



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

will bring out a profusely illustrated edition in celebration of Diwali which falls on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

We invite from our patrons and readers articles and advertisements for publication in this special edition.

The last date for submission of articles is October 18, 2024. Articles with a picture and a brief bio of the author may please be emailed to editor@theindianpanorama.news

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Prime Minister Modi Recounts India's Growth Story under his watch

SHOWERS PRAISE ON INDIAN AMERICANS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO RELATION BUILDING BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US



Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi speaks at Modi & US at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, New York on September 22, 2024.

Photo: Jay Mandal-on assignment

I.S. SALUJA
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

UNIONDALE, NY (TIP): It was the first day of Autumn, September 22, when India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum to address thousands of his supporters who greeted him with deafening chant of "Modi, Modi".

Mr. Modi spent almost 10 minutes to shower praise on the Indian Diaspora. He spoke of the ability of Indians to "live in diversity and accommodate wherever they go". At the same time, they "carry the feeling of Bharat Mata everywhere, whatever their language of the region". Indians make the maximum contribution wherever they go, he said. American India -AI- is the world's new power, said Mr. Modi. "I salute Indian Diaspora. I salute you all".

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NYC Mayor Eric Adams pleads not guilty to federal corruption charges as governor Hochul considers removing him

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): New York City's embattled mayor pleaded not guilty Friday, September 27, to federal corruption charges after prosecutors accused him of using his power and influence to garner free trips, luxury hotel stays and questionable campaign donations, according to a CNN report.



Mayor Eric Adams became New York's first mayor to be indicted while in office by a grand jury on September 25, 2024.

Photo: Office of the Mayor

Mayor Eric Adams is charged with indictment. bribery, wire fraud, conspiracy and two

counts of soliciting campaign contributions from foreign nationals.

"I am not guilty, your honor," Adams said in a Lower Manhattan federal court Friday.

Magistrate Judge Katharine Parker allowed Adams to be released after the hearing - but with caveats. The mayor cannot have contact with anyone involved in the allegations in the

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India government plans talks with warring Kuki, Meitei community leaders in Manipur

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre is likely to hold talks with Kuki and Meitei communities as a step to resolve the 16-month ethnic strife in Manipur, a TNS report says.

This comes amid the now unsubstantiated claims by the Manipur Government that 900 Kuki militants may launch an attack in the state on September 28.

Highly placed sources informed The Tribune that the Centre may soon initiate talks with both communities as part of its initiative to restore peace in the troubled state.

Another source closely connected with developments in Manipur also indicated that the stage is being set by the Centre as well as the state government to reach



A protest in New Delhi against violence in Manipur. -Tribune File photo

out to both communities.

This source said although the situation is relatively peaceful as no violent incident has been reported in the last fortnight, the security forces are on high alert with 80 odd companies of both

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"India-China relationship is key to the future of Asia": Dr. S. Jaishankar

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Asia Society, on Tuesday, September 24, hosted Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Foreign Affairs Minister of India, for an address and discussion with Daniel Russel, Vice President for International Security and Diplomacy.

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Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India speaks on pivotal issues concerning India and the global community at Asia Society in New York on September 24, 2024

Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment



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COMMENT

The Perpetual Cycle of Conflict: Lessons from History and the Urgent Need for Peace

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Conflicts and wars are as old as human civilization itself. From the moment humans began forming tribes, societies, and nations, disagreements over land, resources, power, and ideology have led to violent confrontations. The pages of history are stained with blood from countless wars, from ancient skirmishes to large-scale global conflicts. Despite the progression of human society towards greater complexity, wealth, and technology, war remains a constant, as if ingrained in the very fabric of humanity. And yet, alongside this tragic inevitability, there exists in every heart a yearning for peace and a deep-seated desire for love and harmony. The paradox of human existence is stark: while we fight with ever more sophisticated tools of destruction, we also dream of a world where such conflicts do not exist.

The last century alone witnessed some of the most devastating wars humanity has ever seen. The First and Second World Wars are etched in our collective memory as periods of unprecedented destruction. The death toll, displacement, and trauma that resulted from these wars continue to shape global politics, societies, and economies even today. But these two monumental conflicts were not the only ones. Across the globe, hundreds of wars, battles, and skirmishes of various dimensions erupted in the same period, each leaving behind scars, divisions, and legacies of grief.

What is it about human nature that drives us to conflict? Perhaps, as many philosophers and historians have argued, it is inherent in us to seek power, to dominate, or to protect what we see as ours. The territorial instinct, competition for resources, and ideological differences have historically fueled our conflicts. Yet, at the same time, human beings possess the capacity for empathy, kindness, and a profound desire for peace. If anything, this duality defines the human condition: the constant tug-of-war between conflict and peace.

Despite these deep-seated contradictions, history has taught us one immutable lesson - we do not learn from history. It is often said that "history repeats itself." This saying holds true today as much as it ever did. Humanity, despite the devastating lessons of the past, continues to walk down the same bloody paths. The more we claim to be 'civilized,' the

more we seem to engage in savagery. We pride ourselves on advancements in technology, art, culture, and politics, yet when it comes to war, we remain trapped in ancient patterns of violence, vengeance, and destruction.

Consider the weapons of today compared to those of two centuries ago. The swords and muskets of the past have been replaced by nuclear bombs, drones, and advanced missile systems capable of causing mass destruction with the press of a button. With this evolution of warfare, the scale of destruction has escalated dramatically. No longer are wars confined to soldiers on battlefields. Civilians, homes, cities, and entire nations are swept into the chaos, with modern wars causing untold human suffering. The collateral damage of today's conflicts - in terms of both human life and property - far exceeds anything seen before.

Currently, the world faces an ominous prospect: the potential outbreak of a Third World War. Conflicts across various regions are escalating at an alarming rate, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Middle East. The ongoing violence between Israel and Hamas has sent shockwaves across the globe. Israel, which sees Hamas as a terrorist organization bent on its destruction, is determined to annihilate the group. This has led to a level of destruction in Gaza that is both heartbreaking and terrifying. Homes, hospitals, schools - all have been reduced to rubble, and the human cost is staggering. Thousands of innocent Palestinians, many of them women and children, have been rendered homeless, displaced, and face existential threats daily. Their cries for help echo across the world, yet the conflict continues to rage on, seemingly with no end in sight.

The tragedy here is multifaceted. On the one hand, Israel claims the right to defend itself against terrorist threats, while on the other, the Palestinian people are caught in a devastating humanitarian crisis. The scale of the destruction in Gaza is shocking, and the world is witnessing one of the most intense conflicts in recent times. The misery that this war has caused is incalculable, and the suffering of innocent civilians continues to mount with every passing day.

This destruction needs to stop. Strength, as often misconstrued, does not lie in the ability to destroy. True strength lies in preserving, in protecting, and in building a future where people can live in peace and dignity. Strength is not demonstrated by perpetuating misery, but by ending it. The powerful nations of the world,

as well as those directly involved in the conflict, need to realize that a solution based on destruction will only breed more hatred, more violence, and more despair.

World leaders cannot afford to remain silent spectators in the face of such immense human suffering. The responsibility to act lies not only with the nations directly involved in the conflict but also with the international community. Apathy and inaction in such moments of crisis only embolden the forces of destruction. It is crucial that global powers step in and demand a cessation of hostilities. There needs to be a concerted effort to mediate, to negotiate, and to bring the madness to an end before it spirals out of control. If not, we may find ourselves facing the terrifying possibility of a Third World War, one that will leave no nation untouched and no life unaffected.

A similar narrative is playing out in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Here too, the destruction is vast, the human suffering immense. The geopolitical stakes are high, and the potential for this conflict to escalate beyond the borders of Eastern Europe is real and dangerous. The war has displaced millions, killed thousands, and left a once-thriving region in ruins. And much like the conflict in the Middle East, the Russia-Ukraine war shows no signs of abating anytime soon.

In both of these cases, and countless others around the world, the same underlying truth holds: violence begets violence. The world cannot continue to solve its problems through destruction. The path of peace, though difficult and fraught with challenges, is the only way forward.

Sanity must prevail. It is the duty of leaders across the world, whether in government, civil society, or international organizations, to pursue peace relentlessly. War, while seemingly inevitable in some historical contexts, is not the only answer. Diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual respect for humanity's shared dignity can and should take precedence.

In a world increasingly interconnected and interdependent, the consequences of one nation's conflict reverberate far beyond its borders. If we allow these wars to continue unchecked, we may find ourselves drawn into a global conflagration that will dwarf the devastation of the previous world wars. Let good sense prevail. Let peace, not war, be the guiding force of the future. The cost of not doing so is simply too high for humanity to bear.

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Let's Share a Meal announces launch of "Oneness: A Light for Humanity" Commemorating Guru Nanak's Vision of Oneness

CELEBRATING UNITY, DIVERSITY, AND SHARED HUMANITY IN HONOR OF GURU NANAK DEV JI'S 555TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



The cutouts of the artists scheduled to participate in "Oneness: A Light for Humanity" event on November 9, 2024 -Photo : Mohammed Jaffer/ SnapsIndia



Gathering - Photo : Mohammed Jaffer / SnapsIndia



The organizers shared with media representatives their vision of the event's goals, key participants, and special announcements. Mr. Onkar Singh explained that Oneness 2024 builds on the core values of equality, shared humanity, and interconnectedness, seeking to transcend the boundaries of race, religion, and nationality. The event creates a space where Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings and vision of unity and equality are brought to life, showcasing its relevance in today's world.



Organizers -Photo : Mohammed Jaffer / SnapsIndia

**I.S. SALUJA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

PISCATAWAY, NJ (TIP): Let's Share a Meal held a press conference to announce launch Oneness: A Light for Humanity, a landmark event celebrating unity, diversity, and shared humanity in honor of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 555th birth anniversary.

The Oneness program, scheduled for November 9, 2024, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), will commemorate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of compassion, equality, and community service. The event will feature engaging cultural performances and inspiring presentations from notable speakers, highlighting the ongoing significance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message.



Panelists -Photo : Mohammed Jaffer / SnapsIndia

A panelist said: "We are trying to share our spiritual value of oneness and equality at our event on November 9 at New Jersey's Performing Arts Center in Newark. Five years ago, we conducted this at NJPAC with hundreds of people in the audience. We are again here to celebrate Guru Nanak's 555th birth anniversary. We are fortunate to be alive during this time, and we are able, in this country to spread this kindness, spread this humanity and other wonderful values with our neighbors".



Oneness team -Photo : Mohammed Jaffer / SnapsIndia



"Oneness: A Light for Humanity" on November 9 promises to bring together scholars and artists from all over the world who would be contributing to spreading Guru Nanak's message of oneness. The Guru enjoined on his followers to consider the whole humanity as one- "Maanas ki jaat, sabhe eke pahchanbo".

Be blessed to share the Guru's message on November 9, 2024 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

For more information, visit www.onenessusa.com

Gurdial Singh Bajwa first Sikh candidate to contest in Austrian parliamentary poll



Gurdial Singh Bajwa will run for the Gaenserndorf and Bruck an der Leitha constituencies in the elections scheduled for September 29.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

VIENNA (TIP): Gurdial Singh Bajwa, a 51-year-old Sikh man of Indian origin, is set to contest the Austrian National Council elections. Representing the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ), Bajwa will run for the Gaenserndorf and Bruck an der Leitha constituencies in the elections scheduled for September 29.

Bajwa's candidacy is a proud moment for Austria's Indian and Sikh communities, highlighting the increasing diversity in the country's political landscape. Originally from Mudawal village in Punjab's Bholath, Bajwa moved to Austria with his family at the age of seven. Since 2020, he has served as a city councilor in Deutsch-Wagram and has also held the position of Deputy Chairman for Transport and Traffic at the Vienna Chamber of Commerce.

Bajwa's dedication to public service and social causes has earned him widespread respect. "My candidacy is not just a personal milestone, but a victory for diversity and inclusion in Austria's political landscape," he said. His campaign centers on economic growth, equality and fostering a brighter future for all Austrians, resonating with the Indian diaspora and the wider Austrian population.

Despite facing challenges, including racist attacks targeting his Sikh turban, Bajwa remains committed to his mission. "If elected, I will make history as the first Sikh in the Austrian parliament, scripting a new chapter in Austria's political history," he added.

British-Indian doc's film on pharma industry premieres in UK

'FIRST! DO NO PHARM', WHICH IS PACKED WITH TESTIMONIES FROM LEADING MEDICAL AND SECTOR EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, SEEKS TO EXPOSE THE UNSCRUPULOUS BEHAVIOR OF THE PHARMA INDUSTRY AND MEDICAL RESEARCH FRAUD PERPETUATING A CYCLE OF CORRUPTION WORLDWIDE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

LONDON (TIP): British-Indian cardiologist and healthy lifestyle campaigner Aseem Malhotra premiered a new documentary in London's Leicester Square to throw the spotlight on the global pharmaceutical industry's profit-focused approach towards health care.

'First! Do No Pharm', which is packed with testimonies from leading medical and sector experts from around the world, seeks to expose the unscrupulous behavior of the pharma industry and medical research fraud perpetuating a cycle of corruption worldwide.

The premiere on Monday evening was introduced by British-Indian filmmaker Gurinder Chadha, who praised Malhotra for his commitment to his Hippocratic Oath, the ethics pledge historically taken by physicians.

"Aseem is a very old friend of mine and I have watched his brave and often perilous journey confronting corruption and malpractice," said Chadha.

"He does this in defense of the Hippocratic Oath, which he took in defense of my health and of millions like me who constantly are looking for the truth about health care. He will not stop until we all understand his vital mission for our benefit," she said.

Having previously campaigned against the wholesale statin usage and the dangers of high sugar consumption, Malhotra wanted to explore the state of the broader health system and the feared corruption within that perpetuates certain myths around heart disease.

"This film is the most incendiary work I have ever completed. It is going to make a lot of profit-hungry people in the pharmaceutical industry unhappy. But it is going to save lives and that is all that matters," said Malhotra.

"We have a pandemic of misinformed doctors and misinformed and unwittingly harmed patients. It is time to put an end to this once and for all," he said.

The film, directed by documentary filmmaker Donal O'Neill, uses a personal storytelling style with interviews of key experts around the world, including Indian American Professor Jay Bhattacharya and Indian environmental activist Vandana Shiva.

"We need to apply quite a big dose of skepticism to the medical literature. Medical journals will publish a pharmaceutical trial and then will be paid quite large sums for providing the pharmaceutical company with reprints of that article. And it's very hard for an editor to remove that conflict



View outside a cinema hall during the premiere of British-Indian cardiologist Dr Aseem Malhotra's film, in London's Leicester Square, Monday, Sept 23, 2024. -Photo : PTI

when making an editorial decision," said Dr Fiona Godlee, former editor-in-chief of the 'British Medical Journal' (BMJ), who is among those interviewed in the film.

Sir Richard Thompson, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, calls for a public inquiry into the "murky practices of big pharma" so that doctors can know that when they prescribe a drug, they are truly putting their patients first and not the financial interests of the drug companies and their shareholders.

"For too long doctors have had to make clinical decisions based on non-transparent data on the efficacy and side-effects of drugs that are curated by the drug industry, whose basic motive is to put profits before patients. Therefore, invariably the safety and benefits of many important drugs, such as statins, are exaggerated, so that avoidable illness, and even deaths, occur from the side-effects that have often been ignored or denied by the industry," he said.

After some of the very grim prognosis, the film concludes with a visit to Mount Abu in Rajasthan where cardiologist Dr Satish Gupta's lifestyle modification methods to reverse heart damage from blocked arteries and the many benefits of yoga are explored.

The film is now available online and will have exclusive screenings across the US and India in the coming months.

Singapore's Indian-origin ex transport minister S Iswaran pleads guilty in graft case

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore's former Transport Minister S Iswaran has pleaded guilty to receiving gifts while in office, local media reported, as proceedings began on Tuesday in a rare graft trial involving a state official in this Asian financial hub.

The case has gripped the wealthy city-state which prides itself on having a well-paid and efficient bureaucracy as well as strong governance. Iswaran, who joined the



Singapore's former Transport Minister S Iswaran has pleaded guilty to receiving gifts while in office

cabinet in 2006, is the first Singaporean minister to be tried in court.

The 62-year-old was arrested in July last year and was accused of taking kickbacks worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from property tycoon Ong Beng Seng, partly to advance Ong's business interests. Ong has not been charged with any offence.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Four Indian-origin men charged for nuisance & abusing Singapore police

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

SINGAPORE (TIP): Four men of Indian origin were on Wednesday, September 25, charged with causing public nuisance and using abusive language against a police officer in Singapore's Little Precinct.

A nearly two-minute video of the four abusing the police officer at a crime scene cordoned off to investigate an alleged murder on Sunday morning in Little India, was uploaded on the Facebook page ROADS.sg, media reported.

The post featuring Md Dino Marciano Abdul Wahab, 44, Alex Kumar



Photo for representational purpose only Gnansekaran, 37, Mohamed Eusof Mohamed Yahiya, 32, and Mohanan V Balakrishnan, 32, shouting at police officers garnered more than 423,000 views in three days.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Community Rallies for Peace, Unity as another Swaminarayan Temple is Vandalized

THE BAPS ORGANIZATION CONDEMNED THE ACT, AND IS COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS THIS HATE CRIME

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

SACRAMENTO, CA (TIP): Less than 10 days after the desecration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, a second temple, this time in Sacramento, California, was vandalized with hateful messages. The BAPS organization condemned the act, expressing deepened sadness but resolve.

A spokesman emphasized the temple's integral role in the community, engaging in various activities and projects. BAPS is cooperating with law enforcement to address this hate crime.

In response, the community gathered for a prayer ceremony advocating peace, unity, and harmony, reflecting Mahant Swami Maharaj's ideals. Local dignitaries, including California State Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen and Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen, attended, demonstrating solidarity.

Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera condemned the incident, urging



A prayer meeting for peace was held at Swaminarayan Mandir in Sacramento, California, on Thursday, September 26

people to reject intolerance.

"There is no place for religious bigotry and hatred in #SacramentoCounty. I strongly condemn this apparent act of vandalism in our community. All of us

must stand against intolerance and ensure that everyone in our community, regardless of faith, feels safe and respected," the Sacramento County representative said on X.

Indian American professor JD Jayaraman named interim dean of NJCU School of Business



Professor Jayadhurganandh "JD" Jayaraman has been appointed the new interim dean of New Jersey City University

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

NEW JERSEY CITY (TIP): Indian American professor Jayadhurganandh "JD" Jayaraman, currently the chair of the Department of Finance at the School of Business at New Jersey City University, has been appointed the new interim dean of the school.

Jayaraman, brings a wealth of academic and industry experience to his new role as the interim dean, the school stated announcing his appointment Friday. "His unique interdisciplinary background includes a PhD in finance from Oklahoma State University and additional graduate degrees in educational psychology and cognitive science from Columbia University."

Welcoming Jayaraman, Donna Breault, the interim provost at NJCU, stated, "As our university continues to evolve and we realign our efforts with our revitalized mission and first-ever Academic Master Plan, we know that Dr. Jayaraman will provide exemplary leadership for a school that offers dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare our students for high-demand fields."

"Throughout his academic career at NJCU, he has been a thoughtful and creative leader, and his diverse professional and academic experience will serve our students and faculty well."

Jayaraman said he was grateful for the opportunity. "I am deeply honored to serve as the interim dean of the School of Business at NJCU," he said. "My primary goal is to foster an enriching and inclusive environment that enhances the educational journey of our diverse student body.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian hospitality major Oyo acquiring Motel 6 & Studio 6 chains for \$525 million



Indian hospitality major Oyo's parent company Oravel Stays is acquiring Motel 6 and Studio 6 chain with about 1,500 facilities across the US and Canada from the investment company Blackstone in a \$525 million cash deal

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Boosting its international presence, Indian hospitality major Oyo's parent company Oravel Stays is acquiring Motel 6 and Studio 6 chain with about 1,500 facilities across the US and Canada from the investment company Blackstone in a \$525 million cash deal, the US firm said on Friday, September 20. With the acquisition of G6 Hospitality, parent company of the two budget lodging chains, Oyo will become a major player in the US and Canadian hospitality industry, which is already dominated by Indian Americans.

Blackstone said that Motel 6's franchise network produces gross room revenues of \$1.7 billion.

Motel 6 is ubiquitous across the US and Canada known for its relatively cheap rooms that, however, conform to the corporate standards in maintenance and hospitality.

Stay 6 is an extended stay network for guests who want to rent rooms with more facilities for longer periods.

Oyo International CEO Gautam Swaroop said that the group will continue to operate as a separate entity.

"This acquisition is a significant milestone for a startup company like us to strengthen our international presence", he said. "Motel 6's strong brand recognition, financial profile and network in the US combined with Oyo's entrepreneurial spirit will be instrumental in charting a sustainable path forward for the company", he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American executives Mitesh Shah, Shriram Rajagopal in key positions at VitalEdge Technologies



VitalEdge Technologies has appointed Mitesh Shah, and Shriram Rajagopal as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Chief Product Officer (CPO) respectively.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

CARY, NC (TIP): VitalEdge Technologies, a leading global provider of dealer management solutions, has appointed two Indian American executives, Mitesh Shah and Shriram Rajagopal as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Chief Product Officer (CPO) respectively.

In the pivotal role of CTO, Shah will lead the company's technology vision, driving innovation and ensuring the delivery of high-quality technological solutions in all aspects of software delivery, source code, architecture, and engineering output, according to a company release.

"With a deep focus on emerging technologies and client needs, Shah will spearhead efforts to enhance VitalEdge's product offerings and guide our technical teams to deliver cutting-edge solutions, leveraging the latest technologies to propel the company through the next stages of its growth journey," it said.

In the newly created position of CPO, Rajagopal will define and execute the company's product vision and roadmap, the company stated.

"With over two decades of experience at VitalEdge, Rajagopal has been instrumental in driving the company's technology strategy and achieving significant growth milestones," it stated. "In his new role, he will establish a robust product management organization, focusing on delivering innovative, market-leading products that align with client needs and business goals."

"We are thrilled to announce Mitesh Shah as the new Chief Technology Officer and Shriram Rajagopal as Chief Product Officer of VitalEdge," said Jeffrey Hart, President & CEO. "Mitesh brings a proven track record of building and scaling world-class technology organizations, making him the perfect leader to drive our innovation goals forward. His vision and expertise will be critical in ensuring that our technology strategy aligns with our business objectives, enabling us to deliver world-class products that meet the evolving needs of our clients who serve critical industries including construction, agriculture, material handling, commercial transportation and more. We are excited to see the impact Mitesh will have in shaping the future of VitalEdge."

India to open new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles: PM Modi

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): India will open two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, September 22, meeting the long-pending demand of the fast-growing Indian American community in these two large American cities.

While Boston is considered as the education and pharma capital of the US, Los Angeles, home to Hollywood, is hosting the next summer Olympics and current US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti is the city's former mayor.

"Friends last year, I had announced that our government had plans to open a new consulate in Seattle. It is now operational. I had asked for suggestions from you for two more consulates. I am happy to announce that after reviewing your suggestions, India has decided to open two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles," Modi announced during his address to Indian Americans in New York's Nassau Veterans Coliseum.

India currently has six consulates in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco and Seattle. The Embassy is in Washington DC. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations is based in New York City.

The announcement was immediately



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that India will open new consulates at Boston and Los Angeles. -Photo : Jay Mandal-on assignment

welcomed by the residents of Los Angeles.

"The Modi government listens and responds to the needs of Indian Americans and of American business and political leaders. I am grateful to

Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and former Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Sandhu for the decision to open a consulate in Los Angeles," Gunjan Bagla, CEO of Amritt Inc, a Los Angeles-

based consulting firm, told PTI.

Bagla had led an effort in this regard. "We obtained over 3,600 signatures from Southern California residents. Dozens of American and Indian American organisations wrote letters to the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

Los Angeles is the second largest city in the United States and its twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle about 40 per cent of all overseas goods trade in the United States.

With the growing global importance of the Indo-Pacific, Los Angeles is the capital of the Pacific Rim and India needs to be present here.

"All but one of the G20 countries have consulates here in Los Angeles. American business executives with an interest in India will feel more engaged with a local consul general representing India.

While we have been blessed with Consul General Dr Srikar Reddy visiting us from San Francisco dozens of times in the last year, there are numerous local events where the absence of India is clearly felt. NRIs and Indian Americans will benefit in the case of emergency travel needs to India by not having to fly to San Francisco," Bagla said. (Source: PTI)

Suozzi's Bipartisan Bill passes unanimously in Budget Committee

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): Congressman Tom Suozzi's (D - Nassau, Queens) bipartisan legislation passed

unanimously in the Budget Committee. The "Increasing Baseline Updates Act" - Coled by Republican Blake Moore (R-UT) - would require the Congressional Budget Office and The President to provide more annual updates to budget productions and technical data to Congress. The bill, H.R. 9716, would finally amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

"This is another in a series of bipartisan, common-sense bills I have sponsored during the session. Today in the Budget Committee, we demonstrated that, by working together, Republicans and Democrats can still get results," Suozzi said.

"I was trained as a CPA; I am concerned about our budget and deficits. I know the importance of accuracy in budget estimates. If Congress and the public can get better data, we will be in a better position to fix our budgets." Suozzi explained. "The latest CBO baseline anticipated that taxpayers will accumulate more than \$22 trillion in deficit spending over the next ten years. If we are going to tackle our nation's debt, we have to get serious about knowing



Congressman Tom Suozzi

where our problems are and what we can do to fix it."

CBO's baseline is a set of detailed projections of federal spending, revenues, deficits or surpluses, and debt for the current year and the following decade.

Those projections inform policymakers about budgetary trends and the nation's fiscal condition under current law.

"The bill will enhance CBO's objectivity, and frequent updates will ensure that CBO's budget and economic outlooks are without bias," Suozzi explained.

CBO typically aims to release at least two baselines a year. Delays in the appropriations process can cause CBO to miss its target of three baselines. The Budget Committee strongly supports releasing three baselines in order to complete its own budget enforcement and oversight responsibilities. Baseline projections supply the Congress with information about the budgetary outlook over the coming decade under current laws and a benchmark to use in determining whether proposed legislation is subject to various budget enforcement procedures.

"This bill will help tighten congressional procedures and result in a more fiscally responsible policy," Suozzi concluded.

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Modi meets delegation of the Sikhs in New York

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met several members of the Sikh community here in the US, who thanked him for the work done by his government for the Sikh community.

"We were so happy, and what a positive feeling we had after the meeting. We greeted the prime minister as soon as he walked in the room with the Sikh traditional jaikara of Jo Bole So Nihal, and the prime minister was so gracious to reply back Sat Sri Akaal," Jasdip Singh Jassee from the Sikhs of America organization said after he met Modi in New York on Monday, September 23.

Prominent Sikh leader from Wisconsin Darshan Singh Dhaliwal also met the Prime Minister.

"We had a very good discussion. The prime minister has done a lot for the Sikh community," Jassee told PTI after returning to Washington later in the day.



Prominent Sikh leader from Wisconsin Darshan Singh Dhaliwal (left) with his son met the Prime Minister in New York on September 23

"I don't think any other Prime Minister in history of India has done for the Sikh community what Prime Minister Modi has been doing, including the opening of Kartar Saheb Corridor, celebrations of 500 years of Guru Nanak's 550th birthday, abolishing the blacklist of Sikhs, who could not visit India and also getting justice for the victims of the Sikh genocide that happened in 1984 under the Congress government," Jassee said, referring to the anti-Sikh riots that took place in 1984 after the assassination of then-prime minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh security.

"We thanked him today for what he has done for the Sikh community and we are going to take another delegation to India to meet him pretty soon and discuss issues with him," he said, congratulating the prime minister for his "very, very successful visit" to the United States.

Pegasus Publishers to Release "Sam and His Two Birds" by Neha Lohia

A FASCINATING SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FOR YOUNG READERS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Neha Lohia, an accomplished filmmaker, storyteller, commercial artist and conscious entrepreneur, is set to debut her children's picture book, Sam and His Two Birds, on September 26th, 2024, through Pegasus Publishers under their children's book label Nightingale Books. This beautifully illustrated picture-story book by Neha offers a tender and imaginative exploration of spirituality for young readers, drawing inspiration from the sacred teachings of one short story from the great Indian text the Bhagavad Gita and a profound discourse she heard in Rishikesh India by Mooji, a renowned spiritual teacher from Jamaica.

Sam and His Two Birds is a heartwarming tale that follows Sam, a life-loving little boy, and his two feathered bird friends, H and M—representing the Heart and Mind. As Sam embarks on a journey of self-discovery guided by these two birds in the lap of nature, he learns about the power of integrating his heart-mind-body, inner peace, patience, and spiritual connection to all things. The book gently introduces young readers to profound and timeless wisdom, providing a foundation for understanding life's deeper meaning.

Drawing from the rich spiritual traditions of the Bhagavad Gita, Mooji Baba, the Tao Te Ching, and A Course in Miracles, Neha Lohia has crafted a story that empowers children to explore and connect naturally with their inner world.

Through the enchanting tale of Sam and his two birds, Lohia encourages children to harmonize their hearts and minds, leading them toward a life of balance, trust, and faith.



"I wrote and painted this book in India during the pandemic lock down, a time when the whole world was at a standstill, and I sought to contribute positively to the lives of children and their families," says Lohia. "Through Sam's story, I hope to inspire young readers to connect with the deeper aspects of themselves and understand the value of living an integrated life. This book is deeply spiritual but not religious, it aims to empower my little readers to dissolve all inner conflicts and duality early on."

Sam and His Two Birds is a tool for parents to impart the foundation of Heart-Mind well-being and timeless inner integration as a primary value to their children, helping them to learn how to navigate life's challenges with grace and wisdom. This book is an attempt to understand deep psychology, Mind-Heart-Body balance, and mental wellness in a playful setting, for children and adults alike.

"Whether through films or books, my goal is to tell stories that heal, empower, and

connect us to something greater than ourselves and art has always been a way for me to express what words cannot," Lohia says. "In creating this book, I found a way to channel my own life experiences into something that could potentially help others—especially children—find peace in times of turmoil."

In a bustling city of New York where skyscrapers reach for the heavens and life moves at a relentless pace, this new children's book quietly invites readers to pause, reflect, and journey inward.

Sam and His Two Birds, written and illustrated by Neha Lohia, is not just a story—it's an invitation for children to make friends with their heart and mind instead of choosing one over the other. The book will be available starting September 26, 2024 across bookstores and online platforms worldwide by Pegasus Publishers.

For more information or to arrange an interview, a book reading or children interactions with the author, please visit www.nehalohia.com and contact Neha Lohia directly.

About the Author: Neha Lohia is a versatile filmmaker, storyteller, and conscious entrepreneur with over two decades of experience in the creative arts. Her work is deeply rooted in spirituality, and she is passionate about empowering women and elevating consciousness. Sam and His Two Birds is her first children's picture book, created to inspire and educate young minds through heart-centered stories.

ABOUT PEGASUS PUBLISHERS:
PEGASUS PUBLISHERS IS A UK-BASED INDEPENDENT BOOK PUBLISHER COMMITTED TO DISCOVERING AND PUBLISHING BOOKS THAT INSPIRE, ENTERTAIN, AND EDUCATE READERS GLOBALLY.

India's place in Russia-Ukraine peace-making



BY
SUHASINI HAIDAR

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT NEW DELHI IS ENGAGING WITH ALL PARTIES AND DEVELOPING ITS ROLE AS AN INTERLOCUTOR BUT THERE ARE THE 'IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS'

Two years after the Government of India held that "Europe's problems are not the world's problems" to distance New Delhi from the theatre of the Russia-Ukraine war, speculation about its determination to help resolve the war has gained traction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv, a possible meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the United Nations next week and with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS Summit next month, as well as the travels of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar all point in this direction.

The fact that Mr. Modi "briefed" United States President Joseph Biden in a phone call after the Ukraine visit, and Mr. Doval told Mr. Putin that he had been tasked to "brief" him about the visit as well when he met him in St. Petersburg last week indicate that India is engaging with all parties and developing its role as an interlocutor.

The question then is how far does Mr. Modi's plan to play peacemaker stretch? And where can India's role be most effective?

INDIA'S ROLE, THE FULL PICTURE

India's advantages and reasons for playing such a role are many - it is one of the few countries that is engaging both sides of the geopolitical schism over Ukraine, i.e., the West as well as the Eurasian leadership. India's long-held beliefs on non-alignment and strategic autonomy, which the Modi government has largely carried forward during the war with its abstention votes at the UN and refusal to accept western sanctions, help its image as an "honest broker" or mediator.

India is an important voice for the Global South and it succeeded in ensuring its G-20 presidency focused on war outcomes such as energy and food security that matter to the developing world rather than the war itself. As a result, the increase in India's intake of Russian oil, leading to a six-fold increase in bilateral trade, has been projected as an assertion of its principles rather than profiteering.

In his third term, Mr. Modi would no doubt like to build a global legacy, much like India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was able to do by mediating between the USSR and Austria for the withdrawal of Soviet troops in exchange for a policy of neutrality, or by India leading international efforts and UN commissions on wars in Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia.

If it does essay such a role, the government would need a thorough assessment of the situation, beginning with a study of the state of war in



Ukraine. Russian troops remain entrenched in about a sixth of territory of the country for more than two years now, while Ukrainian forces are successfully holding the line outside of these areas. This indicates that any change in the status quo could come only from a massive escalation in the war. Mr. Zelenskyy's move to occupy Russian territory in Kursk was a novel tactic, but was perhaps only meant to be used as a bargaining chip or "leverage" as the Ukrainian President put it, in future negotiations. As he heads to New York next week, Mr. Zelenskyy will be seeking a further escalation: western permissions for the long-range Storm Shadow missiles, and Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACM) for airstrikes deep inside Russia, which he believes is receiving lethal weaponry from Iran and North Korea. Mr. Putin has said in no uncertain terms that if the West clears the request, it would be a declaration of direct war between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Russia. An alternative outcome could also arise from the U.S. elections on November 5 - a win for former U.S. President Donald Trump may mean the U.S. curtails its expenditure in support of Ukraine, seen positively by Mr. Putin, and more sobering for Ukraine and Europe, while a win for U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris will indicate continuity in the U.S.'s support.

AN OFFERING THAT WOULD HAVE TO STAND OUT

Second, New Delhi would need to offer its own proposal for conflict resolution or de-escalation taking into account that there are already a number of proposals in the arena, all of which have been rejected by one side or the other. Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy have rejected each other's proposals, that involve giving up territory on the ground. Mr. Putin rejected the Bürgenstock Communiqué,

that India also disassociated from, which dwelt on the issues of nuclear safety, humanitarian access and the exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Zelenskyy recently rejected the six-point Brazil-China joint proposal that proposed the same measures towards a path of "de-escalation". China has, in the past year successfully brokered agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Hamas and Fatah. Hungary too, a country with access to both sides, made a ceasefire proposal which has been rejected by Ukraine.

Summing up India's position in Berlin last week, Mr. Jaishankar listed a four-point principle: This is not the era of war; there are no solutions on the battlefield; Russia must be at the table for talks; and India is concerned and engaged to find a resolution to the conflict. While these principles are incontrovertible, they are by no means a concrete proposal, and India will need to work on a more comprehensive vision of its path to peace.

The next step would be to study what India's role would be. During their conversation, Mr. Zelenskyy told Mr. Modi that India is simply too large and important a country to seek a role as "messenger" between Moscow and Kyiv. In any case, recent rounds of prisoner exchanges between the two countries make it amply clear that there are enough channels to relay information between them.

A larger role would imply India serving as a mediator or even the host for a summit between the two sides, although given India's recusal from the Swiss Peace Summit outcome, may be a task left to one of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries that have been a part of the process thus far. Whatever the decision, this is an exercise that will require India to use its heft, diplomatic goodwill and other resources apart from intensified travel by officials, Ministers and the Prime Minister focused on discussing

solutions to the Russia-Ukraine war.

CONSISTENCY WOULD BE THE KEY WORD

At a time when the government is dealing with internal conflicts including Manipur, revving up the economy through international engagement, regional turbulence and a host of other important issues, it could justifiably question the need to spend its resources on this conflict. Externally, when civilian casualties from Israel's bombardment of Gaza or from the civil war in Sudan are far more than those estimated to be non-military casualties in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the question over which conflict India chooses to intervene in poses a challenge. In addition, India will be judged on the consistency of its message - if "dialogue and diplomacy" are indeed the "only way forward", then it is difficult to account for the Modi government's refusal to consider an opening with Pakistan, for example.

Eventually, the balance of the pull and push factors will decide how far New Delhi will go as a peace-maker in the war that has consumed Europe and the U.S. for more than 30 months. As a country of considerable consequence in the world, one that straddles the West and the east, the Global North and South, and as the only country that is member of both the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, United States) and BRICS, India is uniquely positioned. The critical element is the timing of its foray into a field that has, thus far, only seen failure. As the late Israeli interlocutor Abba Eban once said in words that are as true for the conflict he attempted to resolve as they are for the Russia-Ukraine war: "History teaches us that men and nations only behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives."

(The author is an editor with The Hindu. She can be reached at suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in)

The misplaced move of 'one nation one election'



BY P.D.T. ACHARY

The idea of simultaneous elections, to the Lok Sabha, the State Assemblies and the local bodies, was thrown up by the Prime Minister a couple of years ago. Frequent Assembly and local body elections kept him busy on the campaign trail in some parts of the country most of the time. This experience may have been the trigger for the idea to hold elections at one time.

This also led to the formation of a high-level committee on simultaneous elections, which was headed by the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. Other members of the committee included the Home Minister, Amit Shah, former Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chairman, Fifteenth Finance Commission N.K. Singh, former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha Subhash C. Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari. Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, was a special invitee. The committee's report was submitted to the President of India in March this year. Thus, the recommendations were available to the public before the 2024 general election. Moreover, the idea of 'simultaneous elections' was a part of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto (BJP) for this general election. If the ruling party had won a majority in this election it could have claimed that the idea had been endorsed by voters. But in the absence of a majority, it becomes difficult to assume that voters are in approval of it.

Be that as it may, it is nothing less than a miracle that a high-level committee could come up with such a voluminous report (18,626 pages) within a relatively short time on an issue of great importance. With the Union Cabinet having approved the recommendation, the subject of 'one nation one election' has reached almost take-off stage. In the first phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously, while local body elections will be conducted within 100 days of the general election.

AN AMENDMENT BILL AND ITS FATE

The recommendation on simultaneous elections involves amendments to various Articles of the Constitution. The crucial amendment is on the tenure of Assemblies which will no longer have fixity. Since the tenure of the Assemblies will have to be synchronized with that of the Lok Sabha, it is only natural that State Assemblies, which, under Article 172, have a fixed tenure of five years will lose it.

But before going into further details, let us look at what the fate of the Constitution amendment Bill that will be introduced in the 18th Lok Sabha for this purpose will be. After the Bill is introduced, the next important stage is its consideration, which means a general debate on it. After the debate is concluded, the motion for consideration is put to the vote of the House. At that stage, the special majority, namely, the majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, will be required.

Only if the motion for consideration is passed with the special majority will the House consider the subsequent stages, i.e., clause by clause consideration, and finally pass the Bill. If all 543 members are present in the House to vote then the support of 362 members will be required. It is understood that the ruling National Democratic Alliance has around 292

needs closer examination. Under Article 324, all elections to Parliament and the State legislatures are conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The money required to hold elections is sanctioned by Parliament as a part of the Budget. For the financial year 2023-24, the total allocation made by Parliament to the ECI is ₹466 crore. Obviously, this allocation was made for meeting the expenditure in connection with the 2024 general election. For 2022-23, the total allocation was only ₹320 crore. Thus, the total amount allotted to the ECI for the general election - ₹466 crore - is not a very huge amount.

Of course, expenditure is incurred also by the State governments to meet logistical requirements in connection with elections. Under Article 324(6), staff are required to be provided to the ECI on demand for the elections. Under Section 160 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, State governments are

The second reason is that frequent elections will disrupt developmental plans and projects of the government because of the model code of conduct being in force most of the time. Once again there is no empirical evidence to prove this argument. After all, periodic or frequent elections have been held since 1967 till today. But it is not known that elections have stopped the developmental momentum. It is interesting to note in this context that demonetization of 85% of India's currency was done close to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

A MOVE AGAINST FEDERALISM

Curtailling the tenures of State Assemblies to synchronize them with the tenure of the Lok Sabha is an act against federalism. Under the Constitution of India, State Assemblies are autonomous law-making bodies within the India federation and are independent of the federal parliament. A fixed tenure of the Assemblies independent of the tenure of the Lok Sabha is a key aspect of the federal setup. Under the Kesavananda Bharati decision, Parliament does not have the power to alter the basic structure. Federalism is a part of the basic structure. The proposed amendments which seek to do away with the fixity of tenure of the Assemblies would amount to altering the basic structure. Whether ratification by Assemblies will be necessary or not is not the key issue. If this amendment is carried out, some Assemblies will have a term of three years. It may be two years or so for others.

As a matter of fact, frequent elections have many positive benefits. First, they will enhance the accountability of elected representatives. Frequent elections compel them to go back to the people and reconnect with them frequently. Elections once in five years would mean that representatives would not feel compelled to go to the people. They would slowly move away from them and try to reconnect with them only in the election year. Similarly, if elections are held only once in five years, political parties will slowly become lethargic and, in course of time, will cease to be the effective vehicles of peoples' aspirations. From the angle of governments, frequent elections will show them which way the wind blows and a government in office can do course correction.

In conclusion, simultaneous elections will alter the federal balance of the Constitution and it is not a priority issue for ordinary Indians. Therefore, the game is not worth the candle.

(The author is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha)



Frequent elections compel elected representatives to go back to the people

members at present. Thus, there is a wide gap between this number and the special majority number of 362. Since the Opposition parties are opposed to the 'one nation one election' proposition, perhaps the government will find it extremely difficult to mobilize the special majority. Thus, in such a situation, the fate of the Constitution amendment Bill will be decided at the stage of consideration itself. The simple message from all this is that without the support of the Opposition, no Constitution amendment Bill will be able to be passed in the Parliament of today.

THE ARGUMENTS ARE THIN

The high-level committee has recommended simultaneous elections for two reasons. First, the issue of savings in expenses given the humongous amounts of money spent in each election. If all elections are held only once in five years the savings will be enormous. But this is an argument that

empowered to requisition premises and even vehicles for election purposes. All these arrangements require money which the States will have to provide. But even after all these expenses are also considered, the total expenditure incurred by the Union and State governments cannot be categorized as being huge or enormous.

Yes, the money spent by the political parties is mind boggling, but the point is that the money that would be saved by the political parties due to the holding of elections once in five years is not going to be spent on, for example, road building or the building of bridges or hospitals. No political party has ever done such things. After all, we had simultaneous elections from 1951-52 to 1967. There is no evidence that the political parties have ever built roads for instance during this long period. Therefore, the assumption that the money saved can be used for building infrastructure does not seem to be based on any empirical evidence.

Rahul must avoid going overboard abroad

ATTACKING ONE'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS ON FOREIGN SOIL IS NOT THE RIGHT STRATEGY



BY
JULIO RIBEIRO

"Rahul can never attain Modi's lofty standards of expressing thoughts that the speaker himself does not believe in. Every politician has his strengths and weaknesses. Rahul, for instance, appears to be a more sincere individual than Modi, who is fired up by an extremist ideology. He should utilise that quality to convince the electorate of his own worth. Attacking his opponents in a foreign land is not the right strategy, even if Pitroda advocates it."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should avoid accepting party colleague Sam Pitroda's offers to arrange talks in the US or the UK, at least till 2029, when the next Lok Sabha elections are due. Rahul's dislike for Prime Minister Narendra Modi is so intense and personal that he is bound to put his foot in his mouth when he refers to the PM in his speeches. Spouting venom on political opponents at home is bad enough. Doing it abroad is not appreciated.

Many foreign dignitaries visit New Delhi for discussions with our national leaders. Some even meet leaders of Opposition parties. There has never been an instance of these dignitaries denigrating their political opponents. Agreed that there are many reasons to criticise our Prime Minister, especially for his doublespeak, but those battles are to be fought by Indians in India. Foreigners should not be embroiled in our internal problems.

Rahul can never attain Modi's lofty standards of expressing thoughts that the speaker himself does not believe in.

Rahul is fast becoming a real threat to PM Modi. The results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections have given him and the Congress, the principal Opposition party, a quantum leap. The Congress has doubled its strength in the Lower House. The BJP lost many seats in its stronghold of Uttar Pradesh. Wonder of wonders, it even lost the Faizabad seat in Ayodhya despite Modi taking on the role of the Shankaracharyas while inaugurating the Ram Mandir!

A more mature politician would have planned to capitalise on that mini-victory to dislodge Modi next time

around. There was a feeling that Rahul was doing just that when he led the attacks on the government's policies in the Lok Sabha, pointing to the hate and divisiveness being spread with the sole purpose of capturing political power.

And then he flies to the US and addresses select audiences targeted by his friend and confidant Pitroda, speaks against Modi and thus spoils his own copybook.

In contrast, Modi, the suave politician that he is, wowed a huge gathering of desis gathered in New York's Times Square and recovered lost ground abroad. India's huge and growing markets are attracting the US and various European powers. For that

intersperse his speeches with shafts of humour that even a person whose mother tongue was not Marathi would chuckle all the way home.

Rahul can never attain Modi's lofty standards of expressing thoughts that the speaker himself does not believe in. Every politician has his strengths and weaknesses. Rahul, for instance, appears to be a more sincere individual than Modi, who is fired up by an extremist ideology. He should utilise that quality to convince the electorate of his own worth. Attacking his opponents in a foreign land is not the right strategy, even if Pitroda advocates it.

Modi and his trusted aide, Amit Shah, addressed election rallies in the Kashmir

Punjab, have learnt from their encounters with the menace. All standard books on terrorism will tell you that whereas the brainwashed terrorists have to be dealt with an iron hand, terrorism as such can only be eliminated if the community from which the terrorists belong turns against them.

In short, there is a clear distinction between terrorists and terrorism. The former can be eliminated, but when they are captured or killed, young recruits are certain to replace them. The cause is such an emotional one that getting rid of known terrorists is not the final answer.

In Punjab, terrorism ended only after Jat Sikh farmers started giving information about the presence of terrorists in their villages, information that they were reluctant to part with earlier during the conflict. In Punjab, as in Ireland, captured or killed terrorists

Rahul Gandhi should focus on convincing the electorate of his own worth. -Credit: ANI



alone, our country's Prime Minister is much sought after in foreign lands.

Modi is a shrewd and calculating politician. He is an orator 'par excellence'. In New York, he did not say anything he had not stated earlier in our own land. But what he spoke was delivered with such conviction and verve that he made an indelible impression on his audience.

In my city of Mumbai, I have heard Balasaheb Thackeray, founder of the Shiv Sena, speak on at least a dozen occasions. He kept his audience mesmerised. Modi does that too. But Modi does not employ humour to attract the attention of his listeners. He is too serious for that. Thackeray would

valley recently. Modi stated that his government, which has been solely in charge of Jammu & Kashmir since the state was relegated to the status of a Union Territory in 2019, has got rid of terrorism there. Yet, every week, there are reports of terror attacks. Who are we to believe? Every week, civilians and martyred soldiers are buried or cremated.

Shah warned the voters of the Valley that if the Congress or the National Conference, led by the Abdullahs, was voted to power, terrorism in all its vile manifestations would return to the region. Modi and Shah are obviously convinced that guns and bullets would end terrorism. That is not the lesson that Ireland or Spain, and closer to home,

were soon replaced by other young recruits. The farmers started helping the government only when life became unbearable for them. Nothing can be solved by the gun alone. The people have to be won over. There is no alternative to that time-tested solution.

The scrapping of Article 370 and degrading the state to a UT are factors that will work against getting the people to collaborate with the government. Modi and Shah will have to reconcile themselves to sorting out those obstacles before they can boast of putting an end to terrorism in J&K.

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



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A Photo-feature by Jay Mandal to commemorate the visit of the Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi to the US from September 21-23, 2024



Mr. Narendra Modi takes the oath of office as the 14th Prime Minister of India, with President Pranab Mukherjee administering the oath on 26th May, 2014 -Credit: Wikipedia

Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi became Prime Minister of India in 2014. Ever since he has visited the US nine times. His ninth visit happened from September 21 to September 23, 2024.



On September 21, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. hosted Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India in Wilmington, Delaware, for the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit. -Courtesy: White House

Mr. Modi started his visit with the Quad summit which US President Biden hosted at his Delaware hometown of Wilmington on September 21. At the Quad Summit, the leaders of Australia, India, Japan and USA reviewed the progress achieved by the Quad over the last one year and set the agenda for the year ahead to assist the countries of the Indo-Pacific region in meeting their development goals and aspirations.



Mr. Modi arriving at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in New York to address the Indian American community on September 22, 2024. -Photo : Jay Mandal - on assignment

On September 22, Modi addressed a gathering of the Indian Americans at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in New York. Around 14000 Indian Americans gathered to see and listen to him. The colorful program presented on the occasion included dance performances depicting the rich cultural variety of India. Mr. Modi was lustily cheered on his arrival, and during his address lasting around 50 minutes.

Mr. Modi also addressed on September 23, the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The theme of the Summit was 'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'. A large number of global leaders participated in the Summit. On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with several world leaders and discussed issues of mutual interest.



Mr. Modi addressing on September 23, the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. -Screengrab



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roundtable meeting with MIT School of Engineering Tech CEOs, in New York on September 22, 2024. -Credit: PTI

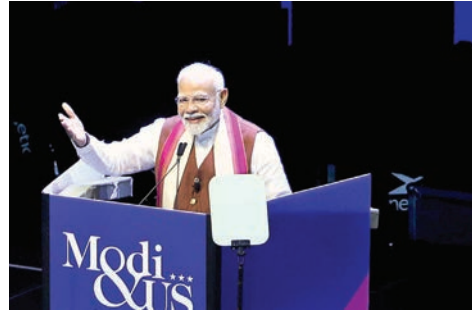
Mr. Modi interacted with CEOs of leading US-based companies to foster greater collaborations between the two countries in the cutting-edge areas of AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology. He also interacted with thought leaders and other stakeholders active in the India-US bilateral landscape.

HOWEVER, OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS MR. MODI ATTENDED, THE MOST TALKED ABOUT HAS BEEN HIS ADDRESS TO THE INDIAN AMERICANS IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2024. THE ACE PHOTOGRAPHER MR. JAY MANDAL PHOTOGRAPHED THE EVENT EXTENSIVELY. WE ARE HAPPY TO CARRY THE SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT HERE.



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Mr. Modi with entertainers



Celebrated chefs, including Hemant Mathur (second from the left, and Vikas Khanna, third from the left)

All Photos by Jay Mandal-
on assignment



PM Modi says US visit fruitful, focused on global initiatives

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday shared highlights of his visit to the United States, saying it has been “fruitful”, covered diverse programmes and focused on a series of subjects aimed at making the planet better. The Prime Minister shared a brief video of his engagements, from the Quad Summit to series of bilateral meetings including with US President Joe Biden. He also shared highlights of his address to the Indian diaspora, interaction with important American business leaders and address at the Summit of the Future in the United Nations.

“This has been a fruitful USA visit, covering diverse programmes and focusing on a series of subjects aimed at making our planet better. Here are the highlights,” PM Modi said in a post on X.

Quad Summit in Delaware

One of the key highlights of the visit was the Quad Summit, hosted by US President Joe Biden in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. PM Modi recounted the personal touch of the meeting, mentioning Biden’s gesture of taking him to his home. “His affinity and warmth was a heart-touching moment for me,” PM Modi shared, as the video showed the two leaders warmly greeting each other.

The Quad Summit, which saw participation from Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, along with PM Modi and Biden, was another pivotal event. Reflecting on the meeting, PM Modi expressed his satisfaction in taking part at the beginning of his third term. When asked whether the Quad would continue beyond the US elections in November, Biden’s response, “way beyond November,” accompanied by a warm gesture towards PM Modi, highlighted the ongoing commitment to the alliance. India is set to host the next Quad Summit.

During the summit, PM Modi reiterated the Quad’s mission, stating, “Our message is unequivocal: QUAD is here to stay, to assist, to partner, and to complement.” He also announced India’s contribution of \$7.5 million under the Quad Moonshot Initiative, aimed at supporting health measures through sampling kits, detection kits, and vaccines. “India’s vision is ‘One Earth, One Health,’” he said.

Engagement with Indian Diaspora and Business Leaders

The video also captured moments from PM Modi’s interaction with the Indian diaspora, with attendees enthusiastically cheering and waving as he spoke. In meetings with key American business leaders, PM Modi outlined the “golden opportunity” that India presents. Business leaders echoed this sentiment. Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, praised PM Modi’s focus on using Artificial



Intelligence to benefit the Indian population. “The Prime Minister wants to make sure that ultimately AI is there to benefit the people of India,” Pichai said.

Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, said, “This is India’s moment, we have to seize the opportunity,” while Enrique Lores, CEO of HP Inc., shared plans to expand manufacturing in India, pointing to the country’s growing potential in both technology and production. Eli Lilly’s CEO David A. Ricks also noted India’s rise as an economic power and its expanding research base.

Accenture’s CEO Julie Sweet expressed excitement about the company’s plans to grow operations in India, while Biogen’s CEO Chris Viehbacher commended Modi’s vision of placing India at the forefront of technological progress in the 21st century. Holtec International CEO Kris Singh remarked on PM Modi’s focus on energy independence through clean energy initiatives, calling the Prime Minister “a very bright man.”

Bilateral Meetings and UN Address

The video also featured visuals of PM Modi’s meetings with various global leaders, including Japan’s Prime Minister Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Albanese, Nepal’s Prime Minister KP

Sharma Oli, Kuwait’s Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Palestine’s President Mahmoud Abbas, Vietnam’s State President To Lam, and Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

At the UN Summit of the Future, PM Modi called for urgent reform of global governance institutions, including the UN Security Council. He stressed that global action must align with global ambitions.

Prime Minister Modi’s three-day visit to the United States, which began on September 21, covered a wide range of discussions and initiatives aimed at fostering global collaboration.

Why did Modi return without meeting Trump, Kamala Harris?

A comment from Trump the previous week, suggesting that PM Modi was coming to meet him, had sparked speculation as to whether the Republican candidate would appear in New York City or at the diaspora event at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island.

However, according to the report, PM Modi’s tight schedule left limited time to meet either of the candidates, who themselves were engaged in election campaigning.

The report added that polite inquiries about his schedule from those interested in arranging a meeting might have indeed occurred, and they proved enough for Trump to assume that PM Modi sought an audience with him.

This would be in keeping with Trump’s past behaviour, according to the report. For example, during a 2019 meeting with then Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Oval Office, Trump had claimed that PM Modi had requested him to mediate in the Kashmir dispute. New Delhi had to publicly deny Trump’s statement.

However, PM Modi had invited Trump, then the US President, to the “Howdy Modi” rally in Houston in 2019, where a crowd of 50,000 attendees had impressed Trump, who has a known fascination with crowd sizes.

This event was followed by Trump’s 2020 visit to India, where he was welcomed with the “Namaste Trump” rally, organised by PM Modi in Ahmedabad, with 100,000 people packed into the newly-constructed stadium named after Modi.

The tight schedule might not have been the only reason for PM Modi to miss out on any possible meetings with the candidates.

According to the Times of India report, despite Trump praising PM Modi ahead of his US visit on Friday and calling him a “fantastic” leader, while hinting at a potential meeting, the Indian side might have decided to exercise caution based on past experience with American politics.

For example, the 2019 rally, where PM Modi had appeared to openly endorse Trump’s re-election bid by echoing the slogan “Ab ki baar, Trump sarkar”, had led to some criticism.

Given that this phrase was coined by Trump’s Indian-American supporters, who often see similarities between the two leaders as strong and assertive figures, some American commentators also suggested that PM Modi was backing Trump for a second term in 2020.

After Trump lost the 2020 election to Joe Biden, New Delhi had to reportedly recalibrate its approach to the new Democratic administration in Washington, which included Kamala Harris as Vice-President.

With this past experience in mind, the report said that PM Modi’s advisors appeared to have decided to avoid meeting either presidential candidate, with the excuse of “scheduling difficulties” due to everyone’s busy agendas.

Trump was, in fact, speaking at a rally in Pennsylvania on Monday night while PM Modi departed for New Delhi. Meanwhile, Harris, balancing her vice-presidential duties with campaign commitments, was in Washington DC, preparing to head to Pennsylvania, the most crucial among battleground states in the US elections.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhiji for his selfless struggle for independence of India from British rule. He is well-known for his battle against British atrocities without a war cry but a peaceful procession, leading the whole nation into the battlefield with no ammunition but a spirit of perseverance. He spearheads various campaigns such as Quit India, Non-Cooperation, Dandi March, and others against colonial rule. His contributions to others in freeing the nation from the heinous clutches of the British earned him honors like being called 'Father of the Nation' and his birthday Oct 2nd as a National holiday.

Early Life of Mahatma Gandhi

BIRTH – Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2nd, 1869, originally named Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was born in a coastal town called Porbandar in Gujarat, India. He was born into a Hindu Baniya family, which was deeply religious and observed rituals and vows regularly. His father, Karamchand Gandhi, was a Diwan, a chief minister of Porbandar. His mother, Putlibai, was deeply religious and a spiritual person, who observed the duties of a housewife.

UPBRINGING – Gandhi's upbringing was in a religious environment that greatly influenced his later life. His father's staunch principles fostered values like devotion, self-discipline and tolerance. His mother's deep religious values taught him the importance of religion and spirituality.

EDUCATION – Gandhi received his primary education in Porbandar. Later he moved to Rajkot where his family later settled. With no remarkable academic achievements, he was a very shy and mediocre student during his early school days. His unquenchable curiosity and strong moral compass had guided him towards personal and political development. At the age of 18, in 1888, he traveled to London to study law at Inner Temple. Later in London, he was exposed to Western ideals and political thoughts which shaped his entire worldview.

EARLY INFLUENCES OF IDEOLOGIES – His early influences include the religious teachings of Jainism, Vaishnavism, and Christianity. These played a pivotal role in shaping his philosophies of non-violence and truth in later years. His mother's deeply religious and spiritual influence instilled in him a sense of empathy, sympathy, and compassion. When he was posted as a lawyer in South Africa, he faced a lot of discrimination in his early years. When he worked as a lawyer he solidified his commitment to fight injustice through peaceful and non-violent means. These early experiences



and ideologies from varied authors laid a foundation for his lifelong dedication to truth and non-violence. He was greatly influenced by the writings of 'Henry David Thoreau'.

Role in India's Independence Movement

Gandhiji's leadership is echoed across the globe for gathering all social, religious, and regional communities all over India and cemented his philosophy into practice in non-violent methods. The following are the movements that brought Indians together and fought for Independence.

Non – Cooperation Movement

The non-cooperation movement was observed from 1920 to 1922. This movement was one of the Gandhi's earliest and most influential campaigns against the British rule. This was a result of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 and other British harsh repressive measures. The main aspect of the non-cooperation movement was boycotting British goods and advocating the use of homegrown products through self-reliance. This movement has united millions of Indians across varied regions and communities. This movement emphasized dismantling the British authority peacefully without violence. However, the movement was suspended after the violence erupted in Chauri Chaura. Yet Gandhi's focus on peaceful resistance remained a hallmark of the movement.

Civil Disobedience Movement

This movement was observed from

struggle.

The United Nations declared October 2 as "International Day of Non-Violence" on June 15, 2007. Several programmes and cultural events are organised to pay homage to the Father Of The Nation and spread his teachings. Many people also visit places dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi on this day - like Raj Ghat in Delhi, Mani Bhavan in Mumbai and Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat.

A Fight Against Racism

After completing his legal education, Gandhi went to South Africa in 1893 to attend to a legal matter of Dada Abdullah Jhaveri. This was a pivotal moment in his life as he encountered systematic racism for the first time. One incident, where he was thrown off a train in Pietermaritzburg for refusing to leave a "whites-only" compartment, served as a turning point.

This moment of humiliation fueled his desire to fight for justice and the dignity of the oppressed. His first nonviolent resistance movement was aimed at securing the rights of Indian immigrants who were subjected to harsh labor conditions and unjust laws. He founded the 'Natal Indian Congress' in 1894, started Indian Opinion in 1903, and established the 'Phoenix Settlement' in 1904. Gandhi's nonviolent methods laid the foundation for future movements in India, and South Africa became his testing ground for developing tactics that would later challenge British colonialism.

Return to India

In 1915, Gandhi returned to India, equipped with his principles of nonviolent civil disobedience. He was quickly drawn into the freedom struggle and started advocating for the rights of India's poorest communities. He focused on addressing their concerns and highlighting injustices such as high taxes and exploitative British policies.

The Final Years and Legacy of Gandhi
As India moved closer to independence, tensions between Hindus and Muslims grew, leading to the partition of India in 1947. Gandhi ji, deeply pained by the resulting communal violence, traveled extensively to promote peace and reconciliation.

Tragically, on January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, sending shockwaves across the nation and the world. His death marked a profound loss for India and those who believed in his vision of nonviolence and communal harmony.

However, Gandhi's legacy as a champion of nonviolence and civil rights continues to influence global movements for justice and equality. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela drew from his principles to advance their causes.

1930 to 1934. The Civil Disobedience Movement started with Gandhi's famous salt march in 1930. This movement was a direct challenge to the British monopoly on salt production. The march was led by Gandhi ji and his followers later, from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, which covered 240 miles, by defying British laws and making salt from seawater. This movement united millions of Indians, refusing to pay taxes, defying British laws, and boycotting British goods. This movement involved urban and rural populations, characterizing non-violent resistance and mass participation. This movement led to the arrest of Gandhi and thousands of his supporters, with brutal repression. This movement significantly weakened British control and brought Indian independence close to global attention.

Quit India Movement

This movement was launched by Gandhi in 1942, the most aggressive phase of India's freedom struggle. He observed fastings and gave famous speeches like Do or Die, urging Indians to intensify their efforts to expel British rule from India. Gandhiji utilized the time for immediate independence that was raging under World War 2 when the British sought India's support. Widespread resistance campaigns such as strikes, protests, and acts of sabotage were observed. The British government arrested Gandhiji and his followers with brute force intending to crush the momentum. The movement was suppressed by 1944, yet it left an indelible mark during the freedom

Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti

‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’ – a phrase that resonates with every Indian, was coined by a man whose legacy continues to inspire us all — Lal Bahadur Shastri, a name synonymous with humility and dedication. Every year, on the 2nd of October, we come together to celebrate his birth anniversary, known as Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti.

In this article, you will learn a little more about his life, accomplishments, the profound impact he had on the nation and how his legacy continues to inspire generations.

Born on 2nd October 1904, Shastri Ji came from humble beginnings, deeply influenced by the values of honesty and hard work instilled by his mother, Ramdulari Devi, as his father, Sharada Prasad Srivastava, passed away only two years after Shastri Ji was born. He was born in the town of Mughalsarai, nestled within the Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, India.

His academic pursuits at Kashi Vidyapeeth earned him the title ‘Shastri’ in 1925, and he obtained degrees in philosophy and ethics, reflecting his commitment to intellectual growth.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's Political Career

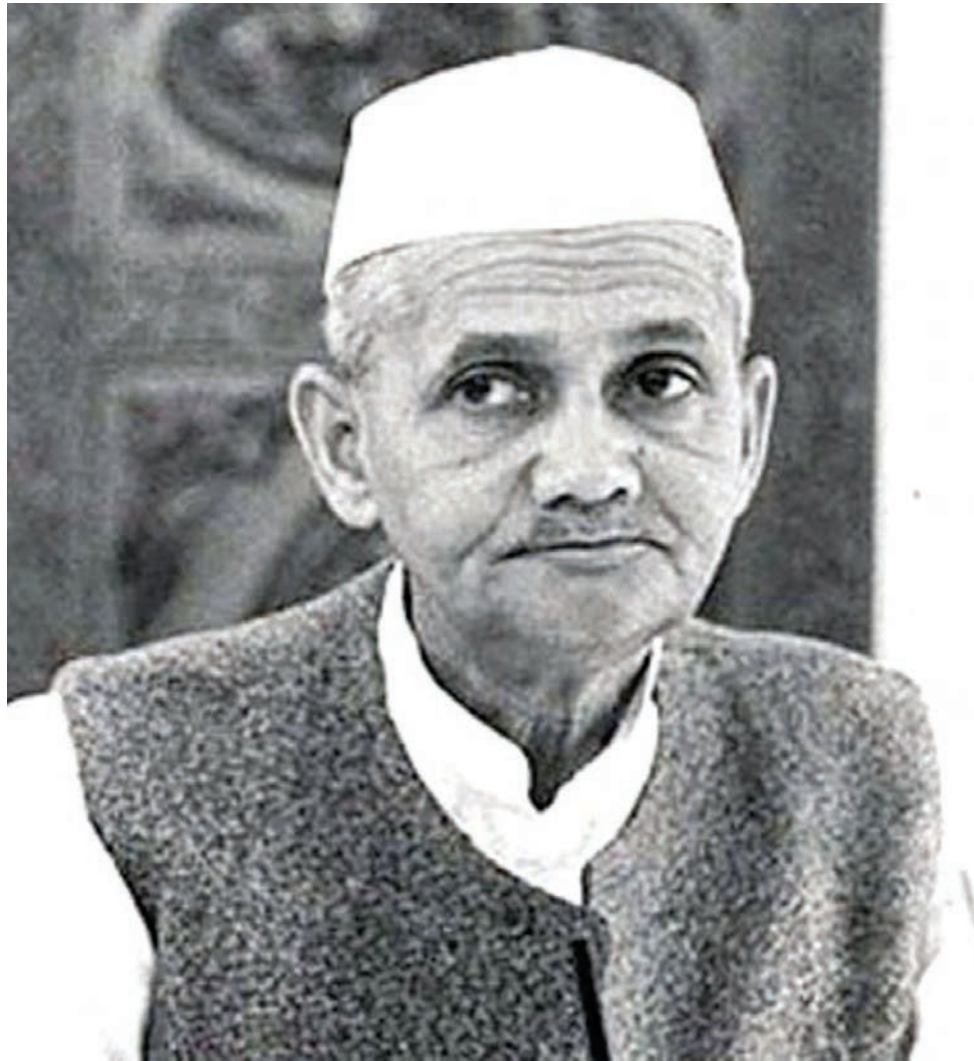
Shastri Ji's political awakening was profoundly influenced by the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Annie Besant, and other stalwarts of the freedom struggle. Their unwavering dedication to India's cause inspired Shastri Ji to actively participate in the fight for independence. His deep admiration for Swami Vivekananda's teachings further fueled his passion for nation-building.

In 1928, Shastri Ji joined the Indian National Congress, and two years later, in 1930, he took part in the historic Salt Satyagraha — a defining moment in the struggle for India's freedom. His commitment to the cause saw him endure imprisonment several times, collectively amounting to seven years.

As India moved towards independence, Shastri Ji's dedication and competence were recognised, leading to his appointment as a Cabinet Minister in the Nehru Ministry in 1952. He was entrusted with significant portfolios, including railways and transport. His tenure was marked by a strong sense of integrity.

However, in August 1956, a devastating railway accident struck Mahbubnagar, Andhra Pradesh, claiming the lives of over 100 people. Taking moral responsibility for the tragedy, Shastri Ji tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. However, Nehru, recognising Lal Bahadur Shastri's commitment and leadership, persuaded him to withdraw his resignation, believing in his ability to address the challenges that had arisen.

Tragically, just a few months later, in November 1956, another heart-wrenching railway accident occurred, this time in Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu, again,



resulting in the loss of over 100 lives. Deeply affected by the recurring railway accidents and their devastating toll on human lives, Shastri Ji once again submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister. He pleaded for its early acceptance, emphasising the importance of accountability and responsibility in public service.

The second resignation, tendered by Lal Bahadur Shastri in the wake of the Ariyalur railway accident, garnered significant attention nationwide. The Pioneer, in its editorial on November 26, 1956, shortly after the Ariyalur tragedy, emphasised that while accidents could occur even in the best-regulated railways, they should be exceptions rather than the rule. The editorial did not place blame on the railway minister, recognising the complexity of the railway system's operation and safety.

In his resignation letter, Shastri Ji expressed his belief that it would be beneficial for both him and the government if he quietly stepped down from the office he held. Notably, he used the word ‘quietly,’ underscoring his modest and unassuming nature.

Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing the dilemma he faced, acknowledged in the Lok Sabha that it was a difficult decision for him to accept Shastri Ji's resignation. He went on to affirm his highest regard for Lal Bahadur Shastri and stressed the importance of setting an example of constitutional propriety.

Jawaharlal Nehru hinted that if he did accept the resignation, it would be based on the grounds of constitutional propriety. This aspect is noteworthy, as

justifying the acceptance of the resignation on the principle of constitutional propriety faced significant scrutiny and criticism in the media.

This sequence of events reflects the depth of character and dedication to principles demonstrated by both Lal Bahadur Shastri and Jawaharlal Nehru during a critical juncture in India's governance.

After India gained its hard-fought independence in 1947, Lal Bahadur Shastri continued his dedication to public service. He held various important positions in the Indian government, including the Minister of Police and Transport in Uttar Pradesh, which helped him understand the intricacies of governance.

In 1964, he ascended to the highest office in the country, becoming the Prime Minister of India, succeeding Jawaharlal Nehru. His leadership came at a crucial juncture in India's history, marked by various challenges, including food scarcity and the looming threat of war with Pakistan. Shastri's tenure was a testament to his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the nation and its people.

During his tenure, India faced one of its most challenging crises, the Indo-Pak War of 1965. Shastri Ji's leadership during this period demonstrated his resolve and his dedication to peace.

His famous slogan, ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’ (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer), captured the essence of his approach to the crisis. This slogan encapsulated the essence of his approach

to the crisis and carried profound significance on multiple fronts.

- **Honoring the Soldiers:** ‘Jai Jawan’ hailed the soldiers on the front lines who displayed unwavering bravery and resilience in the face of adversity. It was an acknowledgement of their sacrifices and an expression of solidarity with those defending the nation's borders.
- **Recognising the Farmers:** ‘Jai Kisan’ paid tribute to the farmers, emphasising the vital role they played in supporting the war effort. Shastri Ji recognised that self-sufficiency in food production was not only an economic necessity but also a strategic imperative during times of conflict. The slogan encouraged farmers to work tirelessly to ensure India had a steady supply of food.
- **Unity and Resilience:** Together, Jai Jawan Jai Kisan conveyed a powerful message of national unity and resilience. It underscored the idea that the entire nation stood as one, with soldiers and farmers working hand in hand to defend the country's integrity and secure its future.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan not only boosted the morale of Indian soldiers but also inspired a sense of duty and patriotism among citizens from all walks of life. It highlighted the interdependence of security and sustenance, reinforcing the idea that a strong nation must be both well-defended and self-reliant.

In the midst of the conflict, Lal Bahadur Shastri's leadership, encapsulated by this iconic slogan, steered India towards a position of strength and resilience.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's death

Lal Bahadur Shastri's passing remains shrouded in mystery and intrigue. On the night of January 11, 1966, while in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for peace talks with Pakistan following the Indo-Pak War of 1965, the world was shocked to learn of his sudden demise. Shastri, then Prime Minister of India, had been engaged in intense negotiations with Pakistan's President, Ayub Khan, to secure a lasting peace between the two nations.

The cause of his death was officially stated as a heart attack, but doubts and questions surrounding the circumstances persist to this day.

Despite the controversies surrounding his death, Lal Bahadur Shastri's legacy endures as a symbol of unwavering commitment to the nation and its people. His sudden and untimely passing left the nation in mourning, and he was cremated with full state honours at Vijay Ghat in Delhi. Posthumously, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in recognition of his exceptional service and leadership.

Hypocrisy at its worst: India rips apart Pak PM over Kashmir statement at UN

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

In a strong retort, India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its "fingerprints" are on terrorist incidents across the world and the country should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will "inevitably invite consequences".

India exercised its Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday in response to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

"This Assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning. A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalanandan said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

She asserted that as the world knows, Pakistan has long employed cross-border terrorism as a weapon against its neighbors.

"It has attacked our Parliament, our financial capital Mumbai, marketplaces and pilgrimage routes," she said, referring to the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 26/11 Mumbai terror



First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalanandan speaks during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly as India exercised its Right of Reply in response to Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address. PTI/Reuters

attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terror groups. "The list is long. For such a country to speak about violence anywhere is hypocrisy at its worst," Mangalanandan said.

In his address, Sharif raised the Kashmir issue, as expected, and said that to "secure durable peace", India should reverse the Abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue.

He said India has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual "Strategic Restraint Regime".

Responding to this reference "to some proposal of strategic restraint", India

asserted that there "can be no compact with terrorism. In fact, Pakistan should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will inevitably invite consequences."

Reminding the international community that this was a nation that for long hosted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Mangalanandan said Pakistan's "fingerprints are on so many terrorist incidents across the world, whose policies attract the dreads of many societies to make it their home.

"Perhaps it should come as no surprise that its prime minister would so speak in this hallowed hall. Yet we must make

clear how unacceptable his words are to all of us. We know that Pakistan will seek to counter the truth with more lies. Repetition will change nothing. Our stand is clear and needs no reiteration," she said.

India stressed that it is even more extraordinary for a country with a history of rigged elections to talk about political choices, that too in a democracy.

"The real truth is that Pakistan covets our territory, and in fact, has continuously used terrorism to disrupt elections in Jammu and Kashmir, an inalienable and integral part of India," the young Indian diplomat said.

She said it is ridiculous that a nation that committed genocide in 1971 and which persecutes its minorities relentlessly even now, "dare speak about intolerances and phobias. The world can see for itself what Pakistan really is."

A Pakistani diplomat went on to respond to Mangalanandan with a Right of Reply.

Describing India's assertions as "baseless and misleading", the Pakistani diplomat said the United Nations Security Council, through numerous resolutions, has unequivocally called for a free, impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. *Source: PTI*

Chinese seek 'unreasonable' patrolling rights at two LAC spots along Arunachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI (TIP)

As India and China discuss a potential resolution of their dispute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that has been ongoing for four years, Chinese negotiators have suggested to New Delhi that their troops be allowed to patrol in two sensitive areas along Arunachal Pradesh.

The two spots — one in the Yangtse area north-east of Tawang, where the two sides had a deadly clash in December 2022, and the second in central Arunachal along the Subansiri river valley — have been firmly under Indian control for decades.

The recent Chinese demand came in response to the 21 rounds of talks that have been held between the two sides over the past four years, to discuss the existing dispute on the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

Here, Chinese soldiers have denied access to Indian troops to "patrol points" 10, 11, 12 and 13 (also known in military jargon as PP) on the LAC. All of these originate from "the bottleneck", a geographical feature on the eastern flank of the 972 sq km Depsang plateau. Government sources, speaking to The Tribune on the condition of anonymity, said the Chinese demands were "unreasonable" and "devoid of logic". "The last Indian Army patrol to the PP areas was in January 2020," a source said.

The government sources reiterated that the so-called Chinese demand to allow its troops to patrol these two spots in Arunachal Pradesh was not a "quid pro quo", as both had been in Indian control for decades.

On the other hand, the issue of patrolling PP 10, 11, 12 and 13 in eastern Ladakh is a dispute that cropped up in



April 2020. Ever since, the two armies have been locked in a military standoff.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking at an event in the US on Tuesday, for the first-time admitted that a part of the continuing India-China dispute along the LAC was to do with access to patrolling areas. "The main issue right now is the patrolling," Jaishankar said, pointing out that the patrolling arrangements since 2020 had been disturbed. He went on to describe the India-China relationship as "significantly disturbed". Military sources have separately confirmed that since April 2020, Chinese troops have not allowed Indian soldiers to patrol areas — PP 10, 11, 12 and 13 — which the Indian side had patrolled until the incursions by Beijing.

The aforesaid government sources explained that the two spots in Arunachal Pradesh the Chinese are demanding access to patrol, are important to hold. After the December 2022 clash at Yangtse, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had then told Parliament: "The PLA (People's Liberation Army) troops on December 9 tried to transgress the LAC in Yangtse area of Tawang sector and unilaterally change the status quo." *Source: TNS*

Huge cache of arms and ammo seized in Manipur

A huge cache of arms and ammunition have been seized by security forces from three districts in ethnic conflict-hit Manipur, a police statement said on September 28.



A joint team of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles seized two .303 rifles, one 9mm pistol with magazine, cartridges, four hand grenades, two detonators, and one each of country-made mortar and long-range improvised mortar from Loiching ridge in Kangpokpi district, it said.

The combined forces of state police, BSF and CRPF seized two improvised mortars, locally known as 'pumpi', during another search operation in Gothol village in Churachandpur district.

State police and Assam Rifles also seized four HE-36 hand grenades, two 'pumpi' shells, three detonators, and one stun grenade, stinger grenade and tear gas shell each from Phainom hill range in Thoubal district.

All the seizures were made during search and area domination exercises by the security forces on Friday. No arrests were, however, made in connection with the seizures.

More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis in Manipur since May 3 last year.

CBI Court: RG Kar ex-principal may get death penalty if found guilty

KOLKATA (TIP)

A CBI court, denying bail to former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh, has observed that the nature and gravity of the accusation against him is grave and it can attract capital punishment if proved.

The CBI had arrested Ghosh and former officer in-charge of the Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, for alleged tampering of evidence and delay in filing of FIR in the rape and murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital on August 9. The court in its order, dictated on September 25, said it appeared from the case diary that the process of investigation by the central probe agency was in full swing.

Denying the bail prayer of Ghosh, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate S Dey observed that the nature and gravity of the accusation was grave and if proved, it might attract capital punishment.

The judge said the court was of the opinion that “it would be injustice flouting the principle of equity to release the accused on bail”.

He said in the order that a person might commit an offence with the help of other/s, and there was no need to be present for the other accused at the place of occurrence. The court also rejected



RG Kar ex-principal Dr Sandip Ghosh in CBI custody in Kolkata. ANI

the bail prayer of Mondal.

It granted the CBI's prayer for judicial custody of the two accused till September 30. Ghosh's counsel claimed before the judge that he was falsely implicated and there was no act on his part to commit the crime as alleged.

CBI seeks report from Bengal govt on biomedical wastes

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is conducting a probe into the financial irregularities at state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in

Kolkata, has sought a report from the West Bengal health department on the general practices adopted in case of disposal of biomedical wastes in different medical colleges and hospitals in the state.

The development is significant amid allegations that a major part of the alleged financial scam at R.G. Kar pertained to the smuggling of biomedical wastes.

Sources said that among the queries made by the central agency to the state health department, the first is the time

when the central policies regarding biomedical wastes were implemented in the state.

The second was whether the state health department had been monitoring the medical colleges and hospitals for sticking to the laid down norms on the disposal of biomedical wastes.

Sources said the CBI officials have traced severe irregularities in the disposal of biomedical wastes.

As per rules, the biomedical wastes of any hospital are supposed to be disposed of following a particular procedure to eliminate the chances of their reuse. However, in the case of R.G. Kar, a major part of the biological wastes having the potential of reuse like saline bottles, injection syringes and needles, among others, were sold in the market instead of being disposed of.

Each hospital is also supposed to maintain a record of the amount of biomedical waste being disposed of by its authorities over a certain period. Often it has been noticed that in the case of R.G. Kar the quantum of the biomedical wastes disposed of by its authorities during a certain period is much less than what was reported by other state-run medical colleges and hospitals of similar size during the same period.

Kharge, kin accused of 'illegal' land allocation

A Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has lodged a complaint with the state Lokayukta against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, his son and state minister Priyank Kharge and many of their family members, accusing them of illegally acquiring public land in the state. The complaint, lodged by NR Ramesh, alleged irregularities in land allocated to the Siddhartha Vihar Trust, linked to the Kharge family, under the Congress government in the state. The charges include fraud, forgery, conspiracy to illegally acquire government land, and facilitating the unlawful appropriation of public property.

“Ramesh NR of BJP has filed a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and others, alleging land grab by the Siddhartha Vihar Trust owned by Kharge's family,” BJP IT department chief Amit Malviya posted on X on Friday.

“The trust reportedly received free land from the Congress government, raising questions about nepotism and criminal breach of trust,” he added.

In his complaint, the BJP leader has named the Congress chief, his wife Radhabai Kharge, his son-in-law and Gulbarga lawmaker Radhakrishna Doddamani, son Priyank Kharge, another son Rahul Kharge, Karnataka minister MB Patil and IAS officer S Selvakumar, among others.

No FIR has been registered in the case so far.

“We call for a thorough investigation into the role of the individuals involved in these land deals and how the approvals were given by the authorities,” Ramesh said.

Source: HT

LAND ALLOTMENT CASE

Lokayukta names Karnataka CM Sidda as 'Accused No. 1' in FIR

BENGALURU (TIP)

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Friday filed a first information report (FIR) against chief minister Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Parvathi and brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy in connection with a land allotment case, compounding the problems for the embattled Congress leader who swept to power last year on an anti-corruption campaign.

The case involves allegations of irregularities in land allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda). It came on a day Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge rallied behind Siddaramaiah amid mounting calls for the CM's ouster.

“The FIR was filed following a direction to the Lokayukta by the special court in Bengaluru,” said TJ Udes, superintendent of Lokayukta Police in Mysuru, confirming the FIR, a copy of which is with HT.

Siddaramaiah was named as the



primary accused, followed by his wife Parvathi as the second accused, and Mallikarjuna Swamy as the third. Devaraju, who sold the land to Swamy, was listed as the fourth accused, along with “others”. The FIR invoked Section 120B (criminal conspiracy), Section 166 (disobeying the law with intent to cause injury), Section 403 (dishonest misappropriation of property), Section 406 (criminal breach of trust), and Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code. It also included charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Prohibition of Benami Property

Transactions Act, and the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act. Siddaramaiah is the second sitting chief minister of Karnataka to face an FIR.

The Karnataka Lokayukta, founded in 1984, serves as the watchdog to address corruption and public complaints against state officials. Initially seen as a powerful entity in tackling corruption, its authority to investigate was taken away in 2016 and given to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), an agency controlled by the CM's office. However, in 2022, the Karnataka high court disbanded the ACB and reinstated the Lokayukta's authority, transferring all active cases back to it.

The CM denied any wrongdoing and dismissed calls for his resignation, attributing the case to political moves orchestrated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). “Why should I tender my resignation? You have to tender a resignation only if you have done something wrong, right? When I have not done

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 3

27 SEPTEMBER

1883 The great social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy died.

1907 The great revolutionary Bhagat Singh was born.

1998 Google, the world's largest search engine, was launched.

1871 Vitthalbhai Patel, elder brother of Sardar Patel and famous freedom fighter was born.

28 SEPTEMBER



1929 Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar was born.

1838 The last Mughal emperor in India Bahadur Shah Zafar ascended the throne after his father's death.

1977 India's famous poet Sumitranandan Pant died. He is one of the four major pillars of the Chhayawadi era in Hindi literature.

2004 The World Bank named India as the fourth largest economy in the world.

2011 Chief Minister Mayawati announced the creation of three more districts in Uttar Pradesh, comprising 72 districts, namely Panchsheel Nagar, Prabuddhanagar and Sambhal.

1836 Birth of spiritual master Shirdi Sai Baba.

29 SEPTEMBER



1932 The actor, producer-director Mahmood Ali was born.

1959 Aarati Saha became the first Asian woman to cross the English Channel.

1836 Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established.

1971 About 10 thousand people died due to cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal.

1837 The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II took over the rule of Delhi.

1962 Birla Planetarium opens in Kolkata.

1928 India's first National Security Advisor Brijesh Mishra was born.

30 SEPTEMBER

1993 In Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, more than 10 thousand people died due to earthquake and millions were rendered homeless.



2003 The famous Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess Championship.

2010 The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ruled in the disputed Babri Masjid case, dividing the land into three parts and giving one part each to Ramlala, Nirmohi Akhara and Waqf Board.

2007 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey was selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2009.

01 OCTOBER

1962 The war started between India and China over the border dispute.

1574 The third Sikh Guru Amardas died.

1847 Anne Besant, a member of the Theosophical Society, who played a major role in India's freedom movement, was born in London.

1854 The introduction of postage stamps started in India.

1919 Famous Urdu poet Majrooh Sultanpuri was born.

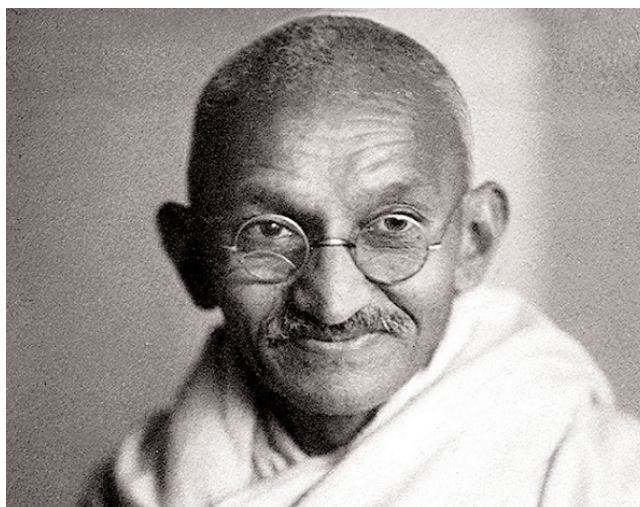
1853 Andhra Pradesh became a separate state in India.

1967 Indian Tourism Development Corporation was established.

1978 The marriage age of girls was increased from 14 to 18 and that of boys from 18 to 21 years.

2003 India overcame Bangladesh's apprehensions about linking rivers.

02 OCTOBER



1869 Birth of Mahatma Gandhi in Porbandar,

Gujarat. On the strength of non-violence, he contributed significantly to the independence of the country.

1904 Birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri. With his simplicity and the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', he became popular among the masses. Led the country in the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

1924 The Geneva proposal, brought with the aim of strengthening the League of Nations, was approved by the General Assembly but was not ratified later.

1975 Bharat Ratna honored freedom fighter, politician, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K.K. Kamaraj was born.

1951 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

1952 Initiation of community development program.

1955 The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Madras, built the first coach of the rail.

1961 Establishment of Shipping Corporation of India in Bombay (Mumbai).

1971 The President of India dedicated the Birla Sadan to the country. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in this building and was renamed Gandhi Sadan.

1985 Dowry Prohibition Amendment Act implemented.

1988 The largest road bridge at that time over the sea connecting Mandapam and Pamban was opened for traffic.

2000 Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrived in Delhi on a four-day visit, adding a new chapter to the old friendly relations between India and Russia.

2006 South Africa decided to support India in the nuclear fuel supply case.

03 OCTOBER

1994 India submitted its formal claim for permanent membership of the Security Council.

1978 The first test tube baby was born in the Indian state of Calcutta (now Kolkata) and the second in the world.

1984 India's longest distance train Himsagar Express was diverted from Kanyakumari to Jammu Tawi.

1831 Britain was captured by Mysore (now Mysuru).

1880 The first Marathi music drama 'Sangeet Shakuntal' was staged in Pune.



2008 Tata Motors Chairman Ratan Tata announced the move of the Nano car project from Singur elsewhere.

1949 Indian film director J.K. P. Dutta was born.

1992 Geet Sethi won the World Professional Billiards Championship.

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DODGE FOUNDATION WITH NJPAC CELEBRATES PEAK OF YEAR-LONG SOCIAL- CHANGE-MAKING FESTIVAL

BY MABEL PAIS



DODGE POETRY FESTIVAL POSTER

Photo : Courtesy njpac.org

The 20th Dodge Poetry Festival, a collaboration of Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation (Dodge Foundation) and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) brings the festival to its climax with a full line-up, October 17-19, 2024.

With its headquarters at NJPAC since 2010, the reimagined Festival will fill downtown Newark with poetry and music, as the culmination of the organizations' year-long 2024 Dodge Poetry initiative. The lineup is a gathering of legends working in multiple poetic forms, whose words have touched hearts and made a powerful case for the need for social justice.

Over the course of 40 years, this event, the country's largest poetry festival, has welcomed more than 150,000 people to readings, performances and more. The 2024 Festival will mix spoken word poetry with jazz, hip hop and R&B at readings, performances, outdoor events and more. All are designed to inspire a community mobilizing for racial and social justice, repair, and healing.

"The Dodge Foundation has a long legacy of creating opportunities for people to explore and engage with poetry. We are thrilled about the reimagined Dodge Poetry initiative with NJPAC, and this 20th Dodge Poetry Festival, and we look forward to expanding our ability to reach new places and people and highlight artists and activists who address issues of social justice," says Preston D. Pinkett III, Board Chair of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

"We hope to shine a light on all the ways that poetry is, and has always been, a vehicle for making change, for promoting social justice, for bringing communities closer together by helping us see the world through someone else's eyes," says David Rodriguez, NJPAC's Executive Vice President and Executive Producer.

Rodriguez continues, "At the same time, we've curated a series of performances for the 20th Dodge Poetry Festival at which spoken word poetry shares the stage with hip hop, jazz, R&B, and more. All these art forms complement each other and amplify each other's impact. When you put them together under a spotlight, you get something much bigger than the sum of their parts."

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Opening Day of the Festival - Thursday, October 17, is devoted in part to programs on artistic and professional development for poets and writers. Simultaneously, the Academy of American Poets [curators of Poem-a-Day - poets.org/poem-a-day] will present three panels on poetry's ability to invite reflection and creative reawakening, featuring the Academy Chancellors, an honorary group of esteemed poets who advise the organization on artistic matters and serve as ambassadors of poetry at large.

That evening, the Newark-based spoken word poetry organization EvoluCulture [evoluculture.com] will host a free open mic and mixer in NICO Kitchen + Bar, the restaurant on NJPAC's campus.

Friday, October 18 is 'Young Artist Day,' which attracts thousands of teens and chaperones from all over the United States for in-person encounters with acclaimed poets. Events on this day are also open to the public.



YOUNG ARTIST DAY

Photo : Courtesy njpac.org

A community-driven celebration of poetry continues on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19 featuring appearances by headlining writers including: poet, curator, educator, and organizer Mahogany L. Browne, the first-ever Lincoln Center poet-in-residence; National Book Critics Circle finalist Aracelis Girmay; Pulitzer Prize winner Tyehimba Jess; poet, essayist, and playwright Claudia Rankine, whose book 'Citizen' was named one of the 100 best books of the 21st century by the New York Times; poet, activist, author, and influential Black Arts Movement figure Sonia Sanchez; acclaimed poet, playwright, and translator Afaa Michael Weaver; and more.

ADDITIONAL TICKETED EVENTS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 INCLUDE:

A conversation with iconic musician and activist Joan Baez about her first book of poetry, 'When You See My Mother, Ask Her to Dance';

A musical performance from esteemed poet Nikki Giovanni with acclaimed tenor saxophonist Javon Jackson and eight-time Grammy Award winner and NJPAC and Newport Jazz Festival artistic advisor Christian McBride.

Saturday will also feature an afternoon-long free Family Fun Day @ Dodge Poetry in Newark's Military Park, a first for the festival. The event will fill various corners of the park with poetry, music, face painting, drag performances, food trucks and more. Exceptional area poets will perform.

POETS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

Afaa Michael Weaver; Alexis Green; Ameerah Shabazz-Bilal; Aracelis Girmay; Ariana Benson; attorrious renee; Beatriz Martinez; Blas Falconer; Carlos Gomez; Carmen Calatyud; Charif Shanahan; Ching-In Chen; Cito Blank; Claudia Rankine; Cortney Lamar Charleston; Dante Micheaux; Diana Goetsch; Dianeley Antigua; Dimitri Reyes; Douglas Kearney; Dr. Craig Santos Perez; Dr. Helena D. Lewis; Eduardo Martinez-Leyva; Elliott Fant "P.O.M.E."; Emanuel Xavier; Erin Marie Lynch; Esther Lin; Haydil Henriquez "Jaii"; Imani Cezanne; Isabel Cruz; Issam Zineh; Italy Ja'rae Lee; J Rose; Janine Joseph; Jeri Rae; Jessica Nirvana Ram; John Murillo; Joshua Bennett; JP Howard; Kai Coggin; K. Desireé Milwood; Kathy Kremins; Kay Ulunday Barrett; Kazim Ali; Keisha-Gaye Anderson; Kween Moore; Mahogany L Browne; "King" Mariah Ayscue; Marwa Helal; Megha Sood; Myles Taylor; Nancy Mercado; Naomi Ortiz; Nicole Sealey; Niki Herd; Omotara James; Paul Con Queso; paulA neves; Positive Gunter; Purvi Shah; Raina Leon; Remica Bingham-Risher; Roque Raquel Salas Rivera; Scarlet Gomez; Sean Battle; Sonia Sanchez; Rescue Poetix; Talena Lachelle Queen; Taylor Johnson; Tehsaun Glover "Starski"; Todd Davis; torrin a greathouse; Tyehimba Jess and Vincent Toro.

For the first time this season, Dodge Poetry developed an external selection committee, which reviewed more than 350 applications and selected both emerging and mid-career poets to appear at the festival. The selection committee included:

Jubi Arriola-Headley, author of two collections of poetry and a 2024 Dodge Poetry Festival poet whose work has received support from Yaddo, Millay Arts, Lambda Literary, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts;

Kyle Dargan, who was long-listed for the Pulitzer Prize and is a professor of Creative Communication at American University and the head of the stories division for Janelle Monáe's creative company, Wondaland, as well as a Dodge Poetry Festival poet in 2010 and again in 2020;

Iain Haley Pollock, author of three poetry collections, Director of the MFA Program at Manhattanville College, and a 2024 Dodge Poetry Festival poet;

Sakina Hofler, lecturer at the Princeton Writing Program at Princeton University and a 2024 Dodge Poetry Festival poet;

Yesenia Montilla, the author of two collections and a NAACP Image Award nominee, and a 2016 Dodge Poetry Festival poet.

TICKETING

1-day and 3-day Festival Passes are available. Festival Passes do not include special ticketed events that require separate tickets.

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

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTIONS

Nikki Giovanni, Javon Jackson and Christian McBride



NIKKI GIOVANNI, JAVON JACKSON & CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

Photo : Courtesy njpac.org

Saturday, October 19 @ 2pm

NJPAC'S VICTORIA THEATER

In this performance, the poems of Nikki Giovanni are paired with new takes on traditional spirituals. Tenor saxophonist Javon Jackson, one of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, is joined by his excellent combo alongside NJPAC Jazz Advisor and bassist Christian McBride, a 16-time Grammy nominee and eight-time winner. The esteemed writer and civil rights activist sews her poetry into this musical quilt.

JOAN BAEZ: AN EVENING OF POETRY AND CONVERSATION



JOAN BAEZ

Photo : Courtesy njpac.org

Saturday, October 19 @ 8pm

NJPAC'S VICTORIA THEATER

Singer, songwriter, and activist comes to NJPAC's stage in a new role: published poet. Though she's written poetry for many years, she hasn't shared it publicly until the release of her 2024 collection, 'When You See My Mother, Ask Her to Dance.' In this intimate conversation, Baez will share personal poems about childhood, family, and musical contemporaries like Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and Jimi Hendrix, and

their link to social change beginning in the 1960s. It's a glimpse into the deep inner life of a cultural icon.

FAMILY FUN DAY @ DODGE POETRY

Saturday, October 19, 2024

11AM - 4PM

Military Park

Free

Express yourself at Dodge Poetry Festival's Family Fun Day! Bring the kids to Military Park for free, family-friendly poetry performances. Experiment with writing your own poems and explore the joyful, liberating power of language. Sing and dance along with our DJ. Enjoy drag storytelling, face painting and all-ages activities. (If you work up an appetite, grab a bite at the nearby food trucks.) All are welcome at this festive community celebration of self-expression.

THE GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION

Established in 1974, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation envisions a just and equitable New Jersey where people of all races and communities have equitable access to opportunities to thrive. Over its 50-year history, the Dodge Foundation has distributed more than \$500 million in grants and technical support to New Jersey nonprofits. Today, building on decades of learning, the organization focuses its support on those who are directly addressing the root causes and repair of structural racism and inequity to transform lives in New Jersey. Learn more at grdodge.org.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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

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



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Alia Bhatt dazzles at Paris Fashion Week debut; Aishwarya shines too

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt looked drop-dead-gorgeous as she made her Paris Fashion Week debut in a creation by ace couturier Gaurav Gupta. The actress sauntered on the ramp along with American star Andie MacDowell during the show Walk Your Worth at Palais Garnier. She wore a metal-cast silver breastplate paired with black velvet flared pants from the designer's 2024 couture collection, Arunodaya. Gupta, who has styled renowned global head-turners, took to Instagram and wrote, "@aliaabhatt in custom Gaurav Gupta Couture for her runway debut at the L'Oréal Paris — Le Défilé show."

Gupta's list of celebrities, who have sported his creations, include names such as Beyonce, Paris Hilton, Mindy Kaling, Angela Bassett, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Kriti Sanon, Janhvi Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shakira, Jenna Ortega, Jr Ntr. Bebe Rexha, Sharon Stone, Jeena Ortega, Sharon Stone, Ashanti, Luis Fonsi, Lizzo, Kylie Minogue, Megan Thee Stallion and Saweetie. *Source: IANS*

Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official submission to Oscars 2025

Kiran Rao's piquant *Laapataa Ladies* has been selected as India's official submission to Oscars 2025. The announcement was made by the jury of the Film Federation of India (FFI), the apex body that annually selects the Indian official entry for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, on Monday, September 23.

Released in theatres in March, *Laapataa Ladies* is Rao's sophomore directorial after the acclaimed *Dhobi Ghat* (2011). The satirical comedy-drama tells the story of a young man whose bride gets accidentally swapped with someone else's. The film stars Sparsh Shrivastava along with Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Chhaya Kadam and Ravi Kishan. It is based on Biplab Goswami's prize-winning screenplay, *Two Brides*.

In its citation, the FFI jury said, "Indian women are a strange mixture of submission and dominance. Well-defined, powerful characters in one world, *Laapataa Ladies* (Hindi) captures this diversity perfectly, though in a semi-idyllic world and in a tongue-and-cheek way. It shows you that women can happily desire to be home makers as well as rebel and be entrepreneurially inclined. A story that can simultaneously be seen as one that needs change, and one that can bring about change. *Laapataa Ladies* (Hindi) is a film that can engage, entertain and make sense not just to women in India but universally as well." The 13-member committee was chaired by Assamese filmmaker Jahnu Barua.

Produced by Jio Studios, Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Pictures, *Laapataa Ladies* had its world premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival. It released in Indian theatres in March this year and is currently streaming on Netflix.

"I am deeply honored and delighted that our film '*Laapataa Ladies*' has been chosen as India's official entry to the Academy Awards," Rao said in a statement. "This recognition is a testament to the tireless work of my entire team, whose dedication and passion brought this story to life. Cinema has always been a powerful medium to connect hearts, transcend



boundaries, and ignite meaningful conversations. I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India."

This year, a total of 29 films, including Payal Kapadia's Cannes-winning *All We Imagine as Light* and the acclaimed Malayalam drama *Aattam*, were in the running for Oscars selection.

India was last nominated for Best International Feature at the Academy Awards for *Lagaan* (2001).

The 97th Academy Awards are scheduled for 2025 in Hollywood, Los Angeles, US.



Manoj Bajpayee: Directors couldn't think of me as a rich, high-society guy

Manoj Bajpayee, known for his stellar performances in films and shows like *The Family Man* and *Gangs of Wasseypur*, has made a name for himself as one of India's most talented actors.

However, despite his versatility, the actor admits that he has often been stereotyped into playing middle-class or lower-middle-class roles. This typecasting, according to him, has limited the kinds of characters he is offered, especially those from affluent backgrounds.

In a recent interview with *Bombay Times*, Manoj spoke candidly about how filmmakers view him and how it has affected the roles he gets. "I am mostly cast in middle-class or lower-middle-class stories," he shared. "Filmmakers struggle to cast me as a rich guy." Despite his range, this perception of him as only suited to certain types of roles has followed him throughout his career.

Bajpayee revealed that *Zubeidaa* (2001), directed by Shyam Benegal, was one of the very few films where he got the chance to play a wealthy character.

He described how Benegal's confidence in casting him as a maharaja stemmed from his belief that royals

did not always have to fit the stereotype of "Greek gods" but could look like ordinary people. "Shyam Benegal didn't hesitate to cast me as a rich man," Bajpayee said. "He knew real maharajas didn't need to fit into a conventional mould."

Similarly, in *Veer Zaara* (2004), Bajpayee played a Pakistani politician in a small but memorable role. Director Yash Chopra insisted that Manoj take on the part after being impressed by his performance in *Pinjar* (2003).

These rare instances were exceptions, as Manoj explained that most other filmmakers have been hesitant to break free from the middle-class image they have of him.

"Bakiyonko mujhe rich dikhaane mein dikkat hoti hai," Bajpayee joked, acknowledging how directors struggle to see him as part of the high society. He emphasised that while two legendary directors like Shyam Benegal and Yash Chopra could envision him in different types of roles, many others couldn't. "No director could think of me as a rich guy, barring these two stalwarts," he added, highlighting how stereotyping still exists in the industry.



Jeremy Allen White, Molly Gordon dating IRL?

Is love in the air for Chef and Claire Bear again – but this time for real? Jeremy Allen White and his *The Bear* costar Molly Gordon, who played love interests in the award-winning FX series, packed in major PDA. Paparazzi shots also snapped them possibly house-hunting in Los Angeles last Friday, September 20.

As reported by several US media outlets and seen in pictures obtained by PEOPLE, things seem to be heating up between the onscreen lovers. Contrary to their dysfunctional relationship in the hit series is seeing a major update in real life.

Days before they were seen wrapping their arms around each other and sharing a kiss, the casually dressed actors were purportedly spotted on a house-hunting trip. Pictures shared by Page Six show them hopping into a white Toyota Rav 4 on September 20 outside a home that didn't belong to them. A closer look reveals the 33-year-old star getting behind the wheel with what appears to be a flyer for the residence.

Reese Witherspoon confirms production of Legally Blonde prequel

Actor Reese Witherspoon, who brought the beloved character Elle Woods to life in the 2001 classic *Legally Blonde*, has announced an exciting development for fans of the franchise: an open casting call for a prequel series focussing on Elle's teenage years.

In a video posted to Instagram, Reese expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "I can't wait to tell you that we are starting the casting process, and we are making it open. Yes, that is right. This is an open casting for the young Elle Woods when she was in high school."

She encouraged aspiring actors, saying, "I cannot wait to see all the Elle Woods' out there. This is gonna be really fun!"

The Oscar-winning actor confirmed that her production company, Hello Sunshine, will be at the helm of this new series for Prime Video.

A press release accompanying the announcement, obtained by People magazine, describes Elle as "a driven, natural-born leader who will always stop to straighten another woman's crown". The series promises to capture her vibrant personality, highlighting her confidence and vulnerability as she navigates her first love and heartbreak during the 1990s.

Reese first portrayed Elle Woods in



the original *Legally Blonde*, which grossed over \$141 million globally. She reprised the role in *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde*, and produced the 2009 spin-off, *Legally Blondes*.

Based on Amanda Brown's 2001 novel of the same name, *Legally Blonde* was released in theatres on July 13, 2001, and was followed by a sequel titled *Legally*

Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde, two years later.

Luke Wilson told People magazine last month that he'd be fully on board for the upcoming *Legally Blonde 3*, which was first confirmed back in 2018. When asked if he'd want to reprise his role as Emmett, Luke said, "Yeah. I'm always up to work with Reese again."

Disney set to begin Oscar campaign for Deadpool & Wolverine

Marvel Studios' *Deadpool & Wolverine* received immense love worldwide. The 2024 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics, featuring the characters Deadpool and Wolverine, is vying for Oscar recognition. The movie was a blockbuster hit, becoming the highest-grossing R-rated movie of all time. It grossed over 1 billion USD globally and even helped Marvel Studios reach over 30 billion USD in the global box office.

Now, Disney is eying on adding some more awards gold to the film's success. It is all set to replicate the success of the 2016 original. Disney is determined to push the Superhero film with major awards groups. As per a report by Variety, Reynolds' performance as Deadpool will be submitted to the comedy category. Alongside it, Jackman's performance in the Supporting Actor category, Golden Globes' Cinematic and Box Office Achievement category, and other technical categories like production design, sound, and visual effects, have been filled in the nominations list for the Oscars.

Variety claimed that *Deadpool & Wolverine* almost have a guaranteed spot in the Golden Globes' recently-introduced Cinematic and Box Office Achievement category as it celebrated the year's most critically acclaimed and highest-grossing films.

Earlier, in an Instagram post, Reynolds urged the academy to introduce stunt categories at the Oscars. After *Deadpool & Wolverine* triumphed over other MCU films, Reynolds shared a couple of pictures with the



stunt performers from the film and mentioned that the academy is long due with a category specially for the stunts in movies. "Stunt work doesn't have a category at The Oscars, and I hope that'll change someday. So many films SMASHED it this year... Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and Chaplin were stunt performers as well as filmmakers. Telling stories with their entire bodies," he mentioned.

The actor then made a special mention to the entire stunt team of his film and added, "The #DeadpoolAndWolverine stunt team over-delivered. Many are friends I've worked with for years, and I'll spend the rest of my days doodling their names in my Heidi Stationary, dotting all the 'i's' with little hearts." He also lauded his team members for their impeccable talents and gave a shoutout to his body double, Alex Kyshkovych, with whom he has been working since the first *Deadpool* film. "He (Alex Kyshkovych) not only doubles me — he's the Fight Coordinator. I'd take a sledgehammer to the face for Alex. Or rather, I'd ask Alex to take a sledgehammer to the face for Alex," the actor continued.

Apart from the two lead casts, *Deadpool & Wolverine* includes Emma Corrin, Morena Baccarin, Rob Delaney, Leslie Uggams, Aaron Stanford and Matthew Macfadyen. The film will be released on digital platforms, including Prime Video and Apple TV+, starting October 1. It will also come to 4K Blu-ray and DVD on October 22.

India, Brazil and South Africa unite against terrorism at UNGA



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Brazil Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Ronald Lamola during IBSA Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York.

Photo: PTI

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) convened on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, issuing a joint statement that strongly condemns terrorism. They urged the international community to take concerted action against UN-listed terrorist organizations, including those based in Pakistan, such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and South Africa's Minister of International Relations

Ronald Lamola attended the meeting. They reaffirmed their commitment to expediting the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in UNGA.

The IBSA unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms, advocating for a broad international counter-terrorism framework grounded in international law. This framework would support the UN's central role in coordinating global counter-terrorism efforts.

The meeting underscored the importance of global cooperation in combating terrorism, with IBSA member-states pledging to work together to address this pressing issue.

Harris vows to fix US' broken immigration system

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has vowed to impose tougher security measures at the border and fix America's broken immigration system, as she sought to counter frequent political attacks on the issue from her Republican rival Donald Trump ahead of the November election.

Vice President Harris' comments came during her visit to the US-Mexico border in Douglas, Arizona, on Friday, September 27.

Despite taking a hardline stance on border security, Harris said she also supports a "pathway to citizenship" for undocumented migrants currently in the US.

"As President, I will work with Congress to create, at long last, a pathway to citizenship for hardworking immigrants who have been here for years," Harris said.

Harris was in Arizona to get a first-hand assessment of the security situation at the southern borders.

Slamming former president Trump, she said politicians have refused to come together and fix the broken immigration system.

Illegal immigration is an issue that



Americans have grown increasingly worried about in recent years amid record levels of migrant crossings at the southern border.

"Well, as President, I will put politics aside to fix our immigration system and find solutions to problems which have persisted for far too long...These issues are highly consequential for our nation," she said. Harris, 59, will take on Trump, 78, in the November 5 presidential election. Observing that the contrast in the 2024 election is clear, Harris said it is a choice between common sense solutions and the same old political games. "In the four years that Donald Trump was President, he did nothing to fix our broken immigration system. He did not solve the shortage of immigration judges and border agents or create lawful pathways into our nation.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Harris leads Trump in several battleground states, various polls say

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US Vice President Kamala Harris has taken the lead over her Republican presidential rival Donald Trump in several key battleground states like Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania, according to various polls released here.

Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, enjoys a slight lead over former president Trump in Michigan, as per the latest poll released by UMass Lowell's Center for Public Opinion and YouGov. Harris is slightly leading 48 per cent to 43 per cent in the Great Lakes State against Trump, it said.

"For a swing state, this margin is good news for the vice president's campaign," Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, UMass Lowell political science assistant professor and Center for Public Opinion associate director, said.

If Trump wants to beat this margin, he has an uphill battle to fight in the Great Lakes State.

"The Trump campaign," Castro Cornejo said, "has a negative favorability in Michigan that needs to be overcome if they want to remain competitive in the state." Harris stands at 48 per cent against Trump's 46 per cent in Pennsylvania, the UMass Lowell's Center for Public Opinion said.

"The presidential race remains very close in Pennsylvania with the coming weeks a crucial time for both campaigns," Cornejo said.

"As can be expected in a highly competitive race with few undecided



Vice President Kamala Harris has taken the lead over her Republican presidential rival Donald Trump in several key battleground states like Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania, according to various polls released in Washington.

- File photo

voters, get-out-the-vote strategies will become increasingly important to mobilize supporters and ensure they go to the polls on Election Day," he said.

According to a new poll from Fox News, Harris has a slight lead over Trump in Georgia but trails behind in Arizona.

In Georgia, Harris has 51 per cent of votes against Trump's 48 per cent, the poll said. However, in Arizona, as per the Fox News poll, Trump leads Harris by a similar margin. He has the support of 51 per cent against Harris' 48 per cent.

According to Real Clear Politics, which tracks all major polls, Trump trails Harris by two percentage points nationally, while in the battleground states, it is a statistical tie. Harris leads Trump by 0.3 percentage points in battleground states, it said. (Source: PTI)

US, allies call for 'immediate' 21-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah

THE CEASEFIRE CALL APPLIES ONLY TO THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The US, France and other allies have jointly called for an "immediate" 21-day ceasefire to allow for negotiations in the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has killed more than 600 people in Lebanon in recent days.

The joint statement, negotiated on Wednesday, September 25, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, says the recent fighting is "intolerable and presents an unacceptable risk of a broader regional escalation."

"We call for an immediate 21-day ceasefire across the Lebanon-Israel border to provide space for diplomacy," the statement reads. "We call on all parties, including the Governments of Israel and Lebanon, to endorse the temporary cease-fire immediately."

There was no immediate reaction from the Israeli or Lebanese governments - or Hezbollah - but senior US officials said all



Smoke billows over Kham, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Marjayoun, near the border with Israel, on September 25, 2024.

Photo : Reuter

parties were aware of the call for a ceasefire and would be speaking for themselves in the coming hours. The officials said Hezbollah would not be a signatory to the cease-fire, but they believe the government of Lebanon would coordinate its acceptance with the group.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

UN General Assembly passes resolution demanding end to Palestine occupation

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling on Israel to end its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories within a year, a move that Palestine hailed as “historic”.

The nonbinding measure passed a 124-14 vote, with 43 countries abstaining.

The UNGA demanded that “Israel brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character entailing its international responsibility, and do so no later than 12 months”.

It also called on Israel to make reparations to Palestinians for damages incurred by the occupation.

The UNGA, whose mission includes promoting “respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”, includes every sovereign country in the world, so Wednesday’s vote underscores the depth of the international opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The resolution backed an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – the UN’s top court – which found that Israel’s presence in the Palestinian territories is unlawful and must end.

The court ruled in July that Israel is abusing its status as an occupying power, stressing that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are illegal.

The UNGA vote comes amid Israel’s devastating war on Gaza, which has killed more than 41,250 Palestinians. The ICJ has issued rulings ordering Israel to take steps to prevent genocide in Gaza and allow adequate humanitarian aid into the territory. The United States, which claims to pursue a two-state solution to the conflict, joined Israel in opposing the UNGA resolution on Wednesday – as did Czechia, Hungary, Argentina and several small Pacific island states.

The resolution was submitted by Palestine – a permanent observer state at the UN. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed the resolution and urged countries across the world to take steps to pressure Israel to adhere to it.

“The international consensus over this resolution renews the hopes of our Palestinian people – who are facing a comprehensive aggression and genocide in Gaza and the West Bank, including Jerusalem – to achieve its aspirations of freedom and independence and establishing a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital,” Abbas said.

Argentina: Nay vote, but committed

INDIA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, DENMARK, GERMANY, ITALY, NEPAL, SWEDEN AND THE UK WERE AMONG 43 COUNTRIES THAT ABSTAINED AS THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED WITH 124 VOTES



to ceasefire efforts

Ambassador Ricardo Lagorio of Argentina said his delegation voted against the resolution for several reasons. However, he emphasised “this nay vote does not in any way mean that Argentina is no longer committed to a just and definitive peace to the Israel-Palestine conflict in conformity with international law and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations.”

The resolution adopted goes beyond what has been established in the advisory opinion, he explained, also voicing strong support for a ceasefire to the war in Gaza.

“Only by resuming a process of dialogue based on the two-State solution, living side by side in peace and security with a secure and internationally recognised borders, will it be possible to achieve a lasting peace,” he concluded.

Japan casts favourable vote

Japan’s representative, whose delegation voted in favour of the resolution, said Tokyo attaches great importance to the ICJ and its work.

As stated in the court’s advisory opinion, he said Israeli settlement activities undermine the advancement of a two-State solution.

Sanction measures should be taken based on the domestic laws of each

country, he continued.

The broader goal is to rebuild trust between the parties and work towards a two-State solution, he said, adding that Tokyo will continue to support efforts by the United States, Egypt and Qatar in negotiating a ceasefire, returning the hostages and ensuring that humanitarian aid enters Gaza.

UK abstains despite call for two-State solution

United Kingdom Ambassador Barbara Woodward abstained from the resolution “not because we do not support the central findings of the ICJ’s advisory opinion, but rather because the resolution does not provide sufficient clarity to effectively advance our shared aim of a peace premised on a negotiated two-State solution”. “We respect the court and call for States to unite around renewed efforts towards a negotiated settlement in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,” she said, adding that the UK stands ready to work with other Member States on future resolutions. She condemned Israel’s expansion of settlements as “clear violations of international law”, emphasising the unprecedented levels of violence by extremist settlers over the past year used to systematically pressure Palestinian communities to leave their

land. She called on Israel to hold those responsible to account and for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza in order to ensure “a safe and secure Israel alongside a safe and secure Palestinian State”.

New resolution demands end to Israeli occupation

By the newly adopted resolution, the General Assembly “demands that Israel brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character entailing its international responsibility and do so no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution”.

The Assembly also “demands that Israel comply without delay with all its legal obligations under international law, including as stipulated by the International Court of Justice, by, inter alia: (a) withdrawing all its military forces from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including its airspace and maritime space, and (b) putting an end to its unlawful policies and practices, including ceasing immediately all new settlement activity, evacuating all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and dismantling the parts of the wall constructed by Israel that are situated in the Territory, and repealing all legislation and measures creating or maintaining the unlawful situation”.

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN GUATEMALA CELEBRATES HINDI DIWAS



Winners receiving their awards during the Award Ceremony at the Hindi Diwas 2024

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala celebrated Hindi Diwas 2024 by organizing a series of vibrant Hindi competitions, which garnered an overwhelming response from participants. The event saw enthusiastic participation from not only members of the Indian community but also local Guatemalans and friends of India, showcasing the growing appreciation for the Hindi language and culture. Throughout the month of September, various competitions were held, including poetry recitations, essay writing, and Hindi writing (Sulekh) contests, all aimed at promoting the richness and beauty of Hindi. These events provided a platform for participants to express their creativity and deepen their understanding of the language.

Hindi, an Indo-Aryan language, has its roots in the ancient languages of India, evolving through various stages influenced by Sanskrit, Prakrit, and regional dialects. Its development can be traced back to the 7th century, with significant contributions from literary figures and poets over the centuries. Recognizing the importance of Hindi as a means of communication and cultural expression, the Government of India accepted Hindi as one of the official languages of the country in the Constitution on September 14, 1949. This date is celebrated annually as Hindi Diwas, a day to honor the language and promote its usage across the nation. Hindi Diwas serves as a reminder of the linguistic diversity of India and the significance of Hindi in uniting people from various regions and backgrounds, fostering a sense of national identity and pride.

The Embassy has been instrumental in propagating and promoting Hindi through a variety of initiatives

and events throughout the year in Central American region. By organizing numerous Hindi-related activities, such as competitions, workshops, and cultural programs, the embassy has fostered a deeper appreciation for the language among local communities, Indian diaspora, and friends of India. Each year, these events have witnessed a remarkable increase in participation, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for Hindi in the region. Additionally, the embassy encourages its staff to incorporate Hindi into their official communications, further enhancing the language's visibility and relevance in diplomatic work.

This year, Hindi Diwas was celebrated with a series of engaging competitions, including essay writing, poem recitals, and Sulekh (Hindi writing). To accommodate participants amidst their busy schedules and the celebrations for Guatemala's Independence Day occurring in the same month, the embassy decided to organize the competitions in three parts throughout September. On September 7th, the embassy hosted the Poem Recital and Sulekh competition, requiring participants to present their works in person at the chancery. For those unable to attend in person, an opportunity was provided to submit their essays via email, allowing participants from El Salvador and Honduras to join in the festivities, with September 14th set as the final submission date. Following the completion of all competitions, a prize distribution ceremony was held on September 24, 2024, attended by approximately 100 guests, including Congress members, local dignitaries, Indian community members, and friends of India.

Mr. KD Singh Gaur, a distinguished Hindi writer and scholar, was invited as the

chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony for the Hindi Diwas celebrations. His presence added immense value to the event, as he is renowned for his contributions to Hindi literature and his commitment to promoting the language on a global scale. During his inspiring speech, Mr. Gaur emphasized the significance of Hindi as not just a means of communication, but as a vital part of India's rich cultural heritage. He encouraged the gathering to embrace the language,



Mr. KD Singh Gaur, a distinguished Hindi writer and scholar, was invited as the chief guest

highlighting its beauty and relevance in today's world. Mr. Gaur shared anecdotes from his own journey as a writer, illustrating the profound impact that Hindi has

CONTD ON PAGE 29

CONTD FROM PAGE 28

had on his life and the lives of many others. He called upon the younger generation to explore Hindi literature, engage in creative writing, and contribute to the language's evolution in contemporary contexts.

During the prize distribution ceremony, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the Hindi Diwas celebrations. He acknowledged that the overwhelming response from the



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra expressed his heartfelt gratitude to participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the Hindi Diwas celebrations.

Indian community, local Guatemalans, and friends of India significantly contributed to the success of the event, enabling the embassy to expand its efforts on such a large scale. In his address, the ambassador highlighted how the collective enthusiasm and passion for Hindi had made this journey not only possible but

also incredibly rewarding. Ambassador Mohapatra reassured the audience of the Government of India's unwavering support and commitment to promoting Hindi both domestically and internationally. He spoke about various initiatives and programs that the Indian government has undertaken to propagate the language and strengthen cultural ties with countries across the globe.

The Embassy of India in Guatemala is firmly committed to promoting Hindi and celebrating its rich cultural heritage. It has successfully fostered a deeper

understanding and appreciation of the language by engaging with local Guatemalans and diverse communities through various initiatives, events, and competitions. Additionally, the embassy has effectively encouraged the Indian diaspora to embrace Hindi, instilling a sense of pride in the language through direct engagement. As a result of these efforts, several local universities are now conducting lectures aimed at promoting the Hindi language. Looking ahead, the embassy will continue to organize more events and programs designed to inspire future generations to explore and cherish Hindi, ensuring that it remains a vibrant component of our shared identity and cultural dialogue.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra with winners of various Hindi competitions

understanding and appreciation of the language by engaging with local Guatemalans and diverse communities through various initiatives, events, and

(Based on a press release issued by the Embassy of India in Guatemala)

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CLIMATE ACTIVISTS JAILED FOR THROWING TOMATO SOUP AT VAN GOGH'S 'SUNFLOWERS'

LONDON (TIP): Climate campaigners on September 27 hit out at stiff jail sentences given to two activists who threw soup at Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" at a London gallery, voicing fears about the right to peaceful protest.

Just Stop Oil protesters Phoebe Plummer, 23, and Anna Holland, 22, were convicted in July of criminal damage after pouring tomato soup over the screen protecting the still life masterpiece at the National Gallery in October 2022.

Plummer was jailed for two years and Holland for 20 months. Both had pleaded not guilty.

Greenpeace UK's co-executive director, Will McCallum, called the sentence "a draconian and disproportionate punishment for a protest that caused minor damage to a picture frame".

Sentencing the pair, Judge Christopher Hehir said the painting could have been "seriously damaged or even destroyed".

"Soup might have seeped through the glass. You couldn't have cared less if the painting was damaged or not," he added. "You had no right to do what you did to 'Sunflowers'."

Addressing Plummer, he said "you think your beliefs entitle you to do anything.

"The suggestion that you and others like you in a democracy are political prisoners is ludicrous, offensive and idiotic. You have no remorse and you are proud."

The gallery, located in Trafalgar Square, said the protesters caused around £10,000 (\$13,420) in damage to the frame but the painting itself was protected by a screen and was unharmed.

Holland and Plummer also glued themselves to the gallery wall during their protest. "What is worth more -- art or life?" Plummer had shouted.

Both are expected to serve around half of their sentences in custody.

"It's another grim milestone in the ongoing crackdown on peaceful protest waged by the last government," Greenpeace UK's McCallum said.

"Protest is by its nature inconvenient and occasionally messy. These defendants do not deserve to spend years behind bars for standing up for a liveable planet."

Speaking before the sentencing, Holland said: "We do not expect justice from a broken system that has been corrupted by its dependence on fossil fuels. Prison sentences, no matter how long, will not deter us."

Just Stop Oil wants an end to the extraction and burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas and say the greenhouse gas emissions they create are "driving us towards climate collapse... (that) spells disaster for human societies globally". (AFP)

Israel says strikes targeted Hezbollah HQ, source close to group says leader 'fine'

BEIRUT (TIP): A huge Israeli strike hit Beirut's densely populated southern suburbs on September 27, flattening buildings in an operation the Israeli military said targeted Hezbollah's headquarters but a source close to the group said its leader was "fine".

"The Israeli strikes levelled six buildings," the source said, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

A video obtained by AFP showed an enormous explosion and thick plumes of smoke rising from buildings in the densely populated area. The strikes triggered loud explosions that were heard across the capital.

The Israeli military said it carried out "a precise strike on the central headquarters" of Hezbollah, while leading Israeli television networks reported that the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah was the target.

"Sayyed Nasrallah is fine," the source close to Hezbollah said.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's health ministry said two people were killed and 76 wounded in a huge Israeli air strike in Beirut's densely populated southern suburbs on Friday, adding it was a preliminary toll.

"The successive Israeli enemy strikes on Haret Hreik in Beirut's southern



suburbs, in a preliminary toll, killed two people and wounded 76, including... 15 that required hospitalisation," a ministry statement said.

An AFP photographer reported scenes of panic, with residents fleeing the southern suburbs.

Hezbollah's Al-Manar television said the strikes created huge craters in several places.

Since last week, a series of Israeli

strikes have hit the southern suburbs, targeting senior Hezbollah commanders.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged the international community to "stop" Israel from waging a "genocidal war" against Lebanon.

A US official said that Washington "did not get any advance warning before Israel launched this operation". (AFP)

Zelenskyy accuses some leaders of seeking Nobel prize over real peace in Ukraine

NEW YORK (TIP): Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has alleged that some are attempting to broker peace with the objective of getting a Nobel prize and not real peace.

"As a global initiative the peace-formula has already existed for two years. And maybe somebody wants a Nobel Prize for their political biography for frozen truce instead of real peace, but the only prizes Putin will give you in return are more suffering and disasters," said Zelenskyy while addressing the UNGA on September 26 in New York.

While he didn't name anyone while making the allegation, there are many inferences people around the world have begun to draw. This includes all leaders who have been trying to talk Ukraine and Russia into peace and also former US President Donald Trump who has promised that he would ensure an end to the conflict within days (if) of his being re-elected as President of the USA.

"When some propose alternatives, half-hearted settlement plans -- so-called 'sets of principles' -- it not only ignores the interests and suffering of Ukrainians,



who are affected by the war the most, it not only ignores reality but also gives Putin the political space to continue the war and pressure the world to bring more nations under control," Zelenskyy said adding that any parallel or alternative attempts to seek peace are, in fact, efforts to achieve a lull instead of an end to the war.

It may be recalled that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine

began on February 24, 2022. Many world leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva amongst others are trying to urge Ukraine and Russia to end the ongoing conflict.

"When the Chinese-Brazilian duo tries to grow into a choir of voices -- with someone in Europe, with someone in Africa, saying something alternative to a full and just peace, the question arises -- what is the true interest? Everyone must understand -- you won't boost your power at Ukraine's expense," Zelenskyy said adding, "I want peace for my people -- real peace and just peace."

India has always reaffirmed that the end to the conflict will be through dialogue and diplomacy amongst the two nations.

PM Modi met with President Zelenskyy in New York and had reaffirmed his support for the peace process. President Zelenskyy on the other hand had said that India has been invited for the second peace summit. (AP)

Former Defence Minister Ishiba chosen to lead Japan's ruling party, to swear in next week

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's ruling party on September 27 picked former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week.

The party leadership win is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition currently controls the parliament.

Considered a defense policy expert, Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and a more equal Japan-U.S. security alliance. Ishiba is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He calls for an establishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Ishiba beat out Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who was running to become the country's first female prime minister.

A record nine lawmakers, including two women, ran in a vote decided by LDP members of parliament and about 1 million dues-paying party members. That's only 1% of the country's eligible voters.

Outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been dogged by party corruption scandals, and the LDP wanted a fresh leader in hopes of regaining public trust before a likely general election.



Some experts believe that party turmoil could mean that Japan will return to an era similar to the early 2000s, which saw "revolving door" leadership changes and political instability.

A succession of short-lived governments hurts Japanese prime ministers' ability to set up long-term policy goals or develop trusted relations with other leaders.

On Tuesday, Kishida and his Cabinet ministers will resign. Ishiba, after being

formally elected in a parliamentary vote, will then form a new Cabinet later in the day.

The main opposition — the liberal-leaning Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan — has struggled to build momentum, despite the LDP scandals. But experts say its newly elected leader, centrist former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, is pushing a conservative shift for the party, could trigger a broader political regroupings. (AP)

LEBANESE STATE MEDIA SAYS AN ISRAELI STRIKE KILLED 23 SYRIAN WORKERS

BEIRUT (TIP): An Israeli airstrike in Lebanon hit a building housing Syrian workers, killing 23 of them, Lebanon's state news agency reported September 26. It was one of the deadliest single strikes in an intensified air campaign against the militant Hezbollah group.

The strike late Wednesday came as the United States and its allies called for an "immediate" 21-day cease-fire to "provide space for diplomacy." Israel has threatened to launch a ground invasion, and the increasingly heavy exchanges of fire could trigger an all-out war.

Lebanon's National News Agency said the strike occurred near the ancient city of Baalbek in Lebanon's northeastern Bekaa Valley, which runs along the Syrian border. It quoted Ali Kassas, mayor of the village of Younine, as saying that the bodies of 23 Syrian citizens were pulled from under the rubble. He said four Syrians and four Lebanese were wounded.

The Lebanese Red Cross said it recovered nine bodies, while others were recovered by the Hezbollah militant group's paramedic service and the Lebanese Civil Defense.

Lebanon, with a population of around 6 million, hosts nearly 780,000 registered Syrian refugees and hundreds of thousands who are unregistered — the world's highest refugee population per capita.

Israel has carried out days of heavy strikes across Lebanon, targeting what it says are Hezbollah rocket launchers and other military infrastructure. The militants have fired hundreds of rockets into Israel and on Wednesday targeted Tel Aviv for the first time with a longer-range missile that was intercepted.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is traveling to the United States for the U.N. General Assembly, has not yet responded to the cease-fire proposal. But his foreign minister, Israel Katz, said Israel would continue fighting "with full force until victory."

Hezbollah has also not yet responded to the proposal. The militant group has insisted it would only halt its strikes if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which appears out of reach despite months of negotiations led by the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

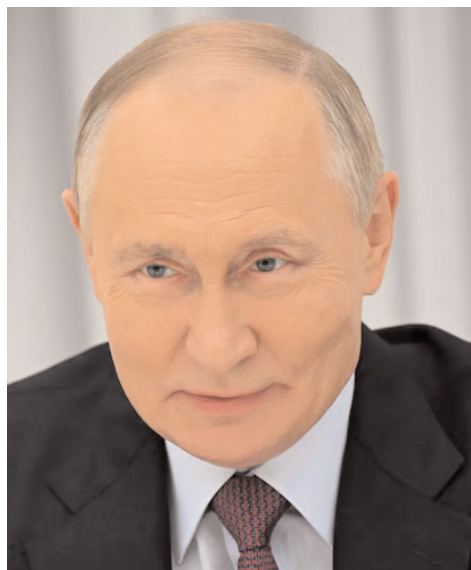
Israeli strikes since Monday have killed more than 630 people in Lebanon, according to local health authorities, who say around a quarter were women and children. Several people have been wounded by shrapnel in Israel. Israel struck 75 sites overnight across southern and eastern Lebanon, the military said. At least 45 projectiles were fired from Lebanon early Thursday, all of which were intercepted or fell in open areas, it said. (AP)

Putin says a nuclear power supporting an attack on Russia can be considered an aggressor

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin said September 25 that a nuclear power supporting another country's attack on Russia will be considered a participant in aggression under a new version of Moscow's nuclear doctrine.

Speaking at a meeting of Russia's Security Council that considered changes in the doctrine, Putin announced that a revised version of the document says that an attack against his country by a nonnuclear power with the support of a nuclear power will be seen as their "joint attack on the Russian Federation." Putin didn't specify whether the modified document envisages a nuclear response to such an attack.

The change in the doctrine, which spells out condition for the use of nuclear weapons, follows Putin's warning to the U.S. and other NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied long-range weapons for strikes on Russian territory would mean that Russia and NATO are at war.



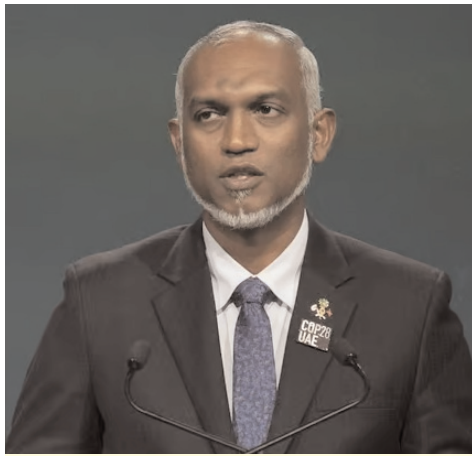
Since Putin sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, he and other Kremlin voices have frequently threatened the West with Russia's nuclear arsenal to discourage it from ramping up support for Kyiv.

The current doctrine says Moscow could use its nuclear arsenal "in response to the use of nuclear and other

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF RUSSIA'S SECURITY COUNCIL THAT CONSIDERED CHANGES IN THE DOCTRINE, PUTIN ANNOUNCED THAT A REVISED VERSION OF THE DOCUMENT SAYS THAT AN ATTACK AGAINST HIS COUNTRY BY A NONNUCLEAR POWER WITH THE SUPPORT OF A NUCLEAR POWER WILL BE SEEN AS THEIR "JOINT ATTACK ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION." PUTIN DIDN'T SPECIFY WHETHER THE MODIFIED DOCUMENT ENVISAGES A NUCLEAR RESPONSE TO SUCH AN ATTACK.

types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, as well as in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is in jeopardy."

The revised version of the document spells out conditions of nuclear weapons use in greater detail, noting they could be used in case of a massive air attack involving aircraft, cruise missiles or drones, he said. (AP)



NEVER FOLLOWED 'INDIA OUT' AGENDA: MALDIVES PRESIDENT MUIZZU

MALE (TIP): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has denied having an "India Out" agenda, asserting that the island nation had a "serious problem" with the presence of foreign military on its soil.

Muizzu, who is in the US to attend the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, made the remarks on September 26 while responding to a question at Princeton University's Dean's Leadership Series?.

"We have never been against any one country at any point. It's not India Out. Maldives faced a serious problem with foreign military presence on this soil," Maldivian news portal adhadhu.com quoted him as saying.

"The people of Maldives do not want a single foreign soldier in the country," Muizzu said.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since November last year when Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge as Maldivian president.

Muizzu had asked India to withdraw nearly 90 Indian military personnel operating three aviation platforms gifted by the country.

India withdrew its military personnel by May 10 and replaced them with civilian personnel to operate a Dornier aircraft and two helicopters.

Muizzu further stressed he had taken action against deputy ministers for insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media.

"No one should say such a thing. I took action against it. I will not accept insulting anyone like that, whether he is a leader or an ordinary person. Every human being has a reputation," the report quoted him as saying.

Earlier this year, deputy ministers in Maldives' youth ministry were suspended for derogatory social media posts against Prime Minister Modi following a backlash, with New Delhi strongly raising the matter with Male.

The deputy ministers criticised Modi for his post on 'X' following his visit to Lakshadweep, inferring that it was an attempt to project the Union Territory as an alternative tourist destination to the Maldives.

Prime Minister Modi was in Lakshadweep on January 2 and 3 to inaugurate several projects. (PTI)

Our relationship with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will remain positive, constructive: EAM Jaishankar

NEW YORK (TIP): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar expressed confidence that India's relationship with neighbours Sri Lanka and Bangladesh would continue to be "positive and constructive."

"I would urge you not to be deterministic about it. It's not like India is seeking to control every political move of every neighbour. That's not how it works. It doesn't work, not just for us, it doesn't work for anybody else," Jaishankar said on September 23 during an interaction at an event titled 'India, Asia and the World' hosted by the Asia Society and the Asia Society Policy Institute here.

The minister was responding to a question that India has given unconditional aid to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka but government changes there seemed to be potentially adverse for India.

"Every country will have its own dynamics. In foreign policy, you try to read, anticipate, and then respond to it. I'm very confident at the end of it all, in our neighbourhood, the realities of interdependence or mutual benefit and our ability to get along will serve both our interests. Those realities will assert themselves. That's been the history," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar added that every few years, "something happens in our region, and people suggest that there is some kind of irretrievable situation out there. You then see the correctives beginning to manifest themselves."

"So, I would take it in that spirit and am quite confident that in both these cases, our relationship would continue to be positive and constructive," the EAM continued.

Jaishankar's remarks came in light of



the change of government in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

On Sri Lanka, Jaishankar said India stepped forward when Colombo was facing a very deep economic crisis and "very frankly, when nobody else came forward."

"And I'm very glad we did it. We did it in a timely manner. We did it on scale. We put out USD 4.5 billion effectively," he said, adding that the move stabilised the Sri Lankan economy.

"The rest of it was up to them. At that time we did it, it was not like we had a political conditionality which accompanied that. We were doing it as a good neighbour who did not want to see that kind of economic meltdown at our doorstep," the EAM said.

Jaishankar said that what happens politically in Sri Lanka, "is for their politics to work out."

"At the end of the day, each of our neighbours will have their own particular dynamics. It's not our intention to suggest that their dynamics must necessarily adhere to what we

might consider as being better for us. I think this is the real world. I mean, everybody makes their choices and then countries adjust to each other and find ways of working it out," the minister said.

In the case of Bangladesh, he said: "It's a little bit different. What we have done over the last decade is to do projects of various kinds, which have been good for both of us. Economic activity overall has picked up, and logistics of that region have improved."

Jaishankar said both countries have gained a lot out of that.

In August, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as head of Bangladesh's interim government after weeks-long violent protests culminated in the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has since fled to India.

Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 56, was on Monday sworn in as Sri Lanka's ninth president following his victory in the Sri Lankan presidential election. (PTI)

IMF approves \$7-billion bailout package for Pak

THE IMF HAS APPROVED A USD 7 BILLION NEW BAILOUT PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN, AUTHORISING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE FIRST LOAN TRANCHE OF LESS THAN USD 1.1 BILLION TO REINFORCE THE CASH-STRAPPED COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING ECONOMIC CRISIS

KARACHI (TIP): The IMF has approved a USD 7 billion new bailout package for Pakistan, authorising the immediate release of the first loan tranche of less than USD 1.1 billion to reinforce the cash-strapped country's efforts to address the ongoing economic crisis.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) board met on September 25 in Washington to give a nod to the staff-level agreement with Pakistan after Islamabad promised to



overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to provinces and agree to limit subsidies. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained since 1958 and the sixth EFF.

Pakistan will pay around 5 per cent interest rate on

the loan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated this would be Pakistan's last IMF programme. (PTI)

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Battle lines drawn in Haryana

ELECTIONS TO THE 90-MEMBER HARYANA ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 5 AND RESULTS WILL BE OUT ON OCTOBER 8

A multi-cornered contest is expected in the elections for Haryana's 90 member Assembly, with Aam Aadmi Party, Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jannayak Janata Party and Indian National Lok Dal all fielding candidates in the fray. BJP will seek to hold on to its mandate and return for a third term in office. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have announced separate candidate lists after seat-sharing talks between the two parties failed.

Some Congress and BJP leaders have also entered the polls as independent candidates after not receiving tickets from their parties. Of these, several withdrew their nominations ahead of the cut-off date.

All major parties are also vying for Dalit votes in the State, which has a sizeable number of Assembly seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes, at 17. In the last Assembly elections as well as 2024 Lok Sabha polls, there was reduced support to BJP from the Dalit community, while Congress has seen gains. In 2014, BJP had won nine of the 17 seats reserved for the SC community, but in the 2019 assembly polls, this dropped to five. The Congress on the other hand, secured four and seven seats respectively in 2014 and 2019. Further, the Congress improved on its vote share among SC-reserved seats during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with a post-poll analysis by CSDS-Lok Niti noting that a majority of Dalits in Haryana shifted from BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to the INDIA bloc. Seeking to capitalise on this sentiment, prominent Dalit leader Selja Kumari had been fielded from Sirsa during the elections. Observers however, had suggested that it would have been more advantageous to the party if she had been fielded for the Assembly elections.

In a previous interview with The Hindu, Ronki Ram, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor of Political Science at Panjab University, said the narrative that the BJP could end the reservation worked against them, during the 2024 Lok Sabha election and was likely to hinder them now. "The Lok Sabha elections were held only a few months ago, and the narrative that the BJP could end reservation during the poll campaign had gone deeply into the minds of SCs, which is difficult to undo at this stage. The BJP is making a desperate attempt but it would be difficult to regain the lost trust," he noted.

Another issue which is likely to impact polls is resentment over the Union government's farm laws, now-repealed, which had sparked large-scale protests by farmers for over a year. This may have a bearing on BJP's performance in the Assembly elections, as it did during the poll campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Finally, the Agniveer scheme is a point of contention during the polls as well. In his first election rally in Haryana on September 17, Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Congress of playing politics over the Agnipath scheme, and assured the crowd that all Agniveers returning from the Army after four years would have jobs in Haryana, a claim likely to strike a chord in Bhiwani-Mahendragarh, which sends several soldiers to the Army each year.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, BJP had won 40 seats, while Congress came in second with 31 seats. The Jannayak Janata Party made a solid showing with 10 seats, and seven independents were also elected. One seat each went to the Haryana Lokhit Party and the Indian National Lok Dal.

Congress

In Haryana, Congress has relied on sitting MLAs, party loyalists and old faces. It has renominated all of its 28 sitting MLAs. With 24 Jat candidates, Congress has placed reliance on Jat community votes, with



former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda being a prominent representative in the party.

Among the key leaders in the State, Bhupinder Singh Hooda has been fielded from Garha Sampla-Kiloi, State Unit Chief Udai Bhan will contest from Hodai, while deputy CM Chander Mohan is in the fray from Panchkula. On September 6, former wrestler Vinesh Phogat and Olympic wrestler Bajrang Punia had both joined the Congress party. Now Vinesh Phogat has been fielded from Julana.

In a bid to strengthen party loyalty, seven relatives of party leaders have also been given tickets. Hisar MP Jai Prakash's son Vikas Saharan has been nominated from Kalayat. Aditya Surjewala, the son of Rajya Sabha MP and congress Spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, will be contesting from Kaithal.

According to Balram Sharma, head of the political science department at the D.A.V. College in Karnal, while Hooda and his supporters garnered many of the tickets, those supporting Selja and Surjewala have also been accorded berths.

Bharatiya Janata Party

The BJP is the current ruling party in Haryana, having been in power for two terms and looking to extend its rule to a third. It has faced internal conflict of late due to its decision to drop several sitting MLAs and replace candidates, having swapped out about one-fourth of its total 90 candidates to avoid anti-incumbency sentiments. Its list is dominated by OBC, Brahmin and Punjabi candidates, in keeping with BJP's usual strategy on banking on non-Jat communities.

The MLAs who were dropped include two ministers — School Education minister Seema Trikha, who was replaced with Dhanesh Adlakha in Badkhal, and Health Minister Banwari Lal, who was replaced by Krishna Kumar as the candidate from Bawal. Kavita Jain and Ram Bilas Sharma were also dropped, as was State party president Mohan Lal Badoli.

Among notable party leaders, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is contesting from Ladwa.

Savtri Jindal, mother of Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal, who did not get a BJP ticket, is in the fray as an Independent candidate in Hisar, facing off against senior BJP leader Kamal Gupta.

Aam Aadmi Party

The Aam Aadmi Party has also fielded candidates for 89 seats in the Haryana Assembly election. Candidates include Raj Kaur Gill from Ambala Cantt, Lalit Tyagi from Yamunanagar, Joga Singh from Ladwa, Satbir Goyat from Kithal, Sunil Bindal from Karnal, Sukhbir Malik from Panipat Rural, and Anurag Dhanda from Kalayat. Ahead of the deadline, BJP leaders Satish Yadava and Sunil Rao, the brother-in-law of actor Rajkumar Rao, joined AAP.

In the 2019 Haryana Assembly polls, AAP had fielded 46 candidates but failed to win a single seat. It received a vote share less than the NOTA option. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, AAP's Sushil Kumar Gupta— the State AAP chief— lost in the battle for the Kurukshetra seat. Seat-sharing talks with Congress failed to progress owing to this poor performance; AAP had sought 9-10 assembly segments in Haryana.

Jannayak Janata Party

The Jannayak Janata Party, which won 10 seats in the previous elections, has stitched together a pre-poll alliance with Aazad Samaj party. Among key candidates are Digvijay Chautala, contesting from Dabwali, and Dushyant Chautala, in the fray from Uchana. JJP has also expressed support to Dushyant's uncle Ranjit Singh Chautala, contesting as an independent from Rania after being denied a ticket by the BJP.

Indian National Lok Dal

The Indian National Lok Dal, which had won one seat in the previous elections, has stitched a pre-poll alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party. Candidates from the party in the fray include four family members, including Sunaina Chautala, the daughter-in-law of the late Partap Singh Chautala, and a brother of INLD head Om Prakash Chautala. Also in the fray are the grandsons of the late Devi Lal, Aditya Chautala, Arjun Chautala, and Om Prakash Chautala's son and INLD secretary-general Abhay Chautala.

The party initially also supported Haryana Lokhit Party. However, INLD secretary-general Abhay Chautala said he would reconsider his alliance with the HLP after BJP threw its support behind HLP's Gopal Kanda.

Healthy, democratic: Foreign envoys on J&K poll as Ph-2 sees 56% turnout

SRINAGAR/JAMMU (TIP)

With more than 56 percent voters on Wednesday, September 25, exercising their franchise in the second phase of polling for 26 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, a group of diplomats from 16 countries witnessed the electoral process.

The diplomats, invited by the Ministry of External Affairs, expressed satisfaction over the conduct of the elections, with some saying the process looks comparable to how it happens in their own countries.

70% polling in terror hotbeds

Militancy-hit districts Reasi, Poonch, Rajouri witness 74.7%, 73.8% and 70.95% polling.

Kashmir's Budgam, Ganderbal and Srinagar districts record 62.98%, 60.55% and 29.51% turnout

Lower than in 2014

20 of 26 segments, which voted on Wednesday, September 25, saw lower turnout than in 2014 when the overall polling was above 60%

Jorgan K Andrews, Deputy Chief of the Mission at the US Embassy in New Delhi, said the voting process looked healthy and democratic. "It is great to see the enthusiasm. It's great to see Kashmiris coming out for voting after a pause for 10 years. We are very excited to see the results. It looks very healthy and very democratic," Andrews said at a polling station here. He said the process was similar to how it happened in his country. "It is very comparable. In my country, we use schools as well for voting. So it looks very similar," he added.

Besides Andrews, diplomats from Mexico, Guyana, South Korea, Somalia, Panama, Singapore, Nigeria, Spain, South Africa, Norway, Tanzania, Rwanda, Algeria and the Philippines were part of the delegation. They first visited a polling station at Ompora in Budgam and later, in Srinagar.

South Korean diplomat Sang Woo Lim liked the idea of "pink polling stations", which are managed by all-female staff. Singapore's Deputy Head of the Mission Cheng Wei Wei Alice said, "The process is similar to the one in Singapore. We use government buildings so that these are easily accessible to voters."

Meanwhile, as per election officials, 56.05 per cent polling was recorded till evening, with militancy-hit Reasi witnessing the highest 74 per cent voting. Wednesday's turnout was, however, less than that of the Phase-I, which saw 61 per cent polling. Chief Electoral Officer Pandurang K Pole said the polling was



Foreign diplomats interact with polling officials in Srinagar on Wednesday. ANI

NEARLY 40% MIGRANT KASHMIRI PANDITS TURN OUT TO VOTE

Nearly 40 per cent of migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu cast their ballots in the second phase of polling for the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, September 25, officials said. The polling was held at 24 stations set up in Jammu, Delhi and Udhampur.

"Nearly 40 per cent polling was registered at 19 polling stations in Jammu, followed by 37 per cent in Udhampur and 43 per cent in Delhi in the second phase of the Assembly elections," Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani told PTI.

According to official figures, a total of 6,250 voters, including 3,514 men and 2,736 women, cast their ballots.

The highest number of 2,796 votes were polled in the Habakadal constituency, which was once a bastion of Kashmiri Pandits, followed by 909 in Lal Chowk, and 417 in Zadibal.

In the first phase of the polls, 27 per cent voter turnout among the displaced Kashmiri Pandits was reported at 19 polling stations in Jammu while 31.39 per cent was reported at one polling station in Udhampur. While 9,218 Kashmiri Pandits out of 34,000 exercised their franchise for the South Kashmir seats in Jammu in the first phase of the elections on September 18, 6,250 voters out of over 15,500 voted for the Central Kashmir seat in the second phase.



largely peaceful.

Three militancy-hit districts of the Jammu region — Reasi, Rajouri Poonch — saw people coming out in large numbers. Reasi saw 74.7 per cent polling, Poonch 73.8 per cent and Rajouri 70.95 per cent. Kashmir's three districts, however, saw less voting than Jammu. Budgam registered 62.98 per cent turnout,

Ganderbal, 60.55 per cent and Srinagar the lowest 29.51 per cent.

In Ganderbal where former CM Omar Abdullah is in the fray, people were seen waiting in long queues to cast their vote. "I decided to vote so that we have a legislator who can resolve our problems," said Rashid Ahmad, a local resident.

Source: TNS

Jammu districts hit by terror attacks see around 70% voting

The Jammu districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi — which have witnessed an increase in terror incidents since 2021 — saw brisk voting on Wednesday, September 25, in the second phase of the polls.

Reasi district recorded 71.81 per cent polling, followed by Poonch (71.59 per cent) and Rajouri district (67.77 per cent). Poonch district's Surankote Assembly constituency, where four soldiers were killed in a terrorist ambush in December 2023, recorded 72.18 per cent polling. Almost all voters in the Topa Pir village cast their vote. Three residents of that village had been picked up by Army troops after the attack and died during questioning.

The adjoining Thanamandi assembly constituency's Pangai village — from which five civilians were picked up for questioning into the Topa Pir attack and allegedly tortured — too came out in large numbers. The ST reserved constituency registered 68.44 per cent polling.

Over 69 per cent people voted in the Reasi assembly constituency, where terrorists ambushed a Katra-bound bus carrying pilgrims killing nine people and injuring 33 others in June.

Officials said polling was incident free. There were long queues throughout the day, even in the border constituencies of Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowhera, Mendhar and Poonch — which fall on the traditional infiltration route. With elections being held in J&K after a period of ten years, the enthusiasm to have their own elected government drew people to the polling stations in huge numbers, said Mohammad Hussain, a local resident of Khari Karmara village situated along the Line of Control in Poonch. "We have numerous issues including water and electricity and need a local representative who can listen to us and get our problems solved from the government," he said.

Similarly, in Mendhar's Balakote village, Basharat Hussain said that through these elections, people would at least get someone whom they can approach for redressal of their grievances like repair of roads, improvement in health and education facilities etc. Source: The Indian Express

Make nourishing hair pack at home

Our hair needs love and care for it to stay healthy and luscious. While we take enough measures to protect our skin, when it comes to our mane, we usually follow the simple oil, shampoo, condition routine. However, if you want well-nourished healthy hair, you need to take an extra effort to maintain your locks. Every day, our hair attracts dirt, dust, pollutants and more and not all of us wash it off every day. This means, these settle on our scalp and not just irritate it but also prevents healthy hair growth. In order to keep our locks looking good, we need to nourish them with hair packs that deeply condition them and leave our hair feeling soft and healthy. Hair packs can be easily made at home without much effort and can do wonders for your hair. These packs are made using natural ingredients that are easily available and are not very expensive either. We list here one simple hair pack that you can try at home and see the results within a few weeks.

Banana and honey nourishing hair pack

Banana is a fruit packed with vitamins as well as potassium and is good for health and also your hair. Honey has anti-bacterial as well as nourishing properties that work well on the scalp as well as the strands. To make this pack, take one ripe or even overripe banana of a standard size. Cut it into slices and put it in a bowl. Now using a spoon or your fingers, mash these slices till you get a paste-like consistency. Add a spoonful of honey to the banana mash and mix the two well. If you have long hair, you may need half a banana more to cover all the strands. Now using your fingers, apply



this pack on your hair and scalp. Once you are done, you can tie your hair in a bun and then wear a shower cap to cover your hair. Leave this hair pack on for 15-20 minutes so that it thoroughly nourishes the hair. Now, wash your hair with lukewarm water and make sure you get the pack off. You don't really need a shampoo unless you feel your hair is sticky. But use a mild one or dilute your existing shampoo in water and then wash it off. Once done, let your hair dry naturally in the air. You will find that the texture has become soft and silky and the volume is also thick. The honey and

banana pack works on all hair types so you make sure you nourish your hair with it at least once every week.

For silky hair

Mix in 2 teaspoons of neem powder and 2 teaspoons of gram flour into a smooth paste and apply generously onto your hair and scalp. Let it dry for around 30 minutes and wash off.

While the gram flour will cleanse your scalp, the neem will have innumerable benefits that include shiny tresses and a dandruff free scalp. Repeat this twice a week and you will notice a silky, shiny

change in your tresses too.

For damage free hair

For unruly hair that is unhealthy and damaged this pack comes in handy to do some damage control. Mix in curd, lemon and mustard oil to make a hair pack and let it dry, then wash off with water. Now heat some hibiscus leaves in water and bring to boil. Squeeze a lemon into it and apply it onto your hair. Leave it for around 20 minutes and again wash it off with a mild shampoo.

For an oil free scalp

For a clean, oil free scalp mix in two egg yolks, an egg white, lemon juice and a few drops of honey. Generously apply it onto your hair, let dry and wash off with a deep cleansing shampoo. This should leave your scalp oil free and hair supple.

To prevent hair fall

To curb hair fall you need to enhance the blood circulation to your scalp which in turn will improve the growth of hair. For this, boil coconut oil with a few dry amla pieces, apply it onto your hair twice a week and you will already be on the road to repair for your hair. You can also soak shikakai, amla and reetha in hot water overnight. Next morning crush the ingredients and wash your hair with it.

For straight and frizz free hair

Mix in equal quantities of vinegar and honey in a cup of hot water and let it stand still for a few minutes. Then apply it onto your hair, leave it on for a few minutes and wash off with a mild shampoo. This should straighten out the monsoon frizz and deep condition your hair.

Get rid of smelly armpits

Body odor is normal, but smelly armpits can sometimes get out of hands. Even regular baths, good amount of perfumes can't seem to solve this issue. We all know that that the underarm odour can be embarrassing. To solve this discomforting issue, we have listed 6 ways you can get rid of smelly armpits.

Anti-bacteria body wash

It's the bacteria that smells and not the perspiration. Look for body washes with Benzoyl Peroxide, which can help to reduce bacteria and prevent the body odour.

Apple cider vinegar

You can also apply some apple cider vinegar to fight off the bacteria. It will help to reduce the odour by balancing the pH level of the skin. Don't worry about the smell of apple cider vinegar, as it fades out when dry. Avoid this hack on days you have recently shaved or waxed.

Always dry before applying anything

Not drying properly before applying antiperspirant or deodorant can also trigger the bad odour. Make sure you dry yourself properly before applying the stick.

Try a different brand

A lot of times, a specific deodorant or antiperspirant doesn't blend with our skin. If you feel that your stick or spray is not making the cut, then you must change



your brand or product.

Sometimes the chemistry of your skin and fragrance doesn't work and makes you smell bad instead.

Hand sanitizer

If you don't have an antiperspirant or deodorant handy, you can use a hand sanitizer for a quick hack. This germ-fighting solution can help to tame bad odour. However, if you have recently shaved or waxed, you should avoid this hack as it can burn.

Apply antiperspirant at night

The antiperspirant stick is applied under the arms to reduce sweating. Applying this stick at night, makes it even more effective. As we are less active at night, this gives the product more time to work.

FOOD CORNER

Paneer Chaman

Ingredients

500 gm paneer, 40 gm crushed coriander leaves, 40 gm garlic paste, 2 de seeded green chilli, 1 teaspoon thymol seeds, 3 clove, 1 teaspoon, turmeric, 150 gm fresh cream, 40 gm crushed to paste mint leaves, 30 gm ginger paste, 150 gm sliced onion, 50 gm ghee, 1/2 cup beaten yoghurt (curd)

Method

- Heat ghee in a deep-bottomed pan. Deep fry the paneer pieces and keep aside. They should be lightly golden in color and not completely browned. In the remaining ghee, add ajwain (thymol seeds), clove and allow them to splutter. Now add onions and cook on low flame till the oil separates. Add turmeric, coriander, salt and green chilies at this point.
- When the onions are almost cooked, add ginger-garlic paste, mint and cook for 2-3 minutes more. Once the raw smell of the spices disappear, add beaten curd. Once the curd is partially absorbed, add the paneer and cream. Mix well and garnish with coriander leaves/mint leaves or kasoori methi. The gravy should neither be too thick nor too thin, so you can accordingly adjust the amount of water. In fact you can even use some milk to make the gravy richer. Serve hot.

1 in 3 children, teens globally affected by short-sightedness

About a third of children and teens around the world are short-sighted, with cases estimated to touch 74 crore by 2050, according to a study that analysed available evidence.

Short-sightedness, or myopia, is a common condition of the vision in which one has trouble seeing distant objects clearly. It usually develops in early childhood and tends to worsen with age.

Researchers from Sun Yat-Sen University in China looked at 276 studies, published up to June 2023. Over 54 lakh participants aged 5-19 years and 19 lakh cases of short-sightedness from 50 countries, including those in Asia and Africa, were analysed.

Cases of short-sightedness rose from 24 per cent during 1990-2000 to 25 per cent during 2001-10, followed by sharper increases of 30 per cent between 2011-19, and 36 per cent between 2020-23, which is roughly the same as one in every three children and teens, the team said.

"The global prevalence of childhood myopia is substantial, affecting approximately one-third of children and adolescents, with notable variations in prevalence across different demographic groups," the authors wrote.

They advised more physical



activity and less screen time for all children and teens.

Between 1990 and 2023, prevalence was found to have more than tripled and low- and middle-income countries were significantly affected more compared to high-income ones.

Further, being female, east Asian, or living in urban environments were found to be key factors influencing prevalence.

"... individuals residing in East Asia (35.22 per cent) or in urban areas (28.55 per cent), female gender (33.57 per cent), adolescents (47 per cent), and high school students (45.71 per cent) exhibit a higher proportion of myopia prevalence," the authors wrote in the study

published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology.

The researchers observed a correlation between the duration of education in East Asian countries and cases of myopia, which they said could explain geographical differences in prevalence.

"... a correlation between the duration of education and the occurrence of myopia has been observed, suggesting that the early implementation of formal education in certain East Asian nations could potentially serve as a contributing element," they wrote.

Conversely, in African countries, the researchers noted a lower prevalence of short-sightedness, likely related to lower literacy levels and a delayed start of formal education, they said.

Attaining puberty before boys and tending to spend lesser time outdoors could be possible reasons why girls are affected more by short-sightedness, the researchers suggested.

"According to our projections, there is an anticipated 9 per cent rise in the overall prevalence of myopia between 2023 and 2050, which will lead to a substantial burden of ocular disease, affecting more than 74,05,92,000 children and adolescents," they wrote.



Triptan drugs found to be more effective against migraines than newer ones

Triptan class of drugs are more effective in treating migraine headaches, compared to newer and more expensive drugs, an analysis of nearly 140 clinical trials, involving about 90,000 participants, has suggested.

The analysis, published in The British Medical Journal, showed that eletriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, and zolmitriptan were better in relieving pain than the relatively recently developed drugs—lasmiditan, rimegepant, and ubrogepant. All these drugs are marketed in India.

Commercially available since the 1990s, triptan drugs work by changing how blood is circulated in brain and by silencing overactive pain nerves, they change how pain is processed.

While numerous antimigraine drugs are available, researchers, including those from Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark, said that there is clear consensus as to which performs best in treating the neurological condition affecting more than a billion around the world. It is also the leading cause of disability or poor health in girls and women aged 15-49 years. The researchers said that triptans are widely underused and added that they should be "considered the treatment of choice for migraine episodes, owing to their capacity for inducing rapid and sustained pain freedom." While some of the triptan class of drugs have been studied to lower menstrual migraines too, which can be more severe and last longer than non-menstrual migraines, women should be cautious and avoid overuse, according to the American Migraine Foundation.

The authors called for an improved access to triptan drugs worldwide by including them into the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, along with updating international clinical guidelines for diagnosing and managing migraines. *Source: PTI*

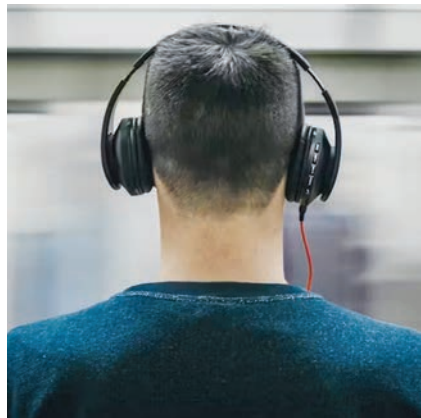
Listening to loud music can lead to hearing disorders in young people

The widespread use of earphones and headphones, especially among younger generations, is becoming a serious public health concern. With many young individuals frequently exposed to loud music for extended periods, the risk of developing noise-induced hearing disorders is on the rise.

What was once considered an issue for older populations has now begun affecting people in their teens and twenties, with long-term consequences that are often irreversible.

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) occurs when the hair cells within the cochlea, a structure in the inner ear, are damaged by excessive sound.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 1.1 billion teenagers and young adults worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices. This includes exposure to loud music through earphones, especially when used for prolonged periods at high volumes.



"Short-term issues caused by using earphones include excessive earwax build-up that can extend deep into the ear canal, leading to infections and earaches. The tight fit of earphones may also cause discomfort, pain, and itching. In more acute cases, loud music can result in a Temporary Threshold Shift, causing temporary hearing loss," said Dr Amit Kumar Sharma, HOD & Senior Consultant, ENT, Cochlear Implant & Voice Disorders, SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram.

One of the most significant

contributors to NIHL in younger populations is the volume at which music is played.

Studies have shown that many young people listen to music at volumes exceeding 85 decibels (dB), the threshold at which damage to hearing can occur. Regular exposure to sound levels above 85 dB can lead to permanent hearing damage.

Alarming, some earphones can produce sounds as loud as 100 to 110 dB, levels that can cause hearing damage in just a few minutes of exposure.

Dr Sharma said that the long-term use of earphones, especially at high volumes, can result in permanent hearing impairment.

"Patients may also experience tinnitus, a constant ringing or buzzing in the ears, and hyperacusis, an increased sensitivity to everyday sounds. Poor earphone hygiene increases the risk of fungal ear infections, such as otomycosis. Prolonged listening can also cause hearing fatigue, reducing overall hearing sensitivity," the expert said.

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Truecaller introduces auto-block spam feature for iPhone

Truecaller has introduced a new feature called Auto-Block Spam, specifically for iPhone users, aimed at improving the way unwanted calls are handled. This feature takes Truecaller's existing spam-blocking capabilities to a new level by allowing users to automatically block calls from known spammers, fraudsters, or telemarketers without having to manually reject them. The new Auto-Block Spam feature is designed to block these calls before they even ring on your phone, reducing interruptions and making it easier for iPhone users to focus on their day. This upgrade promises a seamless, stress-free experience for those tired of constant spam calls.

The Auto-Block Spam feature is an upgrade to Truecaller's existing capabilities. While Truecaller has always helped identify unknown callers, this new feature takes things a step further by proactively blocking spam calls before they reach you. Users can choose between two levels of protection: --Block Top Spammers: This setting blocks only the worst offenders, such as repeat scammers or fraudsters.

--Block All Spammers: For users seeking a completely spam-free experience, this option blocks all numbers flagged as spam by Truecaller. However, it's important to note that legitimate calls could also be blocked.

Astronomers detected biggest black hole jets ever seen

The largest known black hole jets, 23 million light years across, have been discovered in the distant universe. This pair of particle beams launched by a supermassive black hole is over a hundred times larger than our galaxy, the Milky Way.

In 2022, we announced the discovery of one of the largest black hole jets in the night sky, launched from a (relatively) nearby galaxy called NGC2663. Using CSIRO's Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) in Western Australia, we confirmed that NGC2663's jet is one of the largest in the sky. In other words, it appears to be the largest when viewed from Earth.

The new jet, announced in the journal *Nature*, has been dubbed "Porphyryon" (a giant in Greek mythology) by its discoverers at the California Institute of Technology in the United States. It dwarfs NGC2663's jet in actual size and is over 20 times larger – a true colossus.

Porphyryon can tell us more about the great ecosystem of matter flowing inside and outside of galaxies. But this jet also has us scratching our heads: how can something 23 million light years across be almost perfectly straight?

Seeing invisible light

Porphyryon was discovered by astronomers using the International LOFAR Telescope, a network of radio sensors centred in the Netherlands, and stretching from Sweden to Bulgaria, and from Ireland to Latvia. Radio telescopes like ASKAP and LOFAR can see light that is invisible to our eyes: radio waves.

What launches the jet in the first place? At the centre of the jet, researchers see a galaxy, and at the centre of the galaxy, they find evidence of a supermassive black hole.

As matter is pulled towards the black hole, various fates await. Some matter is eaten entirely. Some orbits around the black hole, forming a disk. And some of it becomes twisted and tangled in intense magnetic fields, until it is released into two opposing jets, blasting at almost the



speed of light.

We've seen black hole jets before, even ones that stretch many millions of light years. What's striking about Porphyryon is that it looks almost perfectly straight. There are plenty of curvy, angled jets out there, including one seen by ASKAP that was dubbed "The Dancing Ghosts".

Puzzlingly straight

Many processes can add a kink to a jet: an obstacle such as a dense cloud, a change in the orientation of the black hole, strong magnetic fields, intergalactic "wind" as the host galaxy falls into a larger cosmic structure.

Porphyryon, by contrast, seems to have been happily powering its way through the cosmos for about 2 billion years, unperturbed.

This is puzzling for two reasons. First, it isn't from around here. Its light has travelled for about 7 billion years to arrive on Earth. We're seeing Porphyryon as it was about 6 billion years after the Big Bang.

As with all astronomical objects, we're seeing it in the past, when the universe was more dense (remember: the universe is expanding). But a busy environment is the enemy of a straight jet.

Second, a jet that maintains consistent power for 2 billion years requires a steady

stream of food. But that implies a rich local environment, full of goodies (interstellar gas) ready to eat. This presents a paradox, because – again – a busy environment is the enemy of a straight jet.

As the researchers conclude, "how jets can retain such long-lived coherence is unknown at present". Maybe Porphyryon got lucky, threading its jet through a quiet alley of intergalactic space.

Maybe there's something about this jet that helps it maintain its focus. We don't know. But we can think of ways to find out. Observers will explore the environment of this jet with further observations across the spectrum.

Radio astronomers are using telescopes like ASKAP and LOFAR to find more jets, so we can distinguish the typical from the fluke. Meanwhile, astrophysicists are using supercomputer simulations of jets to figure out what launches them, what can bend them, and under what conditions.

Objects like Porphyryon aren't mere cosmic oddities. They are integral to the ecosystem of matter that shapes our cosmic environment. Intergalactic matter feeds into galaxies, galaxies make stars, some galaxies even make black holes, black holes create a jet, the jet affects the intergalactic matter, and around we go.

Astronomers see inflated planet outside solar system

Astronomers from the University of Arizona, alongside an international research team, have used NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to observe the atmosphere of the exoplanet WASP-107b, revealing groundbreaking findings about its atmospheric asymmetry.

This hot, inflated planet, similar in size to Jupiter but only a tenth of its mass, exhibits significant east-west asymmetry, making it a unique discovery in the study of exoplanets.

The study, led by graduate student Matthew Murphy from the University of

Arizona's Steward Observatory, was published in *Nature Astronomy*. It marks the first time such asymmetry has been observed in an exoplanet during its transit — when it passes in front of its star — using space-based observation.

WASP-107b is tidally locked, meaning one side of the planet perpetually faces its host star, while the other remains in permanent darkness. This configuration results in dramatic differences in atmospheric conditions between the planet's day side and night side.

The JWST allowed Murphy's team to observe these differences using

transmission spectroscopy, a technique that analyzes light passing through a planet's atmosphere to determine its composition, structure, and other characteristics.

"Thanks to the unprecedented precision of the James Webb Space Telescope, we were able to separate the signals from the eastern and western hemispheres of the planet's atmosphere, providing a clearer picture of its dynamics," Murphy explained.

The findings have offered new insights into the atmosphere's gases, cloud formations, and the impact of varying

sunlight exposure on each side of the planet.

WASP-107b is particularly unique because of its low density, making its atmosphere more inflated compared to other exoplanets of similar mass. Despite its extreme temperature of 890°F, WASP-107b occupies a middle ground between the planets in our solar system and the hottest exoplanets discovered.

"This discovery has opened new doors," Murphy said. "Our models didn't predict such an asymmetry for a planet like this, so we're already learning new things."



Rs 525-crore bank fraud case against Cox and Kings

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case of alleged Rs 525-crore bank loan fraud against the promoters and directors of Cox and Kings. The case was registered on the basis of a complaint by Yes Bank.

The lender has complained that the travel company submitted manipulated records to get credit facilities from them.

The case has been taken over by the CBI from the Mumbai Police that was earlier probing the matter against Cox and Kings, its promoters and directors Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar and Usha Kerkar, CFO Anil Khandelwal and directors Mahalinga Narayanan and Pesi Patel. The central probe agency has registered the case on a reference from the Maharashtra government routed through the Centre against all individuals under IPC sections related to cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct in addition to provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

India pips Japan in Asia power index, ranks third

India ranks third in the annual Asia Power Index, released by an Australian think-tank, surpassing Japan on the back of strong post-COVID 19 economic growth, while China's power appeared to plateau just below the United States.

The Sydney-based Lowy Institute has put the US at the top of its Asia Power Index with a score of 81.7, followed by China with a score of 72.7, India (39.1), Japan (38.9), Australia (31.9) and Russia (31.1).

The Index ranks 27 countries and territories in terms of their capacity to shape their external environment — its scope reaching as far west as Pakistan, as far north as Russia and as far into the Pacific as Australia, New Zealand and the US. The index has cited economic growth, future potential and diplomatic influence as key factors for India's rise. However, it has pointed out that New Delhi's clout remains below the potential promised by its resources. "India has shown remarkable post-pandemic economic recovery, contributing to a 4.2-point rise in its economic capability. India's massive population and strong GDP growth reinforce its standing as the world's third-largest economy in PPP terms," the think tank has said.

Global debt hits record \$312 trillion, with climate finance a challenge: IIF

NEW YORK (TIP)

Global debt hit a record high of \$312 trillion at the end of the second quarter, driven by borrowing in the United States and China, data from a banking trade group showed.

The Institute of International Finance (IIF), a financial services trade group, said on Wednesday that global debt rose by \$2.1 trillion in the first half to \$312 trillion. That marked a new high point after previous data was revised lower.

The IIF cautioned about the trend of ever-increasing government borrowing in its latest Global Debt Monitor report. It forecast that global government borrowing would rise from its current level of \$92 trillion to \$145 trillion by 2030, and would top \$440 trillion by 2050.

"With the Fed's new easing cycle expected to accelerate the pace of global debt buildup, a significant concern is the apparent lack of political will to address rising sovereign debt levels in both mature and emerging market economies," the IIF report said.

A big chunk of the borrowing was driven by energy transition in the face of climate change, which was expected to account for over one-third of the projected rise by 2050.

"This poses significant challenges, as many governments are already allocating a growing share of their revenue to interest expenses," the report said.

Big country, big borrower

The \$2.1 trillion increase this year through June compares with \$8.4 trillion in the first half of 2023, per IIF data.



Beyond China and the US, India, Russia and Sweden also increased their debt. Other European countries and Japan saw a notable decline, the report said.

The global debt-to-GDP ratio — an indicator of the ability to repay debt by comparing to what is being produced — has stabilized around 328%, with output numbers partly buoyed by above-target inflation in major economies.

In developed markets, that ratio reached its lowest level since 2018 driven by declines in household and non-financial corporate sectors borrowing.

In contrast, emerging markets saw their debt ratio reach a new high of over 245% of output, more than 25 percentage points higher than before the COVID-related lockdowns.

Source: Reuters

Sensex, Nifty hit record high for 6th straight session

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Benchmark stock market indices continued their upward tick to hit a record high for the sixth session led by a rally in IT stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex added 67.47 points to 85,903.59, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 14.70 points to 26,230.75 as of 9:25 AM.

Infosys topped the list of Nifty50 gainers, rising by 2.58%, with Hindalco Industries close behind, gaining 2.53%. Wipro also saw a strong performance, increasing by 2.50%. Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) and Tech Mahindra recorded gains of 2.17% and 2.15%, respectively.

On the losing side, Power Grid Corporation took the biggest hit, dropping 2.64%. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) experienced a decline of 2.53%, while Bharti Airtel fell by 1.96%. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) slipped by 1.24%, and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) ended the day down 0.71%.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that an important trend emerging in the market is the clear outperformance of largecaps over mid and small caps.

"The outperformance has been pronounced during the last five trading days which saw Nifty appreciate by 2.85% against a mere 0.6% up move in the small cap index. This is a healthy trend which can impart resilience to the market and, given the gush of domestic liquidity, take it higher. It appears that smart money is moving from mid and small caps to largecaps," he added.

Several sectors recorded gains, with Nifty IT leading the pack, rising by 1.79%. Nifty Metal followed closely, increasing by 1.37%. Nifty Consumer Durables saw a solid rise of 0.64%, while Nifty Pharma advanced by 0.52%. Other sectors that



performed well included Nifty PSU Bank, up by 0.51%, Nifty Healthcare Index, which gained 0.41%, Nifty Oil & Gas with a rise of 0.35%, Nifty Auto up by 0.25%, and Nifty FMCG, edging higher by 0.18%.

While some sectors experienced losses. Nifty Realty had the sharpest decline, falling by 0.77%. Nifty Media also dropped by 0.39%. The financial services sector showed some weakness as well, with Nifty Financial Services down by 0.24% and Nifty Financial Services 25/50 slipping by 0.04%. Nifty Bank fell by 0.14%, while Nifty Private Bank edged lower by 0.01%. Nifty Midsmall Healthcare also declined by 0.18%.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week's horoscope will be very auspicious for Aries people. Whatever work you have to do, you will get very good results. Your superiors will be greatly impressed by your way of working and you will gain respect for their ideals. Your boss can enhance the beauty of your work and he will like your work very much. Very auspicious times are going on in your relationships also. You will get a chance to meet your friends and the color of love will also increase in your friendship. Your health will also be very good and there will be no major problems. In your business too, you will have to implement new approvals to move your work forward. This will increase your investment resources and also reduce your bank balance.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week will be very good for Taurus people. You can achieve great success to your satisfaction and get the opportunity to fulfill your dream. You will get great opportunities in your career and you will have to use these opportunities at the right time. This week will also be good for students, especially those who are preparing for medicine. It is important to get the right results from your hard work and make your name famous in your field. You will also get a chance to progress in business and your financial sector will be prosperous. After the hustle and bustle of the day, you may also get a chance to be with your loved ones in the evening, which will be very comfortable for you.

GEMINI



Ganesha says the coming week is about to start for Gemini people. Your documents may need to be completed on time and you may need to manage your time. This week you may need a short stay with your employees. You may have to work a little hard regarding your belongings but you will get good results. This week you should also take care of your health. You should pay special attention to your eating habits and also take care of your body. This week you will get a chance to have a good time with your friends and family. You will get a chance to create a good atmosphere with your loved ones. This week you will get a chance to create great music with the people around you. This week you will get

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEP 30 TO OCT 6, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

a chance to have a good time with your friends and family.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week's horoscope is very auspicious for Cancer. You will get proper results from your hard work and will be successful in your work. This week many opportunities may come for you in different fields. You will get a chance to focus on your work and earn a name in your field. You will get good results in financial matters also and there will be a good opportunity for financial gain. This week you need to increase your hard work and determination in your company and try to take advantage of opportunities from time to time. This week you will also get a chance to spend time with your loved ones which will be completely comfortable for you. You may have to face some aspects at the beginning of this week, but you do not need to worry.

LEO



Ganesha says since the beginning of this week, there have been chances of inauspicious things for the people of the Leo zodiac sign. You need to pay attention to your words because any reaction to your words can be negative for you. You have to go with your thoughts and it may be necessary to make decisions ahead of time. This week you will also have to pay attention to your health. Otherwise, you may have to face health issues due to some unnatural eating habits. People involved in business should be careful in shopping this week. You have to be careful in your investments because your profits may suddenly decrease. If you are thinking of earning money for a new project then it would be better to focus on it this week. Your financial matters also need to be managed well.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week's horoscope is going to be very auspicious for you for Virgo people. This week you will get a chance to travel. This week will be very good for you. You will get a chance for new foolishness in your life. This week you will get a chance for success. The decision given to you will prove to be very wonderful for you. This week you will have to take care of your physical and mental health. You should take care of your eating habits and do yoga and meditation to stay healthy. This week you will have to work very hard on your work. You should try to build good relations with the people associated with your work. This week you will have to pay attention to your financial matters. You should try to reduce your expenses and increase your savings.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week's horoscope may be full of turmoil for Libra people. The normal day will not be favorable for you and you may have to face many challenges. You may need to change your thinking and also try to complete your work on time. You may also have to make some improvements in your social life. There may be tension in your relationships and you should try to resolve it. This week you will have to do your work carefully and also be cautious of your competitors. You may need to adopt new plans in your business and this may help you move ahead in your business. This week you will also have to pay attention to your health and include a healthy diet and exercise in your daily routine.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for Scorpio from the beginning. You have to be prepared to change your plans. This week may be a bit challenging for you. You will need to pay special attention to your thoughts and actions. You may need to strengthen your decision-making abilities. You have to pay maximum attention to your health. You have to believe in yourself and strive to achieve your goals. This week can be very good for students. You may be successful in your favorite subjects. A new opportunity may also open up for you this week. You have to concentrate on your studies and study carefully. You have to work hard and diligently to achieve your objectives. This week you will have to be very busy with some projects.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week can be difficult for Sagittarius people from the beginning. You may have to face more problems than usual. You will have to face difficult situations to move ahead in your business or job. This week will not be suitable for you to spend money. You may need to manage your money. You may have differences with your relatives and face arguments with them. You will have to control your speech and be careful with your words. Employed people will have to stay away from office politics today and concentrate on their work. If you do not do this then you may have to face problems. You should spend your time with your loved ones. You may have to spend money on entertainment. This week, marriageable people may get a good marriage proposal.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Capricorn may bring

difficulties for you. You have to promote your work to achieve your goals. You may have to work harder in your work. This week may be challenging for you. This week you may need a new start in your work. You have to be cautious in managing your business or work. You may have to think of new plans for your business. You have to maintain perseverance and patience in your work. This week you have to be careful in financial matters. You will have to be careful in money transactions. You may need to control your expenses. You have to be careful before making financial investments. This week you will have to take care of your health.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week will be very auspicious and successful for Aquarius people. You will get financial benefits in your job or business and your work will also progress. You will have to avoid arguments with your relatives. You have to pay special attention to your words and control your speech. Employed people will have to stay away from office politics today and concentrate on their work. Today you can spend time with your loved ones and share happiness with them. You will have to spend money on your entertainment. If you are eligible for marriage then you may get a good marriage proposal this week. You may get a chance to buy a new vehicle or some items for the home.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week will be very auspicious for Pisces. You will be successful and there will be no obstacles in achieving your goals. Your day will be very encouraging and exciting. You will get success in your work and get ahead of your competitors. You will also get a chance to spend quality time with your friends and family. This week your financial condition will also be strong and you will not have to face a shortage of money. This week you will have to maintain your patience and fortitude to achieve your goals. Strengthen your hard work and determination to be successful this week and try to take advantage of opportunities on time.

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 : SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 6 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

SEPTEMBER 30 : Ganesha says although you have a pleasant disposition and are highly diplomatic, you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act spendthrift, fickle-minded, and restless. You may face unexpected issues at work that are to be expected. You must approach these issues with more poise and tact. Traveling during this time will not only provide you with crucial information but also guarantee financial rewards. Later in the year, some couples will tie the knot.

OCTOBER 1 : Ganesha says you live each day to the fullest and have the potential to become a writer, philosopher, or thinker, but you need to learn to regulate your often restless and stubborn behavior. If you mingle with your coworkers, clients, and clients after work this year, you will build stronger relationships with all of them. Your investments will soar to new heights, and your financial situation will improve, causing you to spend more on comforts and luxuries. There will be nice romantic entanglements and good opportunities to form a marriage union.

OCTOBER 2 : Ganesha says you'll face new problems this year, but your perseverance and the support of your friends and family will assure your success. With time, your financial situation will get better. Gains from investments and speculation are both possible. Being a responsible parent, you'll provide your kids with nothing but the best. Towards the middle of the year, some unsettling news from a faraway location is to be anticipated. A spiritual person offers consolation and mental calm.

OCTOBER 3 : Ganesha says if you try your best, you can turn sand into gold. However, you need to curb your tendency to act vindictive, stubborn, and moody at times. Your international business activities can be very profitable. If you explore new sources of income, your financial condition will improve and your confidence level may remain at its highest. Business modifications done in the middle of the year can be beneficial.

OCTOBER 4 : Ganesha says if you have been concerned about the lack of advancement in your professional career,

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

OCTOBER 5 : Ganesha says you have a fantastic personality and may quickly make friends because of your helpfulness, but you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act gloomy, wasteful, and inconsiderate. Gains and rewards are guaranteed this year, but you must remain entirely committed to your objectives. You will suffer losses or suffer a great deal of embarrassment if you are unable to obtain appropriate and reliable information. Financial transactions will go much smoother during the second half of the year, but partnerships and joint ventures should be absolutely avoided.

OCTOBER 6 : Ganesha says although you have a fantastic imagination and can

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

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

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 3

27th September

1926 Akali leaders of Gurudwara Sudhar movement, who were confined in Lahore fort during the Akali agitation, were finally released.

28th September

1968 Shiromani Akali Dal organized an All India Akali conference in Batala and demanded autonomy for states.

1981 Akali Dal executive met at Aalamgir and decided to launch Civil disobedience from Nov. 18, 1981 for the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

29th September



1690 Sahibjadhya Baba Jujhar Singh Ji, son of Guru Gobind Singh, was born to Matta Jito. He fought valiantly in the Chamkaur battle and accepted shahidi in the battle of Chamkaur on Dec. 22, 1704.

1914 The Komagata Maru passengers were fired upon at Budge-Budge Ghat (Calcutta) without any provocation. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.

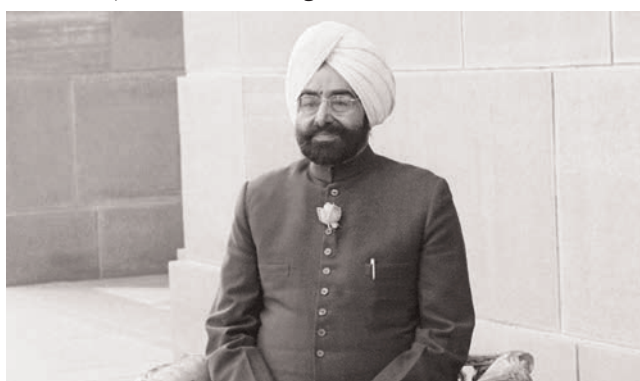


1981 Dal Khalsa workers hijacked an Indian Airliner to Lahore. An Indian Airlines Jetliner (Boeing 737) flying to Lahore with 117 persons aboard was hijacked by 5 members Dal Khalsa under the leadership of Gajinder Singh. They demanded the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala, then in judicial custody following the murder of Jagat Narain, a Hindu newspaper proprietor. The release of all persons detained in connection with the Khalistan movement, a ransom of 5 lakh dollars, and compensation of Rs. 100,000 per family for GurSikhs killed on 20th



September at Chowk Mehta after the arrest of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

The next day Pakistani commandos effected the arrest of the Dal Khalsa workers. Hijackers identified were:- Gajinder Singh, Satnam Singh of Poanta Sahib, Jasbir Singh of Ropar, Tejinderpal Singh of Jallandar, and Karam Singh of Jammu.



1984 Giani Zail Singh's excommunication notice withdrawn. Giani Zail Singh's notice of excommunication from Guru Khalsa Panth was withdrawn. After the Operation Bluestar, the five Jathedars, comprising highest council of Sikhs, decided to serve notice of excommunication to Giani Zail Singh.

30th September



1632 Guru Tegh Bahadur married Gujari Ji, daughter of Bhai Lal Chabd of Kartarpur, Jalandhar.

1612 Baba Sri Chand dies at the age of 118. Baba SRI CHAND, the eldest son of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was born on Bhadoo Sidhi 9th sanmat 1551 to Matta Sulakhni in Sultanpur. He lived in Barath village, near Dehra Nanak, Baba Sri Chand never married and later started the Udasi sect (one among the NanakPanthi sects). Though there several visible sects associated with NanakPanth today, the three main sects include, Udasi, Saehajdhari, and Sikhs (including Nihang, Nirmalae, and Kukae) [ref. Mahan Kosh]. Baba Sri Chand passed away on 15th Assu samnat 1668 at the age of 118.

1711 Bahadur Shah gave control of Amritsar region to Ajit Singh, the adopted son of Matta Sundar Kaur. However, he started pursuing his ego and sought his worship. As a result Matta Sundar Kaur Ji asked him to return immediately to Delhi.

1922 Kishan Singh Gargaj addresses a letter to the Secretary of SGPC asking him to give up the policy of non-violence at Guru Ka Bagh.

1922 Meeting at Rajowal to plan the murder of Arjan Singh Patwari, alleged to be responsible for the arrest of Master Mota Singh.

1953 Akali Dal decided to launch an agitation to undo discrimination against the Sikh backward classes.

1981 Restriction imposed on Kirpan on Indian Airline flights.

1st October



1778 The mosque that was constructed on site of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara was destroyed by the Sikhs.

1873 Sri Guru Singh Sabha was first founded and its inaugural meeting at Manji Sahib, Amritsar.

1961 Master Tara Singh broke his fast. Master Tara Singh broke his fast that started on Aug. 15, 1961 to protest against the discriminatory attitude of the government of India in not forming a Punjabi Speaking State demanded by the Sikhs. Prime Ministers offer to appoint a commission of inquiry to look into the matter, prevailed upon Master Tara Singh to break his fast.

1984 Indian Forces handed over the control Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahiban after Operation Bluestar. Giani Zail Singh, as President of India, flew back to Amritsar on this day and handed over the control of Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahibans. Jathedar Santa Singh Nihang Singh's Jatha ensured the departure of Indian forces from the complex.

2nd October

1926 First meeting of General Members of SGPC held. The first meeting of General Members elected under guidance of Gurudwara Act of 1925, was held to elect their office bearers. It was at this meeting the name Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) was approved through a resolution and adopted unanimously. Baba Kharak Singh elected President and Master Tara Singh became Vice President.

1986 Sardar Karmjit Singh Sunam was arrested for attacking Rajiv Gandhi at Raj Ghat.

3rd October

1710 Sikh uprising in Jalandar Doab came to a successful fruition, when they drove out the forces of Faudjar Shams Khan from Rahon.

Shardiya Navratri: Devoted to nine forms of Goddess Durga

The nine-day Shardiya, or Shrad Navratri, is an important Hindu festival observed across India. It is devoted to the nine forms of Goddess Durga.

Shardiya Navratri is commemorated in the Hindu month of Ashwin, which often falls between September and October on the Gregorian calendar.

Out of the four Navratris—Magha (winter), Chaitra (spring), Ashadha (monsoon), and Sharad or Shardiya (autumn), it is regarded as the most significant, which is why it is also known as Maha Navratri.

The nine-day Shardiya, also known as Shrad Navratri, occurs in the lunar month of Ashwin during Sharad Ritu, and it concludes on the tenth day with Dussehra or Vijaya Dashami.

It celebrates the killing of Mahishasura, a demon, by Goddess Durga after a long battle of nine days that culminated on the 10th day as Vijayadashami, which is why she is famously called Mahishasuramardini, or the slayer of Mahishasur.

Additionally, the 10th day of Navratri is celebrated as Vijayadashami, the day Lord Rama won the battle against Ravana and recovered Goddess Sita.

This year in 2024, Navratri will start on Thursday, October 2, at 12:18 pm, and conclude on October 4 at 02.58 am. The festival also signifies righteousness and the power of good to triumph over evil, teaching moral values like bravery and virtue.

People observe fasting during the nine days or on the first two or last two days, while some keep it for all nine days. Starting on the Pratipada of Shukla Paksha in the month of Ashwin, devotees of Goddess Durga fast and worship her for nine days, reciting the Durga Stotra and Durga Chalisa, with a belief that worshipping Durga with devotion will grant wishes.

Each day of Navratri has a distinct Durga avatar, such as Shailputri, Brahmacharini, or Chandraghanta. The festival is also considered a harvest festival, praising the Goddess as the motherly power behind life and creation.

The festival is associated with their symbolic connotation as epitome of courage, wealth and skill respectively. Broadly, on the first three days, devotees venerate Goddess Durga as she represents power in its divine form that removes negativity and proclivity towards immoral behavior. She is, invoked as Kumari, Parvati and Kali which are aspects of Ma Durga and represent her adolescence-to-maturity stage. During the next three days, Goddess Lakshmi blessings for material and spiritual prosperity are sought with puja and powerful mantra chantings. Over the next three days, Goddess Saraswati is invoked to seek blessings for erudition and skills in the arts. The devotee puts books and musical instruments near the deity to acquire true knowledge and wisdom to see him/her through this life and beyond. The ninth day of 'Mahanavami', the concluding day of Navratri puja, is considered an auspicious day for conducting pujas such as 'Aparajita' puja and 'Kanya Puja'. The tenth day celebrates the momentous events associated with Lord Rama as well as Ma Durga, who killed the demon 'Mahisasura'.

Rituals of Navratri

Customs of Navratri which stand out prominently in terms of strict observance include the following:

On the very first day, barley or 'jowar' seeds are sown in a decorated clay pot and by the tenth day, the tender shoots are distributed among the devotees. A photograph or an idol of the eight-armed Goddess seated on a lion, along with the 'yantra' is installed.

'Kalash Sthapna' is done which involves installing a water pot or 'kalash', sprinkled with holy water and filled with mango leaves and coconut. The morning 'puja' is



performed after a bath, and the day-long fast is broken after doing the evening puja.

During the puja, 'shankh' is blown, fresh flowers, 'doob' or sacred grass, 'paan' and fruits are offered to the deity, chapters from the sacred 'Durga Saptshati' and 'Chandipath' are recited, followed by 'arti' and prasad distribution. A very significant ritual is performing 'Kanya Puja' on 'Ashtami' and 'Navami', which involves worshipping nine young girls, in pre-puberty stage, representing the nine forms of goddess Durga. Each girl is treated to a meal comprising puri, sweet bread, halwa, a sweet dish, made of semolina and Bengal gram curry. After washing their feet, the devotees break their fast.

Ayudha or Astra Puja is held on the eighth/ninth day. Tools, vehicles and equipments are worshipped on this day. Among some communities, it is also considered an auspicious time to initiate learning for children by invoking Goddess Saraswati. Hence, Lalita-puja and Saraswati-puja is done ritualistically to start formal education of children. A Garba performance precedes 'aarti' conducted in honor of Maa Durga. Fasting or 'vrat' from sunrise till sunset is undertaken for night days. In the Navratri Hindu festival, the devotee should observe abstinence and austerity.

On the eight day, a 'yagna' is performed with offerings of ghee and til for mental and spiritual cleansing.

Lemon or bhasma or ash is used for cleaning substances for 'abhishek'. In Gujarat, a garbh-deep or a lamp is lit within an earthen pot with several perforations representing the unison of body and soul.

Customs of Navratri

“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

Since all the nine days are dedicated to different incarnations of Ma Durga, it is customary to wear colors that symbolize the qualities of the deity. The first day venerates Shailputri Devi who embodies aspects of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. On this day, red clothes are worn. The second day is dedicated to Brahmacharini Devi who represents a life of abstinence. Wearing blue colored clothes is considered auspicious on this day. On the third day, Chandraghanta Devi, the bestower of glory and beauty, is invoked. On the fourth day, Kushmanda Devi is worshipped and yellow is the color to honor her. The fifth day is in honor of Skandmata Devi. Grey is the color to be worn on the sixth day and is dedicated to Katyayani Devi, while orange is the color for protection symbolized by Kalratri Devi on the seventh day. On the eighth day, pink clothes are worn to honor Mahagauri Devi. The ninth day is dedicated to Siddhidatri Devi, whose blessings earn devotees all 'siddhis'.

On all these nine days, devotees should meditate on the different forms of Ma Durga and seek her grace.

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Mysore, now officially known as Mysuru, is a small city tucked in the foothills of the western ghats in the Indian state of Karnataka. It is a city of royal heritage and rich culture as it served as the capital of the Mysore Kingdom for almost 6 centuries under the Wodeyar Dynasty. It still maintains a royal feel and atmosphere and is ideal for a weekend getaway. Contrasting to Bangalore, the busiest metropolitan city in Karnataka, in Mysore life is slow paced. It is an epitome of peace, great weather, and humble people. The primary language spoken here is Kannada but most people also speak Hindi and English. The city is small and can be easily covered over a weekend. Nearby places like Srirangapatna, Bandipur, Madikeri, Wayanad etc. are also as mesmerizing and great for road trips.

The best time to visit Mysore is throughout the year but September to January is perfect for sightseeing. The weather is pleasant throughout the year except for three months of summer from February to April when the temperatures soar up to 29-30 degree Celsius. The nearest airport is in Bangalore, from there direct buses ply to Mysore. You can also drive down from Bangalore or take the train to reach Mysore within 3 hours.

Sri Chamundeshwari Temple

It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Durga, overlooking the city of Mysore situated at an elevation of about 900 feet from sea level. It is the main temple of Karnataka called the Naada Devathe (State Goddess). Among the many festivals celebrated here, Navratri or Mysore Dasara is the most grandly celebrated festival in the month of September-October by decorating the goddess in 9 ways to depict the 9 different aspects of the Goddess. It's one of the oldest temples in Mysore and one among the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas. During Dasara, the whole city lights up and twinkles like a crown jewel. Food Melas, exhibitions and the royal procession of the idol of the Goddess in a Gold Mantapa consorted by the majestic elephants and horses on the streets of Mysore are the main attractions during the festival. Nearby you can also see the Lakshminarayana Temple and Jwalamuki Thirupurasundari Temple.

The Mysuru Palace

It is located in the center of the city facing the Chamundi Hill. It's a historical heritage and the seat of the royal kingdom of Mysore. It is a three-story stone structure with Marble domes. Its unique architecture is what attracts the tourists to this Palace. During the day tourists are allowed to enter a part of the Palace and the gardens. At night the whole Palace and its three gateways light up for about an hour making it the most beautiful sight in Mysore.

The Mysuru Zoo

The Mysore zoo is a 4 km walk and a nice place to spend a day with kids. It has various animals and birds most fascinating of them being the White Peacock, the Royal Bengal tiger, Ostriches, and Owls. It's a plastic-free zone with a small eatery inside. Best time

Mysore: The royal city



to visit is early in the morning as soon as it opens at 8:30 am. It is closed on Tuesdays!

Karanji Lake

Just beside the zoo is a small lake surrounded by lush greenery called the Karanji Lake. Boating is allowed in the lake and there is a walk-through aviary where you can see birds of various kinds and a butterfly park. The lush green nature park with a lake view makes it an ideal location to spend the day relaxing in nature's lap.

Ranganathitoo Bird Sanctuary

This bird sanctuary is located 16 km

from Mysore in the Mandya district. It comprises of islets on the banks of the Kaveri river. You can enjoy a variety of flora and fauna here. Roughly 170 species of birds are found here including the painted stork, black-headed ibis, spoonbill, pelican, egret, Asian open bill stork, etc. Boating is available throughout the day where you can spot, up close, crocodiles basking in the sun on the rocks or swimming beside you. Best time to visit is June to November.

Brindavan Gardens

Situated on the KRS dam road, this is the second most famous place in Mysore after the Palace. This garden lies

adjoining the Krishnarajasagara Dam across the river Kaveri. This terraced garden was built in 1927 - 1932 spread across 60 acres speckled with trees, fountains and colorful ornamentation. The main attraction is the light and sound show which starts at 7 pm.

St. Philomena's Cathedral

It is a beautiful Catholic church constructed in 1936 inspired by the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. It is Asia's second largest church with twin spires of about 175 feet. It has stained glass windows depicting scenes from the bible and can seat up to 800 people in the main hall.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Modi Recounts India's...

Mr. Modi spoke about the 2024 elections which brought him to power for the consecutive third term, terming it as historic as no other Prime Minister of India ever achieved the feat. He dwelt at length on his long political career. He said he served for 13 years as the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat. Then he went on to highlight his government's achievements in the past 10 years and the plans for the future.

In an election victory-like speech, Mr. Modi defended and celebrated the poll outcome in which the BJP's majority was significantly reduced. The Prime Minister rhetorically asked the crowd about the NDA getting elected for a third term, repeatedly, "Kya hua hai? (What happened?), Abki baar? (What next?)", as the crowd confirmed he had won.

The Prime Minister said he had very big ambitions for his third term and needed to move forward with three times the speed and strength.

Mr. Modi spoke of a Viksit Bharat that is a flower with five petals. He defined the word PUSHPA (flower). P stands for Progressive Bharat. U stands for Unstoppable Bharat. S stands for Spiritual first Bharat. H stands for Humanity first Bharat. And P stands for Progressive Bharat. This description of Bharat drew loud and long applause.

The Prime Minister listed the government's achievements since 2014, citing examples such as airport and metro systems, broadband services and poverty reduction. He highlighted India's digitization and emphasized its environmental consciousness, while noting that it had not historically been a major contributor to climate change.

Mr. Modi said that while earlier India had a foreign policy of being equidistant from other countries, today it was keeping equally close to other countries.

"We are also a strong voice of the Global South," he said. The Prime Minister said the world listened when India spoke at global platforms, as he cited his interaction with Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2022, when he said, "This is not the era of war".

Prior to Mr. Modi's arrival, there were a number of classical, fusion and folk performances, some to reflect the melding of Indian and American nationalism and cultures, such as a fusion rendition of America the Beautiful and Vande Mataram.

Some well-known artistes and social media personalities, such as the rapper Hanumankind, were among those who performed at the event.

According to the organizers over 13000 of Mr. Modi's fans turned up, leaving thousands of chairs vacant. The organizers had claimed they had received 24000 registrations, and some claimed even a higher number. Mr. Modi himself had suggested during the speech that not all who wanted to attend could do so for lack of space. Arrangements were made to accommodate thousands who may not have been able to gain entry, but there hardly were many outside.

The event, called 'Modi & US' was organized by Indian American Community U.S. (IACU), a non-profit that also describes itself as non-partisan.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams pleads not...

Aside from that, the mayor can still maintain routine business contacts and communicate with family members. The judge also allowed Adams to keep his passport.

Adams' appearance in court as a defendant is a stark contrast from his work fighting crime as an NYPD captain - a job he often touted during his political career.

The mayor, a Democrat elected in 2021, has denied wrongdoing and said he doesn't plan to resign. "I look forward to defending myself and defending the people of this city as I've done throughout my entire professional career," Adams said Thursday, September 26.

The 15000- word indictment says that between 2016

and October 2023, Adams sought and accepted benefits such as free luxury travel and campaign donations from foreigners, including Turkish officials.

In exchange, he pressured the Fire Department of New York to approve the opening of a new Turkish consular building in the city without a fire inspection, the indictment states. In addition, his campaign used those illegal campaign donations to "steal public funds" through New York City's matching funds, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors said the foreign nationals were able to sidestep federal law and conceal their campaign donations through these "straw donors" - US-based donors who falsely claimed they were contributing their own money.

In 2017, Adams allegedly accepted free business class tickets for three roundtrip international flights and a heavily discounted stay at a suite in the St. Regis Istanbul. The trip was worth over \$41,000, and Adams did not disclose it, the indictment alleges.

Adams allegedly accepted over \$123,000 worth of luxury travel benefits between 2016 and 2021, without disclosing any of it.

By 2018, the mayor allegedly "not only accepted, but sought illegal campaign contributions to his 2021 mayoral campaign, as well as other things of value, from foreign nationals."

By January 2022, he had agreed to accept contributions of foreign money to his 2025 campaign, the indictment alleges.

Meanwhile, reports have come in that New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's team is telling allies and other stakeholders that she is now seriously considering the possibility of removing Adams from office - a power she has under state law.

Before Adams' indictment was unsealed, Hochul reportedly hadn't considered removing the mayor. But after reviewing the indictment, the governor suggested in a statement late Thursday, September 26, that she was leaving her options open.

"I expect the Mayor to take the next few days to review the situation and find an appropriate path forward to ensure the people of New York City are being well-served by their leaders," Hochul said.

Lawyers in the governor's office have started to look over the legal language of the removal authority, another source familiar with the situation said.

Though many local lawmakers have called for Adams to resign, some high-profile New York Democrats in Congress have been less vocal. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer both stopped short of calling for Adams to step down in their most recent remarks.

"No one is above the law, including the Mayor of New York City," Schumer said in a written statement Thursday, September 26. "The charges are serious, and the legal process should now play out speedily and fairly."

But Jeffries could come under pressure from New York House candidates concerned the Adams scandal might hurt their prospects for election.

Adams is "entitled to the presumption of innocence," Jeffries said, and "a jury of the Mayor's peers will now evaluate the charges in the indictment and ultimately render a determination." (With inputs from CNN)

India government plans talks with...

the BSF and the CRPF on vigil to counter any spike in violence.

A senior security official told the Tribune correspondent that the security personnel were prepared to combat any kind of situation, though any decision would be taken only after consultations with the state government.

Last week, the security adviser to the Manipur Government and head of the unified command, Kuldeep Singh, had claimed that 900 highly trained Kuki militants had entered the state through Myanmar and were planning attacks on Meiteis on September 28. The Kuki groups had consequently given a call for a complete shutdown in areas under their domination on

that day.

On September 25, the Manipur Government retracted its claim, saying reports about Kuki militants' infiltration through Myanmar could not be substantiated. This too led to Kuki groups lambasting the government. Kuki groups went on to say that the call given for total shutdown on September 28 would remain, adding that if there was any bloodshed, then the state government would be responsible for the same.

While sources indicated that the state government climbed down from its earlier claim about infiltration by Kuki militants to prevent a flashpoint between the two communities, as several Meitei groups had also threatened to launch counter-attacks on Kukis, the situation, they added, continues to remain on a boil.

Meanwhile, there are indications that the Centre was likely to initiate talks with both groups as part of its peace initiative in a state, which has seen killing of more than 200 persons and displacement of 50,000 ever since the ethnic strife began there on May 3.

Earlier this month, Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the Centre was hopeful of controlling the situation in strife-torn Manipur, as talks were going on with both Meiteis and Kukis to find a solution to the ongoing ethnic violence.

He had further junked talks about Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh's resignation or replacement. "Of late, there have been sporadic cases of violence, but Manipur has been relatively calm over the last three months. There has been no incident of violence in the last three days. We are sure of regaining control and restoring peace," Shah had said on September 17.

He further said that it was an ethnic issue that could not be resolved unless both ethnicities engage in talks. "We are talking to both Kuki and Meiteis communities, Shah said, adding that Biren Singh won't be replaced as Chief Minister.

"India-China relationship is key to the..."

"We have a difficult history with China. Despite the explicit agreements we had with China, we saw in the middle of Covid-19 that the Chinese moved a large number of forces in violation of these agreements to the LAC [Line of Actual Control]. It was likely a mishap would happen and it did. So, there was a clash and a number of troops died on either side. That, in a sense, overshadowed the relationship [for a while]," said Jaishankar.

Despite this complicated history, Jaishankar emphasized the importance of working towards improving India-China relations. "I think the India-China relationship is key to the future of Asia. In a way, you can say, if the world is to be multipolar, Asia has to be multipolar," Jaishankar remarked. He noted that bilateral ties between the two countries would "influence not just the future of Asia, but in that way, perhaps the future of the world as well."

There is still work to be done with China regarding mitigating border tensions, said Jaishankar. "When I said 75 per cent of it has been sorted out-I was asked in a way to quantify-it's only of the disengagement. So that's one part of the problem. The main issue right now is the patrolling. You know, how do we, both of us, patrol up to the Line of Actual Control....Some of the patrolling issues need to be resolved, but once we deal with the disengagement, there is the larger issue, which both of us have brought very large number of troops up to the border. This is what we call the de-escalation issue." Jaishankar doesn't want the pursuit of relations with China to impact relations with the United States, a key ally and fellow member of the Quad: "we chew gum and walk at the same time."

He lauded the Quad for working as a "non-treaty" way to bring together countries that are market economies, democracies, maritime powers, and have a common interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific. "I think this is the future," Jaishankar said.

(Based on a press release by Asia Society)

Bitter exchange between PM Justin Trudeau and Leader of Opposition Pierre Poilievre before the no to-no-confidence motion

AFTER CONSERVATIVES NOW BLOC QUEBECOIS THREATENS TO BRING DOWN THE MINORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

OTTAWA (TIP): It was free for all as the House of Commons witnessed a rowdy question hour before turning down no-confidence motion 211-120 for a reprieve for the minority Liberal Government. Marred by acrimonious verbal exchanges between those supporting and opposing the motion, Speaker Greg Fergus asked Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre to leave the House after he refused to withdraw the "unparliamentary language he had used against the Prime Minister.

Pierre Poilievre tried to bring down the government with a non-confidence motion. It failed when all Bloc, NDP, Green MPs, and two Independents voted against it.

"Today, we will vote to trigger a carbon tax election between the costly carbon tax coalition of NDP-Liberals ... or common-sense Conservatives who will axe the tax, build the homes, fix the budget and stop the crime," Poilievre said, making his case to the Commons in question period.

"Again with the clever little performance, with the slogans he has memorized, without any solutions for Canadians," Trudeau shot back.

"He does not care about Canadians, he cares about his political self-interest. Little performances, little rhymes and slogans - no solutions," Trudeau said as he returned to the House today after his official visit to the United States where he attended the general assembly session of the United Nations

The speaker called it a "remarkable question period" after MPs from all sides yelled at each other and called each other names.

"There are a couple of things that are going on here today that are not acceptable," Fergus said.

Poilievre's day-long suspension from the House followed his calling Prime Minister Justin Trudeau a "wacko" for supporting B.C.'s past policy of decriminalizing some hard drugs in an attempt to reduce the number of overdose-related deaths.

Poilievre maintained it was a "wacko policy" backed by "this wacko prime minister." When Speaker Fergus asked him to withdraw the "unparliamentary language," he refused, saying that he would replace "wacko" with "extremist" or "radical." Poilievre's refusal prompted Fergus to remove him.

Once the Leader of Opposition was ordered out of the House, the Conservative caucus left the Commons chamber en masse, following Pierre Poilievre.

Speaker also ordered Conservative MP Rachael Thomas to withdraw from the House of Commons for 'disregarding the authority of the chair.' Thomas was heard saying 'The chair is acting in a disgraceful manner.'

It was not Pierre Poilievre alone who was cautioned by the Speaker. Even the Prime Minister was also mentioned. During question hour, Justin Trudeau said at one point that Poilievre was a "spineless" leader. This remark did result in a rebuke from Fergus. The Speaker told Trudeau not to make comments that "call into question the character of an

started with a question from Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre about the government's controversial purchase of a luxury apartment for its consul general in New York.

While listing off features of the condo, including "a handcrafted copper soaking tub," Poilievre asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau if he visited Consul General Tom Clark at the new residence on his recent trip to the U.S.

Speaker wanted that no one should speak out of turn, Trudeau quipped, "We are used to casual homophobic comments from the other side of the House." It led to an uproar as the Opposition benches started shouting to demand that the prime minister be kicked out for unparliamentary language.

he left the House after the fracas.

When the vote was taken, the result 211-120 was on the expected lines as the Liberals, NDP, Bloc Québécois, Green and two independents voted against the motion.

Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet laid out a list of demands Wednesday that he said the government must fulfil by the end of October if it wants to avoid the risk of an early election.

Speaking to the media, Blanchet said the Bloc wants the government to push through a bill, C-319, that would hike Old Age Security (OAS) payouts by 10 per cent for seniors between the ages of 65 and 74. The government topped up OAS payments for seniors aged 75 and older in 2022.

Blanchet also said he wants the government to agree to pass a Bloc private member's bill, C-282, that exempts the supply-managed farm sectors - dairy, poultry and eggs - from any future trade negotiations.

He said those demands must be met by October 29. If they are not, he said, the Bloc will start negotiations with the Conservatives and the NDP on toppling Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government.

The Liberal government may not fall even if the Bloc pulls its support. Trudeau could convince the NDP to back him up again.

The Conservatives are eager to go to an election as soon as possible and have threatened to table more non-confidence motions in the coming weeks to trigger a vote.

The Liberals hold 153 of the 338 seats in Parliament.

To get to a majority of 169 MPs without Conservative support, the Liberals need either the NDP (25 MPs) or the Bloc (33 MPs) to stand with them.

The Conservatives (119 MPs) and the Bloc voting together wouldn't be enough to bring down the government. They need the NDP's support as well to get the no-confidence motion through.

(Prabhjot Singh, is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist, He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines and journals.)



Parliament building, Ottawa

Credit: Wikipedia

individual member of Parliament."

"Poilievre is trying to earn votes through personal attacks", Trudeau said, after the Conservative leader raised Trudeau's past episodes of wearing blackface.

As the verbal tirade continued, Trudeau accused Poilievre of courting "white nationalist groups" with his visit to an anti-carbon tax protest camp in the Maritimes earlier this month.

Another issue that snowballed into another exchange of barbs was the Trudeau accusing Conservatives of making homophobic comments during rowdy question hour.

Speaker Greg Fergus was asked by the Treasury Benches to investigate whether a Conservative MP made homophobic comments involving the prime minister on the floor of the House.

The incident that turned question hour into an all-out yelling match,

Fergus said he heard a comment but could not tell who made it. While pleading with MPs to "treat each other with the presumption of honor and respect," he asked Trudeau to withdraw his comment.

"Standing up to bullies requires us to call them out on their crap sometimes and that's what I will do," Trudeau responded.

"I will happily withdraw my comment if the member who suggested that I was sharing a bathtub with Tom Clark stands up, and takes responsibility."

After another round of yelling and calls to "kick him out," Trudeau withdrew what he characterized as his "comment about defecating."

Fergus then allowed Trudeau to continue with his response to the original question.

PM Justin Trudeau fielded a few more questions from Bloc and NDP MPs before

Embassy of India in Guatemala celebrates a decade of MAKE IN INDIA

SHARES WITH GUATEMALA'S LAWMAKERS INDIA'S VISION AND COMMITMENT TO ASSIST GUATEMALA ON ITS DEVELOPMENTAL JOURNEY



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra felicitated Dr. S.V. Anchan, Chairman, Safesea Group, a Global Shipping company, for his support



Distinguished guests shared their views during the interaction

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala organized a significant interaction with Congressmen from various parties of the Guatemalan Parliament on 25 September 2024, to share India's vision and unwavering commitment to assist Guatemala on its developmental journey. The event received an overwhelming response, with over 100 Congressmen in attendance, reflecting their keen interest in India's remarkable developmental progress. This platform also marked a celebration of the ten years of the Government of India's Make in India initiative, which has achieved tremendous success in transforming India into a global manufacturing hub.

Embassy has been actively involved in promoting India's investment and influence in the Central American region through various infrastructural initiatives. As a result of these concerted efforts, significant milestones have been achieved, expanding our reach beyond the local municipalities in Guatemala and El Salvador. In collaboration with Lakshmi Capital, a subsidiary of SRAM & MSRAM Group, the Embassy has initiated transformative projects aimed at advancing infrastructure development by Signing several MoUs and LOIs with Government of El Salvador, different municipalities of Guatemala including Xela and El Progress and business entities like Grupo Odepal and Association of City Bus Companies. In response to the requirement to involve Indian companies in procuring technology, materials, services, and products, Lakshmi Capital has facilitated several visits by these stakeholders to India including visit of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

These infrastructural projects, coupled with the successful visits by delegations to India, exemplify India's dedication to fostering economic development and improving infrastructure in Central America. The visible impact and successful implementation of these initiatives have drawn significant attention and admiration from various stakeholders throughout Guatemala. Witnessing the transformative effects of these projects, Mission has been constantly receiving interest from these Congressmen to know much more about these projects and India's commitment to the region. They perceive India as a valuable partner with expertise in infrastructure development, technology transfer, and capacity building, capable of helping them address their developmental challenges and achieve long-term goals. In response to this growing interest from the Congressmen, the Embassy organized a business meet where lawmakers of the Guatemalan Parliament could interact with the Ambassador to exchange ideas and explore potential areas of collaboration. This event provided a valuable opportunity to advance India's interests in the region and served as a platform for meaningful discussions, fostering collaboration. Furthermore, it bolstered India's presence in the region and reaffirmed its commitment to bilateral cooperation and economic development.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra highlighted the significant strides made by India in infrastructure development, attributing this success to Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). He emphasized how India's robust economic growth has positioned it as the fastest-growing economy globally, expanding India's influence on regions where its presence was previously limited. This expansion underscores India's commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the ancient Indian philosophy that translates to "the world is one family," emphasizing the interconnectedness and united development of all nations. Dr. Mohapatra extended an invitation to all Congressmen to participate in this remarkable infrastructural growth story, emphasizing the inclusive nature of India's development agenda. He reiterated India's commitment to assisting in the

infrastructural development of Guatemala, emphasizing the importance of strengthening ties and promoting shared values. Dr. Mohapatra highlighted spirit of Make in India igniting a wave of entrepreneurship and industrial growth that has revolutionized India's global footprint. Ten years of Make in India shows the world that India is not just a market, but a producer, a creator, and a global economic force. India's emphasized India's Local Goes Global initiative celebrating the essence of our rich, diverse craftsmanship, empowering local artisans and industries to reach global markets, transforming tradition into global innovation and opportunity."

Several Congressmen expressed their views commending India's remarkable



Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra highlighted ten years of Make in India which marks a journey of self-reliance, making India a synonym for competitiveness

economic growth and impressive infrastructure development, acknowledging the strides made under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. They underscored the positive impact of international partnerships and the role of India as a reliable partner in supporting the developmental aspirations of Guatemala. Mayor Fernando Lopez of Xela expressed shared his experience of his last visit to India and confidence in the capabilities of Indian companies to execute the five infrastructure projects planned for Xela. He highlighted the expertise and professionalism demonstrated by Indian firms, which he believed would contribute significantly to the development and modernization of his municipality.

During the event, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra donated Diclofenac doses to Mayor Juan Fernando López of Xela, addressing the municipality's healthcare needs. The event also witnessed felicitation to Dr. S.V. Anchan, Chairman, Safesea Group, a Global Shipping Company, for the development of infrastructure in Guatemala.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage with lawmakers from Guatemala and convey the Indian Government's vision to support countries in the Global South. These interactions foster trust and strengthen the bond between India and Guatemala at the highest levels. The Government of Guatemala has consistently supported India's initiatives, creating a conducive environment for Indian companies to thrive. Engaging with representatives from multiple political parties further deepens bilateral cooperation, paving the way for enhanced collaboration in areas of mutual interest, which will ultimately benefit both nations in their developmental goals.

(Based on a press release issued by Embassy of India in Guatemala)

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History This Week SEP 27 - OCT 03

SEPTEMBER 27

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

September 27, 1995 - The Israeli cabinet agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank which had been occupied by Israel for 28 years.



Birthdays - American revolutionary leader Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a passionate, vocal man who helped ignite the revolution and served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

Birthdays - American political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was born in Landau, Germany. He originated the symbols for the two main U.S. political parties, the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast was also instrumental in destroying the Tweed Ring, a group of corrupt politicians plundering the New York City treasury.

SEPTEMBER 28

September 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

September 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.

September 28, 1978 - Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. He was succeeded by John Paul II.



September 28, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House establishing Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

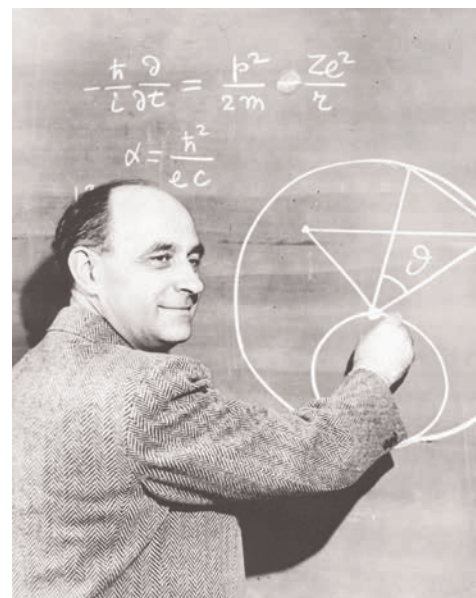
SEPTEMBER 29

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

September 29, 1829 - Britain's "bobbies" made their first public appearance. Greater London's Metropolitan Police

force was established by an act of Parliament at the request of Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, after whom they were nicknamed. The force later became known as Scotland Yard, the site of their first headquarters.

September 29-30, 1941 - Nazis killed 33,771 Jews during the Babi Yar massacre near Kiev.

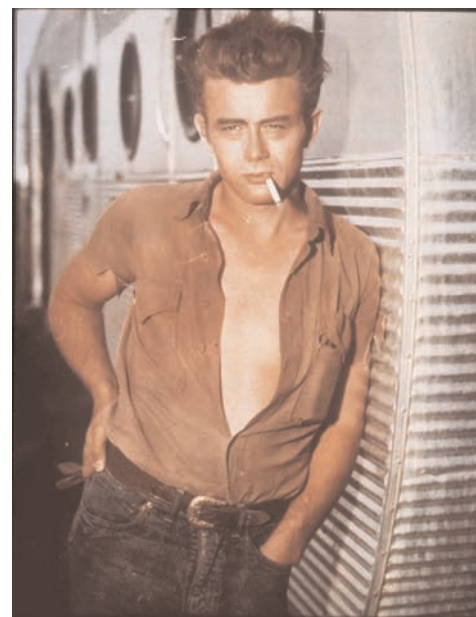


Birthdays - Nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) was born in Rome. While teaching at the University of Chicago, he developed a method of causing nuclear fission, producing a chain reaction releasing explosive nuclear energy which led to the development of the Atomic bombs.

SEPTEMBER 30

September 30, 1938 - British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England declaring there would be "peace in our time," after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler. The Pact ceded the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland to the Nazis. Chamberlain claimed the agreement meant peace, however, Hitler seized all of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.



September 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at

age 24. Although he made just three major films, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *East of Eden* and *Giant*, he remains one of the most influential actors.

September 30, 1966 - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.

Birthdays - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*.

OCTOBER 1

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 1, 1938 - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. In an effort to avoid war, the leaders of Britain and France had agreed to cede the German-speaking area to Hitler, who later broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.

October 1, 1946 - Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

October 1, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

October 1, 1979 - After 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama.



Birthdays - Virtuoso pianist Vladimir Horowitz (1904-1989) was born in Berdichev, Russia. He made his American debut in 1928 with the New York Philharmonic and became a U.S. citizen in 1944. In 1986, after a self-imposed absence of 60 years, he performed a concert in his native Russia.

OCTOBER 2

October 2, 1935 - Mussolini's Italian troops invaded Abyssinia, beginning an occupation lasting until 1941.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing

discrimination and the death penalty, and for championing free speech and civil liberties.

October 2, 1968 - California's Redwood National Park was established. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet (120 meters) during a lifetime that can span 2,000 years.

October 2, 1975 - Japanese Emperor Hirohito made his first-ever visit to the White House.



Birthdays - Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi (1869-1948) was born in Porbandar, India. He achieved worldwide fame for his devout lifestyle and nonviolent resistance which ended British rule over India. He was assassinated by a religious fanatic in the garden of his home in New Delhi on January 30, 1948.

Birthdays - American statesman Cordell Hull (1871-1955) was born in Pickett County, Tennessee. He served in both houses of Congress, as Secretary of State, and was instrumental in the establishment of the United Nations.

OCTOBER 3

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 3, 1929 - Yugoslavia became the official name of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

October 3, 1932 - Iraq gained independence from Britain and joined the League of Nations.



October 3, 1974 - Frank Robinson was hired by the Cleveland Indians as baseball's first African American major league manager.

October 3, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.



Shakib retires from T20Is, says Kanpur Test could be his last

The second Test against India this week could be Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's last in this format if he is denied a home farewell next month, the under-pressure player said in an abrupt announcement.

Shakib was a member of parliament for the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, whose 15-year rule as prime minister ended in August with her fleeing to India following deadly protests. Shakib is considered the greatest cricketer Bangladesh has produced but his political past places the former captain in a tricky position as an interim government supervises a power transition. Shakib has not been home since protests erupted in July but the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has assured him he will not be harassed on his return.

"I am available for the South Africa series but since there's a lot happening back home, naturally not everything depends on me," Shakib said. "I have discussed my plans about Test cricket with the BCB..." he said while also announcing his retirement from T20 Internationals with immediate effect.

How India came to dominate the chessboard

HULUNBUIR (TIP)

At the felicitation function for the Indian chess contingent, back from the Budapest Olympiad with four individual golds and the team golds, grandmaster Abhijit Kunte had an anecdote to share from his first Olympiad. The year was 1998, and the scene was set in Elista, a city in Russia's Kalmykia republic.

"Garry Kasparov was playing in the Elista Olympiad. We used to go before the games started to take his autograph. Kasparov would give autographs only on chess books written by him," recounts Kunte. "This time, when I went to the Olympiad in Budapest, I saw children running for autographs of our Indian players. We are no more seeking autographs, we are giving them," said Kunte, captain of the women's team.

Over the course of a heady fortnight in Budapest, the axis of the world of chess had tilted decisively — towards India. At this year's Chess Olympiad in the Hungarian capital, the Indian chess contingent swept the three team gold medals on offer — the 'Hamilton-Russell Cup' for the open section, the 'Vera Menchik Cup' for the women's section and the 'Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy' for the overall title. To add to those three team golds, there were also four individual golds won by Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal.

The Indian team in the open section of the Olympiad — a biennial team event where over 180 nations participated — was so dominant that it finished four points ahead of five



other teams who ended second, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, China, Serbia and Armenia. At the last Olympiad in Chennai in 2022, the Indian chess contingent came close to winning two gold medals, but stumbled at the final hurdle. But this time, there was no stopping the Indians. "If this success had come in the Chennai Olympiad two years ago, it would have had the sense of a slight accident. A pleasant surprise. At the Budapest Olympiad, very quickly, by the fourth round itself, I had the feeling, 'which team is going to stop them?' And we know the answer. They won by a four-point gap," five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand said at an event in Mumbai.

On the live world rankings, which are updated in real-time, there are currently three Indians in the top 10 — Gukesh, Arjun and Anand — with Praggnanandhaa just outside. Three

Indian men and two women also qualified for the Candidates tournament in April. Held in Toronto this year, the tournament — which accommodates only eight players in each category and is held to find a challenger to the world champion — saw 17-year-old Gukesh becoming the youngest player to qualify for the World Championship.

After Gukesh won the Candidates, the legendary Garry Kasparov had remarked: "The Indian earthquake in Toronto is the culmination of the shifting tectonic plates in the chess world... The children of Vishy Anand are on the loose."

"You can have a lot of trophies but the Olympiad gold is special. It establishes your dominance as a team and as a country," Indian team captain Srinath Narayanan told The Indian Express.

Source: The Indian Express

Tamim Iqbal questions DRS decision that went in India's favor

KANPUR (TIP)

Former Bangladesh cricket team captain Tamim Iqbal questioned the DRS decision that led to Shadman Islam's dismissal on Day 1 of the second Test match against India in Kanpur on Friday, September 27.

The dismissal led to a debate between Tamim and former Indian cricketers Ravi Shastri and Dinesh Karthik. The ball-tracking technology decided that it was a dismissal but Tamim was of the opinion that it was sliding down the leg-side. Akash Deep was convinced that it was a dismissal and after the successful review, even Rohit was left stunned. It was a very important wicket for India in that situation but Tamim was not convinced and he raised questions about the DRS technology used in that particular delivery.

"I thought that was sliding down the leg stump but DRS had other ideas," Tamim said in commentary.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri,



who was in the commentary box with Tamim, disagreed to his statement and said that the camera angles can sometimes create an illusion.

"DK spoke about the camera angles. It's not always absolutely straight, so it can give the impression that it is sliding down. Bounce was never going to be an issue in Kanpur. The Indian team was also surprised. There was only one

member who believed it was out and that was Akash Deep," said Shastri.

Akash Deep was impressive in a probing opening spell while Ravichandran Ashwin removed the dangerous Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto before rain halted India's progress in the second Test on the opening day on Friday.

Given the forecast, it was expected to

be a weather-hit contest from the beginning. Only 35 overs could be bowled after Rohit Sharma invited Bangladesh to bat in overcast conditions as visitors struggled to 107 for three after a brief resistance through Shanto (31).

Mominul Haque (40 batting) and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim (6) were at the crease when heavens opened up.

Overnight rain had delayed the start of the match by an hour. Heavy overcast conditions influenced India's team selection as the hosts kept all three pacers from the Chennai Test, which meant that local boy Kuldeep Yadav missed out on another Test match. Akash (2/14 in 10 overs), who bowled round the wicket to the left-handers, consistently hit the good length areas and got the ball to either shape away or come in with the angle.

Shanto (57 balls, 4x6), though, batted with positive intent, if not combative, to ensure Bangladesh don't lose way from the start.



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