM AND ASIF MAHMUD SAJIB BHUIYAN JOIN THE NEW DISPENSATION IN BANGLADESH HEADED BY MUHAMMAD YUNUS



August 9, 2024

DHAKA (TIP): A 14-member interim government in Bangladesh, under the leadership of Noble Laureate Muhammad Yunus, was sworn in on Thursday, August 7, 2024, three days after Sheikh Hasina stepped down as Prime Minister and left the country after mass protests.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin (left) administers the oath of office to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as the leader of the country's interim government at a ceremony in Dhaka on August 8, 2024.

Screen grab

Indian Consulate in New York is worried about travel agents' malpractices

THEY OVERCHARGE AND SUBMIT FAKE DOCUMENTS



Consul General of India in New York Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan holds a meeting with the media persons on August 7, 2024. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Consul Smt Pragya Singh, Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, Consul General Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul Smt. Shruti Pandey, and Consul Mr. Bijender Kumar

AUGUST 7, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Consul General of India in New York Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan on August 7, invited the media persons to the Consulate to brief them on the consular services and to share with them his worries about the malpractices indulged in by the travel agents. Mr. Pradhan first spoke about the growing Indian student population in his

jurisdiction which has 10 States. They face various kinds of situations to meet which they need the guidance from the community.

The Consulate, Mr. Pradhan said, is constantly in touch with the students, and their needs are always considered on a priority basis.

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Manish Sisodia walks out of Tihar jail after spending 17 months behind bars

I got bail due to the power of Constitution and democracy. This power will ensure our leader Arvind Kejriwal is also released," Mr. Sisodia said after walking out of jail.

AUGUST 9, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi and senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia walked out of Tihar Jail on Friday, August 9, 2024, after 17 months behind bars.

(ALSO READ EDITORIAL - WELCOME STEP IN CORRECTING A SERIOUS MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE: ON SUPREME COURT OF INDIA GRANTING BAIL TO SISODIA)

The Supreme Court gave him bail earlier in the day and said his long incarceration without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice.

The former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister was arrested by both the Central Bureau of Investigation

CONTD ON PAGE 40



AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia waves to supporters after being released from the Tihar jail in New Delhi on August 9, 2024 after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi Excise policy scam.

Photo Credit: PTI

INSIDE

WELCOME STEP IN CORRECTING A SERIOUS MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE: ON SUPREME COURT OF INDIA GRANTING BAIL TO SISODIA PAGE 2

TRYSTS AND TURNS : ADDING CASTE TO CREED DEEPENS DISUNITY PAGE 8

IN TIM WALZ, KAMALA HARRIS GETS A TRUMP CARD TO TRUMP TRUMP PAGE 9

NADEEM-NEERAJ JAVELIN RIVALRY CAN PAVE THE WAY FOR SPORTS BONHOMIE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN PAGE 38



Andy Singh

516-441-7000 16 E. Old Country Road Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



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EVER TRUTHFUL**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovllien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

COMMENT

Welcome Step in Correcting a Serious Miscarriage of Justice: On Supreme Court of India Granting Bail to Sisodia

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

On August 9, the Supreme Court of India granted bail to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manjit Sisodia, marking a significant moment in a case that has drawn national attention. Sisodia, a prominent leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), had been incarcerated for 17 months under circumstances that many believe were politically motivated. His arrest and the prolonged detention have raised serious questions about the integrity of India's legal and political systems.

Manjit Sisodia was arrested on March 3, 2023, in connection with an alleged liquor policy scam in Delhi. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) accused Sisodia of involvement in irregularities related to the Delhi Excise Policy, which was claimed to have caused significant financial losses to the government. The charges against Sisodia included money laundering, corruption, and abuse of power. However, from the outset, the case against him appeared tenuous, with the evidence presented by the investigating agencies coming under scrutiny.

Despite the high-profile nature of the case, the investigating agencies failed to present a solid case in court. Over the course of 17 months, no formal charges were filed against Sisodia, and the evidence against him remained unconvincing. The prolonged detention without trial led to widespread speculation that the case was less about justice and more about political retribution. The Supreme Court's decision to grant bail to Sisodia is a reflection of the growing concerns over the misuse of investigative agencies for political ends.

The CBI and ED's handling of the case has raised serious questions about their independence and the potential influence of the central government. The agencies' inability to produce substantive evidence against Sisodia suggests that the case may have been politically motivated. The Modi government, which has been at odds with the AAP government in Delhi, is seen by many

as using these agencies to target its political rivals.

The timing of Sisodia's arrest and the prolonged nature of his detention suggest a deliberate strategy to undermine the AAP government. The BJP, which has struggled to dislodge the AAP from power in Delhi despite multiple attempts, may have viewed Sisodia's arrest as a way to destabilize the Kejriwal administration. By keeping Sisodia and other senior AAP leaders like Satyendra Jain and Arvind Kejriwal entangled in legal battles, the BJP could have hoped to create administrative chaos in Delhi and weaken the party's standing among voters.

The case against Sisodia and his prolonged incarceration without trial represent a significant challenge to India's democratic norms. The principle of the rule of law requires that individuals accused of crimes be given a fair and timely trial. However, in Sisodia's case, this fundamental right appears to have been denied. The 17-month-long detention without any substantial legal proceedings raises concerns about the erosion of civil liberties and the potential misuse of state power.

The Modi government's approach to dealing with political opponents through legal means reflects a worrying trend in Indian politics. By leveraging the power of investigative agencies, the government can sideline opposition leaders, reducing their ability to function effectively and weakening democratic checks and balances. This tactic not only undermines the rights of individuals like Sisodia but also poses a broader threat to the health of India's democracy.

The Supreme Court's decision to grant bail to Sisodia is a critical intervention in this context. It signals that the judiciary remains a vital check on the excesses of the executive branch. The Court recognized that Sisodia had been kept in detention for an extended period without any formal charges being brought against him. This decision reaffirms the importance of upholding individual rights and ensuring that the legal process is not misused for political purposes.

However, the case also highlights the limitations of the judiciary in dealing with the sheer volume of

politically motivated cases. The Modi government may have calculated that the lower courts would be hesitant to challenge the actions of powerful investigative agencies, and that the Supreme Court, burdened with numerous cases, might take time to address such issues. This strategy of delay and legal entanglement is a tactic that can be used to keep political opponents in a state of limbo, even when the evidence against them is weak.

The Sisodia case underscores the need for a thorough review of the powers granted to India's investigative agencies. The ability to arrest and detain individuals for extended periods without trial is a draconian measure that can easily be abused. There is an urgent need to reform the laws governing these agencies to ensure that they operate within the bounds of justice and fairness. This includes setting clear guidelines for the initiation of investigations, the collection of evidence, and the timelines for bringing cases to trial.

The case also calls for greater judicial oversight of the actions of these agencies. The judiciary must be empowered to act swiftly to prevent the misuse of power and to protect the rights of individuals. This includes the ability to scrutinize the evidence presented by investigative agencies and to ensure that arrests and detentions are based on solid legal grounds, not political calculations.

The Supreme Court's decision to grant bail to Manjit Sisodia is a welcome step in correcting a serious miscarriage of justice. However, the case highlights the broader issues of political interference in the legal system and the potential abuse of power by investigative agencies. As India grapples with these challenges, it is essential to reaffirm the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights. The Sisodia case should serve as a catalyst for much-needed reforms to ensure that the legal system is not used as a tool for political vendettas, but as a means of delivering justice fairly and impartially. The motto "Satyamev Jayate" needs to be seen in practice, and not just as an emblem in government offices and the portals of the courts.

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A Conversation with Dr. Avinash Gupta, President of FIA NY NJ CT NE on the forthcoming India Day Parade in New York City



Dr. Avinash Gupta spoke with The Indian Panorama chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja about the forthcoming India Day Parade on August 18 in New York City

THE INDIA DAY PARADE ORGANIZED BY THE FIA NY NJ CT NE IN NEW YORK CITY IS BILLED AS THE LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE OUTSIDE OF INDIA. AND IT IS JUST A FEW DAYS AWAY. THE INDIAN PANORAMA SPOKE WITH THE FIA PRESIDENT DR. AVINASH GUPTA ON AUGUST 4 TO KNOW ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 42ND EDITION OF THE PARADE ON AUGUST 18.

HERE ARE SOME EXCERPTS.

TIP: THANK YOU FOR TAKING OUT YOUR TIME TO SPEAK WITH THE INDIAN PANAMA. THE WORLD FAMOUS, ONE OF THE LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADES, AND THE LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE OUTSIDE OF INDIA IS JUST ABOUT A FEW DAYS AWAY NOW, AND AS THE TIME COMES NEARER, IN SPITE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT YOU HAVE HAD IN PLACE TILL NOW, YOU MIGHT BE QUITE NERVOUS. ARE YOU?

Avinash: It's natural to be nervous, but I'm very much at it because of our hardworking and dedicated team. And you will be surprised to know that our preparation starts the day after the parade for next year. So, it was a long time and long way.

TIP: SO, YOU GOT THE WHOLE YEAR TO PREPARE FOR IT.

Avinash: Yes, we have to take the New York City permits; we have to have floats. We have to put up the review stand, press stand. Then we have to arrange for a gala. We have to select caterers. Then there is a cultural program. And the biggest and most difficult is to get the celebrities from India.

TIP: YOU HAVE A VERY IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF GUESTS THIS YEAR, I THINK, TOPPED BY THE FAMOUS BIHARI ORIGIN FAMOUS BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS SONAKSHI SINHA. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, SHE IS GOING TO BE THE GRAND MARSHAL.

Avinash: Yes. Our theme this year is Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam. World is one family. And we are celebrating unity and diversity and inclusiveness. I'm proud to announce that our Grand Marshal is Bollywood superstar Sonakshi Sinha, and we have two guests of honor. One is a versatile actor, Mr. Pankaj Tripathy, and the other is Member of Indian

Parliament, and actor and singer, Mr. Manoj Tiwari.

TIP: IS IT A COINCIDENCE, OR IT'S BY DESIGN THAT YOU HAVE ALL THE THREE COMING FROM BIHAR.

Avinash: It's just a coincidence.

TIP: SOMEBODY WAS SAYING, LOOK HERE THE PRESIDENT THIS YEAR IS FROM BIHAR OR JHARKHAND, IF YOU PREFER TO SAY. BECAUSE HE'S FROM THERE SO HE HAS A PREFERENCE FOR PEOPLE FROM HIS OWN STATE .IS THAT SO?

Avinash: No, that's not true. It was just a coincidence. Just a coincidence, because these three names are recognized all over India. They are pan global stars.

TIP: THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION IS A BIHARI. AND THE THREE GUESTS THAT ARE COMING TO THE TO BRING GLORY TO YOUR CAREER, THEY ALSO HAPPEN TO BE BIHARI. SO, DO WE CALL IT A BIHAR AFFAIR?

Avinash: Not at all. I'm a proud Bihari, but before that, I'm a proud Indian, and we are celebrating India's Independence Day. We have to show our strength. There are 5 million of us in this country, and we don't have a say. But I'm very much excited that more and more people are coming into mainstream, whether it is science, technology or even politics. And that day, just like you saw the sea of blue after the World Cup win, you will see a sea of American Indians, or I would say, Indian Americans in Madison Avenue, between 38th Street and 28th Street.

TIP: BESIDES THOSE THREE NAMES THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN, WHO ARE CELEBRITIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, AND THEY ARE COMING HERE AS YOUR SPECIAL GUESTS, WHAT OTHER CELEBRITIES OR VIPS DO YOU THINK WOULD BE APPEARING AT THE PARADE?

Avinash: I'm proud to announce that Mayor of New York City has always come. And this year also he has he's coming. And this year, Governor of New York State Kathy Hochul will also be there.

TIP: CAN YOU GIVE US AN OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE 18TH, THE DAY OF THE PARADE?

Avinash: Actually, before the parade which is on the 18th, we have 15th of August, which is the Independence Day. We hoist a tricolor on Times Square, and we have been doing it for three years.

TIP: AND WHAT TIME IS THAT?

Avinash: It's at 1030 AM at Times Square.

TIP: AND IS IT OPEN TO PUBLIC?

Avinash: It's open to public, and usually the Consul General hoists the flag, and we invite all the local congressmen, senators. And then in the evening, we have lighting of the Empire State Building in tricolor. And we are going to get a celebrity to do that. And then after the 15th of August, on Sunday, August 18 is the parade. We start at 12 noon from 38th Street and Madison Avenue and march all the way down to 28th Street. And then there are booths. We have lot of booths, and they are all filled up. We have food booths. Vendors are there. They are promoting local business. So, although the premium booth is for \$2500 and standard booth is for \$1500 there is a special pricing for women entrepreneur. We just don't talk women empowerment; we practice it also. For women entrepreneur it is only \$500. Then we have the Gala. It's a grand Gala, and this year it is a very relevant location-

Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian in Battery Park, One Bowling Green, from six o'clock to 10 o'clock.

TIP: IS IT ON THE SAME DAY- AUGUST 18?

Avinash: Yes, the same day, same day, the 18th. All the celebrities will be there. The governor will be there. And all the businesspeople, who's who of New York City and tri state area are there. So, it's a good opportunity to meet with the celebrities and also network with the businesspeople. And like I said, Who's Who of New York is there.

TIP: THAT APART. WHAT IS THERE FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE COMING TO THE PARADE? THEY WOULD OF COURSE, BE WATCHING THE PARADE. AND ALSO, YOU SAID THERE IS A CULTURAL PROGRAM. IS IT OPEN TO PUBLIC?

Avinash: Yes. Cultural program is open to public.

TIP: AND WHAT MY READERS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU, THE KIND OF PROGRAM THAT YOU ARE PRESENTING, THE ARTIST WHO ARE COMING?

Avinash: There is a patriotic dress competition.

TIP: THAT'S SOMETHING NEW.

Avinash: And that's very popular. And there is cash prize for that, and a ticket to the gala also. And then in the cultural program which is actually very top class, because all the famous dance schools will participate. And this year, Mr. Manoj Tiwari has agreed to sing there. So, that will be an added attraction, in addition to all the dance schools.

TIP: ARE THE CELEBRITIES GOING TO APPEAR ON THE STAGE?

Avinash: Yes, all three celebrities, and that's on 25th Street from 2.30 PM to 5 PM.

TIP: HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU EXPECT IN THIS PARADE THIS YEAR?

Avinash: We are expecting more people this year because of all the three celebrities and so, definitely more than 100,000 or 150,000 people on both sides of the street, and the highlight of this year is the Ram Mandir afloat.



TIP : CAN YOU PLEASE TALK ABOUT RAM MANDIR FLOAT?

Avinash: Yeah. So, this is the exact replica of the Ram Mandir, which was built in Ayodhya after 500 years of wait, and all the Ram bhaktas are going to march with the float. And this float has already been built and shipped from India, and it's being assembled as we speak. And there are nine streets and 18 corners. There will be Ram Bhaktas there. Each corner is

INDIAN-ORIGIN SHOPLIFTER-FRAUDSTER JAILED FOR 10 YEARS IN UK



Narinder Kaur aka Nina Tiara, 54 was on Tuesday, July 30, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a court in south-west England after she was found guilty of conning retailers and other businesses out of thousands of pounds.

Photo for representation only

JULY 30, 2024

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin woman was on Tuesday, July 30, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a court in south-west England after she was found guilty of conning retailers and other businesses out of thousands of pounds.

Narinder Kaur aka Nina Tiara, 54, was previously found guilty of 26 counts of fraud, money laundering and perverting the course of justice in March 2023.

Prosecutors said she had shoplifted on an industrial scale and deceived shops into refunding her for items that she had never actually purchased. She was sentenced at Gloucestershire Crown Court for stealing from more than 1,000 shops across the UK.

"This sentence today sends out a clear message that West Mercia Police will deal seriously with prolific fraudsters," said Steve Tristram, fraud investigator from West Mercia Police's Economic Crime Unit.

"Kaur is a calculated individual who committed offences across the country, dishonestly claiming refunds on items she had stolen. She showed no remorse for her actions and even thought she would get away with submitting false documents to the court with the intention of perverting the course of justice," he said.

The police force took ownership of the investigation into Kaur in 2018 and worked with the UK's National Business Crime Solution, an organization representing retailers, and other police forces as a "multi-agency approach".

"We were able to investigate further into her criminal activity and found fraudulent activity in her bank accounts which subsequently brought her to justice," added Tristram.

Kaur was found to have travelled extensively across the country to steal from well-known high street stores and then dishonestly claimed refunds on those items.

Between July 2015 and September 2019, it is estimated Kaur netted around GBP 2,000 worth of refunds per week, equating to over half a million pounds in fraudulent refunds and stolen goods.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin techie Siddhant Patil's body recovered from Avalanche Creek

AUGUST 5, 2024

WEST GLACIER PARK, MONTANA (TIP): Authorities at Glacier National Park have confirmed that a body recovered on Saturday, August 3, in Avalanche Creek is believed to be that of Siddhant Vitthal Patil, a 26-year-old hiker from India who tragically fell into the creek and drowned on July 6, 2024. The recovery brings a somber close to weeks of intense search efforts that began immediately after the incident.

The discovery was made around 10:30 AM when a park visitor reported seeing a body in the creek below the gorge. Rangers responded quickly and initiated recovery efforts, which were successful in retrieving the body. Clothing and gear matching those worn by Patil on the day of the incident were also found at the scene. The Flathead County coroner is now working to confirm the identity through DNA or dental records.

The search for Patil was hampered by dangerous conditions in Avalanche Creek.

Submerged obstacles like fallen trees and rocks, along with the high-water levels and swift currents characteristic of spring and summer runoff, made it difficult for rangers to access certain parts of the gorge. Despite these



Siddhant Vitthal Patil, a 26-year-old hiker from India tragically fell into the creek and drowned on July 6, 2024.

challenges, rangers utilized long poles and drones in their search efforts. As water levels receded, they were able to probe deeper sections of the gorge, leading to today's discovery.

Patil's fall occurred while he was hiking with friends along the Avalanche Lake Trail. According to witnesses, he diverted from the trail and, while standing on a large rock above the gorge, either slipped or lost his balance, falling into the creek below. He was briefly seen

resurfacing before being swept away by the strong current into the gorge, from where he did not emerge.

Search efforts have been ongoing since the day of the accident, with aerial searches conducted by ALERT helicopters and ground searches by rangers. Despite these extensive efforts, Patil's body remained elusive until today, with only some personal items being recovered downstream in the weeks following the incident.

The tragedy was compounded by the drowning of another visitor, 28-year-old Raju Jha from Nepal, on the same day. Jha, who had been living in Oregon, drowned while swimming in Lake McDonald near Sprague Creek Campground.

Patil had been residing and working in California before his visit to Glacier National Park. The park's officials have expressed their deepest condolences to Patil's family and friends, hoping that the recovery of his body brings some measure of closure to those who knew and loved him.

The Trail of the Cedars and Avalanche Lake Trail were temporarily closed during today's recovery efforts but were reopened to the public by mid-afternoon.

Indian lawyer struck off UK solicitors' register for 'sham marriages' conviction



Mathew Moghan Rajamohan Chellam faced charges of fraudulent applications by Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Photo for representation only

JULY 30, 2024

LONDON (TIP): A 44-year-old man who qualified as a lawyer in India has been struck off from practising in the UK by the solicitors' watchdog after a tribunal heard of his conviction eight years ago for organising sham marriages for migrants to settle in Europe. Mathew Moghan Rajamohan Chellam faced charges of fraudulent applications by Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and a disciplinary tribunal concluded in its ruling that there was no doubt that he knew or ought to have known that his conduct was in material breach of the obligations to protect the public and the reputation of the legal profession.

In a judgment dated July 5 released recently, the tribunal notes that Chellam has since returned to India and that his current address in India was unknown. "The tribunal ordered that the respondent, Mathew Moghan Rajamohan Chellam, solicitor, be struck off the roll of solicitors and it further ordered that he do pay the costs of and incidental to this application and inquiry fixed in the sum of GBP 4,058.00," read the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal order. "In assessing culpability, the tribunal took account of the fact that the respondent's motivation for the misconduct was for monetary gain, the fact that the misconduct arose from carefully planned actions including by using sham marriages with a view to abusing applicable laws, and that the circumstances giving rise to the misconduct were under the direct control of the respondent and concluded that respondent's level of culpability was extremely high," it notes.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student charged for falsifying records for US university admission

AUGUST 4, 2024

BETHLEHEM, PA (TIP): A 19-year-old Indian-origin student, who was arrested and charged with falsifying records to gain admission to a US university, will have to return to India under a plea deal entered with American authorities. Aryan Anand had submitted fake and falsified documents to secure admission into Lehigh University, a private research university in Pennsylvania for the 2023-2024 academic year.

A report in the Lehigh University's student newspaper 'The Brown and White', said last month that a police investigation had found that Anand had falsified admission and financial aid documents. He had even "faked his father's death" as part of the conspiracy to obtain admission and scholarship, it said.

Anand was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Jordan Knisley on June 12, with a bail of USD 25,000. He pleaded guilty to one count of forgery.

As part of the plea deal, he was sentenced to one to three months in Northampton County Prison, "which amounted to a time-served sentence", lehighvalleylive.com quoted defense attorney Molly Heidorn as saying.

As part of the deal, Anand is required to return to India and Lehigh chose not to seek restitution of about USD 85,000. He was released to the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to a release issued by the office of Northampton County's district attorney Stephen Baratta, Anand had created a fake email address impersonating a school principal, the report in lehighvalleylive.com said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Aryan Anand had submitted fake and falsified documents to secure admission into Lehigh University

Indian American Dr. Sreeni Gangasani elected chairman of Georgia Composite Medical Board

AUGUST 5, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Dr. Sreeni R. Gangasani, a cardiologist based in Lawrenceville, Georgia, has been elected to serve as the Chairman of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Dr. Gangasani has been a member of the Board since 2021 and served as Vice Chair for the 2023-24 term.

Dr. Gangasani is a founding partner of the Cardiovascular Group in Gwinnett County, Metro Atlanta. He holds board certifications in cardiovascular disease, nuclear cardiology, heart failure, and transplantation. Dr. Gangasani is an alumnus of Kurnool Medical College at the University of Health Sciences, where he graduated with honors.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Gangasani has held several leadership roles within professional organizations, including serving as the past president



Dr. Sreeni R. Gangasani has been elected to serve as the Chairman of the Georgia Composite Medical Board

of the Georgia Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage (GAPI) and as Vice Chair of the American

Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI). He also chaired the AAPI conventions in Atlanta in 2019 and 2021, as well as the AAPI Global Health Summit in 2019-20 in Hyderabad, India.

The Georgia Composite Medical Board is an independent state agency responsible for protecting the health of Georgians by regulating the practice of medicine. The Board licenses physicians and other healthcare professionals, investigates complaints, and enforces the Medical Practice Act. It is composed of fifteen volunteer members appointed by the Governor, including thirteen practicing physicians, two non-physician consumer appointees, and one ex-officio Physician Assistant.

Dr. Gangasani was also recently elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees of GAPI for the 2024-25 term.

INDIAN AMERICAN RAJEEV RAM BECOMES OLDEST OLYMPIC TENNIS MEDALIST, SECURES SILVER IN MEN'S DOUBLES



At age 40, Rajeev Ram became the oldest player to win an Olympic medal in tennis

AUGUST 7, 2024

PARIS (TIP): Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek of the United States secured a silver medal in the men's tennis doubles at the 2024 Olympics, following a closely contested match against Australia's Matt Ebden and John Peers on Saturday. At age 40, Ram became the oldest player to win an Olympic medal in tennis, adding another remarkable achievement to his storied career.

The American duo, who have been formidable on the court, started strong by clinching the first set 7-6. However, their Australian opponents rallied in the second set, taking it 7-6. With the match tied, the Olympic format called for a first-to-10, win-by-two tiebreaker instead of a traditional third set. In a nail-biting finish, Ram and Krajicek narrowly lost the tiebreaker 10-8, earning them the silver medal.

Ram, a tennis veteran based in Indiana, was on the verge of making history as the oldest player to win an Olympic tennis gold, a feat unmatched in both singles and doubles since the sport's return to the Summer Games in 1988. Despite the outcome, his journey to the final was impressive, highlighted by a quarterfinal victory over Spain's Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz, with Ram and Krajicek winning decisively 6-2, 6-4.

Rajeev Ram was born in Denver to Raghav and Sushma Ram, both immigrants from India. His father hailed from Bangalore, and his mother is from Delhi. Ram attended Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana, where his tennis skills began to flourish. He has described his knowledge of Hindi as "decent," but admitted that he unsuccessfully tried to learn Kannada, the language of his father's family. Ram's father passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2019.

This silver medal adds to Ram's illustrious career, which includes six Grand Slam titles and a previous Olympic silver in mixed doubles with Venus Williams at the 2016 Rio Games.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American rapper Hanumankind's high-octane track 'Big Dawgs' makes waves across the world



Hanumankind's track 'Big Dawgs' has amassed over 11 million views on YouTube in just three weeks

AUGUST 4, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Kerala-born rapper Hanumankind, also known as Sooraj Cherukat, has set the internet abuzz with his latest music video, "Big Dawgs." The track, which has amassed over 11 million views on YouTube in just three weeks, is making waves across the globe, establishing Hanumankind as a rising star in the international hip-hop scene.

Shot in the coastal district of Ponnani, Kerala, the video features a stunning display of daredevilry inside the iconic "wall of death," where performers ride motorcycles and small vehicles at breakneck speeds along wooden planks. Directed by Bijoy Shetty, the video's electrifying visuals complement the high-energy beats and raw, defiant lyrics that have come to define Hanumankind's style.

The rapper's journey to fame is as unconventional as his music. Born in Kerala, Cherukat spent his formative years moving from country to country before settling in Houston, Texas. After returning to India in 2012 to complete his education, he took up a traditional nine-to-five job at Goldman Sachs while pursuing his passion for music on the side. What began as a hobby has now blossomed into a full-fledged career, with Hanumankind currently signed to Def Jam India, one of the world's most prestigious record labels.

"Big Dawgs" has not only captured the attention of hip-hop fans but has also dominated social media platforms like TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram. The track has also earned over 11.5 million streams on Spotify, holding the top spot on the Viral Songs Global chart since late July.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US continues to expect accountability from India on Pannun's assassination bid

AUGUST 2, 2024
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US has said it expects accountability from India concerning the alleged role of an Indian government employee in the failed attempt to assassinate a Sikh separatist on US soil last summer.

In November last year, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Sikh separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who holds dual American and Canadian citizenship, in New York.

Gupta, who was arrested in the Czech Republic in June last year, was extradited to the US on June 14.

"We continue to expect accountability from the government of India in relation to the alleged role of an Indian government employee in the failed attempt to assassinate a US citizen on US soil that occurred last summer," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters in response to a question at his daily news conference.

"We continue to raise our concerns directly with the Indian government at senior levels," he said.

India has denied the allegations but has constituted an internal investigations team to look into it.

Patel, however, declined to comment on a news report alleging that Canadian authorities claim to have arrested five Indian nationals planning to target a Sikh separatist at a wedding ceremony.

"As it relates to the news that you mentioned out of Canada, I would refer you to the Canadian government to comment on issues that are happening within their law enforcement system," the official said.

He said that the US continues to raise our concerns directly with the Indian government at senior levels.

(Source: PTI)



Gurbatwant Singh Pannun

File photo

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

INDIAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK IS WORRIED ABOUT TRAVEL AGENTS' MALPRACTICES

The various services being provided and the digital platforms created by the Consulate for providing information etc. were part of the Consul General's address.

Finally, the Consul General touched upon the issue for which he had invited the media persons. He said that several instances have come to the notice of the Consulate where travel agents have overcharged applicants for assistance in getting Consular services. He said the Consulate or the VFS do not charge any extra fee other than the one stipulated by the Consulate.

Mr. Pradhan spoke about fake documents being submitted by these agents. He also said that a number of fake E-Visa websites, claiming to provide E-visa services, were active on the internet.

He sought the help of the TV channels and newspapers in cautioning the public against falling prey to the unscrupulous agents, and avail the services directly from the Consulate and the VFS Global, the designated agents to provide consular services.

The information about the fees for various services can easily be found at the Consulate's website <https://www.indiainnewyork.gov.in>, and at the VFS Global website <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind/>.

Pakistani man charged for plotting to kill Donald Trump

AUGUST 7, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): A Pakistani citizen has been charged in an elaborate plot that reads like a spy thriller to assassinate Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland, who announced the charges against Asif Merchant on Tuesday, August 5, indicated that the target was Trump, but did not name him.

"For years, the Justice Department has been working aggressively to counter Iran's brazen and unrelenting efforts to retaliate against American public officials for the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani," he said.

Trump was the US President who ordered the killing of Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in 2020, which points the assassination plot towards Trump.

According to court documents, others may also have been intended victims because of the mention of targets in the plural.

Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI) Chief Christopher Wray said, "This dangerous murder-for-hire plot exposed in today's charges allegedly was orchestrated by a Pakistani national with close ties to Iran and is straight out of the Iranian playbook."

The alleged plotter, who is also known as Asif Raza Merchant, told officials that he has two wives, one each in Pakistan and in Iran, as well as children



Asif Merchant aka Asif Raza Merchant

in both countries.

In the complaint filed in the Federal court in Brooklyn, the plot reads like a spy thriller with an elaborate scheme to burglarize the home of a target, creating diversions with protests and rallies, and killing the politician.

It also included a show of bonding between Merchant, 46, and the undercover officers he thought were professional killers.

The court papers said the plot involved multiple elements: stealing documents or USB drives from a target's home; planning protests, and killing a politician or government official.

Merchant made up code names for each element in the plot: "tee-shirt" for protests, "flannel shirt" for stealing documents, "fleece jacket" for the assassination, and "yarn-dye" for their

meetings.

To entice the person, he contacted first and who informed officials, Merchant told him that he has an uncle in the "yarn-dyed" business in Pakistan and he could go into business with them.

He asked the government source he thought was an assassin for hire to explain how the target would die in different scenarios.

The revelation about this plot comes less than a month after the July 13 failed assassination attempt on Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania.

However, there does not seem to be a connection between the plot by Merchant and that attempt, which officials have said was carried out by a lone wolf, a person unconnected to any group or organization.

The plot failed because Merchant tried to recruit FBI agents for the assassination attempt.

"Fortunately, the assassins Merchant tried to hire were undercover FBI agents," said Christie Curtis, the Acting Assistant Director of the New York FBI Field Office.

He was arrested on July 12 as he was getting ready to catch a flight out of the country. Merchant arrived in the US in April from Pakistan after spending time in Iran, according to the version of the plot in court papers.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

A Conversation with Dr. Avinash Gupta, President of FIA NY NJ CT NE on the forthcoming India Day Parade in New York City

assigned to a temple, and the people are coming by bus to the corner, and there they will be provided refreshment when they reach there, and they will be given flower petals to shower on the Ram Mandir when the Ram Mandir float passes through that street.

TIP: SOME TIME AGO, THERE WAS A MENTION ABOUT FIA ORGANIZING A BHANDARA. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

Avinash: Yeah. So, we are still planning on that. We are talking to Mr. Vikas Khanna who is the celebrity Chef. He was planning to do the bhandara. We will give to 5000 people the Prasad, some of it is coming from Ayodhya directly

TIP: THIS FOOD WILL NOT BE FOR EVERYBODY, BECAUSE THERE WILL BE SO MANY PEOPLE?

Avinash: Yeah. first come, first served.

TIP: AND WHERE WILL IT BE SERVED ?

Avinash: It will be in the booth area.

TIP: SO, MR. KHANNA WILL HAVE A BOOTH THERE?

Avinash: Yes. that would be after the parade.

TIP: HOW MANY BOOTHS YOU THINK ARE THERE?

Avinash: Now, there are 50 booths, and 30 of them are already filled up.

TIP: 30 OF THEM? 20 ARE LEFT? YOU SAID, FOR WOMEN, IT'S A SUBSIDIZED RATE AT \$500?

Avinash: Yes.

TIP: ANOTHER THING ABOUT THE FLOATS. HOW MANY FLOATS ARE GOING TO BE THERE, BESIDES THE RAM MANDIR FLOAT? IS IT GOING TO BE THE FIRST FLOAT?

Avinash: Actually, every year we have a Siddhi Vinayak temple float . They come first. Ram Mandir float will be the second. And then FIA float, then Consulate float, State Bank of India float. So, that's like that.

TIP: HOW MANY FLOATS ARE THERE?

Avinash: 25 floats are already registered, but we are expecting at least 10 more. And we have invited all religious entities, all ethnic entities, all states. And I have been talking constantly to everybody. So, the Christians are participating, Muslims are participating, and Sikhs hopefully will participate also.

TIP: I REMEMBER YOU MENTIONING THIS AT THE TIME OF THE CURTAIN RAISER IN THE CONSULATE. VERY CLEARLY YOU SAID THAT YOU INVITE TO ALL PEOPLE, PEOPLE BELONGING TO ALL FAITHS, TO COME WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS SIGNS. PEOPLE BELONGING TO ALL STATES, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE ARE WELCOME BECAUSE IT IS INDIA DAY PARADE. I REMEMBER VERY DISTINCTLY YOU

SAID THAT, AND THAT WAS VERY GOOD OF YOU. IT WAS TAKEN IN A VERY GOOD SPIRIT, IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT THAT YOU WANTED TO CONVEY TO PEOPLE. SO, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD EXPECT IN PARTICULAR FROM COMMUNITY?

Avinash: Yes, definitely. I appeal to all the community members with family and friends to give your three hours and come to the parade and enjoy. There will be something for everybody. The colorful floats, the food stalls, the DJ music, Gala, cultural program. So, there will be something for everybody. So, everybody should come and show our strength, show our unity in diversity and inclusiveness, and enjoy the parade.

I hope readers of The Indian Panorama have a fairly good idea of what they can expect at the world famous, the largest India Day Parade outside of India in New York City on Sunday, August 18. Get set and come over for a lovely experience. Let me tell you, the weather god is pleased , and it is going to be a perfect weather for an outing. Come yourself, bring your family, friends and neighbors, in particular the non-Indian ones. Let them know who we are and what we value.

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

NYC Comptroller Audit Finds City Overpaid \$11M On Migrant Contract



Comptroller Brad Lander in the audit says about \$11 million paid to DocGo by the Adams administration should be recouped.

AUG 7, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A new NYC Comptroller audit claims that the City overpaid for a firm's services during the midst of the migrant crisis.

Comptroller Brad Lander in the audit says about \$11 million paid to DocGo by the Adams administration should be recouped.

Eighty percent of the \$13.8 million payment shouldn't have been paid for the first two months of the firm's contract in May and June 2023, Lander argues.

DocGo was awarded a \$432 million no-bid contract by Mayor Eric Adams to help migrants in the city last year.

The audit reviewed payments used to provide hotel rooms, food and other services to migrants.

10,000 hotel rooms in New York City and Upstate New York that the city paid for were never used, according to the audit. 3,500 unused rooms at the Crowne

Plaza JFK Hotel reserved for ten days racked up a \$570,000 bill in June 2023.

According to the audit, \$833,000 was spent for 4,902 unused rooms at the Armoni Inn in Upstate Orangeburg for 61 nights in May and June 2023.

The city Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) was tasked with overseeing the contract and services provided by DocGo.

According to the audit, HPD did not hold DocGo to contract terms and conditions and did not require DocGo to provide appropriate documentation.

The audit also found a \$2 million overpayment by DocGo used for security subcontractors, 80 percent of the 189 hotel rooms paid for had no microwaves and refrigerators and some had roaches, bed bugs and rats.

Also, DocGo overspent thousands on meals for migrants in hotels, among other charges.

Suoizzi Celebrates U.S.-India Relations, BAPS 50th Anniversary in U.S.

AUGUST 2, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): Congressman Tom Suozzi (D - Long Island, Queens) introduced a bipartisan resolution recognizing the importance of the U.S.-India relations ahead of the 50th anniversary of the first BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple in the United States on August 4, 2024.

"Introducing legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in the United States is an honor. This legislation not only acknowledges the historic milestone of the Mandir but also celebrates the invaluable contributions made by BAPS and its volunteers to our community over the past 50 years," stated Suozzi. "Additionally, the legislation underscores the shared values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and religious pluralism between the U.S. and India while celebrating the enduring friendship between our two nations."

Congressman Suozzi, a long-time friend and supporter of the Indian



"Introducing legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in the United States is an honor", said Congressman Suozzi.

American community, proudly represents New York's 3rd Congressional District. The district, which extends from northeast Queens to Nassau County, including Hicksville, one of the most heavily concentrated populations of Indian residents on Long Island, is home to a large, active, and diverse community with roots in South Asia.

The bipartisan resolution, H.Res. 1394, "Celebrating the principles of democracy, religious pluralism, human rights, and the rule of law shared by both the United States and India, the strong people-to-people ties between the United States and India, and the success of the Indian diaspora in the United States," currently has 37 co-sponsors. This resolution also celebrates the religious pluralism of India, and the prosperity of the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, and Jain communities.

CONTD ON PAGE 12

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Trysts and Turns : Adding caste to creed deepens disunity



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

THAT FEELING OF BEING INDIAN, FIRST AND FOREMOST, IS SADLY BEING ERODED

Now that Rahul Gandhi has decided to become a full-time politician, he can pose a challenge to Narendra Modi's leadership. His choice of caste politics to combat the communal politics of Modi and the Sangh Parivar is, to my mind, a dangerous one. To add casteism to the two main evils that the country faces - communalism and corruption - will prevent our country from progressing, and is certainly a dangerous move.

As endemic corruption weakens the moral fiber, communalism and casteism militate against unity that is essential to make India stand up as one against poverty, illiteracy and the feudal mentality that presently pervades the national psyche.

Religious and caste identities are not going to disappear in the foreseeable future. It is a fact of life in India, been there for centuries. In rural India, where more than half of our people live, caste is a factor of daily existence. In urban India, where interaction is perforce impersonal, caste and even religious identity was slowly losing its relevance.

The attempt by Opposition parties to further divide the majority Hindus on the basis of caste for electoral gain is going to end in disaster.

I live in a building that boasts of 20 flat owners belonging to different religions (Hindu, Muslim and Christian); different castes (brahmins, SCs and OBCs, rajputs, khattris, kayasthas). They hail from different states of India - Maharashtra, Punjab, UP, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Goa. All of us get along famously with each other, eat together once a year on the terrace of the building and settle quarrels among the grandchildren by asking them to settle their quarrels themselves. You may have guessed it right - we are all educated, middle-income citizens. So, we have a headstart on integration.

In 1981, I was a guest of the Japanese government, attending a seven-week workshop on the judicial process system in Asia. The other participants were from the US, Australia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Samoa, Malaysia, Singapore and the host country, Japan. On one Sunday in Tokyo, I went to a church, accompanied by the Australian, who was a judge, and the Samoan, who was a police chief. Returning to our hostel after the Service, I noticed a couple who was obviously Indians walking on the other side of the road. I waved to them. They waved back. My companions asked me if I knew them. I replied I did not. Then, why I had greeted them, they asked. It surprised them when I said that I identified with them at once as not many of my countrymen could afford to be travelling in an affluent foreign land.

That feeling of being Indian, first and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi now has a challenger in Rahul Gandhi

As endemic corruption weakens the moral fiber, communalism and casteism militate against unity that is essential to make India stand up as one against poverty, illiteracy and the feudal mentality that presently pervades the national psyche.

foremost, is sadly being eroded. First, it was the Hindu-Muslim divide accentuated at the time of elections and now, this attempt by Opposition parties to further divide the majority Hindus on the basis of caste for electoral gain. That is going to end in disaster, like the division on religious grounds is leading us to.

If dividing and weakening India on religious and caste lines was not enough, the Supreme Court, in a six-to-one decision of a seven-judge Constitution Bench, overturned its own 2004 ruling that had pronounced that all SCs constitute one homogenous body. By that ruling, the more educated units of SCs, like the Mahars in Maharashtra or the Chamars in Punjab, cornered most of the reserved seats allotted to the Scheduled Castes, leaving the less

educated bereft of the benefits that reservation promised.

The 2024 Supreme Court majority verdict, of which the CJI was a part, argued that the categories of SCs who had not benefited from reservation should now be treated separately so that the principle on which reservation was conceived was upheld. This judgment will further divide Indian citizens and produce demands for inclusion from sub-castes whose existence itself was not known to most citizens.

Five years ago, just before Covid struck, I broke the neck of my femur bone after a fall in the bath. The result was that I needed a young man, full time, to help me with my daily physical chores. He was a Dalit from Bihar, but just before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, I learnt he was a "maha Dalit", a category that I was not aware of. There could be such neglected elements in Maharashtra also.

Be that as it may, the presence of these dispossessed sub-castes of SCs, obviously quite numerous in the north of the country, has been noted by the Supreme Court. The court has rightly deigned that they, too, should be given a part of the reservation pie. The enforcement of the court's order is not going to be easy. More difficult will be to calculate the political fallout of this further divide in the polity.

Last Saturday, the KES (Kandivali Education Society) College of Law in Mumbai invited me to interact with their students online. I answered a volley of questions shot at me by the students. Many of them concerned reservations in college admissions and jobs with the government. I explained the rationale

behind affirmative action but was at a loss to justify the heady mix of rectifying centuries-old injustices with the necessity of maintaining higher standards of service, which the common man was entitled to.

Both factors need to be kept in mind by the decision-makers while formulating a "via media". Political parties, starting with the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru right up to the BJP under Narendra Modi, have neglected education and health, the bedrocks of a successful society. China has stolen a 50-year march over us in ensuring 100 per cent literacy, as now exists in the advanced countries of the West.

If we had achieved total literacy, we could have selected the really bright boys and girls from the neglected castes and enrolled them at the State's expense in the best schools to ensure that they could compete with their sisters and brothers of the advanced castes on an even plane. The problem of admitting a candidate who achieved rank 821 in the civil services exam into the IAS would not have arisen, as it did in the recent case of Puja Khedkar.

Recently, Rahul Gandhi predicted an ED raid on his premises for criticizing the government for some action it had taken. He need not lose sleep over such an arrest. It will boomerang on the government - it will increase his slowly rising popularity, accelerate it a bit. But if the ED conjures up a case for a raid because of his raking up the caste issue, I, for one, will not defend him.

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

In Tim Walz, Kamala Harris gets a trump card to trump Trump



BY SRINIVASAN RAMANI

"Yet the fact that despite an assassination attempt and a decision by an incumbent President to withdraw from the race, Mr. Trump trails narrowly in polls with only three more months to go for voting, suggests that the Democrats have landed a sweet spot with Ms. Harris's candidacy and in her choice of a running mate. How the ticket manages the campaign, uses the new found energy among the Democratic base to turn out the vote, utilizes Mr. Walz's and Ms. Harris's identities, backgrounds and experience to reach out to the diverse electorate in the U.S. and most importantly, tackles the already-ongoing attacks by Republican partisans and well-funded Political Action Committees, will determine whether Ms. Harris will become the first woman to become the President of the U.S and waltz her way with Mr. Walz to the White House."

It has not been a month since the former U.S. President Donald Trump was shot at, in an assassination attempt and just more than a month since a disastrous debate performance by President Joe Biden helped Mr. Trump to gain a decisive 2-3 point advantage in national opinion polls in the run-up to the presidential elections in the country. Yet, after Mr. Biden dropped out of the race, following a push by his own party leaders and adverse opinion about his faculties - the 81-year-old President has been prone to verbal gaffes and memory slips - and following the nomination of Vice President Kamala Harris, the race has seemingly been upended. Ms. Harris now leads Mr. Trump in most national polls by at least a point (and close to three points in weighted polls according to forecasting models such as the one maintained by ace pollster Nate Silver).

As a "progressive doer", and a moderate politician who has shown the ability to work with Republican representatives to pass legislation, besides being a loyal party man, Mr. Walz has managed to get the support of all ideological factions of the Democratic Party and beyond, getting endorsements from fiscally conservative centrists such as West Virginia senator Joe Manchin to establishment Democrats such as former Speaker Nancy Pelosi to firebrand progressives such as Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and independent Senator Bernie Sanders.



U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz wave as they disembark Air Force Two for a campaign rally at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus, Michigan.

Photo Credit / AFP

Trump's campaign would point out that Ms. Harris's lead was narrow and in any case, national polls aren't that pivotal as polls held in "swing States". After all, the presidential election's winner needs a majority of votes in the U.S. Electoral College (i.e more than half of the 538 votes), which means that the swing States - where both the Democrats and the Republicans are competitive - become crucial in (over)determining the winner. Interestingly, Nate Silver's model shows that in nine swing States - Pennsylvania (Ms. Harris leading by one point), Wisconsin (by 1.4), Michigan (2.4), Georgia (trailing by 1.2 points), North Carolina (-2), Arizona (-1.3), Nevada (-0.5), Florida (-5.5) and Virginia (4.7) - Ms. Harris is leading in four and trailing in five, but those leads are enough for a path towards a majority in the electoral college. Wins in these States where Ms. Harris leads in the polls, will give her exactly 270 votes as against 268 for Mr. Trump, provided and if as expected, the Democratic strongholds are retained.

Still, this upturn in fortunes since Mr.

Biden dropped out, has only made Ms. Harris competitive and not ensured a thoroughgoing victory. In such a tight contest where every margin matters, choices made by the candidates such as the running mate - the vice presidential candidate - are of consequence.

Vice presidential (VP) candidate choices are primarily made keeping in mind factors such as compatibility with the head of the ticket (political, ideological and personal affinity) and the accretion of support. Many Democratic strategists and commentators wanted Ms. Harris to choose a VP candidate from a competitive swing State, so as to enhance her chances of a victory in that State. The popular choice was Governor Josh Shapiro, a charismatic moderate from Pennsylvania, a key swing State. Even though polling boosts through vice presidential candidates are generally minimal, even the possible 0.5 to 1 point bump could have been useful for Ms. Harris, earning her vital electoral college votes in a narrow path towards victory. Or so the argument went.

WALZ TICKS A LOT OF BOXES

But Ms. Harris threw what is called a curveball in baseball terms, choosing the less-known Governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz as her VP candidate. The factor that went into this choice was a relatively simpler one - "balance". Mr. Walz is an affable Democrat leader with experience as a former military man with the U.S.'s National Guard followed by a career as a social science teacher and a football coach, before entering politics by taking the electoral plunge as a Congressman from Minnesota's District 1 in 2006.

After a decade in the House of Representatives and with a relatively moderate record, Mr. Walz went on to become the Governor of his State, and is now serving his second term in the post.

As Governor, Mr. Walz implemented a slew of progressive measures in recent years which include making abortion legal at all stages of pregnancy in Minnesota and access to reproductive health care, major gun control measures, paid family, medical and sick leave for workers, allowing immigrants of any status in Minnesota to obtain drivers' licenses, restoring voting rights for former felons and most importantly, providing free breakfast and lunch for school children in public schools in the State. These measures have endeared him to progressives, who expect such policies to be implemented country-wide.

As a "progressive doer", and a moderate politician who has shown the ability to work with Republican representatives to pass legislation, besides being a loyal party man, Mr. Walz has managed to get the support of all ideological factions of the Democratic Party and beyond, getting endorsements from fiscally conservative centrists such as West Virginia senator Joe Manchin to establishment Democrats such as former Speaker Nancy Pelosi to firebrand progressives such as Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and independent Senator Bernie Sanders.

Apart from his work, his rural origins, having been born into a farming and working-class family in Nebraska and an everyman image provides the Democrats a VP candidate with whom a large section of the U.S. electorate can identify with, especially among a constituency that has increasingly preferred the Republican party in the last decade or so.

In the most recent national elections - the 2022 mid-term polls - Pew Research found that 68% of urban voters preferred Democrats as opposed to 30% for Republicans, the suburban vote was split 50%-48% in favor of Democrats, while the rural vote split 69%-29% in favor of Republicans. It is clear why the Democrats wanted to have a VP candidate with a rural background, to "balance" Ms. Harris on the ticket. After all, Ms. Harris is a former senator from California after extensive experience as

CONTD ON PAGE 10

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

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is seen as an advantage that works with the multi-ethnic base of the Democrats.

BALANCE IN THE TICKET

In choosing a white man with rural, working-class roots and an everyman image, Ms. Harris's campaign managers achieved balance, something that even the Republicans did for their ticket.

One important reason for Mr. Trump's choice of JD Vance, a 40-year-old junior Senator from Ohio, that leans Republican, was to address concerns about his age.

Can Mr. Walz's presence on the presidential ticket overcome the gulf that separates rural voters and the Democratic Party in swing States at least? That is a difficult question to answer, as VP candidates only have a marginal effect as voters still look at the presidential candidate to firm up their choices. But there seems to be something about Mr. Walz that has energized the Democratic base as the campaigns have heated up, brought grudging respect from Republican partisans and an acknowledgement of endearment even among voters who have not heard of him before.

Even before his naming as the VP candidate, Mr. Walz was playing the role of an efficient "attack dog" taking on the Republicans. His terming the Trump-Vance combination and others of the Trump wing of the Republican party as "weird people" has resonated well with the Democratic base and independent voters as well. His electoral history - becoming only the second Democrat to win in Minnesota's 1st district since 1891 and remaining a representative well into the urban-rural shift in the U.S. politics in the 2010s - suggests that Mr. Walz's identifiability factor with the white working class could indeed help the Democrats as he makes it difficult for the Republicans to use the usual "class-war" tropes to attack his party.

THE GAZA INVASION

Another reason that contributed to the dampening of enthusiasm among Democratic voters for Mr. Biden was his government's position on Israel's invasion of Gaza following Hamas's terror attacks in October 2023. The indiscriminate nature of the attacks, the continual displacement of the residents of Gaza and the severity of the suffering with thousands being killed and maimed on a daily basis combined with the fact that the U.S. continues to supply Israel with arms, ammunition and funds has alienated a lot of progressives, Arab-Americans and Muslim voters who had favored the Democratic Party.

Ms. Harris has sought to redefine her ticket's outlook to a more critical position on Israel unlike Mr. Biden's and this also reflects in the fact that her campaign chose not to take the Jewish and pro-Israel Governor Shapiro as her running mate. Mr. Walz has evinced a relatively more nuanced

position on the Gaza invasion.

While he unequivocally condemned the Hamas's attacks and ordered Minnesota's state flags to fly at half-mast, he also said that the "vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas and Hamas does not represent [them]", and called for a permanent "working ceasefire" following the killing of thousands of Gazans by the Israelis. He went on to say in an interview with Minnesota Public Radio that "[y]ou can hold competing things: That Israel has a right to defend itself, and the atrocities of October 7 are unacceptable, but Palestinian civilians being caught in this... has got to end."

This has encouraged Arab-American voters. For example, Abdullah Hammond, the mayor of Dearborn in Michigan State, told Arab News that "Picking [Mr. Walz] is another sign of good faith".

Besides alienated Democratic supporters, those among the donor classes who fund the Democrats also seem to be enthused following Mr. Walz's ascension to the ticket. Reports suggested that Ms. Harris's campaign raised \$41 million in funding just a day after announcing Mr. Walz as the VP candidate.

REPUBLICAN REACTION

Already the Republicans have sought to paint Mr. Walz as a "dangerous liberal" from the "radical left" besides going on to spew falsehoods about his military record as Mr. Vance did recently. This is right out of the Donald Trump playbook of using lies and insulting epithets to characterize his opponents and to vitiate the contest to obfuscate the policy differences between the candidates. Aided by a vast conservative apparatus that includes television and social media, this has helped Mr. Trump build a narrative and a base for the Republican party under his leadership.

Yet the fact that despite an assassination attempt and a decision by an incumbent President to withdraw from the race, Mr. Trump trails narrowly in polls with only three more months to go for voting, suggests that the Democrats have landed a sweet spot with Ms. Harris's candidacy and in her choice of a running mate. How the ticket manages the campaign, uses the new found energy among the Democratic base to turn out the vote, utilizes Mr. Walz's and Ms. Harris's identities, backgrounds and experience to reach out to the diverse electorate in the U.S. and most importantly, tackles the already-ongoing attacks by Republican partisans and well-funded Political Action Committees, will determine whether Ms. Harris will become the first woman to become the President of the U.S and waltz her way with Mr. Walz to the White House.

(Srinivasan Ramani is Deputy National Editor, The Hindu)

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Image courtesy of Silambam

Quit India Movement: A watershed moment in India's freedom struggle

A MOVEMENT THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR INDIA'S EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE IN 1947 AND REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF INDIA'S NATIONAL IDENTITY, INSPIRING GENERATIONS TO UPHOLD THE VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, AND UNITY.

August Kranti Day, or Quit India Movement Day, commemorates the historic Quit India Movement, a pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, which called for the immediate withdrawal of British forces from India.

Led by Mahatma Gandhi, this movement called for India's immediate independence from British rule, aiming to mobilise Indians in a non-violent civil disobedience campaign against British colonialism.

This movement drew a significant turning point in India's struggle for independence, galvanising millions of Indians from all walks of life to demand freedom and self-governance.

The movement marks the moment when the idea of complete freedom from the British Raj gained momentum as opposed to several discounted power structures being discussed in the past. The idea of purna swarajya or complete freedom was introduced by Congress leader Hasrat Mohani in 1921 in an All-India Congress Forum; a resolution on the same was passed on 19 December 1929. But it was after the Quit India Movement that the masses sprung into action.

The Quit India movement was the direct result of Britain's mounting difficulties in the World War II and the failure of the Cripp's mission to convince Indian leadership at the time to agree for a partial self-rule under which India would still remain a British dominion.

How it began?

As per British Open University's archive, by the middle of 1942, Japanese troops were approaching the borders of India and world powers were mounting pressure on the British to solve the issue of India's future before the end of World War II.

Thus, in March 1942, the British dispatched a committee led by Stafford Cripps, a member of the War Cabinet, to India to discuss the British Government's Draft Declaration. The draft granted India Dominion status after the war but otherwise conceded few changes to the status quo.

Another aspect of this was that the British Governor-General of India at the time, Lord Linlithgow, wanted to send Indian soldiers to fight for the UK in the war. The Cripp's Mission was a way for the British to negotiate that much needed support from the Indian leaders.

However, the conditions of self-rule underlined in the draft declaration was unacceptable to the Congress Working Committee as it did not give immediate and total self rule. Subsequently, Mahatma Gandhi called for Quit India Movement.

What is Quit India movement?

On 8 August, 1942 at the Bombay session of All India Congress Committee, Mahatma Gandhi introduced the resolution to start a Quit India Movement. The historic resolution was passed at the meeting.

Subsequently, Gandhi gave a fiery speech at Mumbai's Gowalia Tank Maidan also known as August Kranti Maidan, marking the beginning of the Quit India Movement. The place now houses a monument as tribute to the historical event.



Gandhi said, "There is a mantra, a short one that I give you. You imprint it in your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it. The mantra is do or die. We shall either be free or die in the attempt."

Following the Quit India resolution being passed on 8 August, Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the tricolour on the Gowalia Tank ground and on the night of 9 August, and all senior leaders of the Congress including Jawaharlal Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad and Mahatma Gandhi were arrested on charges of sedition. The British not only arrested the entire INC leadership, they remained incarcerated till the end of the Second World War in 1945 without trial. The Indian National Congress was declared an unlawful association and its offices were raided across the country, while all its funds were frozen.

Nonetheless, activists like Jai Prakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, SM Joshi, Ram Manohar Lohia and others continued to fuel the momentum of the movement throughout the period of the war.

But with the entire leadership of Congress incarcerated, the British managed to suppress most citizen-led initiatives and demonstrations by 1944. What did not disappear was the idea of non-negotiable, complete freedom invoked in the Mahatma's speech at the August Kranti grounds.



By the end of World War II, Britain's position in the world had changed dramatically and the demand for Independence could no longer be ignored. This is why the Quit India Movement remains an important milestone in India's freedom struggle.

A letter by Ram Manohar Lohia to Viceroy Linlithgow documents the strength of the movement at its peak and also gives a glimpse into the British actions to suppress the movement. Lohia had written that the British government had killed 50,000 people and injured several more during the movement. According to Lohia, while the Russian Revolution saw barely one per cent of the country's population participating, in India no less than 20 percent people took part. He said that the real strength of the Quit India Movement lay in the masses who had participated in it.

Each year, the day is observed with various ceremonies, seminars, and cultural programs across India. These events aim to honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who participated in the movement.

In 2024, as India celebrates the 82nd anniversary of the Quit India Movement, the observances will take place on a Thursday, providing an opportunity for communities to come together in remembrance and reflection.

DA Katz dismisses convictions of 46 defendants following perjury plea by former NYPD Detective

AUGUST 9, 2024

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz petitioned the court on Thursday, August 8, to vacate the convictions of 46 defendants whose cases involved NYPD Detective James Donovan, who was convicted of perjury last year.

The disgraced detective, who was assigned to the Warrant Squad at the 103rd Precinct in Jamaica, pleaded guilty in 2023 to falsely testifying before a Queens grand jury, and an extensive review was conducted of his previous cases by the District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU).

"Today, I am asking the Court to vacate and dismiss 46 criminal cases where former Detective James Donovan was the primary witness," Katz said. "We cannot stand behind a conviction where the essential witness was a law enforcement officer convicted of a crime that irreparably impaired his credibility."

After identifying the 46 affected convictions, the CIU contacted the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society and filed joint motions in each case seeking to vacate the convictions.

"We applaud District Attorney Melinda Katz for taking further action to vacate convictions involving a discredited detective who was convicted of perjury after he testified falsely in the grand jury in a separate case," said Elizabeth Felber, supervising attorney of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society. "While we hope this moment delivers



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz had 46 convictions vacated Thursday, August 8, after a review of cases connected to a former NYPD detective at the 103rd Precinct in Jamaica who was convicted of perjury in May 2023.

justice and closure to the New Yorkers impacted by these tactics, the sad reality is that many were forced to suffer incarceration, hefty legal fees, loss of employment, housing instability, severed access to critical benefits and other collateral consequences resulting from criminal convictions."

Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Joanne Watters granted the motions and dismissed the charges. According to the motions, Donovan pleaded guilty to perjury in the third degree before Queens Supreme Court Justice Anthony Battisti

File photo / courtesy of the Queens DA's office in May 2023. On Aug. 11, 2021, Donovan testified under oath to a Queens grand jury that he arrested a wanted individual in November 2020. Donovan claimed that he found the individual sleeping in a car and discovered a loaded firearm in the car. He later admitted his testimony about the arrest was false when interviewed by a prosecutor preparing the case for a hearing.

Subsequent interviews confirmed that, although Donovan was present at the address, a different detective actually made the arrest outside of Donovan's

presence. Because of Donovan's perjury, the District Attorney's Office was required to dismiss the gun charges brought against the individual. Donovan's perjury conviction led to the review by the DA's CIU of all cases in which he was the arresting officer. The CIU identified the 46 cases which required dismissal.

"After an unflinching review proactively conducted by my Conviction Integrity Unit, I believe it is necessary to take this step to protect the public's confidence in the justice system," Katz said.

Including the motions granted on Thursday, the CIU has vacated 148 convictions since the office was launched by Katz in May 2020. The unit has dismissed 132 convictions based on the unreliable police work of former detectives later convicted of crimes committed on the job that undermined their credibility. Another 16 convictions have been vacated for a variety of other reasons, including newly discovered evidence.

"The Legal Aid Society urges DA Katz and other local prosecutors to continue to conduct these reviews on a rolling basis with full transparency," Felber said. "The same lens used on our clients charged with criminal conduct must be applied to those in law enforcement. Anything less will erode the public's trust in the criminal legal system to hold those accountable for egregious acts of misconduct."

Legislator Koslow Celebrates Freeport Day 2024



Photo / Courtesy Office of Legislator Seth I. Koslow

AUGUST 6, 2024

FREEPORT, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Seth I. Koslow (D-Freeport) joined the community at Freeport Day on Saturday, July 27. The annual daylong event, which is presented by Freeport's Family and Friends, Inc., AMT Children of Hope, and an array of community sponsors, the event was brimming with music, food, music, live entertainment, and other family-friendly attractions.

"Every year, this event shines a bright spotlight on the diversity and pride that makes Freeport so vibrant and unique," Legislator Koslow said. "Congratulations to the organizers and supporters of Freeport Day 2024 for making this such a tremendous success!"

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

Suozi Celebrates U.S.-India Relations, BAPS 50th Anniversary in U.S.

"India is the world's most populous democracy in the world and an important strategic partner of the United States," said Congresswoman Young Kim (R-CA), lead co-sponsor of the resolution and Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific. "I celebrate 50 years of our vibrant BAPS community in Chino Hills and across Southern California and am so proud to represent more than 10,000 Indian Americans who are making our community a better place. I will do my part on the Foreign Affairs Committee to foster U.S.-India relations and advance our shared principles, which are more important than ever as we see rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific."

The resolution also commemorates the first BAPS mandir in North America, built by the Pramukh Swami Maharaj on Flushing's historic Bowne Street in 1974. Since then, six traditional stone Hindu mandirs and 108 Hari Mandirs have been built in the United States and Canada, including the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, NY.

"As a volunteer with BAPS for over 40 years, I've witnessed firsthand the incredible impact

our community has had across the nation. The resolution introduced in the House recognizing our 50-year journey in North America is not just an honor for our organization but a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Gurus -Pramukh Swami Maharaj and Mahant Swami Maharaj - as well as every volunteer and well-wisher. We are grateful for this recognition that reaffirms our commitment to preserving our cultural heritage and serving society," said Girish Patel, Lead Community Outreach Volunteer, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Melville, NY.

H.RES. 1394 PROMOTES U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS BY:

- Recognizing the importance of the United States-India strategic bilateral relationship;
- Celebrating the people-to-people bonds of friendship between India and the United States;
- Affirming the commitment to freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and religious pluralism shared by the United States and India; and
- Recognizing and celebrating the countless contributions of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha and its volunteers over the last 50 years in the United States.



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12 years since Wisconsin gurdwara shooting in Oak Creek, 'the lessons learnt since then'

US LAWMAKERS PAY TRIBUTES TO SIKH VICTIMS ON 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE

AUGUST 6, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): US lawmakers paid tributes to the members of the Sikh community who were killed in a massacre at a Milwaukee gurdwara 12 years ago, underscoring the need to reject bigotry and recommit to fighting hate and racism, as well as ending the gun violence epidemic in America.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited the Oak Creek Sikh Temple in the Wisconsin city on the 12th anniversary of the "deadliest massacre of Sikhs on US soil" when a white supremacist claimed the lives of seven members of the Sikh community, according to a statement issued here Monday by the US Mission to the United Nations Spokesperson Nate Evans.

"The Ambassador joined the victims' families, community members, and temple leaders to honor those lives lost and lead a conversation on their ongoing efforts to combat hate against marginalized communities," the statement said.

Thomas-Greenfield "heard firsthand accounts of the impact of hate crimes, reiterated the ongoing efforts of the Biden-Harris Administration and across the UN to promote religious freedom, and commended the families of the victims, whose remarkable resilience allowed the tragedy to become a point of necessary reform".

On August 5, 2012, Wade Michael Page (40) entered the gurdwara in Oak Creek and



Vigil for Victims Suveg Singh Khattrra (84), Satwant Singh Kaleka (65), Ranjit Singh (49), Sita Singh (41), Paramjit Kaur (41), Prakash Singh (39) and Baba Punjab Singh (72).

File photo / Courtesy Sikh Coalition

opened fire, as members of the congregation had gathered to prepare for Sunday service.

The victims of the massacre were Suveg Singh Khattrra (84), Satwant Singh Kaleka (65), Ranjit Singh (49), Sita Singh (41), Paramjit Kaur (41), Prakash Singh (39) and Baba Punjab Singh (72).

Baba Punjab Singh had remained almost fully paralyzed after being shot during the

attack and passed away in March 2020 from complications related to his injuries.

Members of The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) released statements in observance of the anniversary.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois said that Sikh Americans were killed and others injured after the white supremacist, driven by hate and bigotry,

opened fire at the Oak Creek Gurdwara in Wisconsin. "Today, as we remember the lives lost and impacted by this senseless act of violence, we must recommit ourselves to fighting hate, racism, and prejudice in all its forms, as well as ending the gun violence epidemic in America," he said.

Krishnamoorthi said that all Americans should be able to worship and practice their faiths without fear, and "it falls on all of us to make the United States a better and more tolerant country for people of all faiths and backgrounds".

Representative Ro Khanna of California said that the Sikh community was devastated by a senseless act of hate, bigotry and violence.

"As my CAPAC colleagues and I remember and grieve the six innocent lives lost, we are more committed than ever to pushing for transformative gun legislation. It is our duty as a nation to work together to remove weapons of war and ensure everyone is safe to worship without fear," he said. Representative Shri Thanedar of Michigan said that on the anniversary of this tragic event, "we reaffirm that violence against any group is never acceptable. As the Chair of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain American Congressional Caucus, I am committed to ensuring that Sikhs and all other religious groups can practice their religion freely without fearing for their safety."

(Read full story at www.theindiananorama.news)

National Indo-American Museum Launches New oral history initiative

AUGUST 6, 2024

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): A late report from Chicago says the National Indo- American Museum (NIAM) launched its latest Oral History initiative called Broadening Narratives on July 19, 2024. The event, held at NIAM's Umang and Paragi Patel Center at 815 S. Main St. in Lombard, was attended by the Consul General, Mr. Somnath Ghosh, other invited speakers, and members of the community including those whose stories are already featured on NIAM's website <https://oralhistory.niam.org/>

Funded by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly foundation, the Broadening Narratives project seeks to go beyond the portrayal of Indian Americans as a highly educated and successful immigrant group. It will diversify NIAM's Oral History collection by adding the voices of Indian Americans from a broad range of socio-economic levels, including marginalized and under-represented groups, such as LGBTQ+, retail clerks, gas station attendants, people living in shelters or on government assistance, and the undocumented.

The Consul General spoke of the importance of a community capturing its own story in authentic, first person voices instead of leaving it solely in the hands of others to interpret the Indian American experience. NIAM Board members explained the process by which interviewees would be sought out and interviewed by well trained professionals on the project team. Team

members including Project Director Padma Rangaswamy, Board member Devalina Law, Exhibition Chair Raja Nadimpalli, and Project Manager Amita Banerji, addressed the audience. NIAM digital archivist Ina Cox and NIAM consultant Peter Alter, Chief Oral Historian at the Chicago History Museum gave the audience a fuller understanding of how to get the most out of the NIAM oral history web pages. The new oral histories will be posted on the NIAM website and made accessible to the widest possible audience, including historians and researchers.

Members of the audience also viewed NIAM's latest exhibition *Desi Roots and Wings*, which narrates the little-known history of Indian immigrants to the US from 1620 to World War 1. Among the many individuals whose story is told in the exhibition is revolutionary freedom fighter Har Dayal Mathur (1884 - 1939) who lived in the US and devoted his life to the cause of Indian independence from the British. His great granddaughter, Nisha Grover, was one of the featured speakers at the Broadening Narratives event. She presented a fascinating family story of her great grandfather, his worldwide travels, and his connection to the homeland.

Desi Roots and Wings is open to the public at 815 S. Main St. in Lombard on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 4 pm. Group tours at other times are available by appointment. Admission is \$10, free for



Consul General of Chicago Mr. Somnath Ghosh addresses the NIAM audience



Padma Rangaswamy, Project Director, introduces the Broadening Narratives project

children 5 and younger. Free parking is available.

The National Indo-American builds bridges across generations and connects cultures through the colorful stories of all Indian Americans.

(Photographs by Asian Media USA & Press release by Staff writer)

ABC says Trump and Harris have agreed to participate in a presidential debate on Sep 10

AUGUST 8, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): ABC says both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have agreed to a September 10 presidential debate, setting up a face-off between the Republican and Democratic nominees.

The announcement on Thursday (August 8, 2024) came shortly after Trump told a news conference that he had proposed three presidential debates with three television networks, saying he agreed on certain dates in September.

Trump is rejoining the ABC debate days after posting on his social media network that he would not appear on the network, citing a lawsuit he has filed. His decision sets up a highly anticipated moment in an election where the first debate led to a massive change in the race - with Democratic President Joe Biden ending his reelection bid and endorsing Harris.

"I think it's very important to have debates," Trump said Thursday. "I look forward to the debates because I think we



Harris vs Trump

have to set the record straight."

The Harris campaign had no immediate comment.

Trump had teased an announcement about the presidential debate earlier this

week after pulling out of an ABC News debate scheduled for September 10 after President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign. Trump had said he would prefer that Fox News sponsor the debate,

but on Wednesday was showing willingness to reconsider ABC.

Trump also echoed criticism from his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, that Harris has not held a news conference or sat down for interviews since Mr. Biden's withdrawal last month and she entered the race.

Ms. Harris has a travelling press pool with her on Air Force Two for all trips. Trump does not have a set travelling press pool that regularly accompanies him on his plane when he goes out to campaign.

Mr. Vance has journalists flying with him, and he campaigned this week in states where Ms. Harris and Mr. Walz had their own events scheduled. That included on Wednesday, when Mr. Vance's plane and Air Force Two ended up on the same tarmac in Wisconsin. Mr. Vance started walking toward the Democrats' plane but did not reach it before a motorcade carrying Ms. Harris, Mr. Walz and the travelling press pulled away.

Harris and Walz officially certified as Democratic Party's nominees for President and Vice President



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz have officially been certified the Democratic Party's nominees for President and Vice President respectively

AUGUST 7, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz have officially been certified the Democratic Party's nominees for President and Vice President respectively, the ruling party announced on Tuesday, August 6.

Harris and Tim Walz officially accepted the nominations Tuesday, following the close of delegate voting on Monday, August 5th, and the official certification of the roll call by Convention Secretary Jason Rae.

Convention Chair Minyon Moore then certified Walz as Harris' running mate.

"It is my great honor and privilege to congratulate the Democratic Party's official nominees for President and Vice President, Kamala Harris and Tim Walz," said DNC

Chair Jaime Harrison.

"A Harris-Walz ticket represents the future of the Democratic Party and our country. Their vision to lower costs for working families, ensure reproductive freedom for every American, and stand up for our democracy will guide us as a Party as we mobilize supporters to get out the vote this November," he said.

"The momentum and unity of our party is unprecedented, with 99% of all delegates in our roll call casting their vote to turn Vice President Harris into President Harris this November," Harrison said.

Minyon Moore said the Democratic Party has now officially certified Harris and Walz as their nominees for President and Vice President of the United States.

"Throughout this process, thousands of delegates made their voices and the voices of their communities heard, and their diligence and dedication has ensured that every voter has the opportunity to vote for our Democratic nominees this November," he said.

"Now the eyes of the world turn to Chicago, where our delegates will celebrate this historic ticket with a ceremonial roll call and tell the story of Vice President Harris, Governor Walz, and the Democratic Party as we prepare to defeat Donald Trump once again," Moore said.

Meanwhile, a new poll from NPR/PBS News/Marist National Poll showed that Harris edges former President Donald Trump by three percentage points in a head-to-head matchup among registered voters, including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate.

This marks a four-point shift from late last month when Trump was +1 percentage point against Harris just after President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the race.

Harris has made inroads among independents, Black voters, white voters with a college degree, women, and voters 35 years of age or older. Harris maintains her edge in the multi-candidate field, which includes Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Jill Stein, Cornel West, and Chase Oliver.

(Source: PTI)

Indiaspora condemns racial attack on Indian political candidates



AUGUST 08, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Influential Indian diaspora body Indiaspora Wednesday, August 7, condemned the increasing racial attacks on Indian origin-political candidates in the United States.

The Indian diaspora in the United States cares deeply for the country and is committed to being a force for good, Indiaspora said in a statement.

"During this election cycle, prominent Indian-American leaders in public service on both sides of the political aisle have been shamefully targeted based on their race," it said.

"At Indiaspora, we believe that such behavior stands in stark contrast to the higher values -- of inclusion, respect, and strength in diversity -- that our nation has aspired to hold and practice," said the statement.

"We believe strongly in the vision of a better America, indeed of a more perfect union, towards which we endeavor to contribute," it said.

It said that the recently released Indiaspora Impact Report shows there are 150 Indian-Americans in senior governmental positions in the current administration - a sign of the diaspora's commitment to serve the United States.

This number has been steadily rising across administrations of both political parties and has increased by 150 percent over the past decade. Moreover, five Indian-Americans serve as elected officials in the US House of Representatives, with at least two more currently running in the upcoming elections, it said.

Waqf Bill referred to joint House panel after Opposition calls it 'draconian'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been referred to a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) on Thursday (August 8, 2024) after Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju introduced it in the Lok Sabha, amid strong objections from the Opposition parties, alleging that the Bill was aimed at targeting the Muslim community.

The Lok Sabha witnessed a two-hour long debate at the time of introduction, following which it was decided that the Bill would be sent to a JPC. Speaker Om Birla informed the House that he would constitute the joint panel after consulting the leaders of all the parties.

Opposition parties called the proposed amendments to the Waqf law "an attack on the Constitution, interfering with religious matters and against the spirit of federalism". Leading the charge, senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal called it a "draconian" Bill and alleged that it was brought with an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

Defending the Bill, Rijiju said that it merely sought to implement reforms suggested by committees that were set up by the previous Congress government and neither were any rights being snatched nor was religious freedom being curtailed.

"Because you [Congress] couldn't do it, we had to bring these amendments... Some people have



Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024.

Photo: Sansad TV via PTI

captured Waqf Boards and this Bill has been brought to give justice to ordinary Muslims," the Minister said, adding that many leaders in the Opposition had privately told him that State Waqf Boards had turned into a mafia.

Though BJP allies such as the Janata Dal (United), the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Shiv Sena (Shinde) supported the Bill on the grounds of transparency and reform, sources said some of them had reservations. TDP MP G.M. Harish Balayogi said his party did not have a problem if the Bill was sent to a select committee to "remove misconceptions".

JD(U) leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, however, argued that the Opposition was mixing up the issue of institutions such as Waqf Boards with a place of worship, such as a mosque.

The introduction of the Bill also witnessed a spat between Home Minister Amit Shah and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav after Mr. Yadav claimed that the government was proposing to curtail the powers of the Speaker but the Opposition would fight for the Chair.

"This is an insult to the Chair. The rights of the Speaker do not belong to the Opposition, but to the whole House. Akhilesh ji is tarah ki golmol ki baat aap nahi kar sakte [Akhilesh ji you can't speak in a roundabout way]. You are not the protector of the Speaker's rights," Shah retorted.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 seeks to make far-reaching changes to the 1995 law that governs Waqf Boards. The Bill proposes the inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members on a Board, and inserts a new Section to prevent the wrongful declaration of a property as "Waqf". It also introduces the District Collector as an arbiter to decide if a property is a Waqf or government land. In the 1995 Act, such decisions are made by the Waqf tribunal.

"This Bill is an attack on the faith and freedom of religion. You are going for Muslims, next you will go for Christians, Jains, Parsis," Venugopal alleged.

Source: The Hindu

J&K parties ask Election Commission to hold Assembly elections as per SC deadline

SRINAGAR (TIP)

All the major national and regional parties, including the BJP, on Thursday, August 8, were unanimous and forceful in their appeal to the visiting team of the Election Commission of India (EC), headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, to hold early Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which is under Central rule since 2018.

"We demanded a free and fair election in J&K. We expect the elections to be concluded much earlier than the deadline of September 30 set by the Supreme Court (SC)," senior BJP leader R.S. Pathania said, after attending the EC meeting at Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC). The BJP also demanded adequate security for those political workers whose security has been withdrawn.

The Supreme Court, in its judgement on provisions of Article 370 in December last year, had passed directions on holding elections in J&K by September 30, 2024. The last Assembly election in J&K was held back in 2014 and remains under Central rule since 2018.

The Congress urged the EC to abide by the top court's timeline on elections. "We discussed the need for peaceful and secure elections. The security of Opposition leaders and party workers must be ensured. We have submitted a memorandum on elections to be held as per the SC's direction and deadlines," Congress leader G.N. Monga said.

Representatives of regional parties also attended the EC's meeting in Srinagar and demanded early elections. "We told the Commission that there has been no government since 2018 and no elections for 10 years. We need representatives to address political, development, and security issues. We asked for a level-playing field and unbiased decisions. The Election Commission assured us elections will happen," National Conference (NC) provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani said.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) lamented the earlier decision of the EC not to hold Assembly and Lok Sabha elections together during the meeting. It also pointed out that "the EC and not the SC should have decided on holding elections in J&K". "J&K has seen a peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, Lok Sabha elections, growing tourism, etc. We urged the EC to hold Assembly elections as soon as possible, given the peaceful situation," PDP leader Khursheed Alam said.

In no hurry to ask Bangladesh ex-PM to leave, her call: MEA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Indian government is not in a rush to ask former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to leave India, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said, adding, "We are waiting for her to take an appropriate decision."

It is learnt that Hasina is considering several options, including the UAE, Belarus, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Finland, for taking refuge. Jaiswal said, "The EAM made it clear in Parliament that we allowed Hasina in at a short notice.

The situation is evolving. It would not be appropriate to comment on her future plans. It is for her to devise her plans."

Jaiswal was replying to a question on how long India hoped to let Hasina stay as the same would not be liked by the new government in Bangladesh. On the resumption of ties with Dhaka, Jaiswal said, "Let us wait for the interim government to take charge. It is an evolving situation. It is thus premature to comment." With regard to the status of minorities in Bangladesh, Jaiswal cited what EAM S Jaishankar told Parliament, "We hope law and order is restored. We are in talks with the authorities with regards to Indians living there."

Meanwhile, Jaishankar today



It is learnt that Hasina is considering several options, including the UAE, Belarus, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Finland, for taking refuge.

discussed the unfolding situation in Bangladesh with his British counterpart David Lammy in a telephonic conversation. "Received a call from UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy today. Discussed the situation in Bangladesh and West Asia," Jaishankar posted on X.

The discussion came against the backdrop of Hasina's initial plan to seek asylum in the UK. As per the UK's immigration rules, it is not possible to apply for asylum from outside the country and each asylum claim is carefully considered on its individual merits on a case-by-case basis.

Meanwhile, the BSF said 17 Indian workers stranded in Bangladesh were brought back safely. The men were employed by Afcons Infrastructure Pvt Ltd for construction of a road in Bangladesh.

India back in Maldives as S Jaishankar meets Mohamed Muizzu

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday, August 9, said India's partnership with the Maldives is based on its deep desire to work together for each other's welfare and interests, as he emphasised that the relationship with Male was one of the cornerstones of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Jaishankar arrived in Male for a three-day official visit to reset the bilateral relationship with the Maldives, the first high-level trip from India after the archipelago nation's pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu assumed office last year.

The visit follows a period of strained relations between the two countries earlier this year, when three Maldivian ministers and some parliamentarians made derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Tensions escalated further after the Maldives, under new President Mohamed Muizzu, reiterated its demand for the withdrawal of Indian troops from the country. As a result, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

Muizzu, known for his pro-China stance, led an 'India out' campaign against the then Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Muizzu defeated the India-friendly Solih in the presidential runoff held in September.

During his election campaign, Muizzu promised to remove Indian military personnel from the Maldives, a pledge he fulfilled.

These Indian military personnel were stationed to operate and maintain two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft that New Delhi had gifted to Male.

Jaya, Dhankhar engage in war of words over 'tone' barb; Opposition stages walkout

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Rajya Sabha's 265th session ended on an acrimonious note on Friday, August 9, with the Opposition and Treasury benches engaging in a noisy verbal dual over an apology demanded by the Opposition from BJP's Ghanshyam Tiwari for his remarks about LoP Mallikarjun Kharge in the House on July 30.

Eventually, the entire Opposition walked out of the House and refused to return. The ruling party retaliated by moving a censure motion condemning the Opposition. Moving the motion, JP Nadda, Union Health Minister and the Leader of the House, urged the members present in the House to pass a resolution condemning the Opposition.

As soon as the Zero Hour got over and Question Hour began in the Rajya Sabha, Congress' chief whip Jairam Ramesh got up and asked Dhankhar about a ruling he was supposed to give over Tiwari's remark.

Dhankhar said the matter had been amicably resolved by the two senior members in his presence in his chamber. Ramesh and other Congress leaders responded by saying that as Tiwari had made the remarks in the floor of the house, he should give a clarification inside the House.

DMK's Tiruchi Siva said the tone of a person also mattered and Tiwari did have an offensive tone when made the remarks about Kharge were made. LoP Kharge, who was present in the House, also insisted that Tiwari must give an explanation inside the House in the presence of all



SP MP Jaya Bachchan addresses the media in New Delhi. PTI

members.

Reiterating that Ghanshyam Tiwari (who had said Kharge's entire family was involved in politics, something that Kharge said smacked of accusing him of promoting "parivaarvaad") had actually praised Kharge, Dhankhar said one did not apologise for saying nice things about an individual.

Noting that SP MP Jaya Amitabh Bachchan also wanted to say something, Dhankhar announced her name and said after she had finished, there would be no more discussion on the issue. Bachchan said she was an artist and could read body language and expression. "Forgive me sir, but your tone is not acceptable. We are colleagues, sir, you may be sitting on the chair..." she said.

Dhankhar got furious and said, "Jaya ji, you may have earned great reputation. But

I must remind you that an actor is subjected to the director. You don't see what I see from here". All hell broke loose at this point of time and the Opposition eventually walked out from the House. Condemning the Opposition MPs, Dhankhar said they were walking away from their obligations. "You want to destabilise the entire nation, you are out to create chaos in the House", he said.

Leaders of BJP and its allies, including former PM HD Deve Gowda, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ramnath Thakur, Jayant Chaudhary, Ramdas Athawale, Sanjay Jha, KR Suresh Reddy and Praful Patel, also spoke one after another and condemned the Opposition. When the House resumed after lunch, it was adjourned three times, for half an hour each. Dhankhar said he had ordered the adjournments hoping that the Opposition would return to the House.

Travel Agents Association of India - Karnataka Chapter announces newly elected members

BANGALORE (TIP)

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) is pleased to announce the newly elected members for its Karnataka Chapter. The election, which saw active participation from the state's leading travel professionals, marks a significant step in reinforcing the association's commitment to enhancing the travel industry's standards and advocating for the interests of travel agents in Karnataka.

The newly elected members are:

Mr. Niranjana S Bhargava - Chairman
Mr. Jitendra Shetty-Hon. Secretary
Mr. KS Balaji-on. Treasurer

The new leadership team brings a wealth of experience and a shared vision to drive forward initiatives that will benefit the travel sector in Karnataka. Their expertise spans various facets of the travel industry, including corporate



Mr. Niranjana S Bhargava - Chairman



Mr. Jitendra Shetty-Hon. Secretary



Mr. KS Balaji-Hon. Treasurer

travel, leisure travel, and tourism development.

Mr. Niranjana S Bhargava, the newly elected Chairman, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "I am honored to lead such a dynamic team. Our primary goal is to strengthen the network of travel agents in Karnataka, provide continuous professional development, and advocate for policies that support the

growth and sustainability of our industry." The TAAI Karnataka Chapter aims to introduce innovative programs and workshops that focus on emerging trends in travel, technology adoption, and customer service excellence.

The new committee is also committed to fostering stronger partnerships with tourism boards, airlines, hotels, and other stakeholders to create a more

integrated and robust travel ecosystem.

About Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI):

Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) was incorporated during 1951, 4 years after Indian Independence. It continues most effectively with quality growth and ability to support industry growth. TAAI is India's premier, nodal, largest, and oldest Travel & Tourism Association. TAAI's membership of about 2,500+ leading Indian companies involved actively with Tourism brings to its members constant guidance from our 20 Regional Units, which is unique to TAAI and its development of Leadership. Each unit has an elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to effectively administer. Member agencies get to meet regularly. We support road shows; presentations; interaction on industry updates, most effectively.

India in history this Week

AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 15

09 AUGUST

1942 Indian government Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by the British government.

1683 The British monarchy, through an order, gave the East India Company the right to declare war or peace in Asia.

1971 Signing of the Indo-Russian Friendship Treaty.

1942 Freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose established the Indian National Army in Malaya (now Malaysia) with the help of Japan.

1909 Kannada chief litterateur Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, who got the 'Jnanpith Award', was born on 9 August 1909.



1996 Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar was elected the captain of the Indian cricket team in 1996.

2012 In 2012, the Indian Army successfully tested the Agni-2 ballistic missile capable of carrying out nuclear strikes.

10 AUGUST

2012 In 2012, the Indian Army successfully tested the Agni-2 ballistic missile capable of carrying out nuclear strikes.

1860 Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, a scholar of classical music, was born.

1983 Phoolan Devi was born to reach the political corridors from the ravines of Chambal.

2010 India successfully tested Gagan, a satellite operating system based aircraft operation system.

2008 Anti-AIDS vaccine was successfully tested in a lab in Chennai.



1980 India's first female musician Saraswati Devi died.

1977 Shyamlal Gupta, the author of the flag song 'Vijay Vishwa Tiranga Pyara', passed away.

2008 It was agreed to implement the 2005 order in an all-party delegation meeting to settle the Amarnath land.

1979 The satellite SLV-3 was launched in 1979.

1894 The fourth President of the country, VV Giri, was born on 1894.

11 AUGUST



1908 The revolutionary Khudiram Bose was hanged.

1961 Dadar Nagar Haveli was merged with India and made it a Union Territory. Like Goa, this area was also in the Portuguese colony for many years.

2004 India and Pakistan exchanged lists of wanted criminals.

2007 Mohammad Hamid Ansari became the 13th Vice President of India in 2007.

2008 Integrated Steel Manufacturers Godavari Power and Ispat signed a MoU of Rs 1570 crore with the Government of Chhattisgarh in 2008.

12 AUGUST

1765 The British East India Company's rule began in India under the Allahabad Treaty.

1919 Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space program, was born in Ahmedabad.



2009 India's famous economist C. Rangarajan was appointed as the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

2008 Aamir Khan was awarded the Golapudi Srinivas Memorial Award 2008 for his film Taare Zameen Par.



1945 George Sidney Arundel, an Englishman who devoted his life to India, died.

13 AUGUST

1795 Queen Ahilyabai Holkar died.

1936 Famous Indian woman revolutionary Bhikaji

Cama died.

1956 The National Highway Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha.

1951 Hindustan Trainer 2, the first aircraft manufactured in India, took its first flight.

1784 Pitt's India Bill introduced in the British Parliament for administrative reforms in India.

2008 Tata Steel, the world's leading steel company, entered into an agreement with two major companies to jointly build a steel complex in Vietnam.

2008 India successfully tested the multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) weapon system Pinak.



1936 The famous Indian cinema actress Vyjayanthi Mala was born on 13 August 1936.

14 AUGUST

1862 Bombay High Court was established.

1924 Birth of renowned writer and journalist Kuldeep Nayyar.

1947 Partition of India, Pakistan became a separate nation.

1968 Morarji Desai honored with Pakistan's highest civilian honor, Nishan-e-Pakistan.

1956 Indian comedian Johnny Lever was born.

15 AUGUST

1772 The East India Company decided to set up separate civil and criminal courts in the districts.

1854 East India Railway ran the first passenger train from Calcutta to Hooghly in a distance of 37 km. However, it was officially inaugurated in 1885.

1872 Writer and litterateur Sri Aurobindo was born.

1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of independent India.



1950 An earthquake of 8.6 magnitude killed 20 to 30 thousand people in India.

1972 Postal index number ie PIN code is implemented.

1982 The national program of nationwide color broadcasting and TV was inaugurated in Delhi.

1990 The ground-to-air missile Akash was successfully launched.

1907 It was founded on 15 August as part of the Indian Bank-Swadeshi movement.

A FILM CONCERT EXPERIENCE YOU CANNOT REFUSE

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Marlon Brando, the Godfather - Corleone Family head (an assistant whispers in his ear)



The Corleone sons



A Corleone daughter's wedding

Photos / Courtesy njsymphony.org

'The Godfather Live' brings director Francis Ford Coppola's masterpiece to music venues for the first time, making its premiere at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC - njpac.org) in Newark on Friday, August 16 at 7:30 pm; and Count Basie Center for the Arts (thebasie.org) in Red Bank on Sunday, August 18 at 3 pm.

Winner of three Academy® Awards and countless other honors, 'The Godfather' remains one of the greatest films in the history of cinema. Nino Rota's iconic score, accompanied by the film's traditional Italian folk music and jazz comes to life on stage, performed live by the New Jersey Symphony (njsymphony.org) while the film is simultaneously shown in high definition on the big screen.

THE GODFATHER

'The Godfather,' released by Paramount Pictures in 1972 to popular and critical acclaim, tells the story of the Corleones and their rivalry with other New York crime families between 1945 and 1955, as the title character (Marlon Brando) hands over the reins of power to his youngest son (Al Pacino). Also starring James Caan, John Cazale, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton, the film won three Academy® Awards - including Best Picture and Best Actor (Marlon Brando) - and established Coppola's reputation as one of the exciting new breed of directors who revolutionized Hollywood from the late 1960s onwards.

In 2008, an 'Empire' magazine vote saw 'The Godfather' named as the greatest film ever made, a distinction also awarded by 'Entertainment Weekly' and 'Metacritic'. It came second in 'Sight & Sound's' 2002 list and 'Time Out's' 2003 readers' poll and is currently ranked at number two in IMDb's all-time list.

Composer Nino Rota achieved international acclaim in the 1950s and 1960s for his work with Italian directors Federico Fellini and Luchino Visconti, scoring the likes of 'White Nights', 'The Leopard', 'La Dolce Vita' and '8½'. His music for 'The Godfather', including its immortal "Love Theme from 'The Godfather,'" was ranked at #5 in the American Film Institute's list of the greatest scores ever written.

Justin Freer, Producer of 'The Godfather Live' in Concert said, "We are proud to embrace the evolution of live experience, and we hope that this concert honors the many talented musicians that bring the music of the movies to life, while giving everyone the ability to re-live one of the great masterpieces in Cinema."

PROGRAM

'The Godfather Live' in Concert
New Jersey Symphony at the Movies
Newark: Friday, August 16, 2024, 7:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center
Red Bank: Sunday, August 18, 2024, 3 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts
Nicholas Hersh conductor
New Jersey Symphony

CINECONCERTS

CineConcerts - Twitter | Facebook | Instagram

TICKETS

Tickets are available at njsymphony.org/godfather. This concert is produced by CineConcerts. Content warning: This film contains Graphic Violence, Adult Content and Profanity that some viewers may find offensive or triggering. Rated R. Programs, artists and prices are subject to change.

CINECONCERTS

CineConcerts (cineconcerts.com) is one of the leading producers of live and digital music experiences performed with visual media, and continues to redefine entertainment. Founded by Producer/Conductor Justin Freer and Producer/Writer Brady Beaubien, CineConcerts will engage over 4.8 million people worldwide in concert presentations in over 3,000 performances in 48 countries through 2025, and recently launched CineConcerts +PLUS - a global digital network and app suite with hundreds of exclusive podcast episodes and produced content continues to work with some of the most prestigious

orchestras and venues in the world including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra and more. Learn more at cineconcerts.com.

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NICHOLAS HERSH (CONDUCTOR)

American conductor Nicholas Hersh is music director of the Modesto Symphony (California), having been appointed in August 2023 with immediate effect. Across the country, Nicholas has earned critical acclaim for his innovative programming and natural ability to connect with musicians and audiences alike.

Hersh is frequently in demand as an arranger and orchestrator, with commissions from orchestras around the globe for adaptations of everything from classical solo and chamber music to popular songs. His orchestration of Beethoven's Cello Sonata Op. 69 was premiered by the Philharmonie Zuidnederland in January 2022, while his symphonic arrangement of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" continues to see worldwide success as a viral YouTube hit. He also serves as arranger and editor for the James P. Johnson Orchestra Edition.

Hersh grew up in Evanston, Illinois and started his musical training as a cellist. He earned a bachelor's degree in Music from Stanford University and a master's degree in Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Hersh is also a two-time recipient of the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award. Learn more at nicholashersh.com.

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

FILMS OF NOTE

By Mabel Pais

SUGARCANE



Directors (left) Emily Kassie & Julian Brave NoiseCat

Photo / Courtesy filmforum.org

Directors: Julian Brave NoiseCat & Emily Kassie; 2024; Documentary; English & Secwepemctsin; 107m

Winner: U.S. Directing Award, Sundance Film Festival 2024

"[A] stunning and brutal look at the lasting trauma of the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, a government-funded institution run by the Catholic Church where indigenous children were sent with the aim of stripping them of the connection to their culture... It's a portrait of what remains when injustice occurs." - Esther Zuckerman, IndieWire

'SUGARCANE' is a stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, the debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie. It is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning. Set amidst a ground-breaking investigation of abuse and death at an Indigenous residential school, the film empowers participants to break cycles of intergenerational trauma by bearing witness to painful, long-ignored truths and the love that endures within their families despite the revelation of genocide.

In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves near an indigenous residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada sparked a national outcry about the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at this network of segregated boarding schools designed to slowly destroy the culture and social fabric of Indigenous communities.

When Kassie - a journalist and filmmaker - asked her old friend and colleague, NoiseCat, to direct a film documenting the Williams Lake first investigation of St. Joseph's mission, she never imagined just how close this story was to his own family. As the investigation continued, Emily and Julian traveled to the rivers, forests and mountains of his homeland to hear the myriad stories of survivors. During production, Julian's own story became an integral part of this beautiful multi-stranded portrait of a community. By offering space, time and profound empathy, the

directors unearthed what was hidden.

Kassie and NoiseCat encountered both the extraordinary pain these individuals had to suppress as a tool for survival and a unique beauty of a group of people finding the strength to persevere.

Release: Opens at Film Forum, New York City on August 9.

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS



Preeti Panigrahi speaks as School Prefect

Photo / Courtesy filmforum.org

Director: Shuchi Talati; 2024; English & Hindi; 117m

2024 Sundance Film Festival Prize-Winner:

World Cinema Drama Audience Award,

Special Jury Award for Acting (Preeti Panigrahi)

"With her first feature, Talati expertly captures the quiet wonder and aching intensity of adolescence, first love, and caring about someone whose dueling duties and desires sometimes stop them from behaving as they know they should." indieWire - January 24, 2024 - Proma Khosla

A model student, 16-year-old Mira (Preeti Panigrahi in a radiant debut performance) is the first-ever female prefect in charge of enforcing rules at a straitlaced Indian boarding school in the Himalayas. Despite her ambition and primness, she can't help but fall for new student Sri (Kesav Binoy Kiron), and steals away with him to flirt and stargaze. With frankness and sensitivity, writer-director Shuchi Talati uncovers the contradictory layers of Mira's sexual awakening, the school's lax penalties for boys' transgressive behavior, and the complicated feelings triggered in her protective, unfulfilled mother (Kani Kusruti, star of 2024 Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix-winner 'All We Imagine as Light').

Release: Opens on September 13 at Film Forum, New York City.

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

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THURSDAY
AUGUST
15TH
2024

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is please to advise you that
The Empire State Building will be lit in
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Share Empire State Building photos on

   #IndianTriColorsESB



Taapsee Pannu on her Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba Role: 'Darker, edgier and stakes are high'

Actor Taapsee Pannu, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, talked about her character Rani and how challenging it was to make it intriguing for the audience again. Taapsee's depiction of Rani in *Haseen Dillruba* remains a stunning and compelling performance. As the actor is reprising her role in its sequel, she shared that it is going to be more intense and darker. While speaking to the media, she said, "The most difficult aspect was to fulfill the expectations of the audience."

"Apart from that, performance-wise, it was not that challenging, as after doing the first part, I knew what the audience liked about the character and what not. So, this time I got a chance for the correction. I approached Part Two (*Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*) with more confidence than I did with Part One (*Haseen Dillruba*). I hope the audience feels the same way. This time the character is darker, and edgier and the stakes are high."

Vikrant Massey, who played Rishu in *Haseen Dillruba*, talked about reprising his role and what the audience can expect from his character this time.

"The audience can expect me to handle, ek haath hai mera," he laughed and added, "I won't open up much about my character as I want the audience to experience it. But as Taapsee said it is more edgier, crazy, darker, and entertaining."

Sunny Kaushal and Jimmy Shergill are also part of the film and they are playing prominent roles.

On why he decided to do the film, Sunny replied jokingly, "Rani ka aashiq banne ko mil raha tha", adding, "You just watch the film and you will know why I did it." He continued, "I never imagined and thought about such a character." *Source: ANI*



Mrunal Thakur is fed up of media portals using her old comment about being 'madly in love' with Virat Kohli

Recently, an old comment by Mrunal Thakur stating that she was 'madly in love' with cricketer Virat Kohli resurfaced on social media. And the actor is not okay about it, and wants the media to stop using it again and again.

Recently, a media portal, Instant Bollywood took to Instagram to post a snippet from Mrunal's past interview, where she is talking about Virat Kohli and expressing her love for him. As social media users started commenting on the post, the actor didn't appreciate it getting back into the spotlight.

The actor took to the comment section to express her dismay. She wrote, "@instantbollywood STOP IT OK."

She made the statement while promoting her film, *Jersey*, which revolved around the world of cricket.

"There was a time when I was madly in love with Virat Kohli. I started liking cricket because of my brother who's a big fan. I have fond memories of watching a match live at a stadium with him around five years ago. I remember I was wearing a blue jersey and cheering for team India. Cut to today, I am part of a cricket-based film like *Jersey*. It is such a happy coincidence," she had told *Etimes*.

The film also featured Shahid Kapoor. The sports drama, a remake of the Telugu film of the same name, narrated the story of a former cricketer who returns to the game in his mid-30s to fulfil his son's wish. The film was released in 2022, but failed to make an impact at the box office.

Mrunal was last seen in *Family Star*, which starred Vijay Deverakonda. The film, supported by a cast including Abhinaya, Vasuki, Rohini Hattangadi, and Ravi Babu, also features a special appearance by Divyansha Kaushik. It received a lukewarm response from audiences upon release. *Source: HT*

Ajay Devgn kickstarts 'Son of Sardaar 2'

Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn, recently seen in 'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha', has begun shooting for his upcoming movie 'Son of Sardaar 2'.

Ajay took to Instagram and shared a video announcing the start of filming for the sequel to the 2012 film.

The movie is reportedly being shot in Scotland.

The video captures moments from the set, featuring a jimmy jib, Holi shots, dance sequences, Ajay's son Yug, and the superstar visiting a Gurudwara.

Ajay wrote in the caption, 'The journey of #SonOfSardaar2 begins with prayers, blessings, and an amazing team.' 'Son of Sardaar 2' picks up where its predecessor ended.

Directed by Ashwni Dhir, the original 'Son of Sardaar' was a remake of the S S Rajamouli film 'Maryada Ramanna'. It followed the rivalry between the Sandhu and Randhawa families and starred Sanjay Dutt, Sonakshi Sinha and Juhi Chawla.

The sequel, 'Son of Sardaar 2', is directed by Vijay Kumar Arora and features several actors in cameo roles.

However, according to media reports, Sanjay Dutt, who originally played the antagonist, has been replaced by actor-politician Ravi Kishan due to Sanjay's UK visa



application being rejected because of his past incarceration.

The announcement of 'Son of Sardaar 2' comes after the poor box-office performance of 'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha', which marked the lowest opening for Ajay Devgn in a decade, earning only Rs 7.75 crore in four days, according to an industry tracker, *Sacnilk*.

Meanwhile, Ajay also has the highly anticipated 'Singham Again' in the pipeline.

Rohit Shetty, who is the director of the film, had earlier told IANS that the film is currently in the post-production stage. *Source: IANS*



Star Wars actress Daisy Ridley diagnosed with graves' disease

Actor Daisy Ridley recently opened up about her health, revealing she has been diagnosed with Graves' disease. The Star Wars actress shared this update in the latest feature with Women's Health. Graves' disease is a disorder of the immune system that causes an overproduction of hormones in the thyroid. Common symptoms include shakiness, sensitivity to heat, weight loss, and skin irritation.

Daisy Ridley began feeling symptoms of increased heart rate, rapid weight loss, exhaustion and trembling hands after shooting Magpie thriller.

"I thought, 'Well, I've just played a really stressful role,' presumably that's why I feel poorly," Ridley said.

After describing her condition to the endocrinologist, they mentioned the feeling of Graves' is often described as "tired but weird." At that moment, Ridley realized how irritable she had become going through the early stages of the disease.

How Jennifer Garner went from 'fit' to 'Marvel fit' for Deadpool & Wolverine?

Hollywood star Jennifer Garner shared behind-the-scenes videos of her gruelling training to fit into the role of Elektra Natchios for Deadpool & Wolverine movie. The actor, who worked with director Shawn Levy and Ryan Reynolds on The Adam Project, said the duo had already decided to resurrect her superhero character while working on the sci-fi movie.

"I remember the moment @slevydirect and @vancityreynolds had the idea for Elektra Natchios to show up in @deadpoolmovie 3 — we were on the set of The Adam Project and they gave each other this look they have that can communicate an idea," she wrote on Instagram.

"Other than trying to convince my kids' preschool buddies that I was secretly a ninja, I hadn't picked up Elektra's sais since 2004; I was fit, but not @marvel fit," the actor said as she shared the video of her vigorous training that involved HIIT training, boxing and swimming.

"I didn't know that Elektra and I needed an ending, but Shawn and Ryan did. They are gifted in many ways, but seeing and elevating people around them is at the top of the list... Shooting the fight was so fun, being there all together—truly like a dream. I'm proud of my friends and grateful to be up there with them. Thank you doesn't cut



it, guys, but it's a good placeholder until I figure out what does," she said.

The actor, 52, also thanked "old pal" Hugh Jackman, Dafne Keen, Channing Tatum, and Wesley Snipes. Garner's

Elektra Natchios, a trained martial artist, first appeared in 2003's Daredevil. The actor followed it up with a stand alone movie Elektra in 2005.

The Sean Diddy factor in Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's separation rumors



Rumors about Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's divorce have been circulating for months now. In a new twist, former record executive and convicted felon Suge Knight has alleged that the rumoured split is connected to Jennifer's ex-boyfriend, rapper Sean "Diddy." FYI: JLo and Sean were allegedly involved in a nightclub shooting incident in New York in 1999, reported The Guardian. Now, Suge Knight, in the latest episode of his prison podcast Collect Call with Suge Knight, has claimed that the tapes, from the shooting incident, allegedly found at Sean's home must have been shown to Ben Affleck by the FBI.

He said, "I'm quite sure they [FBI] probably called. And the FBI gave respect and a courtesy call to Ben Affleck. It's a white man who got respect in the white world. I'm quite sure they said, 'We want to show you some things about your wife.'"

He continued, "When he [Ben Affleck] seen the sh*t that her and Puff was doing

and who they be doing it with, I'm quite sure that they gave his a*s those tapes and I'm quite sure he can never look at her the same."

Suge Knight also predicted that the rumoured estranged couple will likely head for divorce. "I'm quite sure they headed for divorce because that's a man who had a good life. Great parents don't spend a lot of money. Ain't tripping off paparazzi, he's living his life. He got his own team. She done brought all the extra sh*t out and now that muthaf***a he want out," he said.

Meanwhile, an OK Magazine report stated that Ben Affleck wasn't happy with the way things turned out between him and Jennifer Lopez. "Jennifer was Ben's dream woman. It was a drama all the time. He's feeling down about it and is upset and depressed that it didn't work out, even though he knows ending it is the right thing to do." Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez got married in 2022," a source was quoted as saying.

BRITAIN IS ON ALERT FOR FURTHER UNREST EVEN AFTER ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGNERS FACED DOWN THE FAR RIGHT

LONDON (TIP): British authorities said August 8 they were preparing for the possibility of further unrest, even as they applauded the efforts of anti-racism campaigners and police officers who largely stifled a threatened wave of far-right demonstrations overnight.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer sounded the note of caution after a week of anti-immigrant violence that has scarred communities from Northern Ireland to the south coast of England. Starmer spoke to reporters at a mosque in Solihull, near Birmingham, where demonstrators shut down a shopping center on Sunday.

"It's important that we don't let up here," Starmer said.

At an emergency meeting with law enforcement officers at his office, Starmer said on Thursday evening that police need to remain on "high alert," Britain's Press Association reported. He credited strategic police staffing and swift justice for rioters in the courts for creating a deterrent that kept trouble at a minimum the night before.

Police across the United Kingdom had braced for widespread disorder on Wednesday, after far-right activists circulated a list of more than 100 sites they planned to target, including the offices of immigration lawyers and others offering services to migrants.

But those demonstrations failed to materialize as police and counter-protesters filled the streets.

Carrying signs saying "Refugees Welcome" and chanting "Whose streets? Our streets," people turned out in force to protect asylum service centers and the offices of immigration attorneys.

The government also declared a national critical incident, putting 6,000 specially trained police on standby to respond to any disorder. Police said that protests and counter-protests were largely peaceful, though a small number of arrests were made.

"The show of force from the police and, frankly, the show of unity from communities together defeated the challenges that we faced," said Commissioner Mark Rowley, the head of London's Metropolitan Police Service. "It went off very peacefully last night, and the fears of extreme right disorder were abated."

But tensions remain high after right-wing agitators fueled the violence by circulating misinformation about the identity of the suspect in a knife attack that killed three young girls in the English seaside town of Southport last week. The last child hospitalized in the July 29 stabbing has been released, police said on August 8. (AP)

Israeli troops launch a new assault into Gaza's Khan Younis as mediators push for cease-fire talks

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP (TIP): Israeli troops launched a new assault August 9 into the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, targeting Hamas fighters who the military claims still operate there despite repeated offensives, as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for Israel and Hamas to reach a cease-fire deal.

Israeli evacuation orders triggered yet another exodus of Palestinians from the heavily destroyed eastern districts of Khan Younis, where many had just returned less than two weeks ago — after the Israeli military's last incursion into the city in July.

A wave of Israeli airstrikes in the southern city Friday killed at least 21 Palestinians, medics at the city's Nasser Hospital said. Israeli bombardment also continued to pound central Gaza on Friday, with the bodies of eight Palestinians — all women and children — arriving at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital from a barrage of airstrikes that hit the town of Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat refugee camp.

With tensions running high along the Israel-Lebanon border, an Israeli drone strike on Friday crashed into an SUV in the Lebanese city of Sidon, killing a Hamas official identified as Samer al-Haj on the main road to the southern port city, Lebanon's state media reported.

The explosion engulfed al-Haj's car in



flames just outside the sprawling Palestinian refugee camp of Ein al-Hilweh, where Lebanese media reported that he oversaw security matters. Israel confirmed it targeted al-Haj, describing him as a senior Hamas commander and accusing him of recruiting militants to attack Israel as well as directing rocket launches.

In the Gaza Strip, one of the airstrikes in Khan Younis hit the home of the Abu Moamar family, killing a Palestine TV journalist, his wife and three daughters.

Another strike smashed into tents housing displaced people in Mawasi, a coastal community just west of Khan Younis that the Israeli military has designated as a humanitarian zone,

killing a journalist for the Hamas-run Al Aqsa TV channel and five others. A third airstrike targeted a car in Khan Younis.

Thousands had fled the city Thursday, carrying essentials like small gas cylinders, mattresses, tents, backpacks and blankets.

It's at least the third time that Israeli forces have launched a major incursion into Khan Younis, where Israeli and American officials have said they believe Yahya Sinwar, Hamas' newly named top leader and one of the architects of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, could be hiding. Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, pledged allegiance to Sinwar as its new leader and promised to carry out his decisions. (AP)

Plane carrying 62 people crashes in fiery wreck in Brazil's Sao Paulo state, no survivors

VINHEDO, SAO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL (TIP): A plane carrying 58 passengers and four crew crashed on August 9 in Brazil's Sao Paulo state, killing everyone on board, local officials said. The aircraft, a French-made ATR 72-500 operated by the airline Voepass, was travelling from Cascavel in southern Parana State to Sao Paulo's Guarulhos international airport when it crashed in the city of Vinhedo.

Brazilian television network GloboNews showed footage of a large area on fire and smoke coming out of an apparent plane fuselage in a residential area full of houses. Additional footage on GloboNews showed a plane drifting downward vertically, spiralling as it fell.

"There were no survivors," the city government in Valinhos, which was involved in the rescue and recovery operation in nearby Vinhedo, said in an email sent to AFP.

A video The Associated Press obtained from a bystander and verified shows at least two bodies strewn about flaming pieces of wreckage.



In a statement, Voepass reported "an accident involving flight 2283."

"There is still no confirmation of how the accident occurred," it said.

The city of Vinhedo, with about 76,000 residents, is located approximately 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo.

At an event in southern Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva asked the crowd to stand and observe a minute of silence as he shared the news. He said that it appeared that all passengers and crew aboard had died, without elaborating as to how that

information had been obtained.

Sao Paulo's fire department wrote on social network X: "Aircraft crash, 7 teams involved, so far only this information."

"Terrifying"

Nathalie Cicari, who lives near the crash site, told CNN Brasil the impact was "terrifying."

"I was having lunch when I heard a very loud noise very close by," she said, describing the sound as drone-like but "much louder."

"I went out on the balcony and saw the plane spinning. Within seconds, I realised that it was not a normal movement for a plane," she told the broadcaster.

Cicari was not hurt but had to evacuate her house, which was filled with black smoke from the crash.

Teams of firefighters, military police, and state civil defence were deployed in the Capela neighbourhood in Vinhedo.

The doomed plane recorded its first flight in April 2010, according to the website planespotter.net. (AFP)

For freed Russian opposition activist Ilya Yashin, resuming work against Putin is his priority

BERLIN (TIP): All Russian opposition politician Ilya Yashin had with him when he was released from his penal colony in a swap was his toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste, his expired passport and the prison garb he was wearing.

But he has hit the ground running.

Within days of arriving in Germany, Yashin not only bought new clothes, set up a smartphone and reunited with his parents, but also held a news conference, fielded questions from his supporters live on YouTube and held a rally in a Berlin park — even if it meant he didn't have time to catch up on sleep.

The 41-year-old dissident, released last week in the historic East-West prisoner exchange, admits he doesn't quite know how to be a politician in exile, a role that was forced upon him against his wishes.

But in an interview on August 9 in Berlin with The Associated Press, he said he wanted to continue campaigning against Russia's war in Ukraine, trying to free more political prisoners and advance projects to unite the country's fragmented opposition.

"There is a lot of work," said Yashin, visibly tired from his tight schedule.

A vocal and outspoken critic of President Vladimir Putin, Yashin was convicted of spreading false information about the Russian military after he made remarks on YouTube about hundreds of corpses found in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha after Russian forces withdrew



from the area in March 2022, some bound and shot at close range.

He was serving 8 1/2 years in prison when on Aug. 1, Russian authorities put him on a plane to Turkey in the exchange.

It wasn't something he wanted or sought, Yashin stressed at a news conference after arriving to Germany along with other Russian dissidents. In fact, he had said at one point that he would never accept such a deal — and reiterated it last week, describing his release as a "forced deportation."

Unlike many Kremlin critics, Yashin had long refused to leave Russia despite mounting pressure from the authorities, arguing that his voice would sound

weaker from abroad. He stayed even after the invasion in 2022 and hastily adopted laws criminalizing any public criticism of it.

He told AP that his newfound freedom has left him feeling conflicted. On one hand, there's "a massive surge of enthusiasm, massive inspiration and a lot of joy," Yashin said.

"For the first time in over two years ... I don't need to wake up at 5 a.m. after being ordered to wake up, I don't need to walk with my hands behind my back, there are no bars, fences and barbed wire around, I can breathe in fresh air, eat what I want, call whoever and whenever I want," Yashin said. "This feeling of freedom, it's inebriating." (AP)

STRONG QUAKE, SMALL TSUNAMIS HIT SOUTHERN JAPAN WITH MINOR DAMAGE

TOKYO (TIP): A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 shook southern Japan on August 8 but no major damage was reported and only relatively minor tsunami waves lashed the coast.

The quake hit at 4:42 pm (0742 GMT) off Kyushu at a depth of 25 kilometres (16 miles), the United States Geological Survey said.

The USGS had initially reported two strong quakes, with magnitudes of 6.9 and 7.1, but later said there had only been one tremor.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) also said there was one quake with a magnitude of 7.1.

Broadcaster NHK showed footage of traffic lights shaking violently in Miyazaki on Kyushu's southeast coast.

"The surface of the sea is wavering. I felt an intense jolt when the quake happened which lasted for between 30 seconds and a minute," one local official told NHK.

The broadcaster also reported that three people were hurt in Miyazaki but gave no indication of the extent of their injuries.

Tsunamis of up to one metre were initially expected to arrive or had arrived in some coastal areas in Kyushu and Shikoku islands, the JMA said.

The agency also said a small tsunami was possible in Chiba, about 850 kilometres (530 miles) from the epicentre.

"Tsunamis will strike repeatedly. Please do not enter the sea or approach the coast until the warning is lifted," the JMA said on social media platform X.

However, tsunamis of only 50 cm, 20 cm, and 10 cm were confirmed to have hit some places, including the port of Miyazaki, more than an hour after the quake, it said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a warning that said hazardous tsunami waves were possible within 300 kilometres (185 miles) of the epicentre.

No abnormalities were reported at atomic power plants in the area, according to the nuclear regulation authority.

Government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi said "damage to people and property" was still being assessed.

"In view of this situation, the prime minister instructed (officials) to provide the public with timely and accurate information on tsunamis and evacuations," he said.

Unverified footage shared on social media showed only minor damage, including dishes and books that had fallen off shelves and a small wall that had collapsed in a car park. The Japanese government set up a special task force in response to the quakes, according to a statement. (AP)

Disbanded Thai opposition party relaunches under new name, leader

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's main opposition party relaunched on August 9 with a new name and leader, after its old version won the popular vote in last year's elections but was forced by a court to disband this week.

The new party will be led by tech entrepreneur Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut and known as "Prachachon", which means "People", party representative Parit Wacharasindhu told journalists in Bangkok.

The party will be referred to as "People's Party" in English.

"The reason for this name is because we would like to be a party by the people, from the people, for the people, to move Thailand forward so that people can be the supreme power."

The Constitutional Court voted unanimously on Wednesday to dissolve the Move Forward Party (MFP), the vanguard of the country's youthful pro-democracy movement, and to ban its executive board members from politics for 10 years.

Among those banned was 43-year-old Pita Limjaroenrat, who led the reformist



MFP to a surprising first place in a general election last year, after resonating with young and urban voters through his pledge to reform Thailand's strict royal defamation law.

Pita's political career was already shaken in March when Thailand's election commission asked the top court to dissolve the MFP.

That followed a ruling that the party's pledge to reform the lese-majeste law

amounted to an attempt to overthrow the constitutional monarchy.

Lese-majeste charges are extremely serious in Thailand, where King Maha Vajiralongkorn enjoys a quasi-divine status that places him above politics.

The European Union, United States, United Nations and human rights groups blasted the court's decision, which the EU said harmed democratic openness in Thailand.

'Change government'

Parit said there was "still space" to talk about the lese-majeste law, even though the Constitutional Court had dissolved the MFP due it campaigning to reform the laws.

"What we saw as a problem in lese-majeste is still a problem now," Parit said, when asked about the party's stance on the laws.

Natthaphong, who has more than 10 years of experience in computer science and IT business, according to his LinkedIn profile, said he was ready to become Thailand's next prime minister after the next national election in 2027. (AFP)

SRI LANKA NAVY ARRESTS 33 FISHERMEN FROM PAMBAN, SEIZES FOUR BOATS

RAMANATHAPURAM (TIP): The Sri Lankan Navy seized four country boats and arrested as many as 33 Indian fishermen hailing from the Pamban region for alleged violation of the IMBL here on August 8.

According to official sources, the arrested fishermen were escorted to Thalai Mannar and will be handed over to Puthalam fisheries officials for further proceedings.

Speaking to TNIE, Rayappan, a leader of country boat fishermen association in Pamban, condemned the Lankan Navy's act and added, "We had raised these issues with the external affairs minister the other day, and were assured of proper action. However, now, our fishermen have been arrested by Sri Lanka again. Immediate action must be taken to ensure their release."

OUSTER OF BANGLADESH ALLY A DIPLOMATIC DILEMMA FOR INDIA

NEW DELHI (TIP): The ouster of Bangladesh's autocratic premier sparked celebrations in Dhaka this week but alarm in neighbouring India, which backed Sheikh Hasina to counter rival China and quash Islamist alternatives, analysts say.

It has created a diplomatic dilemma for the regional powerhouse.

Hasina, 76, quit as prime minister in the face of a student-led uprising on Monday and fled by helicopter to longtime ally New Delhi.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to offer his "best wishes" after Bangladesh's newly sworn-in interim leader Muhammad Yunus took power on August 8, saying New Delhi was "committed" to working with Dhaka.

But China was also swift to welcome Dhaka's new authorities, saying it "attaches importance to the development" of relations.

With Hasina's rivals in control in Dhaka, India's support for the old government has come back to bite.

"From the point of view of Bangladeshis, India has been on the wrong side for a couple of years now," said International Crisis Group analyst Thomas Kean.

"The Indian government absolutely did not want to see a change in Dhaka, and had made that very clear for years that they didn't see any alternative to Hasina and the Awami League."

Bangladesh is almost entirely encircled by India, with a deeply intertwined history long before they were partitioned out of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. But while India's 1.4 billion population and dominating economy overshadows Bangladesh -- with a population of 170 million -- Hasina also courted China. (AFP)

Death toll from 6 weeks of monsoon rains jumps to 154 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The death toll from nearly six weeks of monsoon rains and floods across Pakistan has risen to 154, officials said August 8, as downpours continued in much of the country, inundating some villages.

More than 1,500 homes have been damaged since July 1, when the monsoon rains began, the National Disaster Management Authority said. Orchards in remote areas of the southwestern Baluchistan province were damaged, and rains flooded many streets in the eastern city of Lahore.

The Pakistan-administered portion of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir has also been battered by rains, causing landslides.

Many of the 154 deaths occurred in the eastern Punjab and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, according to the disaster agency and provincial authorities.

Currently, more than 2,000 people are in relief camps in rain-affected areas in the southern Sindh province, officials said.

On Thursday, the aid group International Rescue Committee said it is preparing to scale up its response in Pakistan with looming rains posing a



threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions.

"Our priority is to ensure that affected communities receive timely and adequate support to prevent this humanitarian crisis from deepening," the group's director in Pakistan, Shabnam Baloch, said in a statement.

Pakistan is in the middle of the annual monsoon season, which runs

from July through September. Scientists and weather forecasters blame climate change for heavy rains in recent years.

So far this year, Pakistan has received less rain than in 2022, when climate-induced downpours swelled rivers and inundated at one point one-third of the country, killing 1,739 people and causing \$30 billion in damage. (AP)

Bangladesh President orders release of jailed ex-PM Khaleda Zia

DHAKA (TIP): Amid the political unrest in Bangladesh that saw Sheikh Hasina resign as the Prime Minister and flee the country on August 5, President Mohammed Shahabuddin chaired a meeting at the Bangabhaban in Dhaka to discuss the formation of an interim government with the chiefs of the three armed forces, leaders of various political parties, and civil society representatives.

The meeting also unanimously decided to release BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia immediately.

THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS TEAM SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT THE MEETING LED BY SHAHABUDDIN "DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO FREE BANGLADESH NATIONALIST PARTY (BNP) CHAIRPERSON BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA IMMEDIATELY".

At the meeting, a condolence resolution was also taken in memory of those killed in the anti-quota movement and prayers were sought for forgiveness and peace for the departed souls.

The meeting decided to form an



interim government, urging everyone to exercise patience and tolerance in controlling the law and order situation in the country. It also decided to take strict action to stop looting and violent activities.

Besides, it was decided to release all the people detained during the anti-discrimination movement. A consensus was also reached at the meeting that no community should be harmed in any way.

Earlier, as Hasina left for India, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman confirmed the news of her resignation and said that an interim government will be formed soon to run

the country.

It was reported that over 100 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in the clashes that took place between police and the protesters on Sunday.

"With yesterday's count, the death toll in anti-government protests crossed 300 in just three weeks, making it the bloodiest period in the history of Bangladesh's civil movement," the country's leading daily 'The Daily Star' reported.

The student-led non-cooperation movement put immense pressure on the government led by Prime Minister Hasina over the past many weeks.

The students had been protesting against a 30 per cent reservation in government jobs for relatives of freedom fighters who wrested independence for Bangladesh from Pakistan in a bloody civil war in 1971 in which, according to Dhaka officials, three million people were killed in the genocide by Pakistani troops and their supporters.

After the Supreme Court slashed the reservations to 5 per cent, student leaders put the protests on hold, but the demonstrations flared up again because the students said the government ignored their call to release all their leaders, making the resignation of PM Hasina their primary demand. (IANS)

Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 15

9th August

1922 Akalis arrested at Guru Ka Bagh. Guru Ka Bagh gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affair. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

1922 Babbar Akali movement launched.

1942 60,0000 Sikhs courted arrest under the "Britishers Leave India" movement.

10th August

1938 Kartar Singh Kirti and Gurdit Singh of Mandhali were sent to the scaffold for the murder of Anup Singh.

1992 Sukhdev Singh Sukha and Harjinder Singh Jinda were hanged to death. Harjinder Singh "Jinda" and Sukhdev Singh 'Sukha' were hanged to death. They gunned down General Vadiaya after his retirement from Indian army. General Vadiya was the Chief of the Indian Army who ordered the attack on the holiest of the holy shrines at Amritsar and elsewhere in Punjab during 1984 operations.

11th August

1635 Sain Mia Mir passed away at Lahore. SIAN MIAN MIR was an exemplary and accomplished saint who was a close associate of Guru Arjun Dev and Guru Har Gobind Sahib. Sian Mia Mir witnessed the torture of Guru Arjan Patshah at the hand of Mughal rulers of the time. He laid the foundation stone of Sri Harmandir Sahib that is still burried intact.

Mian Mir was a descendant of Khalifa Umar. He was born in 1550 at Seesthan but lived in Lahore for most part of his life. He died on 11 August 1635 in Lahore. His grave is in Hashimpur near Lahore. His famous disciple MullahShah was the Peer for Shahjada Darashikoh.



1664 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Ninth, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, ascended to Guru Gadhi. Guru Hargobind died in 1644 and appointed his grandson and Tegh Bahadur's nephew, Har Rai, as the seventh Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Har Rai died in 1661 and appointed his younger son and Tegh Bahadur's grand nephew, Har Krishan, as the eight Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Har Krishan's pontificate lasted for only three years. Just before his death in 1664, Guru Har Krishan, on request of the Sikhs, in his semi-conscious state, told his followers to go Bakala and anoint his great grand uncle as the next Guru of the

Sikhs. He did not mention any name. The ctual words he used were Baba Bakale. To take advantage of this apparent ambiguous pronouncement all the great grand uncles of the Guru rushed to Bakala and declared themselves to be the ninth Guru of the Sikhs.

There were 21 claimants and also included Dhirmal, the older son of Baba Gurditta and the older brother of Guru Har Rai. The Sikh elders including Diwan Dargah Mal, Baba Gurditta the high priest, and Mata Sulakhani (widow of Guru Har Rai and mother of Guru Har Krishan) reached Bakala on this day. They were besieged by the pretenders and their agents; and were offered all kind of gifts, bribes, and threats. They ignored all of them and went to Mata Nanaki's house and formally anointed Guru Tegh Bahadur, declaring him to be the ninth Guru of the Sikhs. Baba Gurditta applied saffron mark and presented the coconut five pice consecrated by Guru Har Krishan to Guru Tegh Bahadur. However, Guru Tegh Bahadur extracted a promise from them to maintain a dignified silence for the time being.

1984 Government of India conducted a false Sarbat Khalsa. In response, instead, Singh Sahiban called for a World Sikh Conference on September 2, 1996.

1976 The SGPC unanimously endorsed the Constitution of the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood, including the Articles of Organization, in its Resolution No. 697

12th August

1922 Marked the begining of arrests and ruthless torture of GurSikhs in Guru Kae bagh Gurdwara. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affait. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

1988 Through Aug. 12, a symposium entitled Sikh Canadians: The Promise of the Challenge, was held in Tornto. The objective of the symposium, apart from promotion of the Sikh image among Canadians and logging various levels of government, was to approve the Constitution of the Institute by the Sikhs gathered at the Symposium. A Cabinet Minister participated at the reception which was very well organized. Subjects discussed at the workshops were: Being Visible; Networking; Media Relations; and New Directions in Sikh Studies.

13th August



1986 Sardar Kapur Singh, National professor of Sikhism, passed away.

15th August

1923 The case of the Babbars was initiated.

1924 10th Shahidhi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sardar Visakha Singh Daftur (Lahore), courted arrest on reaching Jaito.



1947 Punjab was divided into East and West Punjab. A major segment of the Sikh community was uprooted from their ancestral land and forced to migrate to India. This day marks the Independence day for India. Though citizens of India, the Sikh coumminty encoutered organized and pre-meditated killings of their members, lootings of all their worldly possessions, and general human suffering and deprivation that is unparalleled in the history of humankind. Over two lakh Sikhs gave their lives in search of freedom while being forcibly migrated to East Punjab. However, untill today the independence promise remains unfulfilled for the Sikh community. The community itself continues to persists in petty internal squibled, allow others to dictate terms, and is unable to establish its own sovereign state where Sikhs may prosper without any restriction. More than the lost lives, dearer than homes and lands left behind, was the Holy Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev. Numerous other historical gurudwaras were also left behind with their fates unknown. For more information refer to History section on page 29 of the September 1994, Volume 42:9, No. 489, issue of The Sikh Review.

1951 The Times of India reported that the Sikhs were opposed to Hindu-Congress because each and every demand of the Sikhs was opposed by the Congress.

1960 Sikhs observe Indian independence day as Ghulami (Slavery) day.

1960 Master Tara Singh begins fast unto death.

Master Tara Singh begins fast unto death to protest against the discriminatory attitude of the government in not forming a Punjabi Speaking State demanded by the Sikhs although the rest of India had been reorganised on linguistic basis. On Aug. 28th, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, made a statement in the Indian Parliament declaring:

1969 Shaheed Darshan Singh Pheruman launched his fast until death to force resolution of Punjab demands from Indian central government.

1980 Dal Khalsa hoisted Khalistan flag throughout the Sikh Homeland.



Skincare solutions to protect your skin from seasonal shifts

Seasonal shift plays an important role on human skin and as India belongs to a tropical climate zone, changes in skin and risk of developing skin diseases are seen mostly during shift to summer months. Heat and increased humidity make the human skin sweatier and risk of being easily macerated.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Susmit Haldar, MBBS, MD, DNB, Consultant Dermatologist and Director at Calcutta Skin Institute in Kolkata, explained, "Increased maceration leads to breach on continuity of the skin and invites bacterial and fungal skin disease like, Furunculosis, Carbuncle, Folliculitis, Dermatophytosis (Ring Worm Infection), Candidiasis. These diseases involve different parts of body, especially the body folds where moisture is trapped due to constant covering by clothing. Infections can be transmitted and further spread to individuals living in an over-crowded place and to people having poor personal hygiene."

Highlighting that sunlight is also a threat to human skin, causing different types of photo-related skin diseases, Dr Susmit Haldar elaborated, "Acne, Polymorphic Light Eruption, Lichen Planus Pigmentosus, Herpes Simplex Labialis and Sun tanning are a few to name. Sunburn does not usually occur to Indian skin because of abundance of pigment (melanin), but can often be seen in individuals who are devoid of pigment (e.g. vitiligo). Heat stroke is related to a rare skin condition, called Miliaria Profunda, where sweat secretion is completely blocked due to blockage of the sweat duct in deeper level. We see very often the less severe variant of Miliaria (Miliaria Rubra or 'Ghamori') in summer, mostly in hot humid weather."

Bringing her expertise to the same, Dr Swayamsiddha Mishra, MD-DVL, Consultant Dermatologist and Cosmetologist at All About Skin Clinic in New Delhi, said, "Seasonal shifts, particularly the transition to summer, brings longer days, increased outdoor activities, and higher temperatures, which can exacerbate various skin conditions. Indian skin types



are more prone to tanning than sunburn due to the higher melanin content in the skin which provides a protective barrier against ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Increased ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure during summer can cause photodamage, leading to erythema, hyperpigmentation, melasma and accelerated cutaneous aging. Increased sunlight sensitivity due to certain medications, autoimmune disorders may result in redness, swelling or blistering over sun exposed areas precipitating photosensitive reactions."

Skincare regimen is a must for healthy and radiant skin but Dr Nidhi Jindal, Consultant Dermatology at New town AAI in Kolkata, opined, "This needs to be curated according to an individual's skin. The regime needs to be altered with temperature and humidity. Your skin can be oilier and experience frequent breakouts in warmer months, hence the need for gel base products and lotions." *Source: HT*

Use yogurt for smooth, supple skin

Yogurt is rich in lactic acid and anti-bacterial properties which can keep all your skin woes at bay and help you achieve glowing, flawless skin which you've always dreamt of.

Honey

Got dull and dry skin? Start off by mixing 1 tsp honey with 1 tbsp of besan and one teaspoon of curd. Apply the mask and leave it on for 15-20 minutes before washing your face with lukewarm water.

Oatmeal

If you've any skin woes, then this face mask is your best bet. Simply, mix one tsp of yogurt with 1 tsp oatmeal and 1 tsp of honey. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry. Wash it off with cold water and pat dry.



Lemon Juice

Lemon's antibacterial properties help reduce the appearance of blemishes to maintain flawless skin. It also has bleaching qualities which will lighten and brighten your skin. Add 1 tsp of lemon juice to a tablespoon of curd. Apply it on your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

Turmeric

Turmeric helps in enhancing your skin's texture and makes it soft. Add some turmeric powder in your usual face mask and voila, hello to glowing, baby soft skin! Start off by mixing 2 tbsp of sandalwood powder with one tablespoon of turmeric powder and 2 teaspoons of curd. Apply it onto your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

Bananas

Banana has super hydrating, nourishing and skin tightening properties. It also acts as an astringent to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Add one tablespoon of curd and one tsp of lemon juice to mashed banana. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry.

FOOD CORNER

Chicken Tikka Masala

INGREDIENTS

For the chicken marinade:

- 28 oz boneless chicken thighs skinless, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 cup plain yogurt, 1 ½ tablespoons garlic minced, 1 tablespoon ginger, 2 teaspoons garam masala
- 1 teaspoon turmeric, 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon Kashmiri chili or ½ teaspoon ground red chili powder, 1 teaspoon salt

For the sauce:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or canola oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 small onions or 1 large onion, finely diced
- 1 ½ tablespoons garlic finely grated
- 1 tablespoon ginger finely grated
- 1 ½ teaspoons garam masala
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 14 ounces tomato puree tomato sauce/Passata
- 1 teaspoon Kashmiri chili optional for colour and flavor, 1 teaspoon red chili powder adjust to your taste preference, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 ¼ cups heavy or thickened cream, use evaporated milk for lower calories, 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- ¼ cup water if needed, 4 tablespoons cilantro fresh coriander to garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a bowl, combine chicken with all of the ingredients for the chicken marinade; let marinate for 10 minutes to an hour (or overnight if time allows).
- Heat oil in a large skillet or pot over medium-high heat. When sizzling, add chicken pieces in batches of two or three, making sure not to crowd the pan. Fry until browned for only 3 minutes on each side. Set aside and keep warm. (You will finish cooking the chicken in the sauce.)
- Melt the butter in the same pan. Fry the onions until soft (about 3 minutes) while scraping up any browned bits stuck on the bottom of the pan.
- Add garlic and ginger and sauté for 1 minute until fragrant, then add garam masala, cumin, turmeric and coriander. Fry for about 20 seconds until fragrant, while stirring occasionally.
- Pour in the tomato puree, chili powders and salt. Let simmer for about 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally until sauce thickens and becomes a deep brown red colour.
- Stir the cream and sugar through the sauce. Add the chicken and its juices back into the pan and cook for an additional 8-10 minutes until chicken is cooked through and the sauce is thick and bubbling. Pour in the water to thin out the sauce, if needed.
- Garnish with cilantro (coriander) and serve with hot garlic butter rice and fresh homemade naan.



These foods may be disturbing your gut microbiome

The gut microbiome refers to the diverse community of trillions of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microbes, residing in the digestive tract. These microorganisms play a crucial role in various bodily functions such as digestion, immune system regulation, and even mental health. A balanced and diverse gut microbiome is essential for overall health. However, certain foods can negatively impact the gut microbiome.

Foods that can negatively impact your gut microbiome:

Processed foods

Processed foods are high in additives, preservatives, and artificial sweeteners, processed foods can disrupt the balance of gut bacteria, leading to inflammation and reduced microbial diversity. Opt for whole, unprocessed foods. Read labels and avoid products with long lists of ingredients.

Artificial sweeteners

Substances like aspartame and sucralose can alter gut bacteria, potentially leading to glucose intolerance and metabolic issues. Use natural sweeteners like honey or maple syrup in moderation. Limit the intake of diet sodas and sugar-free products.

Red meat

High consumption of red meat is associated with increased levels of harmful bacteria and inflammation in the gut. Limit red meat intake to occasional consumption. Incorporate more plant-based proteins like beans, lentils, and tofu into your diet.

Fried foods

Fried foods are high in unhealthy fats, fried foods can promote the growth of harmful bacteria and increase inflammation. Choose healthier cooking methods like baking, grilling, or steaming. Use healthy oils like olive oil for cooking.

Refined sugars

Excessive sugar consumption can feed harmful bacteria and yeast in the gut, leading to dysbiosis and inflammation. Reduce the intake of sugary snacks,



desserts, and beverages. Opt for fruits and natural sweeteners instead.

Alcohol

Alcohol can disrupt the balance of gut bacteria, increase gut permeability (leaky gut), and contribute to inflammation. Limit alcohol consumption and opt for moderate drinking. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Dairy products

For some individuals, especially those with lactose intolerance, dairy can cause gut irritation and an imbalance of gut bacteria. Choose lactose-free dairy products or dairy alternatives like almond milk or soy milk if you have lactose intolerance.

Gluten

Gluten can cause inflammation and gut barrier dysfunction in individuals with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity. Avoid gluten-containing foods if you are sensitive. Choose gluten-free grains like quinoa, rice, and millet.

Antibiotics

While not a food, the frequent use of antibiotics can significantly disrupt the gut microbiome by killing beneficial bacteria. Use antibiotics only when prescribed by a healthcare professional. Take probiotics during and after antibiotic treatment to help restore gut balance.



Suffering from high blood pressure? Eating fruits and vegetables may help

Fruits and vegetables, which are an under-prescribed treatment, have become a crucial part of hypertension treatment, new research said. Diets high in these foods have been shown to lower blood pressure, reduce cardiovascular risk, and improve kidney health due to their base-producing effects.

A new study in *The American Journal of Medicine*, presents findings from a five-year interventional randomised control trial.

Despite efforts to improve hypertension treatment with pharmacological strategies, hypertension-related chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular mortality are rising. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for patients with chronic kidney disease.

The Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension diet, rich in fruits and vegetables, is recommended as the first-line treatment for primary hypertension. However, it is often under-prescribed and under-implemented, despite supporting data. Diets high in fruits and vegetables are associated with lower blood pressure, reduced chronic kidney disease progression, and decreased cardiovascular disease risk and mortality.

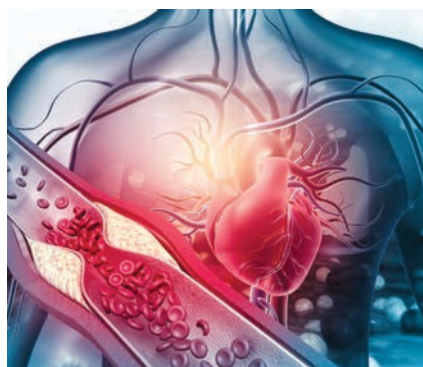
“Our patient studies showed that an acid-producing diet (high in animal products) is harmful to kidneys, while a base-producing diet (high in fruits and vegetables) is beneficial. We hypothesised that fruits and vegetables are both kidney and heart-healthy because they reduce dietary acid,” said Donald E Wesson from Dell Medical School, The University of Texas. The study involved hypertensive patients with macro albuminuria—a marker of chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular risk. Participants were divided into three groups: one adding 2-4 cups of fruits and vegetables to their daily diet, another taking sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃) tablets, and a control group receiving standard medical care. *Source: IANS*

Indian researchers find a new, cheaper route to manage cholesterol

Researchers from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, have explored a new way to manage conditions like elevated low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or cholesterol, levels.

Proteins are vital for our health, performing a wide range of functions. However, incorrect protein interactions can cause diseases. Traditionally, scientists have tried to develop small molecule drugs that act as competitive inhibitors to protein-protein interaction (PPI) sites. However, this has proven difficult due to the large and smooth nature of protein interaction areas.

An alternative approach uses large peptides or antibodies to inhibit PPIs, though these can be costly and difficult to administer.



Pharmaceutical industries thus seek small molecules that are easier to take, typically in pill form.

A promising new method involves allosteric inhibitors -- drugs that bind to different parts of the protein, changing its behaviour and preventing harmful interactions.

The challenge is identifying these

special target spots on proteins. The researchers propose a new computational protocol to predict and identify alternative binding pockets and hotspots on a protein surface that are allosterically coupled to the functional site using advanced computer simulation approaches.

As a test case, they examined PCSK9, a protein that controls cholesterol levels by interacting with low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR). Increased PCSK9-LDLR interaction can elevate LDL levels, contributing to heart disease. Current treatments targeting PCSK9 are expensive and not suitable for everyone. Finding an orally administered small-molecule drug that blocks the PCSK9-LDLR interaction could be transformative. *Source: IANS*

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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

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



Engineers develop earbuds to combat drowsiness while driving

Drowsy driving is a critical hazard which contributes to road accidents worldwide. However, engineers have now developed earbuds to address the drowsiness while driving.

Engineers at the University of California, Berkeley, have developed prototype earbuds that can detect signs of drowsiness in the brain, aiming to protect drivers and machine operators from the dangers of drowsiness.

The earbuds function like an electroencephalogram (EEG), measuring brain waves through built-in electrodes that contact the ear canal. While the electrical signals detected are smaller than those in traditional EEGs, the new study shows that the Ear EEG platform is sensitive enough to detect alpha waves, a pattern of brain activity that increases when drowsiness sets in.

"I was inspired when I bought my first pair of Apple's AirPods in 2017. I immediately thought what an amazing platform for neural recording. We believe this technology can classify drowsiness, indicating its potential to classify sleep and diagnose sleep disorders," said study author Rikky Muller, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley.

Creating an earbud that fits a variety of ear sizes and shapes posed significant challenges. While other groups used wet electrode gels or custom-moulded earpieces, Muller's team aimed for a dry, user-generic model that anyone could use. "My goal was to create a device usable every day by those who would benefit from it," said Ryan Kaveh, the designer.

Kaveh designed the earpiece in three sizes. The design includes multiple electrodes applying gentle pressure to the ear canal, ensuring a comfortable fit, with signals read through a low-power, wireless interface. In a paper, the researchers demonstrated the earpieces could detect physiological signals, including eye blinks and alpha brain waves. The study incorporated machine learning to validate the earpieces' real-world application. Nine volunteers wore the earpieces while performing tasks in a darkened room, periodically rating their drowsiness and response times.

Isro to launch SSLV on third development flight on I-Day

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is set to launch the Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08) aboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 on Independence Day, August 15, at 9:17 am.

The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

EOS-08 is designed to enhance environmental monitoring, disaster management, and support for the Gaganyaan mission.

"It will complete the SSLV development project and will enable operational missions by Indian industry and NSIL," Isro said.

The satellite carries three primary payloads: the Electro Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR), the Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry payload (GNSS-R), and the SiC UV Dosimeter.

The EOIR payload is engineered to capture images in both the Mid-Wave Infrared (MIR) and Long-Wave Infrared (LWIR) bands, providing critical data for applications such as satellite-based surveillance, disaster monitoring, environmental observation, fire detection, volcanic activity tracking, and industrial disaster assessment.

This payload will operate both day and night, ensuring continuous data collection.

The GNSS-R payload demonstrates the potential of using GNSS-R-based remote sensing for various applications, including ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and monitoring inland water bodies.

This capability is crucial for accurate weather forecasting and flood warnings.

The SiC UV Dosimeter monitors UV irradiance at the viewport of the Crew Module in the Gaganyaan Mission and serves as a high-dose alarm sensor for gamma radiation, ensuring the safety of astronauts.

Built on the Microsat/IMS-1 bus, EOS-08 is configured to operate in a Circular Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km with an inclination of 37.4°. The satellite weighs approximately 175.5 kg, generates about 420 W of power, and has a mission life of one year.

EOS-08 represents a significant advancement in satellite mainframe systems with the inclusion of an Integrated Avionics system, known as the Communication, Baseband,



EOS-08 is configured to operate in a Circular Low Earth Orbit. (Photo: Isro)

Storage, and Positioning (CBSP) Package.

This system consolidates multiple functions into a single efficient unit, showcasing ISRO's commitment to innovative mission management.

The launch of EOS-08 on Independence Day not only marks a technological milestone for ISRO but also underscores India's growing capabilities in space exploration and satellite technology.

Scientists have developed new technology that can help fabricate cost-effective and efficient piezoelectric devices for self-powered wearable devices that harvest energy from the human body to monitor diverse physiological parameters.

Piezoelectric devices are based on electric charge that accumulates in certain solid materials, such as crystals and ceramics, as well as biological matter, such as bone or various proteins, in response to applied mechanical stress.

Researchers at the Institute of Nano-Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, have found a technique in the field of microfluidics to produce microspheres that are tiny solids or hollow spheres of a protein or synthetic polymer with a high electro-active phase that can be used in piezoelectric devices.

Polymer microspheres are known for their increased surface area and enhanced interface capabilities; however, the existing methods for their production have several drawbacks, such as shape irregularities and high energy requirements.

To address these limitations,

Wearable body sensors that harvest energy from motion



microfluidic techniques have emerged, offering benefits such as tunability, size and shape control, and efficiency. Researchers at INST addressed the technical challenges by combining microfluidics technology with off-chip thermal polymerisation techniques to produce microspheres that exhibited uniformity and monodispersity.

Artificial intelligence (AI) was also used as a vital tool in enabling accurate predictions for microsphere diameter and phases, reducing the need for extensive laboratory optimisation prior to droplet generation in microfluidics.

As a proof of concept, the researchers explored the application of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) microspheres in the development of a flexible piezoelectric device that can seamlessly integrate with different parts of the human body, like the elbow, knee, etc., through wearables.

It underwent varying degrees of compression at different rates, depending on specific body movements, harnessing the energy generated by body movements that would otherwise go to waste. This generated electrical response proved to be substantial, providing enough output voltage to operate low-power devices. *Source: TNS*

India proposes preferential trade pact among BIMSTEC countries

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on August 7 suggested the seven member countries of the BIMSTEC bloc to relook and re-examine the proposed free trade agreement as the talks for the pact is progressing at a very slow pace.

BIMSTEC stands for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. Its seven members are five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka) and two Southeast Asian countries (Myanmar and Thailand).

The bloc has been negotiating a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) since 2004.

So far over 20 rounds of talks have been held. The last one was held in 2018.

"I would like to raise a few fundamental issues about where we stand and what are the possibilities of making this FTA a reality," Goyal said here at CIIs BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024.

He said that so far 22 rounds of talks have been held for the agreement and this itself raises a question on whether "we need to pause and have a relook at the track where we are going".

Repo rate unchanged; food inflation worries RBI

MUMBAI (TIP)

As was widely expected, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on August 8, kept the repo rate—that is the rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks—unchanged at 6.5 percent for the ninth time in a row as it continued to maintain its hawkish stance on inflation. This means loans on homes and products will continue to be costlier, but on the brighter side, it cushions the economy from runaway high prices, which have been a bane for the government and have been pinching commoners.

Food inflation surged to 9.4 percent in June on account of costlier vegetables, cereals, milk and fruits. Vegetable inflation, which has remained in double digits for eight months now, is a major worry as is the rigidity in foodgrains inflation. However, non-food inflation eased for the 17th straight month, sliding to a record low of 2.3 percent.

The RBI, in a statement on August 8, said headline inflation increased to 5.1 per cent in June after remaining steady at 4.8 per cent during April-May. "The worsening of food inflation pressures—driven primarily by a sharp increase in prices of vegetables, pulses and edible oils, along with a pick-up in inflation across cereals, milk, fruits and prepared meals—pushed up headline inflation," the statement said.

The fuel group remained in deflation, reflecting the cumulative impact of the sharp cuts in LPG price in August 2023 and March 2024. Core inflation (excluding food and fuel) at 3.1 per cent in May-June touched a new low in the current consumer price index (CPI) series, with core services inflation also at its lowest in the series, the central bank said.

Two of the MPC members voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, but the other four, including RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, voted to keep the rates unchanged.

"Food inflation is a hurdle, and without a durable decline in it, headline inflation cannot be tamed to 4 per cent on a sustained basis," said D.K. Joshi, chief economist with Crisil. A pick-up in food inflation in June dragged consumer inflation to 5.1 per cent. "Inflation should decline in July, but the RBI will overlook it because that will be purely a high-base effect, added Joshi.

"We expect the RBI to begin cutting rates in October at the earliest and have penciled in two rate cuts this fiscal. By then,



there will be clarity on food inflation as the monsoon would have played out. Good progress on rains and sowing so far offers hope," explained Joshi.

However, a note from Bank of Baroda said no rate cuts were expected from the RBI till December.

Explaining its action, the RBI said headline inflation had moderated from its peak but unevenly. Looking ahead, food price momentum remained elevated in July. In Q2 of 2024-25, though the favourable base effects were large, the sharper uptick in price momentum relative to earlier expectations was likely to result in a shallower softening of CPI headline inflation. Inflation is expected to edge up in Q3 as favourable base effects taper off.

An analysis by Crisil earlier this month showed that vegetable inflation rose for the first time in four months to 29.3 per cent, from 27.4 per cent, despite a supportive base. On a seasonally adjusted basis, vegetable prices rose 3.4 per cent month on month. "Unlike the last three months, the rise in vegetable inflation was broad-based, with both TOP (tomatoes, onions, potatoes) and non-TOP vegetable inflation rising.

TOP inflation surged to 48.4 percent, driven by onions and potatoes. Despite an on-month uptick in prices (seasonally adjusted), tomato inflation eased to 26.4 per cent from 41.3 percent owing to the high base of last year. Non-TOP vegetables saw inflation harden to 19.7 per cent from 18.8 percent, driven by leafy vegetables, brinjal, lady's finger and pumpkin, Crisil said.

Source: India Today

Volatility likely to continue, US economy still on track for soft landing: UBS

The equity market has remained volatile, with both the S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq index closing 1% higher on August 6, rebounding from a 3% drop in the S&P 500.

Meanwhile, the VIX implied volatility index fell to around 28 after spiking above 60 intraday on August 5.

In light of these developments, market expectations for the pace of Federal Reserve rate cuts have shifted significantly in recent weeks. Fed funds futures markets are now pricing in 136 basis points of cuts in 2024 and a further 97 basis points in 2025.

"With rates at 5.25-5.5%, the Fed has the capacity to bolster the economy and markets and recent data should have improved the Fed's confidence that inflation is on a sustainable path back to the 2% target," UBS strategists said in a note.



Analysts now anticipate that the Fed will make a 50-basis-point cut at its September meeting, followed by an additional 50 basis points of easing throughout the rest of 2024, with further cuts expected in 2025.

Recent movements in equities, bonds, and currencies have been partly attributed to the unwinding of widely held positions, including long positions in mega-cap US tech stocks and short positions in the Japanese yen.

While the full impact of position squaring on recent market volatility is difficult to gauge, sentiment has become more cautious regarding risky assets, UBS notes.

Clear indications of this shifting investor mindset are evident in the options market.

The put-call skew has risen since last week, showing that investors are now more willing to pay for downside protection than for upside optionality. Moreover, the S&P 500 implied volatility term structure has inverted, with 3-month volatility exceeding 1-year volatility for the first time since the banking crisis in March 2023.

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Naga Panchami

NAG PANCHAMI IS CELEBRATED BY HINDUS WITH MUCH POMP. DEVOTEES WORSHIP SNAKES TO PLEASE LORD SHIVA. SOME PEOPLE OBSERVE A FAST THE DAY BEFORE NAG PANCHAMI, KNOWN AS NAG CHATURTHI OR NAGULA CHAVITHI.

Naga Panchami is a festival of profound significance in India. Hindu devotees across the country pay their respects to the Naga Gods during Naga Panchami. They make serpents from wood, silver, or stones for the occasion. People also use paintings of Naga or snakes. During this auspicious celebration, they offer milk, sweets, and fruits to the serpent. People also provide offerings to live snakes, like cobras, on this day. It is essential to take the assistance of a snake charmer for that. Here, in this article, we will discuss the origin, stories, celebrations, and significance of Naga Panchami.

We celebrate Nag Panchami on the Panchami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month of Shravana. It comes either in July or August. The Nagoba Temple, located in the Nagpur district in Maharashtra, is famous for conducting the Nag Panchami Festival. Through this festival, devotees, especially women, seek the blessings of Lord Naga. People ask for his forgiveness, and they pray for attaining happiness and fulfillment for their families. Naga Panchami is also known as Nag Chaturthi and Nagil Charithi. There are different names for the occasion in various parts of the country.

Legends related to Naga Panchami

Naga Panchami is a festival that has been celebrated for a long time in India. Agni Purana, Skanda Purana, Narada Purana, Garuda Purana, and other Hindu Puranic texts also refer to Naga Panchami. In the Puranic literature, we can find a reference to how the Naga clan came into existence. Lord Brahma's son, Kashyapa, married Kudru and Vinata, daughters of Prajapati. Kudru gave birth to the Naga clan.

In Garuda Purana, there is a description of why we offer milk and sweets to Naga Devas on Naga Panchami. As per the text, the reason is that it will provide us with good things in our lives. After we offer milk to snakes, we have to feed Brahmins too. It is an essential part of the ceremony. There are different legends associated with its origin.

One of them bases itself on the story of Takshak, the king of snakes. We can find it in Mahabharata. King Takshak killed Parikshit, king Janamya's father. Angered by the incident, king Janamya decided to organize a Yagna. The Yagna was to remove the Naga clan from the world. As the Yagna proceeded, Astika Rishi came and stopped the Yagna. We celebrate the day on which Astika Rishi interfered with the Yagna as Naga Panchami.

Another legend relating to Naga Panchami is that it is on that day, Lord Krishna killed Kaliya Nag or snake. Lord Krishna removed Kailya from the world to protect the people belonging to Gokul. Devotees believe that we celebrate Naga Panchami on that basis. How do we celebrate Naga Panchami?: Celebrations of Naga Panchami differ according to the regions in India. As we have already discussed, devotees offer milk to live snakes or figures of serpents.

In some parts, they offer rice pudding and lotus flower placed in silver bowls to the Nagas. During the Naga Panchami, it is essential to clean our houses. We can conduct Naga pujas as well. You can place the image of Naga Deva or an idol and organize the prayers. It is beneficial to light lamps during the Naga Panchami. You can also perform Sankalpa during the Naga pujas.

There are places where people draw Rangolis of serpents in their houses as part of the festival. They make these Rangolis using natural colors. In some areas, people draw images of snakes in front of their homes or on the door. In certain villages, people go on searching for anthills. They offer incenses and milk in front of these anthills. They also pour milk into the anthills as a way of conveying their reverence. There are various other ways of celebrating Naga Panchami as well.

Significance of Naga Panchami

There are countless significances associated with Naga Panchami. Here, we will look at some of the most relevant points.

- By celebrating Naga Panchami and offering milk to the Naga Devas, we can overcome the "Kaal Sarp



Important information

Nag Panchami 2024

Friday, 09 August 2024

Start Panchami Date - 09 August 2024 at 12:36 AM

End Panchami Date - 10 August 2024 at 03:14 AM

Dosh" in our horoscopes.

- Many people fast on the day of Naga Panchami. The reason behind it is that they can overcome their fear of snakes and snakebites.
- During the time of Naga Panchami, it is the rainy season. Snakes leave their burrows during that time as they would be submerged in water. There are chances of snakes attacking humans out of fear. You can overcome such situations by feeding them milk or sweets. As snakes have sharp memories, they would remember the person who offered them milk or food. So, the snakes would not attack these people. It is yet another reason why people celebrate and provide food to snakes during Naga Panchami.
- Naga Panchami and the pujas we conduct in association with it show that it is essential for us to respect all forms of life. There should not be any indifference in viewing other living things. We have to consider them equal to us.
- During Naga Panchami, we must not dig the ground. It is taboo. It is because it can lead to the death of snakes.
- Naga Panchami is also known as Bhatru Panchami.

“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

Here, women offer milk to snakes as a way of protecting their brothers from any danger. Thus, Naga Panchami is a Hindu festival of great importance. Devotees perform different pujas and provide offerings to snakes. We can attain happiness, prosperity, and well-being by taking part in this festival for ourselves and our families

Many stories are prevalent in ancient stories. One of them is as follows - A farmer lived in a state. The farmer had two sons and a daughter. One day, three snake children crushed and died while running the plow. The serpent kept mourning at first and then went to take revenge on the murderer of the child. In the night, the serpent bites the farmer, his wife and both boys. The next day the serpent arrived to bite the daughter of the farmer, the daughter of the farmer placed a bowl full of milk in front of the serpent and folded his hands and started apologizing. The serpent delighted, raising her parents and both brothers alive. That day was Shraavan Shukla Panchami. Since then serpents are worshiped on this day to avoid the wrath of the serpent.

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arish.sahani@gmail.com

“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.”

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 12 TO AUGUST 18 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES

Ganesha says this week is going to be nice for them. You will have to help your spouse in his work. You also need to focus on your business. Love will be seen in love relationships. This week, excessive worry about financial matters can cause headaches for you. Your luck will remain strong, due to which your financial condition will gradually improve. People involved in partnership business need to pay attention to their partners. People working will think about a new job. You may have success in higher education. You will get a chance to read your favorite subjects. Confidence will remain very high. There will be no significant improvement in health. I will make some changes in my daily routine.

TAURUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be good for people with the Taurus zodiac sign. People living a love life will express their feelings to their beloved today. Love will be seen in the lives of married people. For those who are unmarried, a good relationship will come today, which will make them look very happy. Time is good for higher education. Working people should avoid arguing with their juniors. There will be a gradual improvement in health. There may be ups and downs in the economic situation. Your expenses will be very high this week, due to which you will feel a little worried. Will get support from family. You will plan to visit some religious places with your family, there will be a lot of expenditure there too.

GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is going to be good for you. This week you will have to try to stay away from negativity. If you want to get into a new relationship, you will have to make the decision very thoughtfully. Married people will look happy in their married life. If we talk about students, this week will be good. If you study as per the rules then you will get good results in the examination. Time is good for higher education. Employed people will be pleased to see progress in their jobs. People doing business will have to adopt new methods to take their business forward. Health will improve. Your expenses will be higher. There will be expenses for travel, food, etc. Time is good for investment.

**CANCER**

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good. Will get support from family. Your love life will be better. If students are preparing for any competition then they will get success through their hard work. Health may fluctuate due to changing weather. People working in jobs will get a promotion by completing the assigned work. The economic situation will improve. You can also spend money on buying a new vehicle. You may also have to spend more on home decoration. There can be talk of relationships among bachelors. A promising program will be organized at home. There is a possibility of financial benefits from the mother, maternal uncle, maternal grandmother, and grandmother.

LEO

Ganesha says this week will be very good for you. Good relations will be formed with friends. Your love life will be better. The youth competing will be successful in this. Health will gradually improve. It would be better if you included yoga and meditation in your daily routine. Today your expenses will also be higher. You will do some shopping for your family's needs. Can also buy new vehicles. You may get some big benefits from government sectors. This week you will have to avoid interfering in any quarrel or legal work. The financial situation will be better. Working people will have to complete their work on time.

VIRGO

Ganesha says people living a love life will look very happy with their beloved. Married people will be seen enjoying going on a trip in their domestic life. Along with preparing for the competition, students will also pay full attention to their studies. There will be ups and downs in health. It will be better for you if you consult a good doctor. People doing jobs will get a chance to show their efficiency. Businesspeople will adopt new technology to take the business forward. Your financial condition will also remain strong. Time is not a special thing in investing. This week you will have to do any kind of transaction very carefully.

LIBRA

Ganesha says your love life will be better. Will get support from family. You will spend loving moments with your spouse. There are indications of financial gain from a senior member. Your health will be better than before. You will be seen working with full dedication in the field of education. Time is good for higher education. Employed people will get

opportunities for promotion in the job. The financial situation will remain strong but it will be better if you do any transaction with anyone very thoughtfully. You will receive your pending money. You will get the pleasure of a new vehicle. There will be more unnecessary expenses.

SCORPIO

Ganesha says married people will seem satisfied with their family life and will also plan to visit some religious places with family members. Your love life will be better. You will also introduce your love partner to your family members. There will be no significant change in health. Your week will be good from a financial point of view. You will get a chance to make new investments, which will further strengthen your financial position. Working people will seem happy after getting a promotion in the job. People doing business will be seen making efforts to take the business forward. Will get support from family. Senior members will spend some money on your business. Worship will be organized at home.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says will get support from family. You will spend some time with your spouse and share the problems going on in your mind, which will increase the love between you both. Your financial condition will be good. This week you will do some important work, for which you will have to get financial help from your friends. Students pursuing education will study diligently. Time is good for higher education. Your health will be good. If you make some changes in your daily routine, it will be better for you. Employed people will go on a trip for office work, which will be beneficial for them. People doing business will take the help of friends to take the business forward.

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says will get support from family. You will spend time with your family and learn to save money, which will be very useful to you in the future. Your love life will be better. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people. You will participate in religious programs with your spouse. A lot of money will be spent on home decoration and repair. You will be seen making efforts to advance your business. People doing jobs will get support from officials. Avoid getting involved in neighborhood disputes. Your health will be better than before. People preparing for the competition will be seen working hard.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says there will be happiness and peace in family life. Will get support from family. Your love life will be better. There will be differences of opinion with your spouse regarding some issues. There is a possibility of financial gain from ancestral property. The economic situation will remain strong. This week you will spend more money on your entertainment. You will also get the pleasure of a new vehicle. Working people will have to complete all the work in their workplace on time. Those who do import-export work from abroad will hear good news. Those youth who are preparing for competition will be successful. Your health will be good this week.

PISCES

Ganesha says this week is going to be better for you. People working will see progress in their jobs. People doing business will be successful in taking their business forward. Time is good for higher education. Will get support from family. Your love life will be better. You will go on a romantic dinner with your spouse, where you will be seen talking about love. The economic situation will be strong. There will be many income opportunities. A new guest will arrive in the house, which will create an atmosphere of happiness in the family. Your health will improve. You will get success in the house or plot you were planning to buy. Your expenses will also increase this week, but due to your strong financial condition, you will spend openly.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life.

**Visit his website
chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com**

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 12 TO AUGUST 18
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

12TH AUGUST : Ganesha says you should embrace any change that occurs in your life to demonstrate your adaptability. Simply follow your doctor's advice, and you'll soon be able to recover from all of your ongoing illnesses. If you have obesity, which is the absolute last thing anyone wants in their life, you must take extra care of yourself. Love will lead you where it needs to go. Conflicts involving ego, love, and deception could all be present in your family, so take caution.

13TH AUGUST : Ganesha says everyone is riveted by your impromptu talks, and they leave the audience wanting more. You will always be in the news because of your connections to powerful players in your industry. Your statesmanship and diligence earn you respect in addition to power. More than ever, those close to you show interest in you. You provide them with the support they need to solve their challenges. In your family, you are a skilled mediator.

14TH AUGUST : Ganesha says you have an artistic intellect, and one of its beauties is to appreciate and laud the

lovely things. You put your all into your work, allowing you to savor every moment. For any of your investments, focused governance will yield significant returns. Your life will be luxurious, and you will soon achieve great achievement. You resemble a spider that enjoys making difficult efforts to achieve its goals. Your love may seem to be far away, but if it is yours, it will find you on its own.

15TH AUGUST : Ganesha says your enthusiasm and outlook on life are admirable. A concerted effort is required to pursue a passion for learning and exploration. All of your coworkers fall under your wing due to your unpopular and logical demeanor. You've learned from a young age that patience is the key to success. Keeping a constant eye on your kids' education will help them succeed in life. Your films in a variety of genres will now be enjoyed by the audience. With your family and friends, you are extremely close.

16TH AUGUST : Ganesha says your unique characteristics will make you well-known in your field. Because of

your always expanding ideas, people will like your business. Never forget that those who dare to dream and think unconventionally are the ones who succeed. Therefore, if you are self-assured, believe in your abilities, and pursue your goals in life, success will undoubtedly be yours. Business travel will be goal-oriented, although it may cause some health issues.

17TH AUGUST : Ganesha says no matter how the odds are stacked against you, you always attempt to fight back in life. You have an abundance of stimulating and difficult feelings inside of you, which drives you to take actions that most people wouldn't even consider. Your continued relationship can end up turning into a lifetime kinship. You try to get in touch with folks in your contacts, but you can come up empty-handed. You can avoid further hassle from your bad habits, such as drinking alcohol and other vices, by combining meditation with medical treatments.

18TH AUGUST : Ganesha says you have a very positive outlook on your academic career. You must control your

impulsive tendency to seek retribution over insignificant issues. To taste success, you must be on the same wavelength as it. You always follow the rules and regulations of the system you choose to realize your deepest desires. To get your creative work started, you must attend intensive workshops. To quell your enemies' bad spirits, you must open your hawk eye. Avoid interacting with other group members who might represent your anxiety to you.

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

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World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Varanasi: The spiritual capital of India

Varanasi, or Benaras, (also known as Kashi) is one of the oldest living cities in the world. Varanasi's Prominence in Hindu mythology is virtually unrevealed. Mark Twain, the English author and literature, who was enthralled by the legend and sanctity of Benaras, once wrote : "Benaras is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together."

The land of Varanasi (Kashi) has been the ultimate pilgrimage spot for Hindus for ages. Hindus believe that one who is graced to die on the land of Varanasi would attain salvation and freedom from the cycle of birth and re-birth. Abode of Lord Shiva and Parvati, the origins of Varanasi are yet unknown. Ganges in Varanasi is believed to have the power to wash away the sins of mortals.

Ganges is said to have its origins in the tresses of Lord Shiva and in Varanasi, it expands to the mighty river that we know of. The city is a center of learning and civilization for over 3000 years. With Sarnath, the place where Buddha preached his first sermon after enlightenment, just 10 km away, Varanasi has been a symbol of Hindu renaissance. Knowledge, philosophy, culture, devotion to Gods, Indian arts and crafts have all flourished here for centuries. Also a pilgrimage place for Jains, Varanasi is believed to be the birthplace of Parsvanath, the twenty-third Tirthankar.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple

Situated on the western bank of holy river Ganga in Varanasi, Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas or temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. The main deity of Kashi Vishwanath Temple is Lord Shiva, also known as Vishwanatha or Vishweshwarar meaning 'the ruler of the universe'. The city of Varanasi, the cultural capital of India, is thus known as the city of Lord Shiva. The temple has 800 kg of gold plating on its tower.

Dashashwamedh Ghat

Dashashwamedh Ghat, situated on the Ganges River in Varanasi, holds immense religious significance and cultural vibrancy. Renowned for its daily Ganga Aarti, it offers a mesmerizing experience with spiritual rituals, pilgrim activities, and a lively atmosphere. Every evening, Dashashwamedh Ghat hosts the renowned Ganga Aarti, a spiritual ceremony featuring priests conducting rituals with brass lamps and hymns. This captivating spectacle attracts large crowds, creating a divine ambiance.

Dashashwamedh Ghat serves as a pilgrimage site where devotees take ritualistic dips in the Ganges to cleanse themselves. The ghat's steps are adorned with numerous shrines, creating a sacred atmosphere. Visitors can engage in boat rides on the Ganges, offering a unique perspective of Dashashwamedh Ghat and the city of Varanasi. The ghat's proximity to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple adds to its religious aura, creating a significant spiritual hub in Varanasi.



Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple

The Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple is situated by the River Assi and was built in the 1900s by the freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. It is dedicated to Lord Rama and Hanuman. Varanasi is always related to Sankat Mochan Temple and is an essential part of this holy city. Every person visiting Varanasi visits this temple and pay their respects to Hanuman.

The laddoo offered at this temple is essentially famous among the locals. While visiting Sankat Mochan be aware of the monkeys who throng the temple premises and tend to steal away the prasada. However, they are totally harmless if you let them be on their own.

Varanasi has also been a great center of learning for ages. Varanasi is associated with promotion of spiritualism, mysticism, Sanskrit, yoga and Hindi language and honored authors such as the ever-famous novelist Prem Chand and Tulsi Das, the famous saint-poet who wrote Ram Charit Manas. Aptly called as the cultural capital of India, Varanasi has provided the right platform for all cultural activities to flourish. Many exponents of dance and music have come from Varanasi. Ravi Shankar, the internationally renowned Sitar maestro and Ustad Bismillah Khan, (the famous Shehnai player) are all sons of the blessed city or have lived here for major part of their lives.

Arts, Crafts and Architecture of Banaras: You will be amused to see that Varanasi is a Museum architectural designs. It presents changing patterns and movements in course of history. It has a rich and original variety of paintings and sculptor styles and equally rich treasures of folk art. During the ages Varanasi has produced master craftsmen and Varanasi has earned



name and fame for its Sarees, handicrafts, textiles, Toys, ornaments, metal work, clay and wood work, leaf and fibre crafts. With ancient crafts, Banaras has not lagged behind in Modern Industries.

The Capital of all knowledge- Discover the most ancient seat of education in India World the famous scholars and their 'Shastrarthas', the great scholars, universities, college, schools, Madarsas and Pathshalas and Guru Shishya traditions, the epics, famous literary works, languages and dialects, journalistic traditions- newspapers and magazine, and famous libraries.

Organisation of sacred complex and social spaces, the cultural pluristic, linguistic and ethnic groups. Discover the city of affluence, intellectuals, oral traditions, castes and customs, personalities, professions, communal harmony . Discover the rural Varanasi. And finally (and with deep insight) peep

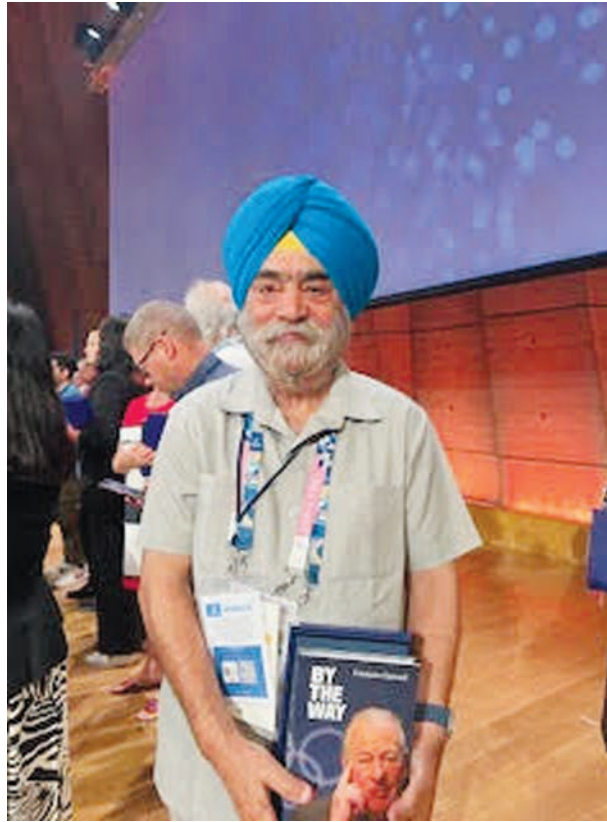
into, the pleasure of Pans, Thandai, Gamcha, Bahri Alang and Mauj Masti.

Banaras has been famous for its Music both vocal instrumental, it has its own dance tradition. Add to this a very rich stock of folk Music and drama (esp. Ramlila), the tradition Musical soirees, fairs and festival the rich tradition of Akharas, games and sports.

Discover the ancient College of Plastic Surgery, Sushruta, Dhanvantri (God of Medicine), Divodas, and practice of all the ancient and modern systems of medicine in action.

Discover the spots around Varanasi, institutions, story of freedom struggle and the martyrs, history of Kashiraj, history of Sarnath, history of Bhadohi (Carpet town), of Mirzapur, of Ghazipur; know about the famous travellers and tourists, of the 'Nijam'. And finally having seen the Panorama of Banaras, its continuity of culture, discover the identity of Banaras.

Prabhjot is honored by AIPS, the world's sports journalist body, for covering 10 Olympic Games



PRABHJOT SINGH IS ONE OF THE SPORTS JOURNALISTS HONORED BY AIPS, THE WORLD'S JOURNALIST BODY FOR COVERING 10 OLYMPICS. CONGRATULATIONS TO PRABHJOT SINGH AND ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN HONORED FOR THEIR FEAT.

India win back-to-back Olympic hockey bronze medals



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

Prabhjot Singh, a senior sports journalist, in his career spanning 40 years, has witnessed, and reported on six summer Olympic games, one winter Olympic games, seven World Cups in Hockey, FIFA World Cup in 2006, besides three World Cups in Cricket, and two editions of Pan Am Games (Toronto and Lima). He has also covered Asian Games (New Delhi and Jakarta) and Commonwealth games in Melbourne and New Delhi.

He will be in Paris from July 23, 2024 till August 13, 2024 to cover the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris which has the distinction of hosting the Olympic Games for a third time. Earlier, Paris hosted the Olympic Games in 1900 and 1924. The only other city to host Olympic Games three times is London which hosted Olympic Games in 1908, 1948 and 2012.

Readers of THE INDIAN PANORAMA will get to read Prabhjot Singh's special reports on Olympic Games 24 straight from Paris on a daily basis at www.theindianpanorama.news besides selected reports in the weekly editions. Prabhjot Singh can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com

By Prabhjot Singh

India has done it again. It prevented a sweep by European teams in Olympic hockey while reasserting Asian presence among the top three. India's convincing 2-1 win over Spain in a pulsating bronze medal reiterated that the similar position win in the previous edition of the Games was no fluke. Incidentally, both in Tokyo and here, India beat European opponents for the bronze medal match. In Tokyo, it was Germany.

Skipper Hamanpreet Singh again led the team from the front. He not only proved a big inspiration for all members of the team. He not only emerged as one of the top scorers of the tournament with an individual tally of 10 goals - six penalty corners and four penalty strokes - but also his presence on the field when the team needed him most proved in the battle for a second successive Olympic medal.

India was known for its longest trail of gold medal triumphs from 1928 to 1956. And now, it has its bronze medal trial with two triumphs in successive editions of the Olympic games.

It was Spain that drew the first blood. In the 18th minute when Gerard Clares was obstructed at the top of the penalty circle,



a penalty stroke was awarded. It was greeted with a pin-drop silence as the stands were overflowing with fans of Indian hockey.

India decided to take it in its stride. Captain of Spain Marc Miralles made no mistake with the stroke to put his team ahead.

The goal spurned the Indian team as it put everything in its game to restore parity as early as possible. With more

ammunition in its firing line, it saw both Lalit and Hardik making valiant attempts on their opponent's goal. In between Spain earned a penalty corner which Indian defense cleared.

Spain followed with another good move between Borja Ladalle and Gerard Clares in the 25th minute. As usual veteran of many such battles, Sreejesh stood his ground well and prevented Spain from consolidating its lead. Indian goal had

another providential escape in the 28th minute when the attempted shot at the goal hit the goal post and bounced back into play. A penalty corner followed.

Indian team, however, had different plans. Just seconds before the game broke for the interval, India earned a penalty corner. Skipper Hamanpreet had set for himself an onerous task of restoring parity for his team. He made no mistake and put the teams as par.

Hamanpreet continued from where he left in the first half. Three minutes into the second half, after a video referral, India got a penalty corner. This time again, the Indian skipper was ruthless with his flick to give his team a crucial 2-1 lead.

India survived some powerful attacks, including a series of penalty corners in the last three minutes. The defense stood its ground well and did not allow the Spaniards any clear look at its goal.

There was a commotion when India defended two penalty corners in the dying minutes. Sreejesh went down on the field and all players in an emotive gesture sprawled over to him to give him a warm farewell from competitive hockey.

Nadeem-Neeraj javelin rivalry can pave the way for sports bonhomie between India and Pakistan

WRESTLER AMAN GETS SIXTH MEDAL FOR INDIA

By Prabhjot Singh

As long as sports rivalries are confined or restricted to competition venues or playfields, they can pave the way for bonhomie between nations locked in conflicts.

The latest rivalry to hit the world of sports is between World Champion Neeraj Chopra and new Olympic champion Nadeem Arshad. They both compete in Javelin throw events in Track and Field.

Nadeem Arshad created a new Olympic record when he hurled the javelin to 92.97 meters. Andreas Thorikildsen of Norway held the previous record of 90.57 m he had set during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Meanwhile, India earned its sixth medal, a bronze in wrestling. Aman beat Darian Toi Cruz (Portugal) 13-5 in the bronze medal match in the 57 kg category. Aman had lost to Higuchi Rei of Japan in the semi-finals yesterday.

Aman has become the only Indian wrestler to win a medal in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Earlier, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) started hearing the petition filed by Vinesh Phogat against her disqualification for weighing 100 gm more than the permissible weight in her category. The CAS decision on the appeal is expected before the curtain is rung down on the Games on Sunday.

Vinesh had won all her three bouts while qualifying for the gold medal match before she was disqualified for being 100 gm overweight on the day of the final.

Cricket, hockey, kabaddi, and wrestling rivalries between India and Pakistan are well known. They not only act as catalysts in enhancing the performance of players of the rival nations but also serve as great crowd pullers to venues of competitions of such rivalries.

Neeraj Chopra had become the first Indian athlete - track and field - to win an individual Olympic gold in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Nadeem Arshad who was placed fifth in the Tokyo Olympic Games created a sensation with a record throw of 92.97 meters to become the new Olympic champion pushing his friend-cum-rival Neeraj Chopra to second spot. Neeraj could clear 89.45 m.

Incidentally, Nadeem Arshad has become the first Pakistani athlete to win an Olympic gold for his country in the Track and Field events. Only two individual Olympic medals have been won by Pakistan since it got its independence in 1947.

In the 1960 Rome Olympics, Pakistan won a bronze in wrestling and 28 years later, it got its second individual medal in



On Thursday, August 8, Neeraj Chopra's second throw did the magic for him. An 89.45m long second throw helped him achieve the second position on the podium. His other five throws were all adjudged as fouls. Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan won the gold medal, as he logged a 92.97m throw in his second attempt, creating a new Olympic record. Grenada's Anderson Peters finished third in the competition after his 88.54m throw.

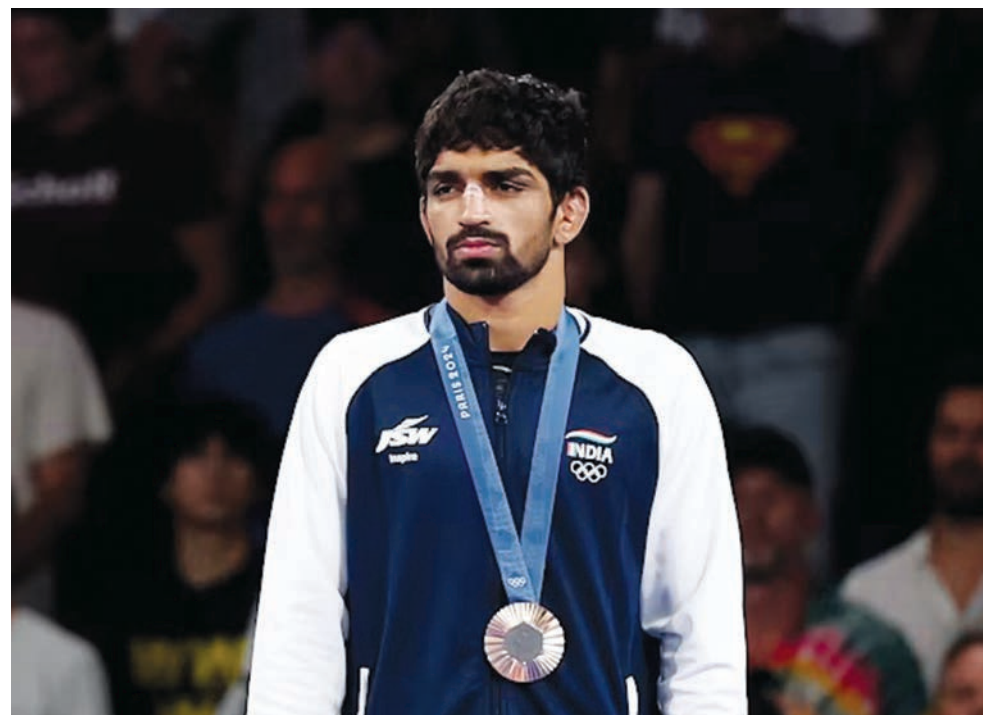
(Right) Aman Sehrawat wins bronze, becomes India's youngest Olympic medal winner.

boxing in Seoul (1988). Now Nadeem has given the country its first-ever individual medal in Olympic sports. Pakistan has been the winner of Olympic hockey gold a couple of times. It first won the hockey crown in the Rome Olympics in 1960.

Thursday's (Aug 8) contest between Neeraj Chopra and Nadeem Arshad had assumed tremendous interest as both come from low middle-class families. Neeraj Chopra, now serving the Indian Army, hails from Haryana while Nadeem Arshad comes from Khanwala in Pakistan.

Khanwala is a small city with a population of over 1.15 lakh. It has three international colleges and a business school. Nadeem had been visiting nearby villages and towns to raise funds for his training. Some months ago, when he left a message on social media seeking help to buy a new javelin, Neeraj Chopra was among the first few to respond.

Though Neeraj and Nadeem have



competed against each other 11 times, they remain good friends outside the competition arena. Neeraj was the first to congratulate Nadeem when he created a new Olympic record on Thursday.

Of six throws, Nadeem, like Neeraj, had his first throw declared null. He, however, twice sent the javelin past the 90-metre mark, his second turned out to be the ultimate winner as it cleared 92.97 meters. His sixth and last was 91.79 meters.

The second throw by Neeraj was not only his best but also the only legitimate

hurl. He cleared 89.45 m, his season's best that got him the silver. It was a rare achievement by any Indian athlete to win a gold and a silver in back-to-back Olympic Games.

Though India missed a gold medal in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, Neeraj Chopra's second successive Olympic medal accorded some respectability to the Indian medal tally that stood at one silver and four bronze medals. Earlier, India won its second - back-to-back - bronze medal in Olympic hockey for men.

History This Week **AUG 9 - AUG 15**

AUGUST 9

August 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.



August 9, 1974 - Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.

AUGUST 10



Birthdays - Herbert Hoover (1874-1964) the 31st U.S. President was born in West Branch, Iowa. He was the first President born west of the Mississippi.

AUGUST 11



August 11, 1841 - Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, spoke before an audience in the North for the first time. During an anti-slavery convention on Nantucket Island, he gave a powerful, emotional account of his life as a slave. He was immediately asked to become a full-time lecturer for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society.

August 11-16, 1965 - Six days of riots began in the Watts area of Los Angeles, triggered by an incident between a white member of the California Highway Patrol and an African American motorist. Thirty-four deaths were reported and more than 3,000 people were arrested. Damage to property was listed at \$40 million.

Birthdays - Roots author Alex Haley (1921-1992) was born in Ithaca, New York. His Pulitzer Prize-winning novel,

published in 1976, explored seven generations of his family from its origins in Africa through slavery in America and eventual hard-fought freedom. Roots was translated into 37 languages and also became an eight-part TV miniseries in 1977 which attracted a record American audience and raised awareness concerning the legacy of slavery.

AUGUST 12

August 12, 1676 - King Philip's War ended with the assassination of Metacom, leader of the Pokanokets, a tribe within the Wampanoag Indian Federation. Nicknamed 'King Philip' by colonists, he led a Native American uprising against white settlers which resulted in a war that raged for nearly two years, now known as King Philip's War.



Birthdays - Film pioneer Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959) was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts. He produced over 70 major films including Cleopatra, The Ten Commandments, and The Greatest Show on Earth.

AUGUST 13

August 13, 1961 - The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.



Birthdays - Women's rights pioneer Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was born near

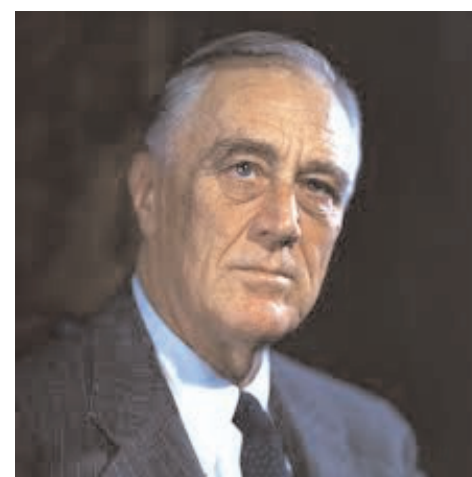
West Brookfield, Massachusetts. She dedicated her life to the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women and aided in the founding of the American Suffrage Association.

Birthdays - Wild West performer Annie Oakley (1860-1926) was born in Darke County, Ohio. Famous for her shooting ability, she joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1885 and was one of the star attractions for 17 years.

Birthdays - British film director Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) was born in London. His suspenseful films included classics such as The 39 Steps, Rebecca, Suspicion, Notorious, Rear Window, The Birds, Psycho and Frenzy, in addition to his American TV series Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

Birthdays - Cuban President Fidel Castro was born in Mayari, Oriente Province, Cuba, August 13, 1927. He led a rebellion in 1959 that drove out Dictator Fulgencio Batista, and remains one of the last outspoken advocates of Communism.

AUGUST 14

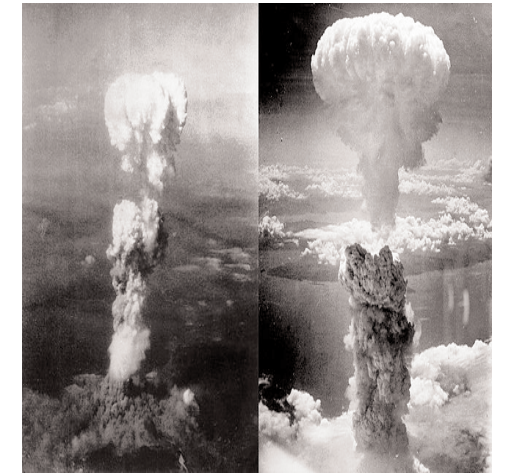


August 14, 1935 - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act establishing the system which guarantees pensions to those who retire at age 65. The Social Security system also aids states in providing financial aid to dependent children, the blind and others, as well as administering a system of unemployment insurance.



August 14, 1941 - After three days of secret meetings aboard warships off the coast of Newfoundland, the Atlantic Charter was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Charter, a foundation stone for the later establishment of the United Nations, set forth eight goals for the nations of the world, including; the renunciation of all aggression, right to self-government, access to raw materials, freedom from want and fear, freedom of the seas, and

disarmament of aggressor nations. By September, fifteen anti-Axis nations signed the Charter.



August 14, 1945 - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on July 26, 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender, without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on September 2, 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

August 14, 1945 - V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

AUGUST 15

August 15, 1969 - Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.



Birthdays - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was born on the island of Corsica. Originally an officer in King Louis' Army, he rose to become Emperor amid the political chaos that followed the French Revolution. He built a half-million strong Grand Army which utilized newly invented modern tactics and improvisation in battle to sweep across Europe and acquire an empire for France. However, after defeats in Russia and later by the British, he went into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, he died alone on the tiny island abandoned by everyone.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim government?

President Mohammad Shahabuddin administered the oath to the 84-year-old as the Chief Adviser of the interim government, and the Cabinet members at 9:20 p.m. local time at a ceremony held in Bangabhaban, the official residence of the President.

Military officers, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secretary-general Mirza Fakhru Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami amir Shafiqur Rahman, Jatiya Party chairman Ghulam Muhammed Quader as well as foreign diplomats from the U.K., Japan, China, the Philippines, Iran, Argentina, Qatar, the UAE and the Netherlands were present at the ceremony.

No one from the Awami League, Ms. Hasina's party, was seen at Bangabhaban.

After Mr. Yunus, 13 out of the 16 advisers of the interim government were sworn in. The Cabinet members are Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Asif Nazrul, Adilur Rahman Khan, Hasan Arif, Tauhid Hossain, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Brig. Gen. (Retd) M. Sakhawat Hossain, Supradip Chakma, Farida Akhtar, Bidhan Ranjan Roy, A.F.M. Khalid Hossain, Nurjahan Begum, Sharmin Murshid, Md. Nahid Islam (students' representative), Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan (students' representative) and Farooqui Azam.

As Gonobhaban, the Prime Minister's Office and official residence, remains in shambles after protesters stormed it following the resignation of Ms. Hasina, the state guesthouse Jamuna will be the office and residence of the Chief Adviser.

Sources said a committee will be formed to assess the damage to these two important installations, and renovation will begin soon afterwards.

Earlier in the day, after landing in Dhaka from a trip to France, Mr. Yunus gave an emotional speech, recalling the sacrifices made by students who were met with a heavy-handed response from the Ms. Hasina-led government.

In his speech, he addressed the people of Bangladesh as "one big family" and said the young protesters had given them a "new birth". However, he condemned the recent violence directed against the country's religious minorities.

"My first word to you is to protect the country from disorder. Protect it from violence so we can follow the path our students have shown us," he said.

Restoring stability and stopping anarchy have become immediate priorities as attacks, looting and

destructive activities persisted on Thursday in many parts of the country, in the absence of government and enforcement agencies.

However, the Bangladesh Army, alongside other law enforcement agencies, said they would take strict action to stop the ongoing attacks across the country.

Following the newly appointed Inspector-General of Police's call to return to duty within 24 hours, some police personnel have started to report back, but many others are waiting for security assurances before returning to their posts. Many force members are fearful of further violent reprisals from the public after having opened fire on protesters and the general public under the Hasina regime.

Shamsus Sadat Selim, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration, confirmed that all contractual appointments of officials made during the tenure of the recently ousted Awami League government are set to be cancelled. Also, there is a growing demand to remove other officials who benefited from the last government's tenure from key positions.

Meanwhile, during a regular briefing in Washington on Wednesday, Matthew Miller, the U.S. State Department Spokesperson, said the U.S. believes the interim government should respect democratic principles, the rule of law, and the will of the Bangladeshi people. Mr. Miller also mentioned that they think the interim government will play a vital role in establishing long-term peace and political stability in Bangladesh. (Agencies)

Manish Sisodia walks out of Tihar jail after spending 17 months behind bars

(CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi Excise policy scam.

Holding aloft flags and cheering loudly, crowds of AAP supporters waited to welcome Mr. Sisodia as he stepped out of jail.

Addressing supporters outside Tihar, Mr. Sisodia said "You all have supported me for the last 17 months, I am out for the benefit and welfare of the people of Delhi".

"We have brought this legal battle to its logical end through the Constitution. I thank you all for being with me," he said amid chants of "Kejriwal, Kejriwal".

"Today truth has won. In the end, only truth wins," said a post by "Team Kejriwal" on the Delhi Chief Minister's official handle on X. Mr. Kejriwal is in Tihar jail in the same case.

On the Supreme Court granting bail to him, Mr.

Sisodia said he was "feeling indebted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar after this order".

"We have brought this legal battle to its logical end constitutionally," he said after walking out of jail. "Grateful to Supreme Court that used power of Constitution to give tight slap on dictatorship, he added. "I got bail due to the power of Constitution and democracy. This power will ensure our leader Arvind Kejriwal is also released."

While granting bail to Mr. Sisodia, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said the right to a speedy trial and personal liberty were sacrosanct. Bail cannot be withheld as a punishment. If the state, prosecution agencies or even courts do not have the wherewithal to protect an accused's right to a speedy trial, they should not withhold bail on the ground that the alleged crime was serious.

The apex court allowed bail to Mr. Sisodia in both Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases and ordered him to be released on payment of ₹10 lakh in bail bonds. The Aam Aadmi Party leader has to surrender his passport and report to the police station every Monday. (Source: The Hindu)

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz is Kamala Harris's V-P pick

Harris announced the selection in a text message to supporters. "I'm pleased to share that I've made my decision: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will join our campaign as my running mate," she said. "Tim is a battle-tested leader who has an incredible track record of getting things done for Minnesota families. I know that he will bring that same principled leadership to our campaign."

Walz, a 60-year-old US Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, said he was honored to join Harris on the ticket. "I'm all in," Walz wrote on X, adding: "Vice-President Harris is showing us the politics of what's possible. It reminds me a bit of the first day of school." Harris was expected to appear with Walz at an event in Philadelphia on Tuesday evening.

CONTD FORM PAGE 6

Pakistani man charged for plotting to kill Donald Trump

He contacted a person he thought could help him and that person reported it to law enforcement and became a confidential source.

In mid-June, Merchant met with people he thought were hitmen, but were undercover US law enforcement officers (the UCs) in New York.

He told them he wanted them to steal documents, arrange protests at political rallies, and kill a "political person".

The plot would have to be carried out after he left the country and in either the last week of August or the first week of September they would be told who the target was, Merchant told the undercover officers.

He received \$5,000 from overseas and made a down payment to the undercover agents.

According to the court papers, one of the agents said after getting the money, "Now we know we're going forward. We're doing this," to which Merchant responded: "Yes, absolutely."

Political violence is a constant worry in the US.

Last week, a man was arrested in Virginia for allegedly threatening to kill the Democratic Party presidential nominee Kamala Harris.

"Kamala Harris needs to be put on fire alive. I will do it personally if no one else does... I want her to suffer a slow agonizing death," Frank Lucio Carillo posted on a right-wing social media site, according to the FBI complaint in a Federal court.

He also allegedly threatened President Joe Biden and FBI Chief Wray.



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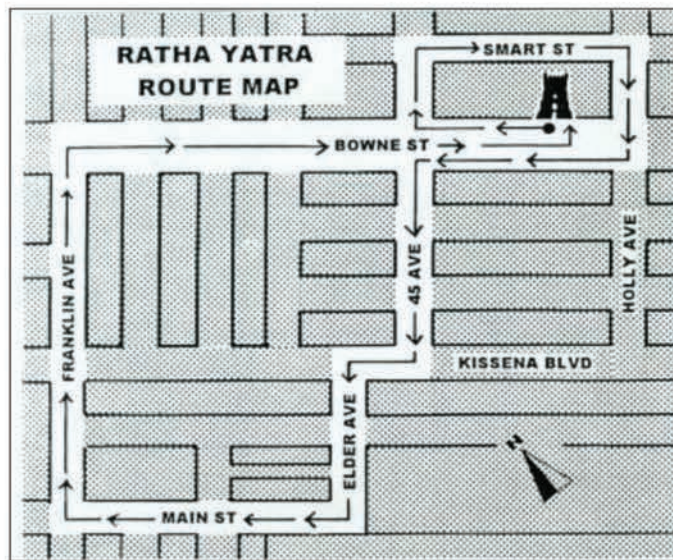
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The Ratha will start from the Temple at 12:30 PM after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block (covering 45th Ave, Smart St. and Holly Ave.) and will reach Main Street approximately at 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM. The Ratha will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



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Contrasting retirements of Vinesh and Sreejesh see culmination of the Indian campaign in the Paris Olympic Games

By Prabhjot Singh

Lanky goalkeeper from Kerala, PR Sreejesh, chose an opportune moment to say goodbye to competitive hockey. His heroics helped India to win back-to-back- bronze medals in Olympic hockey. For India, it was India's fourth bronze medal of the games.

Two contrasting retirements announced during the past two days have set in motion, animated debates in Indian sports circles. After the weighing-in fiasco in the 50 kg event in wrestling for women forced Vinesh Phogat to say goodbye to competitive sport, goalkeeper Sreejesh had declared that the Paris Olympic Games would be his last international outing.

Vinesh Phogat left on a bitter note. For the year preceding the Olympic Games, she was out in the streets fighting for the dignity and honor of her fellow wrestlers and women grapplers. She faced the wrath of the police normally associated with its strong-arm tactics in handling peaceful demonstrations. Her pleas to the Union Government, including the Prime Minister, against the alleged "misconduct of the President of the Wrestling Federation of India", went unheeded.

The only outcome of the struggle led by Vinesh was a change in the leadership of the Federation. The "controversial" outgoing President got his nominee installed in his place. She could not compete in any international wrestling meet for the whole year. The Federation chose another wrestler in the weight category - 53 kg - she used to compete. Instead, she was offered a higher weight - 57 kg - category for the Paris Olympic Games. Vinesh chose a lower weight - 50 kg - category.

She put up a performance unprecedented by any woman wrestler of the past. In three bouts she participated in the Paris Olympic Games, she defeated world and defending Olympic champion Yui Sasuki of Japan besides Oksana Livach of Ukraine. In the semi-finals, she took on Guzman Lopez of Cuba. She majestically marched into the gold medal round where she had set up a summit clash with American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.

Weighing-in ceremony on the day of her glory turned out to be her nightmare. Shocks were aplenty in store for her. She weighed 100 gm more than the maximum body weight permissible in the category. She was disqualified. She was also deprived of the credit for winning three bouts she had contested legitimately by adhering to the weighing-in norms.

She lost her battle. She tweeted "Mother wrestling you won, I lost." It expressed her anguish as her struggle spanning over three Olympic Games ended in agony, despair, and humiliation. In Rio, she got injured and in the second Olympics in Tokyo, she got no respite, and Paris left no choice but to say goodbye to a sport she dedicated her entire life. She left the Olympic village disappointed, dejected, and tired. It came as a sad end to a career in a sport where women were made to fight for their dignity and honor while pursuing their future in sports.

Sreejesh, on the other hand, decided to say goodbye to a sport he remained associated with for more than two decades. Two bronze medals are no mean achievement in a sport where India won an Olympic medal after a gap of 41 years in Tokyo.

He played a stellar role in the just concluded hockey competition for men, performing consistently well



throughout the tournament, executing several superb saves, including a couple in the penalty shootout in the quarterfinals against Great Britain.

India started its Olympic campaign with a bronze medal in shooting. Competing in her second Olympic Games, Manu Bhaker, a shooter from Jhajjar in Haryana, opened the country's account with a podium finish in the 10 m Air Pistol event. three bronze medals in shooting, there was a hiatus in the hunt for medals.

Manu Bhaker emerged as the new sports icon of the country as she got her second bronze in the same games in the 10 m Air Pistol Mixed team event in partnership with Sarabjot Singh. She came close to winning her third successive medal in Paris as she finished a close fourth in her pet event of 25 m Air Pistol.

Swapnil Kusale became the first male athlete to win a medal for India in Paris. He finished third in the 50 m Air Rifle 3 positions. Other shooters came close but could not win a medal. Arjun Babuta was one of them.

Expectations were high from the 117-member squad that had set a target of getting into double figures for its medal tally. The slogan "Iss bar, dusk ke paar" looked working at the start. But once the medal hunt in shooting came to a standstill, the Indian challenge started fizzling.

Vinesh Phogat had raised hopes of first-ever silver or



gold in women's wrestling. But it was not to be. Rather, it left a bitter taste in the mouth. Quest for ascertaining the truth behind the unsavory controversy may continue for a while till one of the parties breaks the silence on the subject.

The Badminton squad also gave hopes of a couple of medals, including third in a row by women's singles ace, PV Sindhu, and our world champion men's doubles champion team of Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. After these medal hopes failed to cross the pre-quarterfinal hurdle, Lakshya Sen emerged as a strong contender for first-ever badminton medal in the men's section. He, however, met his Waterloo in the defending champion Viktor Alexsen before losing the bronze medal hope to Malaysian Zii Jin.

Bronze medal triumph in hockey warmed the cockles of hearts of ardent not only in the country but worldwide.



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