



The INDIAN PANORAMA

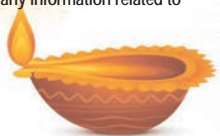
will bring out a profusely illustrated edition in celebration of Diwali which falls on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

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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Israel continues its extensive bombing campaign in southern Lebanon

IRAN WILL ATTACK ISRAEL AGAIN IF NECESSARY, SAYS IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER

OCTOBER 4, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP)

Data from a conflict monitoring group shows that Israel, which is at war with the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, is carrying out the "most intense aerial campaign" outside of Gaza in the last two decades. To put it into context: Over the course of two days, on September 24 and September 25, the Israel military said it used 2,000 munitions and carried out 3,000 strikes. In comparison, for most of America's 20-year war in Afghanistan, the US carried out less than 3,000 strikes a year, barring the first year of the invasion, according to data from Airwars analyzed by CNN.

Here is the latest situation

Israeli airstrike on Lebanon-Syria border: The strike, an official said, destroyed the road leading to the Masnaa



Buildings in Beirut reduced to rubble in Israeli strikes.

crossing with Syria, a major transport link that tens of thousands of people have used to flee the escalation of hostilities.

Israel also struck the Masnaa crossing area in its last all-out war with Hezbollah in 2006.

UN Security Council backs Guterres after Israel bars him from country

OCTOBER 4, 2024

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

The United Nations Security Council on Thursday, October 3, 2024, expressed its full support for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres after Israel's foreign minister said he was barring him from entering the country.

The 15-member council said in a statement that "any decision not to engage with the U.N. Secretary-General or the United Nations is counterproductive, especially in the context of escalating tensions in the Middle East."

'Sickening cycle of escalation' in Mideast must stop, says UN chief Antonio Guterres

The statement did not name Israel. Such statements by the council are agreed by consensus. Israel's Foreign Minister said on



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday, October 2, condemned Iran's missile attack on Israel, telling the Security Council the "deadly cycle of tit-for-tat violence must stop."

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, that he was barring U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres from entering the country because he had not "unequivocally" condemned Iran's missile attack on Israel.

SC ropes in CBI to probe Tirupati laddu case; new SIT to have FSSAI representative too

OCTOBER 4, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP)



The court had agreed that the allegations had the "potential to hurt the sentiments of people world-wide".

The Supreme Court on Friday, October 4, 2024, constituted an "independent" five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) consisting of two Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers to replace the one formed by the Andhra Pradesh government to probe Chief Minister N. Chandrababu

Naidu's allegations of contaminated ghee used for the preparation of Tirupati laddus during the previous Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) regime in the State.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said it did not want the ruling Telugu Desam Party of Mr. Naidu and the YSRCP of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to utilize

Vance, Walz clash on 2020 election results, economy, reproductive rights in civil debate

OCTOBER 2, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP)

U.S. Vice Presidential Candidates - Minnesota's Democrat Governor Tim Walz and Republican Senator from Ohio, J.D. Vance - argued over the 2020 election results, foreign policy, the economy, immigration, gun control, abortion rights and the presidential candidates' records, at their first and only televised debate as the U.S. heads towards a general election on November 5. The 90-minute debate, hosted by CBS News in New York, was markedly civil given the bitterly polarized context and heated presidential debate last month between Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump.

In the context of Tuesday's Iranian missile strike on Israel, Mr. Walz emphasized the importance of alliances and the need for "steady" leadership, which he said Ms. Harris would provide. Mr.



Republican vice-presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, left, and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, shake hands as they arrive for a CBS News vice presidential debate, October 1, 2024, in New York. Screengrab

Vance spoke of "peace through strength" and no major war breaking during the Trump presidency.

Mr. Vance, who has been lagging behind his fellow Midwesterner, Mr. Walz, went into damage-control mode on reproductive rights, with the GOP vulnerable to losing the support of women in significant numbers due to its position on reproductive issues and the overturning of Roe v Wade



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COMMENT

Poll-time parole : Dera chief's release is BJP's last-ditch gambit

The timing is a dead giveaway. Dera Sacha Sauda head and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been released on parole barely three days ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. This is the last roll of the dice by the ruling BJP, which is desperate to counter anti-incumbency and withstand the Congress challenge. Ram Rahim continues to have a sizeable following in parts of the state - notwithstanding his conviction in rape and murder cases - and even his covert diktat to his flock can have a bearing on the saffron party's fortunes. During the parole period, the dera head will not be allowed to enter Haryana or take part in election-related activities. However,

these restrictions are a mere fig leaf - Ram Rahim will have the leeway to influence voters without being present on ground zero, thanks to social media and word-of-mouth publicity. In any case, he does not have to make a public speech to get his message across to his devotees.

There are no prizes for guessing what 'compelling reasons' prompted the dera chief to seek parole weeks after he had returned to Rohtak's Sunaria jail following a 21-day furlough. The alacrity with which his plea has been processed and pushed - from the caretaker Chief Minister's office to the Prisons Department and then the state's Chief Electoral Officer - shows that the authorities can dispense with the

cumbersome red tape whenever they want to do it.

The Congress' petition to the Election Commission of India, demanding that parole not be granted as it would amount to a violation of the Model Code of Conduct, has gone in vain. It's a moot point whether the 'Messenger of God' can make a divine intervention to decisively impact the electoral outcome. Ram Rahim might not be as powerful as he was a decade ago, but the ease with which he has secured parole and furlough in recent years indicates that he is no pushover. One thing is crystal clear: his release will force the BJP's rivals to recalibrate their strategy, and that too at the eleventh hour. (Tribune, India)

GUEST COMMENT

Split decision: On the rivalry between the two NCP factions

THE ECI AND THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER HAVE NOT PLAYED FAIR IN CASES OF DEFECTION

In the run-up to the impending election to the Maharashtra Assembly, the rivalry between the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), now operating as separate parties, will have its inevitable influence on political developments and electoral outcomes. In the latest development related to the rift, NCP founder Sharad Pawar has approached the Supreme Court for a direction to the NCP led by Ajit Pawar to opt for a new symbol in the Assembly elections. The NCP's 'clock' symbol is with the Ajit Pawar group, following a ruling by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in February, recognizing it as the official NCP. There is some logic to the demand that the Ajit Pawar group give up the 'clock' now. The ECI's order has already been challenged in the Supreme Court. Oral observations in early hearings indicated that there are some doubts about the 'legislative majority' test adopted by the ECI while recognizing the Ajit Pawar faction as the NCP and allotting the 'clock' to the group. The ECI's order had justified the use of the legislative majority test by observing that the test on which group had organizational majority was inconclusive, as was the test based on the party's 'aims and objectives'. Mr. Ajit Pawar revolted against his uncle and joined the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance and became part of the ruling Maha Yuti coalition, while the NCP (Sharad Pawar) is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, the opposition combine that includes the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress.

However, in the Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Ajit Pawar's group won only one seat, while Mr. Sharad Pawar's party, using the symbol of a 'man blowing a turha' (trumpet), won eight, besides polling a much higher number of votes. The outcome raises the question whether the legislative majority during a given period could be used to gain or lose recognition. Further, Mr. Sharad Pawar has argued that the 'clock' has been the NCP's reserved symbol for many years and allotting it to one group may cause confusion in the voters' minds. The court will have to decide whether to have a level-playing field by denying the 'clock' symbol to both sides, or let the recognized faction use the symbol as long as the ECI order is in force. Such disputes, including the other major rift in Maharashtra over who represents the Shiv Sena, pose a challenge to the ability of parties to maintain organizational unity in the face of attempts to split them through defection and rebellion. The fate of the individuals and parties involved often depend on the Speaker under the anti-defection law and the ECI, which accords recognition to parties and allots symbols. Both institutions seem to need the Supreme Court to keep them honest.

(The Hindu)

GUEST COMMENT

SEBI tightens rules: Essential to protect small investors

The tightening of rules for investors by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is a pragmatic move to cool the frenzy to make easy money in the derivatives market. Reports suggest that lakhs of rookie traders have ventured into the risky futures and options segment, treating it almost like an online casino. India is now the world's largest equity derivatives market. The downside is reflected in a recent SEBI study. In nearly 93 per cent of individual options, traders incurred an average loss of Rs 2 lakh in the high risk-reward market over the last three financial years. The regulator has now increased the entry barriers and made it more expensive to trade, in a bid to dissuade retail investors from speculating on risky contracts. SEBI says the measures will safeguard small investors and enhance market stability.

A worrying aspect is that more than three-fourths of the loss-making traders are continuing their activity. The regulatory action follows multiple concerns being raised, including by the Reserve Bank of India, about mounting losses of household savings by those taking punts. The implementation of measures recommended by an expert panel is expected to deter excessive speculation, especially by those who may not have the capacity to absorb larger losses. Some of the changes are set to take effect from November 20.

The booming stock market has resulted in an increasing number of middle-class households investing their savings in equities. A survey says that most of them reside in smaller cities and are below the age of 40. The problem to contend with is that uninformed and uneducated investors are becoming prey to this retail speculative mania. SEBI's intervention is a step in the right direction.

(Tribune, India)

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The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Call for Global Intervention to Prevent World War III



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, stretching back over a century, has been one of the most enduring and volatile disputes in modern history. In recent years, particularly with the leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this conflict has escalated to dangerous new heights. At its core, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict involves territorial disputes, religious differences, and issues of national identity. However, as tensions rise, it is not just the Middle East that faces a dangerous future—the entire world may be on the precipice of a catastrophic Third World War if hostilities are not brought to a halt.

The origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century, when waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine, then under Ottoman rule, began as part of the Zionist movement. The Zionist aim was to establish a Jewish homeland in response to centuries of anti-Semitism and persecution in Europe. This increased tension between Jewish and Arab communities in the region, especially as both groups laid claim to the same land.

After World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the British took control of Palestine under a League of Nations mandate. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, which promised a Jewish homeland in Palestine, further inflamed Arab resentment. Jewish immigration continued, and by the time of World War II, tensions had escalated into violence between the two communities.

The United Nations' 1947 partition plan proposed a division of the land into separate Jewish and Arab states, but this was rejected by Arab leaders, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Israel declared independence, and its victory in that war resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, an event known as the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic).

Since then, Israel has fought several wars with its Arab neighbors, while the Palestinian people have remained stateless. Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem following the 1967 Six-Day War has been a flashpoint for the conflict. Despite attempts at peace—such as the Oslo Accords of the 1990s—the conflict remains unresolved, and the situation has only worsened in recent years.

One of the reasons the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has persisted for so long is the political dynamic within Israel, particularly under the leadership

of Benjamin Netanyahu. As Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Netanyahu has built much of his political career on the premise of Israel's survival being contingent on strong leadership, especially in the face of external threats. He has continually portrayed Palestinians and their allies as existential enemies of the Israeli state.

Netanyahu's political survival has often seemed intertwined with the perpetuation of conflict. During times of relative peace, he has faced increased



scrutiny at home over allegations of corruption and mismanagement. However, during periods of heightened conflict, Netanyahu has consistently positioned himself as the indispensable protector of Israeli security. By framing the conflict as one of survival, he rallies public opinion around his leadership, diverting attention from domestic scandals and other pressing issues.

It is easy to see why the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, under Netanyahu, has become an endless loop. Whenever there is a glimpse of potential peace, or when international pressure for negotiations mounts, Netanyahu's government has often taken hardline stances, continuing settlements in the West Bank or carrying out military operations in Gaza. As long as the conflict remains unresolved, Netanyahu maintains his narrative of being the only leader capable of defending Israel against its enemies.

On the other side of the conflict, the Palestinians view themselves as a people who have been systematically denied their right to self-determination. For decades, they have lived under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, facing restrictions on movement, economic hardship, and frequent military incursions. The situation in Gaza, in particular, has been described

by international organizations as a humanitarian crisis, with blockades limiting access to basic necessities.

The Palestinian leadership, divided between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza, has been unable to present a unified front in negotiations. Hamas, considered a terrorist organization by Israel and many Western countries, sees the conflict as a religious struggle against Israeli occupation. However, both Palestinian factions, along with much of

from entering the country after he failed to condemn Iran for its alleged involvement in attacks on Israel. This incident underscores the extent to which international institutions have been sidelined in the conflict, with neither side trusting the UN to broker a fair resolution.

Moreover, global powers, including the United States, Russia, China, and the European Union, have been reluctant to take meaningful action. Each has its own geopolitical interests in the region, and these interests often conflict with the goal of achieving peace. The U.S., for instance, has been Israel's staunchest ally, providing it with military aid and diplomatic cover at the UN. Meanwhile, Russia and Iran have supported Palestinian factions, particularly Hamas, as part of their broader strategy to challenge U.S. influence in the Middle East.

If these global powers continue to prioritize their own strategic interests over the need for peace, the conflict could spiral out of control. A regional war involving Israel, Palestine, Iran, and their respective allies could easily draw in the U.S., Russia, and other major powers. Given the advanced military capabilities of these nations, including nuclear arsenals, the risk of a Third World War is a very real and terrifying prospect.

It is clear that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not resolve itself, nor will it be solved through force of arms. Wars in the modern world bring only destruction and misery, and no nation can remain unaffected by the chaos that ensues in another, regardless of geographic distance. In an interconnected world, the instability of one region can easily ripple across borders, disrupting global economies, displacing populations, and increasing the threat of terrorism.

The world must act collectively and decisively to bring an end to this conflict. Nations should put aside their individual agendas and unite in their efforts to mediate peace. There must be renewed international pressure on both Israel and Palestine to return to the negotiating table and work toward a two-state solution that respects the rights and security of both peoples.

India, with its ancient philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world is one family—offers a valuable lesson in diplomacy. When there is conflict within a family, the other members must step in and mediate to bring about reconciliation. The international community must adopt this mindset and take the necessary steps to prevent a global catastrophe.

The time to act is now. If the world continues to ignore the escalating violence in the Middle East, we may find ourselves facing a war the like of which we have not seen since 1945. Let us not wait until it is too late.

the Arab world, insist that Palestinians must have the right to an independent state.

For Palestinians, the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank is a symbol of the ongoing denial of their sovereignty. These settlements, which violate international law, have grown under Netanyahu's watch, further entrenching the occupation. Many Palestinians, especially younger generations, have lost faith in the possibility of a two-state solution and instead demand equality and civil rights in a single, binational state—a prospect Israel vehemently opposes.

While the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a localized struggle, its potential to ignite a broader, global conflict should not be underestimated. As we have seen in recent years, regional wars often have international consequences. The Middle East, already a powder keg of sectarian violence, geopolitical rivalries, and foreign intervention, could easily become the stage for a much larger war involving global powers.

The United Nations, which was founded to prevent precisely this kind of escalation, has been largely ineffective in addressing the conflict. In fact, Israel recently barred UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Jasveen Sangha, 'the Ketamine queen', trial looms as 1 doctor admits guilt in Matthew Perry death

OCTOBER 3, 2024

LOS ANGELES (TIP)

Jasveen Sangha has been accused of selling 50 vials of ketamine to Perry over two weeks.

One of two California doctors who were among the five people charged in the overdose death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry pleaded guilty on Wednesday, October 2, to illegally distributing the drug ketamine.

Dr. Mark Chavez of San Diego entered the plea during an appearance in US District Court in Los Angeles. He could face up to 10 years in prison at his sentencing, which was scheduled for April.

Another physician charged in the case, Dr. Salvador Plasencia, has pleaded not guilty, as has co-defendant Jasveen Sangha, who authorities said was an illicit supplier of the drug and was known as the "ketamine queen." The pair are scheduled to go on trial in March.

Perry's live-in personal assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, who admitted to injecting Perry with the drug, and the alleged middleman who said he obtained ketamine from Sangha, have already pleaded guilty to charges they faced.

Authorities said Plasencia purchased ketamine from



Another physician charged in case Dr Salvador Plasencia has pleaded not guilty, as has co-defendant Jasveen Sangha, who authorities said was an illicit supplier of the drug.

Chavez, and in text messages to Chavez discussing the amount to charge Perry for the drug wrote: "I wonder how much this moron will pay."

In court on Wednesday, Chavez, 54, stood at a podium

and answered "yes, your honor" to a series of questions.

The defendant admitted to obtaining ketamine with a fraudulent prescription written for another patient and that he knew the drug was intended for Perry.

He also acknowledged providing ketamine, a short-acting anesthetic, to Plasencia, and that he understood it should only be administered under medical supervision with proper safety equipment nearby.

According to court documents, Plasencia administered ketamine to Perry at the actor's home and supplied vials that were injected by the assistant. Plasencia's lawyer has said his client properly prescribed and administered ketamine to Perry.

Perry died at age 54 in October 2023 from "acute effects" of ketamine and other factors that caused him to lose consciousness and drown in his hot tub, according to a December 2023 autopsy report.

The actor had publicly acknowledged decades of substance abuse, including during the years he starred as Chandler Bing on the hit 1990s television sitcom "Friends." Chavez pleaded guilty under an agreement with prosecutors, who offered him lesser charges for his assistance in their case against Plasencia and Sangha.

Indian American Dr. Jay Verma, called 'Covid Czar', caught in drugs-fueled sex-party scandal

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP)

The Indian American doctor, Jay Varma, who received accolades for steering the city through the pandemic as the "Covid Czar" now finds his reputation in tatters after he boasted about hosting a sex party while the city was locked down on his instructions and people were ordered to socially distance. A woman working with a conservative podcaster secretly recorded him making X-rated boasts about being at a sex party he and his wife, also a doctor, hosted at a hotel, and dancing away at a party with 200 people at an underground site in a bank building on Wall Street. He also spoke in the video of using an illegal psychedelic drug known as MDMA or ecstasy, which can get anyone possessing it a prison term.

He has drawn the ire of politicians and citizens after the podcaster made the videos public earlier this month. This video appearance was a far cry from his almost daily presence on TV alongside then-Mayor Bill de Blasio to report on the pandemic and advise New Yorkers on fighting it.

He was recently fired from his post-Covid job as the chief medical officer and executive vice president of a pharmaceutical company, while the media, politicians and activists poured scorn on him.

The city's compulsory vaccination program was opposed by both the extreme right and the left, and the opponents have zeroed in on him as the man behind the mandates -- like other sceptics have attacked the federal Covid czar Anthony Fauci, who was an almost revered figure at the height of the pandemic.

About 100 city workers, who had lost their jobs for not following the mandate for Covid vaccination, held a demonstration outside the City Hall, while inside a Republican council woman accused him of perjury for filing affidavits supporting compulsory vaccination. Varma has not denied the basic facts but said the tapes in the video were spliced out of context. "I take responsibility for not using the best judgment at the time," his statement said.



Dr. Jay Verma

Steven Crowder, the podcaster, was out to discredit him on the policies for the vaccine and mask mandates, and the order to keep schools closed during the pandemic, but the undercover reporter stumbled on the embarrassing personal admissions.

"I did all this deviant, sexual stuff while I was on TV (as city health official) and people were like, 'Aren't you afraid? Aren't you embarrassed? And I was like, no, I really like being my authentic self,'" Varma says in the video. He is seen on the video shot at several locations dropping salacious details like "sometimes it isn't so much about, like, penetrative sexual stuff" and "being naked with friends". His high point was when the floundering city reached out in April 2020 to Varma, an epidemiologist with an international reputation to help it face the crisis. A Harvard graduate, Varma worked for the Centers for Disease Control and built a reputation as an international epidemiologist, often flying to hotspots and being posted to China, Thailand, and Ethiopia. Another Indian American doctor, Dave Chokshi, was appointed the city's commissioner and the duo was credited with helping the city weather the crisis after the previous commissioner was fired.

Chokshi is unscathed by any scandal, and so is his successor, another Indian American, Ashwin Vasan.

Vasan recently announced that he was resigning in a move unrelated to the scandal or any other problem. Since the pandemic began 6.7 million New Yorkers have been infected with Covid and 77,423 have died. Although the US mainstream media bars its journalists from making secret videos or tapes, activist journalists use them frequently, even against the mainstream media. One of the tactics, like the one used against Varma, is for a reporter to befriend the target and win their trust by playing to their ego.

Two prominent politicians have also run into trouble over parties held when they imposed restrictions: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for a birthday party at his official residence, and California Governor Gavin Newsom for attending a dinner party at a restaurant.

Indian American judge KP George indicted with staging racist attacks on himself to gain voter sympathy

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

FORT BEND COUNTY, TX (TIP)

Fort Bend County Judge KP George has been indicted on a misdemeanor charge of misrepresenting identity as a candidate during his 2022 reelection campaign. The indictment comes amidst allegations that George collaborated with a former employee, Taral Patel, to post fake racist attacks against himself on social media to gain sympathy from voters. George was booked into the Fort Bend County Jail on Thursday, September 26, at 7:15 p.m. and was released shortly after on a \$1,000 bond. The indictment claims that George knew Patel used a fake Facebook account under the alias "Antonio Scalywag" to post racist messages targeting George and South Asians, including derogatory comments about the Hindu religion. The posts were allegedly intended to portray George as a victim of racism, thereby influencing the electorate. The allegations against George emerged during an investigation into Patel, who is now running against Andy Meyers for Precinct 3 county commissioner. Patel, who worked as a consultant for George's reelection campaign, was arrested in June on charges of online impersonation and misrepresentation. Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office investigators found that Patel's fake social media account also targeted Meyers before Patel announced his own campaign. According to the warrant, cell phone records showed conversations between Patel and a contact saved as "KP George," discussing the press release that George later issued condemning the racist attacks. Patel sought approval from George for the press release, which included screenshots of the posts made by "Antonio Scalywag." Investigators also found that George had responded to Patel's messages about using the fake account to counter social media criticisms with a "Thank you," and suggested edits to the press release text.



Judge KP George

In a statement released Thursday night, George expressed his disappointment with the charges but maintained his innocence. "Although I am disappointed by the charges brought against me, I am confident that when all the facts are presented, justice will prevail. In this country, you are innocent until proven guilty, and I fully intend to prove my innocence in court. My focus remains on serving the people of Fort Bend County, as I was elected to do," George said, rejecting calls for his resignation. George is set to face legal proceedings, where he will seek to clear his name. Meanwhile, Patel's charges, which include similar allegations of online impersonation, continue to draw attention as he campaigns against Meyers.

Two Indian Americans named White House Fellows

OCTOBER 4, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Nalini Tata and Padmini Pillai have been appointed to the 2024-2025 class of White House Fellows on Thursday, October 3.

In all, 15 exceptionally-talented individuals from across the United States have been named to this prestigious programme. Fellows spend a year working with senior White House staff, cabinet secretaries and other top-ranking administration officials, and leave the administration equipped to serve as better leaders in their communities. While Tata is placed at the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, Pillai is placed at the Social Security Administration, the White House said in a media release. Pillai is an immunoengineer bridging the gap between discoveries in immunology and advances in biomaterial design to treat human disease. She has led a team at the MIT developing a tumor-selective nanotherapy to eliminate hard-to-treat cancers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pillai was featured in several media outlets, including "CNBC", "The Atlantic"



Padmini Pillai and Nalini Tata.

and "The New York Times", to discuss vaccination, immunity and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable communities.

Pillai received her PhD in immunobiology from the Yale University and a BA in biochemistry from the Regis College.

Tata is a neurosurgery resident at the New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Centre/Memorial

Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, where she helps treat the spectrum of emergency and elective neurosurgical conditions between a level-1 trauma center and a world-renowned cancer institute.

Her published work spans clinical and non-scientific journals, with a focus on advancing equity in access to care. Her career in neurosurgery and long-standing interest in public policy are closely bound by a deep-rooted dedication to public service. She received her BSc in neurobiology from the Brown University, MPhil from the University of Cambridge, MD from the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and MPP in Democracy, Politics, and Institutions from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

According to the White House, this year's Fellows advanced through a highly-competitive selection process, and they are a remarkably gifted, passionate and accomplished group. These Fellows bring experience from across the country and from a broad cross-section of professions, including from the private sector, state government, academia, non-profits, medicine and the armed forces, it said.

Indian American professor researching Dalit women gets \$800k MacArthur 'genius' grant

OCTOBER 3, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP)

An Indian American professor, Shailaja Paik, conducting research on and writing about Dalit women has received a \$800,000 "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation which gives out awards every year to people with extraordinary achievements or potential.

Announcing her fellowship, the Foundation said, "Through her focus on the multifaceted experiences of Dalit women, Paik elucidates the enduring nature of caste discrimination and the forces that perpetuate untouchability."

Paik is a distinguished research professor of history at the University of Cincinnati, where she is also an affiliate faculty in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Asian Studies.

"Paik provides new insight into the history of caste domination and traces the ways in which gender and sexuality are used to deny Dalit women dignity and personhood," the Foundation said.

The MacArthur Fellowships, popularly known as "genius" grants, are given to people across a spectrum from academia and science to arts and activism, who according to the Foundation are "extraordinarily talented and creative individuals as an investment in their potential".

The selections are made anonymously based on recommendations received and it does not allow applications or lobbying for the grants, which come without any strings and are spread over five years.

The Foundation said that her recent project focused "on the lives of women performers of Tamasha, a popular form of bawdy folk theatre that has been practiced predominantly by Dalits in Maharashtra for centuries".

"Despite the state's efforts to reframe Tamasha as an honorable and quintessentially Marathi cultural practice, ashliil (the mark of vulgarity)



Shailaja Paik, conducting research on and writing about Dalit women has received a \$800,000 "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

sticks to Dalit Tamasha women," it said.

Based on the project, she published a book, "The Vulgarity of Caste: Dalits, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India". It said, "Paik also critiques the narrative of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the twentieth century's most influential caste abolitionist" and the architect of India's Constitution.

In an interview with National Public Radio (NPR), the US government-subsidized broadcaster, she said that she was herself a member of the Dalit community who grew up in Pune in a slum area and was inspired by her father's dedication to education.

After getting her masters' degree from the Savitribai Phule University in Pune, she went to the University of Warwick in the UK for her PhD.

She did a stint as a visiting assistant professor of South Asian history at Yale University.

Since the program began in 1981, fellowships have been granted to 1,153 people.

Previous MacArthur Fellows include writers Ruth Praver Jhabvala, and Ved Mehta, poet A.K. Ramanujam, economists Raj Chetty and Sendhil Mullainathan, mathematician L Mahadevan, computer scientists Subhash Khot and Shwetak Patel, physical biologist Manu Prakash, musician Vijay Gupta, community organizer Raj Jayadev, and lawyer and activist Sujatha Baliga.

Indian American commissioner Ajay Bhutoria praises US move to slash visa wait times for Indians

OCTOBER 1, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

An Indian American member of the Presidential Commission for Asian-Americans has welcomed the move to release an additional 250,000 visa appointments by the US Mission in India.

The US Mission in India opened the additional slots for travelers -- including tourists, skilled workers and students -- officials said on Monday, September 30.

The recently released slots will help Indian applicants take timely interviews, facilitating the travel which is the backbone of the people-to-people ties that underpin the US-India relationship, they said.

Reacting to the development, Ajay Bhutoria -- a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian-Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) -- said on Monday, September 30, "This is the direct result of one of my recommendations submitted earlier on the White House AANHPI commission.

"I am grateful to the US Embassy in India, particularly (US) Ambassador (to India) Eric Garcetti, for their dedicated efforts in addressing visa appointment wait times. The recent opening of 2,50,000 additional appointments is a significant step forward in supporting Indian travelers, including families and students, seeking to visit the US. While this achievement reflects the positive impact of my recommendations to the White House AANHPI commission, we must recognize that more work remains (to be done)," he said.

As a commissioner, Bhutoria submitted key recommendations aimed at reducing visa appointment waiting times and green card backlog reduction. These included increasing the number of visa appointments and



Ajay Bhutoria has welcomed the move to release an additional 250,000 visa appointments by the US Mission in India.

exploring innovative solutions such as video appointments.

"I believe these steps will further enhance accessibility and efficiency in the visa process. I am committed to further advocating for improvements to ensure that the visa process becomes more efficient for everyone. Together, we can continue to build stronger ties between our nations," he said.

More than 1.2 million Indians have travelled to the US so far in 2024, a 35 per cent increase over the same period in 2023.

Garcetti said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden set an ambitious goal to improve and expedite the visa process and I am proud to say that we have delivered on that promise. Our consular teams at the embassy and four consulates work tirelessly to ensure that we meet the surging demand.

In 2023, the US issued more than 140,000 student visas to Indians, which was more than in any other country, also setting a record for the third year in a row, according to figures released by the US Embassy and Consulates in India earlier this year.

Suozzi's Exceptional Constituent Services Make a Difference in Nassau and Queens

OCTOBER 1, 2024

GLEN COVE, NY (TIP): In the seven months since Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Nassau, Queens) won the February special election to regain his 3rd Congressional district seat, his two district offices in Queens and Nassau have delivered record-breaking constituent services.

In the first 200 days, Suozzi staff have assisted nearly 1,000 families with casework, resulting in a constituent savings windfall savings of \$1,470,702.

"I have always tried to be an 'ombudsman' representative, representing the interests of my constituents and maintaining a quality office staff tasked with advocating for constituents faced with administrative difficulties, especially those caused by federal agencies," explained Suozzi.

Suozzi has two office locations at 51 Glen Street in Glen Cove and another at 242-09 Northern Boulevard in Douglaston, Queens.

"If you can't get an answer from a federal agency in a timely fashion, or if you feel you have been treated unfairly, our office may be able to help resolve a problem or get you the information you need," Suozzi said.

Suozzi constituent caseworkers provide assistance to residents with a wide range of federal issues.

Issues with Social Security applications, checks, and benefits are common. There are also problems with Medicare, passports, small business loans, and other federal loan programs. The office also helps with grant applications and gets constituents access to Capitol tours and tickets.



We never forget the veterans. Suozzi with a Nassau County family that received a posthumous Purple Heart in Sea Cliff this past Memorial Day for their late Navy veteran relative.

Suozzi maintains a specific staff member to work with veterans on any issues they may have. Suozzi also assists young men and women seeking to apply to military academies.

"We never forget the Vet in our offices," boasted Suozzi.

The office can also send constituents congressional

commendations or presidential greetings, help people purchase flags flown over the Capitol, and help college students and recent graduates secure summer, fall, and spring semester internships.?

Some recent successful casework stories include working with the State Department to get a Glen Head family's young son from Azerbaijan to America for a life-saving heart operation and helping a disabled Hicksville retired police officer with his overdue \$27,000 income tax refund.

A 93-year-old Bethpage woman needed help with her SSI Social Security payments, and a Port Washington woman who had lost her passwords was unable to log in to her own financial accounts.

An 85-year-old Whitestone man needed replacement naturalization papers after his home was destroyed by fire in November 2021. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had replaced the papers but sent them to the wrong address, and office staff helped to get the paperwork to the correct address.

Oyster Bay town officials wanted to purchase some USPS excess property to provide access to nearby youth athletic fields and sought a meeting to facilitate the transaction. The Post Office bureaucrats in Washington balked, and Suozzi's office set the wheels in motion by scheduling a Zoom meeting.

Another highlight of constituent response was when a Nassau County family received a posthumous Purple Heart in Sea Cliff this past Memorial Day for their late Navy veteran relative.

"Helping Queens and Long Island families is one of my priorities in Congress," concluded Suozzi.

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- Applicant must either be US Citizen, Green Card holder or Permanent Resident, or hold valid visa and work permit at the time of recruitment. Proper Visa requirements/ renewal will need to be met by the applicants at their own expense.
- For job description and more details please visit <https://www.pminewyork.gov.in/vacancy>
- Resume/ CV along with copies of educational qualifications, passport, and visa (if applicable) may be sent by post/ e-mail/ by hand latest by **09 September 2024** to:

Attache (Admin)

Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations

235 East, 43rd Street, New York, NY-10017

Fax: (212)-490-9656/57

**E-mail: india.newyorkpmi@mea.gov.in ,
admn.newyorkpmi@mea.gov.in,
ga.newyorkpmi@mea.gov.in**



State Bank of India
New York

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): DATA CENTER DESIGN & BUILD

State Bank of India, New York Branch invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified vendors for the design and construction of a 700-900 sq. ft. Data Center with initial space for 5 Cabinets and potential expansion. The scope includes design, equipment, installation, electrical cabling, cooling, UPS, PDUs and monitoring systems. Interested vendors can submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) via email to vpsys.nyb@statebank.com on or before 5 PM, EST, October 20, 2024.

For more details, visit: <https://sbinewyork.statebank/others>
State Bank of India, New York Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.

Long Islanders raise \$125,000 for SHEOWS seniors' home in India



CEO of SHEOWS Saurabh Bhagat spoke about the vision and the work of the organization which is home to more than 500 seniors



Board Member Nitin Doshi addressing the gathering



Board Member Jaya Subramaniam addressing the gathering



Board Member Mohan Wanchoo addressing the gathering



Sunny and Kajal Gill enthralled the audience with their music and entertainment



Board Member Sharda and Chandra Bhansali addressed the audience

OCTOBER 3, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Prominent members of the Long Island community gathered in Hicksville on September 14 to raise funds for SHEOWS, an old

people's home in India that has been taking care of thousands of destitute seniors abandoned by their families.

Thanks to some philanthropists and generous donors, \$125,000 was raised at the annual charity gala held at the Pearl banquet hall. The proceeds go to Saint Hardy Educational and Orphan Welfare Society (sheows.org), which saves the lives of the abandoned, destitute, and homeless elderly at two centers in greater Delhi and one in Uttar Pradesh.

The Long Island team for SHEOWS comprising Mohan Wanchoo (Chairman, ECI MW Holding Co), Dr Nitin Doshi (Doshi Family Foundation), Sharada Bhansali (Co-founder of Accountants World) and Jaya Subramaniam (Executive at Definitive Healthcare) headlined the elegant event attended by

about 100 people. Dr Doshi, Mohan Wanchoo, Jaya Subramaniam, and Chandra Bhansali gave the audience an account of their experiences with SHEOWS and appealed to others to support this great cause. Dr Doshi was the first to start supporting SHEOWS some years ago, he said.

Saurabh Bhagat, CEO of SHEOWS, traveled from India to do a presentation at the gala on the work done by the initiative started by his grandfather in 2003.

SHEOWS is home to more than 500 seniors. Over the years they have rescued over 6,000 people and rehabilitated at least a third of them. A new state-of-the-art Old Age Center is being built in Gurugram, Haryana.

The organization reaches out to the abandoned among us and gives them

dignity. Their vehicle goes on the streets of Delhi and NCR to bring the abandoned elderlies to their facilities. The rescued people are bathed, fed, cleaned, and housed at one of their three centers/ashrams, where they also receive medical attention (including for dementia), counseling, legal counsel, and, most importantly, respect. When the time comes, they are bid an honorable farewell, observing all rites and rituals of the faith the person followed as they lived.

Sunny and Kajal Gill enthralled the audience with their music and entertainment at the event. Punita Bhansali was the MC for the evening. Gita Setia sang the National Anthems of America and India. Alka and Sanjiv Kohli handled the registration desk.

(Based on a press release from SHEOWS)



State Bank of India
New York

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): NETWORK EQUIPMENT SUPPLY & INSTALLATION AT NEW DATA CENTER

State Bank of India, New York branch invites authorized resellers of preferred OEMs to submit proposals for supply & installation of network devices at its new Data Centre. Interested vendors can submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) via email to vpsys.nyb@statebank.com on or before 5 PM, EST, October 20, 2024. The Bill of Materials (BOM) will be shared with selected vendors/resellers for quote/proposal.

For more details, visit: <https://sbinewyork.statebank/others>. State Bank of India, New York Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.

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Bridging the chasm of global inequality



BY
MUKUL SANWAL

THE BIG LESSON FROM THE SUMMIT IS THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE YET TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE U.N. SYSTEM

As global power shifts back to Asia, both giants are conscious that their ideas are different from the dominant view espoused by the West on how societies work, change, and can be influenced. In a nod to geopolitics, Asia needs to be involved more deeply from the very beginning in expert bodies on AI and GDP to shape global governance by defining global priorities, cooperation, and justice.

The Summit of the Future raises a set of fundamental questions on global governance: should the focus be on great power competition or continuing imbalance in the institutions, agenda setting, and global inequality? The former looks at the means and not the ends with a continuing debate on the meaning of justice.

Global goals do not resolve challenges; they support new forms of cooperation. The Summit resulted in a Global Digital Impact initiative and a Declaration on Future Generations, an inspirational call for national action. The concrete impact is an International Scientific Panel and a Global Dialogue on AI. An implementation map and intergovernmental consultations mirror how climate change came onto the global agenda 30 years ago. Climate change is now relegated to scaling up adaptation finance, and GDP will include sustainability. Developed countries continue to have the capacity to shape the global agenda.

The Summit did not agree to a clear pathway for Security Council reform and has called for categories of members. Reform of governance of global financial institutions is limited to a pledge to give developing countries a greater say in decision making and review of sovereign debt has been reiterated. Concerns of developing countries have got a short shift.?

The problem here is one of definitions. Should the G-7, which continues to set the global agenda, be described as a club of victors of the Second World War or a group of former colonial powers? The U.S. established the G-7 in 1973 to set the global agenda in the United Nations as an anti-developing country body. The clash between Western capitalism and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the "Summit of the Future" on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting on September 23, 2024.

Photo / PMO via PTI

Soviet communism provided the former colonies who became the world's poor more space and voice. While the world's political geography was reshaped, the 'poor' remained trapped at the bottom of the economic and geopolitical hierarchy. The imbalance in the wider world is reflected in the United Nations.

For example, recent figures from the U.N. show that only 17% of the Sustainable Development Goals are on track. Developing countries hold \$29 trillion in public debt, with \$847 billion in net interest payments, and experienced a negative net resource transfer in 2022. In July, the first joint declaration by G-20 finance leaders on international tax cooperation ended with disagreement over whether the U.N. or the OECD is the right forum to advance the agenda.

Real change began with the re-emergence of China and India and their BRICS grouping, in 2009, but it still awaits the reversal of colonial imbalances in key areas. In 1950, the U.S. used 40% of the world's natural resources having hegemonic power to set up multilateralism in a unilateral manner. With the reconstruction of Europe by 1970, their share had come down to 26%. Multilateralism evolved into treaties, having the authority to impact national policies. The G-7 share decreased to one-fifth in 2010, when Asia used half of global resource use. In a more equal world, the interests of the Global South gained a voice but not the

ability to set the agenda. South Africa in 2023 had to file a case to determine obligations under the climate regime and this is a severe indictment of conference diplomacy.

FOUNDATIONS OF POWER

The foundations of power will remain with the West for a few decades even as the global trend is in favor of the Global South. In 1800, Asia consumed more energy than the rest of the world. In 1850, it consumed as much energy as the West. In 1950, the West's consumption was three times the rest of the world. In 2000, the West consumed as much energy as the rest of the world. The imbalance in the sphere of technology and endogenous capacity is even more severe with China and India as outliers becoming global leaders only in certain areas. The trend is towards a more equal world in all its dimensions. In 2000, 4.6 billion people lived in countries whose combined GDP was just 20% of the 755 million people who lived in the G-7. By 2016, the GDP share of 17 developing countries as a percentage of the G-7 countries tripled to 63%.?The Summit accepts this imbalance but focuses on how progress is measured rather than on measures to bridge the gaps.

The Summit recognizes that GDP focuses on the economic performance of societies but seeks to link it to sustainability. A broader understanding of prosperity considers non-monetary factors such as infrastructure, municipal

services, affordable energy, educational opportunities, health care, and access to drinking water that better represent the urban living standards in a country. A focus on comparable levels of well-being is overdue.

The big lesson from the Summit is that developing countries have yet to exploit the opportunities presented by the U.N. system. While the international political process is open in procedural terms, it has been informed by consensual science developed by 'official experts', and this will be the case for global governance of AI and modification of GDP. Experts frame issues in a manner that determines the "problem" and how it should be "resolved".

As global power shifts back to Asia, both giants are conscious that their ideas are different from the dominant view espoused by the West on how societies work, change, and can be influenced. In a nod to geopolitics, Asia needs to be involved more deeply from the very beginning in expert bodies on AI and GDP to shape global governance by defining global priorities, cooperation, and justice.

(Mukul Sanwal served as policy adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP and later to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and was closely associated with Inter-Agency Relations in the Chief Executives Board of the U.N.)

Reflections on America's customary face-off



BY
SHASHI THAROOR

THE LONG TRADITION OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES HAS MEANT MAKE OR BREAK FOR PRESIDENTS AND PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS

Donald Trump's decision not to go ahead with a second debate with Kamala Harris, coming as it does on the heels of his failure to stay on script in the first - and the resultant widespread consensus, even among Republicans, that he had lost the debate with the feisty Democrat - prompts me to recall the long tradition of American Presidential debates I have viewed, that were said to have impacted the final result.

WHEN JFK CHARMED AMERICA

It all began with the first televised debate in 1960 between Republican Vice-President Richard M. Nixon and the youthful Democratic challenger from Massachusetts, Senator John F. Kennedy. As many Americans heard the debates between them on radio (until then the favored medium for political broadcasts), I was amazed to learn that when polled, a majority of those who listened on radio, thought the experienced and polished Nixon had won, whereas an equally large majority of those who saw the debates on TV thought he had lost. I saw recordings of the debates myself a decade-and-a-half later, as a graduate student in the United States, and could see why. On TV, the somewhat glib and brash-sounding (on radio) Kennedy appeared handsome, confident and smart on screen; he looked straight at the camera and seemed to appeal directly to the audience. Nixon, on the other hand, despite having served two terms as Vice-President under Dwight Eisenhower, was less well coached: he did not wear make-up or shave, and had a pronounced "five o'clock shadow" that gave him a sweaty, dark and glowering appearance against his tanned and fresh-faced young rival. He also looked at the moderator, not the camera, and this sideways angle made him seem shifty and furtive, especially in contrast with the open, relaxed and friendly Kennedy. In the event, Nixon lost the debate - and the election.

I was in the U.S. as a student in 1976, and watched live the election debates between the "unelected president" Gerald Ford, who had succeeded President Nixon when he resigned in the wake of the Watergate scandal, and Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter. Ford was a wooden speaker at the best of times, but he had defeated the charismatic Ronald Reagan in the Republican primaries as a "safer pair of hands" to lead the nation during the fraught and tense days at the height of the Cold War. Ironically, it was a gaffe he made about the Cold War that did him in. During the debate, Ford said "there is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, and there never will be under a Ford administration". His opponents spent the aftermath of the debate pointing out that the Soviet Union had troops deployed across Eastern Europe, whose States were



U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy participate in the first nationally televised debate between presidential candidates in a Chicago television studio on September 26, 1960. -Photo Credit / AFP

all under the Soviet jackboot as members of the Warsaw Pact. When Ford finally explained himself, his defense - that he meant only that the Soviets were not "dominating" the spirits of the East European people - came across as lame. Ford's debate fiasco led the public to conclude there was no great risk in voting for the untried and untested Carter if the "safer" Ford was so ignorant of the geopolitical facts of his job. Carter won.

Reagan turned the tables in 1980, of course, but in 1984, the by-then 73-year-old President Reagan was up against a far more youthful challenger, former vice-president Walter Mondale, a sprightly 17 years his junior. But the gifted debater that he was, Reagan turned his weakness into an asset. When the dreaded question of his age came up - no President in history had been as old as 77, the age he would be in the final year of his second term - Reagan responded with the broad smile that always accompanied his trademark wit. "I will not make age an issue of this campaign," Reagan answered the barbed question. "I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience." Even Mondale laughed. Reagan won.

Both of Barack Obama's challengers in 2008 and 2012, John McCain and Mitt Romney, had served in the military and placed their record of nationalism and tough-guy service up against the comparably wet-behind-the-ears orator. Romney, whose father had made an unsuccessful run for the presidency four decades earlier, attempted to make the military an issue, calling for increased defense spending and pointing out that the U.S. Navy had fewer ships than it did in 1916. Obama, always quick on his feet, retorted cuttingly: "Governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets, because the nature of our military has changed. We have these things called aircraft carriers, where planes land on them. We

have these ships that go under water, nuclear submarines." Romney, taken aback by Obama's witty comeback, never recovered.

THE TRUMP-HILLARY DEBATE

The 2016 debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was deemed particularly nasty, even vicious. Trump left the podium and advanced menacingly towards Hillary while she was speaking, seemingly casting a shadow on the woman then considered likely to become the first U.S. woman President. Gender was undoubtedly a key issue in the election, pitting as it did a woman candidate against a man who was widely portrayed as a serial womanizer, and boasted on video that his celebrity status allowed him to do anything to women.

Despite his own unsavory past, the Republican candidate tried to turn the tables on his female opponent by attacking her husband, former President Bill Clinton, accusing him of being "so abusive to women". This below-the-belt blow hit Hillary in a weak spot from which she was never quite able to retaliate.

"It's just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country," was the best Hilary Clinton was able to muster. Trump retorted: "Because you'd be in jail." His references to "crooked Hillary" stuck in the minds of enough voters to throw a close election to him. Hillary, of course, was never convicted of any wrongdoing, whereas just this year, Trump himself was.

BIDEN BOWS OUT

In 2020, President Trump went after the Democratic candidate Joe Biden, frequently interrupting the latter's debate speeches until an exasperated Biden snapped: "Will you shut up, man?" Biden won a bitterly-contested race against the

incumbent, whom in one debate he called a "clown". But in 2024, the man Biden had dismissed as "Putin's puppy", had his revenge on his 81-year-old opponent in what was seen as the most decisive debate of the current Presidential election. As AFP reported, Biden "repeatedly lost his train of thought, stared blankly and spoke incoherently and with a raspy voice at times". The debate conclusively proved to the electorate, including a majority of Biden supporters, that their man was too old, forgetful and weak to win re-election at 81 and serve four years beyond that age. Biden's dismal debate performance proved decisive - not to enable a Trump victory but to prompt enough supporters and donors to pull the plug, obliging Biden to eventually drop out of the race. This enabled his much younger running-mate, 59-year-old Kamala Harris, to take over and to turn in the kind of effective debate performance that prompted Trump to say "no more".

But will her debate victory prove as decisive as some of the others I have recalled? It is too early to tell. Many point out that when voters go to the polls in less than two months, the election will come down to the preferences and prejudices of a small number of voters in six battleground "swing states" (the others are largely deemed to be safely in the Democratic or Republican columns already). Whether debate performance will change the minds of a handful of undecided voters is anybody's guess. Has the debate shown Americans a rambling, easily-baited, myth-peddling and blustering Donald Trump? Maybe, but most Americans who support him know their man was like that anyway, and still believe he represents their hopes and resentments better than his rivals. By avoiding another debate, Trump is refusing to underscore this perception of his nature, and trying to win the election on his issues. It will be fascinating to see if he does - or whether, by winning their only debate, Harris wins the presidency after all, defeating the man who just eight years ago, ended another woman's dreams of becoming America's first female President.

(Shashi Tharoor is a four-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram, who served nearly three decades at the United Nations, where he rose to the position of Under Secretary-General. He has also been a Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India and is the bestselling author, among others, of Pax Indica: India in the World of the 21st century, and, most recently, A Wonderland of Words)

(First published in The Hindu)

The United States is already at war

AND IT IS VERY MUCH A WILLING BELLIGERENT IN A CONFLICT OF ITS OWN MAKING



BY BELÉN
FERNÁNDEZ

Yesterday, (October 1) Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Israel in retaliation for Israel's assassination in Beirut of Hezbollah secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah last week and its assassination in Tehran of Hamas's political chief Ismail Haniyeh in July.

United States President Joe Biden instructed the US military to assist Israel in neutralizing the missiles - not that Israel is not already equipped with various layers of ultra-sophisticated protection against incoming projectiles, which permit it to go about slaughtering folks left and right while suffering minimal damage in return.

During a news briefing at the White House, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced that US naval destroyers had "joined Israeli air defense units in firing interceptors to shoot down in-bound missiles". Praising the "professionalism" of the Israeli military, Sullivan also lauded the "skilled work of the US military and meticulous joint planning in anticipation of the attack".

Of course, not once has it occurred to the Biden administration to meticulously thwart Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, where officially more than 41,000 people have been killed in less than a year although the true death toll is without a doubt exorbitantly higher. Nor has the oh-so-skilled US military deemed it necessary to interfere in the wanton butchery currently going down in Lebanon, where Israel just killed more than 700 people in less than a week.

And while many an international observer has sounded the alarm that the US could now be "dragged" into a regional war - warnings that will only increase after the Iranian missile attack - in reality the US is not really being "dragged" anywhere.

Rather, the US is in a position entirely of its own making. And the fact of the matter is that the US is already at war.

To be sure, even prior to the launch of the genocide, the US habit of flinging billions of dollars at the Israeli military on an annual basis long ago made it transparently complicit in Israeli efforts to disappear Palestine. Since October 7, the billions have only multiplied, despite Biden's intermittent squawking about cutting off the supply of certain offensive weaponry to Israel.

In August, the Biden administration approved a \$20bn weapons package to its Israeli partner in crime. And on September 26, the Reuters news agency reported Israel's announcement that "it had secured an \$8.7 billion aid package from the United States to support its



US President Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

File photo

AND WHILE MANY AN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER HAS SOUNDED THE ALARM THAT THE US COULD NOW BE "DRAGGED" INTO A REGIONAL WAR - WARNINGS THAT WILL ONLY INCREASE AFTER THE IRANIAN MISSILE ATTACK - IN REALITY THE US IS NOT REALLY BEING "DRAGGED" ANYWHERE. RATHER, THE US IS IN A POSITION ENTIRELY OF ITS OWN MAKING. AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE US IS ALREADY AT WAR.

ongoing military efforts and to maintain a qualitative military edge in the region".

The package was said to include "\$3.5 billion for essential wartime procurement... and \$5.2 billion designated for air defense systems including the Iron Dome anti-missile system, David's Sling and an advanced laser system".

In other words, Israel will be increasingly well-poised to "defend" itself against legitimate responses to its own actions - actions that quite literally qualify as terrorism.

In the end, it's not rocket science: the financial and military support consistently extended to Israel by the US does not denote a country that is being "dragged" into a conflict. It denotes a country that is, for all intents and purposes, an active belligerent in the conflict.

The US also lent a helping military

hand to Israel back in April when Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles in response to a lethal Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. On this occasion, too, Iran was widely cast in the role of terrorist aggressor - and never mind the retaliatory nature of its action.

It is meanwhile helpful to recall that the US has for decades done a fine job of "dragging" itself into regional war - the 2003 US pulverization of Iraq comes to mind - so it should come as no surprise to once again find the country front and center against a backdrop of mass slaughter. From American drone attacks on weddings in Yemen to rush shipments of bombs to the Israeli military in 2006 to aid in the ravaging of Lebanon, it seems the US has never met a Middle Eastern conflict it was not excited about.

And although the Biden administration continues to claim ad

nauseam that it desires a ceasefire in Gaza, the road to a ceasefire in a case of genocide does not go through billions upon billions of dollars in weaponry to the genocidal party.

At the briefing on Tuesday, Sullivan warned that: "There will be severe consequences for this attack and we will work with Israel to make that the case.".

Sullivan also stressed that this was a "fog of war" situation, and that he reserved the right to "amend and adjust as necessary" his initial assessment.

But in the fog of the latest war one thing, at least, is clear: the US is already a primary belligerent.

(Belén Fernández is Al Jazeera columnist, the author of Inside Siglo XXI: Locked Up in Mexico's Largest Immigration Detention Center (OR Books, 2022), Checkpoint Zipolite: Quarantine in a Small Place (OR Books, 2021), Exile: Rejecting America and Finding the World (OR Books, 2019), Martyrs Never Die: Travels through South Lebanon (Warscapes, 2016), and The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work (Verso, 2011). She is a contributing editor at Jacobin Magazine, and has written for the New York Times, the London Review of Books blog, Current Affairs, and Middle East Eye, among numerous other publications.)

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance. (First published in Al Jazeera)

AAPI Presents its Vision on Ways to Leverage Resources and Skills to Support Healthcare Initiatives In India and USA

OCTOBER 3, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP)

During a historic Press Conference with nearly two dozen media persons from the electronic, print and visual media in attendance at the Indian Consulate in New York on a rainy Sunday evening, September 29, 2024 Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) shared about his vision for AAPI under his leadership and about AAPI's contributions to India and the United States during the past 43 years.

Dr. Kathula urged the media to be the link and a channel between AAPI and the larger community in sharing AAPI's message and about the noble initiatives that benefit the Indian American community and the people back home in India. Expressing his gratitude to the media persons for their presence today and for the support they have provided over the past several decades to AAPI, Dr. Kathula urged their ongoing support "to help to get the message out, in reaching out to the general public here, the Indian diaspora and in India, especially for providing health education on preventive measures.

Dr. Kathula along with Dr. Hetal Gor, a member of the AAPI Board of Trustees, briefed the media on AAPI's ongoing activities in the United States and India, and highlighted the upcoming Global Health Summit in New Delhi, scheduled for October 19th to 20th. This summit aims to bring together healthcare professionals, policymakers, and industry leaders to address the prevention of cancer and heart attacks in the Indian population with lifestyle modification and technology.

Dr. Kathula invited all the AAPI members to attend the next edition of AAPI's annual Global Health Summit this October in New Delhi, with a focus on preventing cancer and heart attacks through lifestyle changes and technological advancements. AAPI has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of India Honorable Droupadi Murmu to be the Honored Guests at GHS 2024 and to address the hundreds of AAPI delegates at the Summit. Hon. Health Minister J.P. Nadda has been invited and he has agreed to meet with AAPI delegates to formally discuss the healthcare issues especially the prevention aspect of cancer and

Heart attacks in India.

AAPI is planning to organize bone marrow drives across the nation, as the donor pool among South Asians is very limited, Dr. Kathula said. "So, we are trying to recruit potential donors in the stem cell or bone marrow transplant donations. Because people are getting affected by lymphomas and leukemias, and they need transplant. Since they do not get the matched donors in this



country, we are trying to increase that pool," he added.

As the President of AAPI, the largest ethnic medical organization, representing the interests of over 120,000 physicians of Indian origin, Dr. Kathula said, AAPI is also launching a program called "Million Miles of Gratitude," to honor veterans by promoting physical activity, he said. Participants can log their walking or running miles, with each mile serving as a tribute to the veterans. The goal is to collectively reach a million miles in the coming year.

According to Dr. Kathula, AAPI is planning to introduce heart screenings for the Indian American community, as they are at higher risk of experiencing heart attacks at a younger age, and that this initiative will focus on prevention and early detection.

Earlier during the day, AAPI organized AAPI Leadership Retreat

at the Indian Consulate in New York City and was graced by the presence of Consul General Binay Srikanta Pradhan. The panel included several distinguished figures from various fields, including Dr. Sanjeev Kaul, Chief of Trauma; Sudeep Kapur, a magistrate; Manee Kamboji, owner of a highly successful IT company; Natalie McKenzie, a health and fitness coach and podcaster; Jyoti Soni, a catering and wedding

we have their strong presence, of this fraternity in this country. And I'm sure, going forward, you are going to be an anchor. You will be bringing the relationship between India and the United States much closer, especially in the healthcare sector."

Pradhan told AAPI that "My expectation, my request has been that, this is the time for you to rethink about how you contribute back home in India. I know all of

planner with over three decades of experience in the culinary industry; and Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI. The session was expertly moderated by Dr. Hetal Gor.

Consul General, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, in his address highlighted his long association with AAPI from his past interactions with AAPI members. Highlighting the recent meetings India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with top CEOs from the United States during his recent visit, Pradhan emphasized that India's potential is "not only appreciated by the ordinary people of the United States, but even by the industry, and that's probably the reason why all these industry entities are now present in India in a much bigger way. So, it's going to be leading to bigger investment back within India."

Pradhan lauded the contributions of "a strong Indian Association of Doctors, AAPI. We feel so lucky that

you, individually and collectively, you do a lot of good work back home in India. The economy of India is undergoing a massive transformation today. The Indian people are not looking for help in meeting their basic needs, but would expect a strong Association like yours to help them to touch their aspirations. You have access to the best of the medical technologies in this country. You can think about what you can do to touch the aspirations of the people, by using the technology, and reach a much larger number of people in India."

AAPI is a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American Physicians to excel in patient care, teaching and research, and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs. For more information on AAPI and its many programs, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

(Based on a press release)

Mahatma Gandhi's bust unveiled at Seattle Center

SEATTLE, WA (TIP)

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the Seattle Center on the iconic Indian freedom fighter's birth anniversary.

The bust was unveiled on Wednesday in the presence of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell; Congressman Adam Smith; and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, who is of Indian origin. The bust - the first installation on Gandhi in Seattle - has been placed just below the base of the popular Space Needle and adjacent to the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum. The unveiling ceremony was led by the Consul General of India in Seattle Prakash Gupta. It was also attended by Lt Gen Xavier Brunson, commander of the US First Corps in the Pacific Northwest, and Eddie Rye - chair of the Martin Luther King-Gandhi Initiative.

Dignitaries who spoke at the Gandhi Jayanti ceremony underscored the values of Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satyagraha (truth force) and Sarvodaya (welfare for all) as being the defining need in contemporary times.

To mark the occasion, Washington Governor Jay Inslee issued an official proclamation, acknowledging the bust as a lasting tribute to Gandhi's teachings and a

powerful reminder of the impact of non-violence in driving change.

The proclamation noted that the sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, a gift from the Government of India to the City of Seattle, will serve as a "lasting tribute to Gandhi's teachings and a reminder of the power of nonviolent action in achieving social and political change".

The proclamation from the State of Washington said that in its commitment to fostering a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding, it appreciates the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Seattle Center; "a gift from India, symbolizing our dedication to these values and honoring Gandhi's profound impact on humanity".

It added that Washington is home to a vibrant community of over 200,000 Indian Americans whose contributions to the state's cultural, economic and social fabric are invaluable. Another proclamation was issued by King County, designating October 2 as 'Mahatma Gandhi Day' across all 73 cities of the Greater Seattle area.

The King County proclamation said that Gandhi's "life and legacy of non-violence and peace have inspired millions around the world" and added that Gandhi's philosophy of



A bust of Mahatma Gandhi after being unveiled at the Seattle Center on the freedom fighter's birth anniversary, October 2, in Seattle, Washington.

Photo : X / Mayor of Seattle

non-violent resistance, or Satyagraha, played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence and has influenced numerous civil rights movements globally, promoting justice, equality and human rights.

It said that in a 1986 resolution, the King County Council declared Dr Martin Luther

King Jr, a strong follower of Mahatma Gandhi and his principle of non-violence, as the county's official namesake.

It added that King was once quoted as saying, "To other countries, I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim".

The Indian consulate in Seattle commenced operations last November with consular jurisdiction over the nine Pacific Northwest states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Alaska.

The installation of Gandhi's bust in Seattle is one in a series of initiatives being implemented across its consular jurisdiction, the Consulate said in a release.

"The Consulate General of India and the city of Seattle had worked in partnership to identify an appropriate venue for locating the bust of Mahatma Gandhi and the iconic location of Seattle Center, which draws more than 12 million visitors each year, was considered appropriate, given its location, accessibility and commitment to promoting the values of peace and non-violence," it added.

Gandhi's birthday is also recognized as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations. (Source: PTI)

USCIRF flags 'increasing abuses' against religious minorities in India

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

A US federal government commission has flagged the alleged worsening of religious freedom in India and called for it to be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern".

Authored by senior policy analyst Sema Hasan, the section on India describes the use of misinformation and disinformation - including hate speech by government officials - to incite violent attacks against religious minorities and their places of worship, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said in a statement.

In its annual report, the USCIRF also recommended that the US Department of State designate India as a "Country of Particular Concern" for engaging in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom.

The state department has so far refrained from accepting the recommendations.

"This report highlights how, throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship have been demolished. These events constitute particularly severe violations of religious freedom," the USCIRF said. Beginning with the previous Manmohan Singh-led government, India has consistently denied visas to USCIRF members to visit the country, citing "interference" in its internal affairs, it added.

India and several Indian-American groups have in the past accused the USCIRF of biased, unscientific and agenda-driven reporting to malign the country.

"It (the report) further describes changes to and enforcement of India's legal framework to target and disenfranchise religious minorities, including the Citizenship Amendment Act, a uniform civil code, and several state-level anti-conversion and cow slaughter laws," the USCIRF said.

India has called USCIRF a 'biased organization with a political agenda and has rejected report on religious freedom. "The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilize its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States," the Ministry of External Affairs said. Responding to media queries on USCIRF's report on religious freedom in India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Our views on

the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are well known. It is a biased organization with a political agenda. It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further."

He added, "We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilize its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States."



Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected USCIRF report on religious freedom.

The USCIRF, in its 2024 annual report, had recommended that the US State Department designate India "as a Country of Particular Concern" for "engaging in severe religious freedom violations. "The USCIRF, a Washington DC-based bipartisan U.S. federal government agency, had released a country update on India, flagging "collapsing religious freedom conditions".The report highlights that religious freedom conditions have "continued to worsen throughout 2024, particularly in the months prior to and immediately following the country's national elections."

Offering an overview of the various religious freedom violations that have taken place in India in 2024, it details changes in the country's legal framework, including the strengthening of "discriminatory legislation like state-level anti-conversion and anti-terrorism laws", as well as the publication of the rules for implementing the 2019 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), and the passing of a state-level Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill in Uttarakhand.

In a section titled, 'Expropriation and demolition of places of worship and Muslim property', the report notes that "since the beginning of 2024, Indian authorities have facilitated the expropriation of places of worship, including the construction of Hindu temples on the sites of mosques." It details how the days following the Ayodhya temple's January 2024 consecration "were marked by a series of attacks and other instances of intolerance against religious minorities across six states", noting, "in each instance, violence erupted following Hindu nationalist processions through predominantly Muslim neighborhoods." It further states that "beyond demolitions, the government has expropriated several mosques for alternative purposes, directly violating India's Places of

Worship (Special Provisions) Act."

The report notes with concern the trend of authorities using state-level policies, especially anti-conversion laws, "to target religious minorities across India," detailing that "since the beginning of the year, authorities have arrested dozens of Christians on allegations of conducting or participating in forced conversions."

It also flags the phenomenon of anti-cow slaughter laws being "frequently exploited" by vigilante groups to "target religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, and Dalits", noting that the perpetrators operate with impunity, rarely face punishment and "are often released on bail within 24 hours."

The India country update also details how in the lead-up to the June 2024 Lok Sabha elections, political officials "wielded hate speech and discriminatory rhetoric" against Muslims. "Prime Minister Modi repeatedly claimed that the opposition party would 'wipe out Hindu faith from the country and... perpetuated hateful stereotypes about Muslims, referring to them as 'infiltrators'", the reported stated.

The release also highlights how misinformation, disinformation and "hate speech by Indian government officials frequently fuel and incite cow vigilantism and other attacks against religious minorities," and cites the examples of speeches by two MLAs, Nitesh Rane and Geeta Jain. In a section titled 'Attacks against Religious Minorities', the report notes that from January to March alone, "161 incidents of violence against Christians in India were reported", with the incidents ranging from "violent attacks on churches and prayer meetings to physical assaults, harassment, and false allegations of forced conversion." Religious educational institutions were also targeted, the report noted, citing the instance where "Hindu organizations entered a Catholic school in Assam and demanded instructors cease using Christian images and symbols."

In another section detailing the "crackdown on civil society and faith-based organizations", the report states that authorities have used India's Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to obstruct the work of civil society organizations" and noted the NGOs whose FCRA licenses were cancelled this year included "Church of North India, Synodical Board of Social Service," and other Christian NGOs. (With inputs from PTI)

There will be no change in policy on multi-brand retailing: Piyush Goyal in US

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Thursday, October 3, categorically ruled out the entry of multi-brand retailing in India as such a move would destroy pop-and-mom stores like that of the US. Except for this, he said, India is open to all kinds of economic reforms necessary to take the country on an accelerated growth.

"If the need arises, we can re-look at any of these (policies) or the government has the authority through cabinet approval to allow greater percentages (of foreign stakes in various sectors). Or we can go to Parliament and change it also, not a problem, though I do not think any of these requires parliamentary changes," Goyal



India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. File photo

said in response to a question at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think-tank here.

"The important area where sometimes, and particularly in countries like the US, I hear voices is about multi-brand retail. And that is a no-no. I want to make it loud and clear that there will be no change in our policy on multi-brand retail. America has

suffered the consequences of big tech and large retail and the interplay of the two leading to almost the annihilation of mom-and-pop stores across the length and breadth of the country," he said.

Goyal said the United States can afford it because its population is much smaller compared to India and there are alternative avenues for people to do jobs in. "And probably, you are satisfied that the rest of the youngsters are now just left to be sales delivery boys or delivery girls. That is a choice each country makes," he noted.

"India has nearly 100 billion small mom-and-pop stores in the length and breadth of the country. In every village that you will go to, there will be 10 or 12 small shops selling different types of products. There

will be 10 or 12 small shops providing different services. There will be a pharmacy in almost every corner around the country," the minister said.

"We believe that they all play a very important role. We want them to be integrated with technology. We are happy if they get integrated with e-commerce or get a chance to withstand the business practices of the e-commerce companies. But we are not looking at changing the rules for e-commerce. Other than that, there is no sector left where we have any restrictions whatsoever," he said.

The senior leader from the ruling BJP said even in defense, 100 per cent foreign ownership is allowed in India.

Source: PTI

SBA Announces 14 New Awards for Regional Innovation Cluster Network to Drive Nationwide Small Business Growth, Job Creation and Innovation

Awardees Will Serve as Hubs for Local Economies in BioTech, Cybersecurity, Smart Manufacturing, and Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice in President Biden's Cabinet for America's more than 34 million small businesses, on October 3, announced the expansion of the SBA's Regional Innovation Cluster (RIC) network with 14 new awards. These awards aim to enhance the reach and impact of the SBA's support for innovative small businesses and entrepreneurial support organizations across the country.

"As the Biden-Harris Administration continues to deliver historic investments in America that strengthen innovation, manufacturing, and emerging industries, these 14 new awardees will serve as vital hubs connecting entrepreneurs with the resources needed to develop cutting-edge technologies critical to the nation's economic and security priorities," said Administrator Guzman. "Our nation's entrepreneurs develop and commercialize innovative technologies in areas of global importance, including biotechnology, cybersecurity, smart manufacturing, and sustainable agriculture. The SBA's Regional Innovation Cluster network helps America's entrepreneurs start and scale their businesses in these highly competitive industries with a focus on leveraging regional strengths and collaboration -strengthening America's competitiveness."

"For the first time, the SBA is tailoring funding for emerging and mature clusters," said Bailey DeVries, Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Investment and Innovation. "The SBA recognizes innovation clusters across industries and technology verticals are at different stages in their lifespan, and the varied funding levels right-sizes our awards so clusters can grow and improve their support of small businesses and startups."

The SBA launched the RIC Initiative in

September 2010 to promote and support the development of clusters, which are geographically concentrated groups of interconnected businesses, suppliers, service providers, and associated institutions in a particular industry or field across the country. Clusters act as a networking hub for small businesses, convening several resources to help navigate the funding, procurement, and supply-chain opportunities in a specific industry. They also assist businesses in matching cutting-edge technology to industry needs and increase the number of innovative small businesses and entrepreneurs in the nation's supply chain.

"For 14 years, the RIC Initiative has had an incredible impact in communities and industries across the country, supporting startups and small businesses as they enter the nation's supply chain. We look forward to continuing to expand our nation's innovation ecosystem and ensuring small businesses can match their cutting-edge technologies to industry opportunities," said SBA's Investment and Innovation Ecosystems Director Brittany Sickler.

This funding makes awards for the first time at two funding levels: emerging and mature clusters. Emerging clusters develop and deploy small business support services in their designated regions and industries, and the RIC Initiative enables them to scale their current and future programming to reach more small businesses. Mature clusters have experience building and implementing programming to support small businesses, and the RIC Initiative enables them to increase the effectiveness of programming and operations to reach more small businesses and strengthen existing and new partnerships.



Isabel Casillas Guzman is the 27th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration and serves in President Biden's Cabinet as the leading advocate for America's 33 million small businesses and innovative startups.
Photo credit / SBA

The new Regional Innovation Clusters are:

1. AgTech Innovation Alliance will support AgriFoodTech small businesses in California's Central Valley.
2. Applied Research Institute will support small businesses in the biotech industry across central Indiana.
3. Bounce Innovation Hub will support small businesses developing novel materials for medical devices and wearable sensors in Northeast Ohio.
4. Celdara Medical will support life science small businesses across Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Delaware, and Rhode Island.
5. CleanTech Alliance Washington will support small businesses in the clean technology industry in Washington state.
6. Hyperion Technologies will support small businesses developing clean technologies in the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.
7. Integrative Business Services will support artificial intelligence and optics small businesses in Southern Arizona.
8. LSI Business Development will support small, advanced manufacturers in Utah.
9. RIoT will support small businesses building internet of things (IoT) and data economy technologies in North Carolina.
10. Shadow Ridge Analytics will support small businesses in the advanced engineering and critical materials industries in Southwest Montana.
11. Southwestern College Foundation will support small businesses in the manufacturing and biotechnology industries in San Diego and Imperial Counties in California.
12. StartUp Junkie Consulting will

support small businesses in leveraging Lithium for the clean energy and electric vehicle transition across Northeast Texas, Southern Arkansas, Northern Louisiana, and West Mississippi.

13. The Water Council will support small businesses in the water and resiliency industry in Wisconsin.

14. UpSurge Baltimore will support small businesses in cybersecurity and biotechnology industries across the Baltimore metropolitan area.

To learn more about the RIC Initiative, including current RICs, please visit: Regional Innovation Clusters | U.S. Small Business Administration (sba.gov).

About SBA's Office of Investment and Innovation

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Investment and Innovation (OII) leads programs that provide the U.S. growth-oriented small business and startup community with access to financial capital, networks, assistance, and R&D funds to develop commercially viable innovations. Our work is underpinned by public-private partnerships that help small businesses on their trajectory from idea to IPO. Learn more at Office of Investment and Innovation (OII).

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. Learn more at www.sba.gov.

‘Will behave accordingly...’: EAM rules out India-Pak talks at SCO

NEW DELHI (TIP)

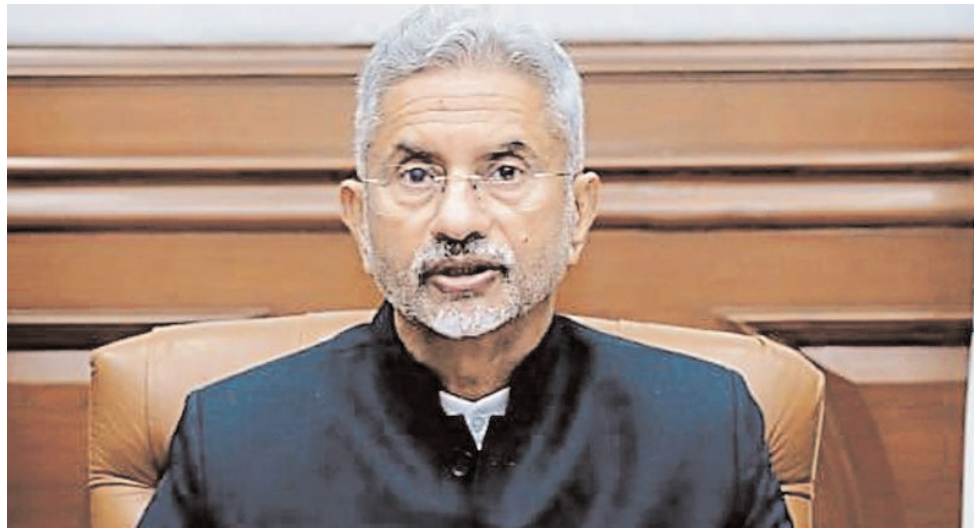
External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday clarified that he will not hold a dialogue with Pakistan during his upcoming visit to the country to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) conclave.

"It (visit) will be for a multilateral event. I'm not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I'm going there to be a good member of the SCO," he said at the sidelines of an event in the national capital.

"But, you know, since I'm a courteous and civil person, I will behave myself accordingly," he added.

S Jaishankar also took a veiled dig at Pakistan, holding it responsible for the derailment of the SAARC initiative.

"At the moment SAARC is not moving forward, we haven't had a meeting of SAARC for a very simple reason - there is one member of SAARC who is practising cross-border terrorism at least against one more member of SAARC, maybe more... Terrorism is something which is unacceptable and despite a global view of it if one of our neighbours continues to do it - there cannot be business as usual in SAARC. That's the reason why the SAARC meeting has not happened in recent years - but it doesn't mean that the regional activities have stopped. In fact, in the last 5-6 years, we have seen far



more regional integration in the Indian subcontinent," he added.

India maintains that it will not hold bilateral dialogues with Pakistan until the latter stops breeding and fostering cross-border terrorism.

India on Friday, Oct 4, announced that the minister will travel to Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October. It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's external affairs minister will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remain frosty over cross-border terrorism emanating from the

country. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

The announcement on Jaishankar's visit was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," he said at his weekly media briefing.

JAISHANKAR VISITS COLOMBO, EXTENDS FINANCIAL AID

Days after a new government was elected in Sri Lanka, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Oct 5 visited Colombo and extended the fiscal help programme to the new dispensation headed by President Anura Dissanayake.

A Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement described the meeting: "The Sri Lankan President said India's economic support is critical to realising his vision of a prosperous country and meeting the aspirations of the people." Dissanayake referred to the potential of export of renewable energy to India.

The MEA, without naming China, said: "The Lankan President reiterated that his territory would never be allowed to be used in a manner inimical to India's security interests". India in the past had objected to Chinese spying ships and submarines docking at Colombo.

Jaishankar also met Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya and held discussions with Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath. He also called on former President Ranil Wickremesinghe and leader of SJB Sajith Premadasa.

Row over Hindu seer's remarks in Amravati; mob hurls stones, 21 cops injured

AMRAVATI (TIP)

At least 21 police officials were injured after a mob hurled stones at them in Maharashtra's Amravati on Friday, Oct 4, night amid a row over Hindu seer Yati Narsinghanand Maharaj's "objectionable" remarks against Prophet Mohammad. The angry mob was demanding the police to register a case against the seer.

According to the police, at least 10 police vans were also damaged in the stone-pelting by the mob outside the Nagpuri Gate police station.

"A huge mob, including members of some organisations, came to the Nagpuri Gate police station around 8.15 pm to press for their demand of registration of a case against Yati Narsinghanand Maharaj of Ghaziabad...The in-charge of the police station told the mob that one FIR had already been registered against the seer, following which they went back," Amravati Police Commissioner Navin Chandra Reddy told the media.

However, shortly after the video of the Hindu seer's remarks went viral on social media, a large group of people returned to the police station.

"When the police officers were trying to persuade the crowd, the mob suddenly started throwing stones at the police personnel...Some police personnel and officers got injured in the attack, and police are taking action against the mob," Reddy said.

Meanwhile, the police issued a prohibitory order under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) barring the assembly of five or more people in the Nagpuri Gate area.



When the police officers were trying to persuade the crowd, the mob suddenly started throwing stones at the police personnel...Some police personnel and officers got injured in the attack

The police have registered a case against 1,200 people in connection with the mob incident under BNS sections 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 302 (intentionally uttering words to deliberately wound the religious sentiments of another person), 197 (actions that harm national integration) and others were registered against Yati Narsinghanand Maharaj at Nagpuri Gate police station over his alleged objectionable remarks.

ED summons former India cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin in money laundering case

HYDERABAD (TIP)

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned former India captain and Congress politician Mohammad Azharuddin for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association, official sources said Thursday, October 3.

The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament (MP) has been asked to depose before the federal agency at its office here on October 3, the sources said.

The probe is related to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad cricket association in which the ED had conducted searches in November last year.

The money laundering case stems from three FIRs and charge sheets filed by the Telangana anti-corruption bureau (ACB) for alleged criminal misappropriation of the funds of the HCA to the tune of Rs 20 crore. (Source: PTI)



Mohammad Azharuddin

In big blow to Naxals, 31 shot dead in Chhattisgarh encounter

DANTEWADA (TIP)

The bodies of three more Naxalites were recovered on Saturday, October 5, morning in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, where a fierce encounter with security personnel took place a day ago, police said.

With this, the number of Naxalites killed in the gun battle with the security personnel on Friday has risen to 31, they said, adding that a search operation is still under way in the area.

"Bodies of three more Naxalites were recovered this morning from the dense forest where the encounter took place on Friday," Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraaj P told PTI.

"With this, the toll of Naxalites in the encounter rose to 31. The identity of the Naxalites is yet to be ascertained, but prima facie it appears that they belonged to PLGA (People's Liberation Guerilla Army) company No. 6, Platoon 16 of Maoists and east Bastar division of Maoists," he said.

On Friday, the gunfight broke out between security forces and Naxalites around 1 am in a forest between Nendur and Thulthuli villages on Dantewada and Narayanpur inter-district border, where a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) was out on an anti-Naxal



operation.

The intermittent firing lasted for a long time and the security forces continued search operations in the area.

This is the highest number of fatalities suffered by Maoists in a single operation since the creation of the state 24 years ago and the offensive comes more than five months after 29 Naxalites, including higher-ranking cadres, were gunned down in an encounter with security

personnel in Kanker district.

A jawan of the state police's DRG sustained injuries in a blast in a shell of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (BGL) fired by Maoists during the gunfight, the official said.

Along with the bodies, a cache of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle, one SLR (self-loading rifle), one INSAS rifle, one LMG rifle and one .303 rifle were also recovered from the encounter spot, the

IGP said.

With this, as many as 185 Maoists have been killed in 93 separate major encounters in Bastar in 2024 so far. While 663 Naxals were arrested, 656 ultras have surrendered in Bastar so far. The slain Maoists included three senior Naxal leaders, Jaganna, Rupesh and Jagdish, who were members of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC), the most powerful wing of Maoists. Security forces have intensified counterinsurgency operations in Bastar in the wake of Union home minister Amit Shah setting March, 2025 the deadline to end Naxalism in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai has hailed the security forces for executing the biggest ever counterinsurgency operation in Bastar in the state in which 28 Maoists were killed in Abujhmad on Friday. He said that Naxalism is going to end in Bastar soon and peace will return. Mr Sai recalled the deadline set by Union home minister Amit Shah to root out Leftwing extremism in the country by March 2026 and expressed confidence that it would be met. Sai convened a meeting of senior police officers here on Friday night to review the security situation in Bastar in the wake of the Abujhmad encounter.

Girl's body found in Bengal, locals torch police outpost

The body of a 10-year-old girl was found in a marshy land in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Saturday, triggering arson by locals at a police outpost there.

Villagers alleged that the minor, who was missing since Friday evening, was raped and murdered, and the police did not act on their complaint immediately.

As the body of the girl was recovered by locals in Jaynagar area early this morning, a mob torched the police outpost and pelted the policemen with stones.

They also vandalised several vehicles parked outside the outpost and the policemen were forced to leave the premises, a senior officer said.

A huge police force was sent to the area and tear gas shells were fired to quell the mob which tried to confine the SDPO and other senior personnel at the spot.

"The family members of the girl lodged an FIR at the Mahismari outpost in the area but the police did not act on the complaint immediately," a local claimed.

The police responded in the same manner as they did after the body of a woman doctor was found at RG Kar hospital, another villager said.

"We will continue our agitation till all those behind the rape and murder of our minor daughter are punished. We also demand action against those who responded to the complaint late, which might have resulted in her death. Had the police acted promptly, the girl could have been rescued," Ganesh Dolui, a local, said.

100 days as LoP: Rahul vows to 'restore love and respect to politics'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Congress said on Friday, Oct 4, that Rahul Gandhi completed 100 days as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Oct 3, listing details of his achievements and arguing that he had amplified the common person's voice and put a spotlight on the concerns of farmers and marginalised castes.

Gandhi took over as LoP of the Lok Sabha, a position that was vacant for the last decade, on June 24. The Congress's announcement came days after the National Democratic Alliance government celebrated its 100 days and listed several achievements.

Gandhi shared a video on all social media platforms reflecting on his journey as LoP, saying that his mission was to "restore the values of love, respect and humility to the heart of Indian politics."

"It is these principles that guide me as we work together to build a more just, compassionate and economically prosperous India," he added.

Congress spokesperson Pawan



Khera outlined Gandhi's actions during this period, saying he had forced the government to withdraw key decisions such as its lateral entry policy, removing indexation benefits from real-estate sales, or a draft of the broadcast bill.

"Gandhi has worked to amplify the voices of marginalized communities whose issues often do not reach Parliament," Khera said.

"Through his efforts, he has exemplified the role a leader of the Opposition should play, giving voice to those who often go unheard—people whose concerns rarely reach the big bungalows of our ministers. His work shows how essential it is to elevate the voices of those who struggle to make themselves heard in

the corridors of power," Khera said.

He listed 10 achievements by Gandhi during the period.

Khera listed Gandhi's visit to Manipur, interactions with local people, and raising the issue of ethnic violence in the state in Parliament. Khera mentioned that Gandhi opposed the lateral recruitment advertisements for 45 bureaucratic positions in August, which the government ultimately withdrew. The Congress party asserted at the time that the move was yet another attempt by the Narendra Modi-led government to weaken reservation policies.

"He challenged malpractice in government examinations, specifically the NEET paper leak, demanding accountability," Khera said, referring to the row that erupted in June over allegations of question paper leaks during the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has since taken over the cases involving multiple examinees and staff implicated in the scandal.

Source: HT

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 4 TO OCTOBER 10

04 OCTOBER

1884 Ramachandra Shukla, the leading Hindi writer and critic, was born.

1977 India's Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi. This was the first address given in Hindi.

1986 Indian Helicopter Corporation was established.

1974 India refused to participate in the Davis Cup by going there to resist the pillar of the South African government.

1927 Sarla Grewal, the second woman officer of Indian Administrative Service and former Governor of Madhya Pradesh was born.

2011 The strike continued on the 22nd day in Andhra Pradesh for a separate Telangana state.

05 OCTOBER

1864 About 50,000 people died due to cyclone in Calcutta city.

1805 The second governor general of the British Raj in India, Commander in Chief Lord Cornwallis, died in Ghazipur.

1989 Meera Sahib Beevi became the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

1999 India decided not to attend the special meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

2011 The world's cheapest Rs 2250 tablet PC Aakash was launched in India.

1676 The East India Company got the right to exchange Indian currency in Mumbai from the King of England.

2008 The Central Government started testing elsewhere for the 'Setu Samudram Project' as directed by the Supreme Court.

1524 The birth of Rani Durgavati, one of the famous Veeraganna queens of Indian history.

06 OCTOBER

1862 The Indian Penal Code Act was passed and came into force from January 1.

1954 Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced a National Health Plan for the country.

1858 The revolutionary Nana Saheb Peshwa died.



1983 President's rule was imposed in Punjab.

1935 Jeevan D Ghosh, the longest serving umpire in India, was born in Bengal.

1893 Indian scientist Meghnath Saha, who has done important work in the field of mathematics and physics, was born.

07 OCTOBER

1914 India's famous Ghazal singer Begum Akhtar was born.

1950 Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata.

2008 Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived

in India on a four-day state visit.

1586 The Mughal army entered Kashmir.

1737 Three lakh people died in Bengal when a 20 thousand small ship sank 40 feet below the sea.

1919 Gandhiji's 'Navjeevan' magazine published.



1952 Chandigarh became the capital of Punjab.

2000 WWF - India won the first Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award.

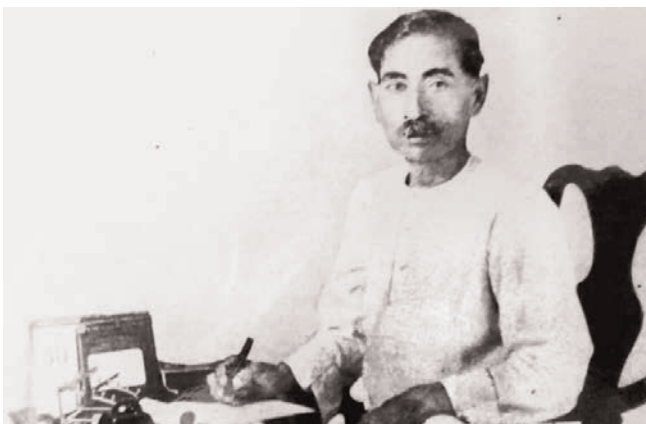
1891 Freedom fighter and close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Narhari Parikh was born.

1907 Durga Bhabhi, the principal ally of revolutionaries, was born in India's freedom struggle.

1708 Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh died.

08 OCTOBER

1932 Indian Air Force was established.



1936 Famous Hindi writer and novelist Premchand died.

1998 India became a member of the Flight Safety Foundation.

2004 Monsanto's patent on Indian wheat revoked.

2005 Thousands died due to earthquake in Kashmir.

1926 Bollywood actor Rajkumar was born.

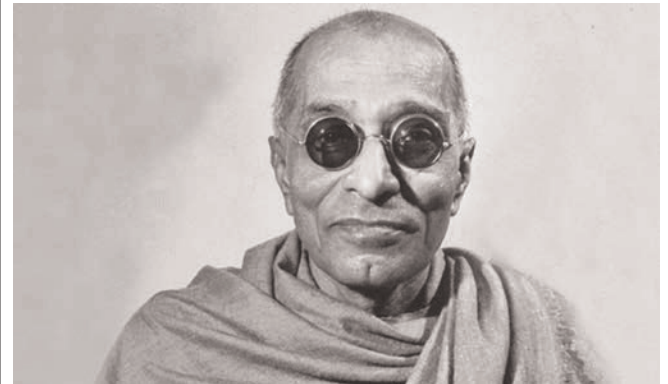


09 OCTOBER

1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.

1942 Freedom fighter Bibi Amar Kaur hoisted the national flag at the Lahore Jail Gate. He was arrested and sent to Ambala Jail.

1949 The first governor of independent India, C.



Rajagopalachari, officially inaugurated the territorial army.

1976 International direct dialing service started between Bombay (now Mumbai) and London.

2008 The central government formed a committee of experts to save oil from the mafia.

1945 Famous Indian sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was born.



10 OCTOBER

1756 The British army led by Governor General Robert Clive recaptured Calcutta.

1910 The first All India Hindi Conference was organized in Varanasi under the chairmanship of Madan Mohan Malaviya.

1906 Indian novelist RK Narayan was born.



1954 Famous Indian actress Rekha was born.



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NEW JERSEY'S STELLAR PERFORMING CENTER BREAKS GROUND ON \$MULTI-MILLION CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT

BY MABEL PAIS



left to right: Tim Lizura - EVP, Real Estate and Capital Projects, NJPAC; Steve Williams - CEO, LMXD; Tim Sullivan - CEO, NJEDA; Kerri Levine - Principal, The Fidelco Group; Senator M. Teresa Ruiz; First Lady Tammy Murphy; Charles Lowrey - Chairman & CEO, Prudential Financial and NJPAC Board Co-Chair; Governor Phil Murphy; John Schreiber - President & CEO, NJPAC; Leon Cooperman - Chairman & CEO of Omega Family Office, Philanthropist and Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) made history on September 18, 2024 when breaking ground on the \$336 million redevelopment of its 12-acre campus. The Center that has been a catalyst for change in the region and the State of New Jersey will transform downtown Newark bringing hundreds of new residences, shops, restaurants, new outdoor gathering spaces and a unique education and community center with professional rehearsal spaces.

The reimagined campus, scheduled to be completed in Fall 2027, will include ArtSide, a mixed-use, mixed-income residential complex developed by NJPAC, LMXD and MCI Collective, and planned and designed by celebrated architectural firm Skidmore Owings & Merrill. ArtSide will consist of 350 rental units (20% of which will be affordable housing) new retail spaces, an education and community center, professional rehearsal studios - among them a new home for Newark's beloved jazz public radio station, WBGO - as well as an extension of Mulberry Street, on what is now NJPAC's Parking Lot A.

The 58,000-square-foot Cooperman Family Arts Education and Community Center, designed by the renowned architectural firm of Weiss/Manfredi, will be built on Parking Lot C. A dynamic redesign of NJPAC's front yard, Chambers Plaza, and the addition of a new space, Essex County Green, to the Arts Center's campus, will create a four-season urban park. Landscape architecture studio Future Green created the design for the new Chambers Plaza.

Newark's OCA Architects will design renovations of 31 Mulberry Street, an existing building NJPAC recently acquired adjacent to the site of the Cooperman Center. The building will house additional spaces for community gatherings, plus educational and office spaces for the Arts Center. NJPAC's eastern façade, certain interiors and loading docks will also be redesigned.

"NJPAC's campus redevelopment is more than a construction project; it's a powerful investment in Newark's communities and future," said Governor Phil Murphy. "This initiative will not only provide more housing and commercial spaces, but also create vibrant cultural and educational opportunities that will enrich the lives of Newark residents for generations to come. I'm proud to support this transformative project that embodies the spirit of creativity and inclusivity that is at the heart of our state."

"Newark is a city rich in history and possibilities, and NJPAC's role as an active, engaged and productive anchor cultural institution in its future is an extraordinarily exciting one," said NJPAC CEO John Schreiber. "We're grateful beyond measure to the remarkable coalition of partners, both public and private, who have collaborated with us to make this new neighborhood an exciting reality."

Among the partners who have joined in the planning and development of NJPAC's campus redevelopment are the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), which granted the project's \$200M tax credits under the Transformative Aspire Program; Prudential Financial, which facilitated the master



left to right - Ras Baraka, Mayor of Newark; John Schreiber, President & CEO of NJPAC; Charles Lowrey, Chairman & CEO of Prudential Financial. -Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

planning of the campus redesign and financed NJPAC's pre-development needs; Liberty Mutual, which committed to investing across the capital stack as both an Aspire tax credit investor and a limited partner; Citi Community Capital, which spearheaded construction lending and low-income housing tax credit investing for the project; TD Bank, which provided NJPAC with New Markets Tax Credit allocation for the Cooperman Center construction and a tax-exempt bond for other campus improvements; Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr., and the County of Essex, who supported the redesign of campus outdoor spaces; co-development partner Siree Morris, Managing Director of MCI Collective; the New Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency and Freddie Mac, which provided permanent loan commitments; and New Jersey Community Capital which provided support in New Market Tax Credits.

LMXD partnered with NJPAC to manage design, approvals and financing for the project.

"The streets of Newark have always been steeped in the arts. This is a city where jazz and hip hop are in the breeze, and every wall without a mural is just a canvas no one's yet claimed," said Mayor Ras J. Baraka. "The new neighborhood around NJPAC will fully embrace that dynamic spirit, bringing more housing, stores and gathering places to our already lively downtown. And one of the highest notes of all will be the new headquarters for our city's iconic jazz station, WBGO."

Philanthropic support from major donors who contributed to the Arts Center's \$244 million Capital Campaign, completed in December 2024, also helped finance the project. Notably, Leon and Toby Cooperman and the Cooperman family made a foundational gift to the construction of the Cooperman Center, which will headquarter NJPAC's Arts Education, Arts & Well-Being and Community Engagement initiatives.

"Ensuring young people have the best chances at their brightest futures is at the heart of our family's giving," said Leon Cooperman, a legend in the investment world and Chairman and CEO of Omega Family Office. "The Cooperman Center, a new home for so much of NJPAC's Arts Education and Community Engagement work, will be in service to everyone, from infants to older adults. Newark is a city of creativity, and I believe the Center has a unique opportunity to contribute to its future."

The Arts Center celebrated the groundbreaking on the project today with remarks from Governor Murphy; Mayor Baraka; Mr. Cooperman; Mr. Schreiber; state Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz; Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin; Newark Council President and Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver; Prudential Financial Chairman and CEO Charles Lowrey; NJEDA CEO Tim Sullivan; LMXD CEO David Dishy; Siree Morris, Managing Partner, MCI Collective; Ommeed Sathe, Head of Impact and Sustainable Investments at Liberty Mutual Investments; and WBGO President and CEO Steve Williams.

NJPAC donors, supporters, staff and community partners attended the event, which was followed by outdoor performances by marching bands and student jazz ensembles, art activities and a mini food-truck festival on the parking lots that will be transformed by the redevelopment project.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

For more information, visit njpac.org.

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

SOLE OSCAR-QUALIFYING SOUTH ASIAN FILM FEST RETURNS TO SEATTLE



Wakhri

Credit / tasveerfestival.org



All We Imagine As Light.

Credit / tasveerfestival.org

BY MABEL PAIS

The annual eagerly awaited 19th edition of the Tasveer Film Festival & Market (tasveerfestival.org - TFFM) makes history this year marking a pivotal moment for South Asian Cinema in North America, taking place in Seattle, Washington State. Not only does this year's festival celebrate the vibrant storytelling of the region, but it also launches North America's first-ever global film market dedicated to South Asian filmmakers. The Festival runs October 15-20, 2024 at the Seattle Center and the Tasveer Film Market (TFM) will feature the celebrated, award-winning filmmaker Deepa Mehta ('Fire', 'Water') as the inaugural Keynote Speaker, setting the stage for an unmissable event.

THE TASVEER FILM MARKET

The Tasveer Film Market is a groundbreaking initiative designed to reshape financial and distribution models for South Asian filmmakers worldwide. With a focus on expanding the reach and fostering collaboration, the market will host events such as the Co-Production Market, Tasveer Film Fund pitches (supported by Netflix), industry panels, and networking sessions. These activities aim to empower creatives by connecting them with producing partners, distributors, and global platforms.

The Tasveer Film Market will include keynotes by influential figures such as directors Deepa Mehta, and Pan Nalin ('Last Film Show', 'Angry Indian Goddesses'), and representatives from companies such as CAA, WME, Blumhouse, NBCU Launch, Amazon MGM Studios, Red Sea Film Foundation, and more.

"As the first film market dedicated to the South Asian community, our mission is to build a groundbreaking platform where diverse voices can thrive and be heard," said Rita Meher, Founder of the Tasveer Film Market and Co-Founder of the Tasveer Film Festival. "By carving out this space, we aim to empower underrepresented filmmakers, amplify South Asian stories, and foster global connections that will bring these narratives to the world stage."

Deepa Mehta added, "Tasveer Film Festival's legacy and contribution to South Asian cinema is one for the history books. Launching the first South Asian film market on a global scale could not have come at a better time. I am honored to inaugurate the Tasveer Film Market this year."

Meticulously curated projects, including Narrative, Documentary, and TV projects, all seeking producing

partners, Minimum Guarantee (MG) deals, sales, and distribution will be showcased at the market. Tasveer's flagship Tasveer Film Fund Short Film Pitches, supported by Netflix, will have finalists present their projects for a chance to secure a \$25,000 grant, with a total of \$75,000 available in funding.

THE TASVEER FILM FESTIVAL: A LEGACY OF EMPOWERMENT THROUGH STORYTELLING

As the only Oscar® qualifying South Asian Film Festival globally in the short film category, Tasveer has championed social change through the power of South Asian storytelling. This year's Tasveer Film Festival (TFF), October 15-20, 2024, is a testament to that commitment and will showcase 110 films including 36 world premieres, 28 North American premieres, 45 Seattle premieres, and 19 feature films from 15 countries (Bangladesh, Canada, France, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, India, United Kingdom, United States, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, and Sweden).

There are 91 short films that are a part of the class of the 2024 edition with 35 world premieres, 22 North American premieres, and 33 Seattle premieres. Some of the impressive short films in the lineup are Yassa Khan's 'Pink' (World Premiere), Rippen Sindher's 'Flight 182' (N. American Premiere), Tathagata Ghosh's 'If' (Seattle premiere), and more. 52 films of the 110 films showcased at the festival are by women, trans, and non-binary directors.

This year the festival boasts of prolific jury members who will be in attendance such as Oscar-nominated filmmaker Shaunak Sen ('All That Breathes'), actor Omi Vaidya ('3 Idiots') and director Geeta V. Patel ('House of the Dragon').

Some of the selected films that reflect the vision and filmmaking artistry of South Asian filmmakers and important issues from the subcontinent and diaspora are Payal Kapadia's feature narrative debut, 'All We Imagine as Light' - the 2024 Cannes Grand Prix winner, Iram Parveen Bilal's social media true story, 'Wakhri', Nik Dodani's LGBTQIA+ semi-autobiographical drama, 'Blue Boy', and more.

The 19th edition of the Tasveer Film Festival will feature engaging fireside chats, post-film Q&As with filmmakers from around the world, and a remarkable lineup of industry talents.

FILM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night Feature: 'Wakhri', Directed by Iram

Parveen Bilal

Centerpiece: 'The Umesh Chronicles', Directed by Pooja Kaul

Closing Night Feature: 'A Nice Indian Boy', Directed by Roshan Sethi

Tasveer Emerald Spotlight: The Cannes Grand Prix 2024 winner - 'All We Imagine As Light', Directed by Payal Kapadia

LGBTQIA+ Film: 'Blue Boy', Directed by Nik Dodani

Documentary Short: 'Yatra', Directed by Hemal Trivedi and Matt Alesevich

Mental Health: 'The Tides That Binds Us', Directed by Gavin Sea

Local Focus: 'Last 30 Days', Directed by Vivek Roy

Girl Power: 'Anuja', Directed by Adam J. Graves

Music Focus: 'Too Beautiful: A Spaceman Story', Directed by Utkarsh Ambodkar & Alex Salsberg

For a complete line of films and events, visit tasveerfestival.org

TICKETS & VIEWING INFORMATION

19th Tasveer Film Festival & Market Badge is available at tasveerfestival.org/ticket. Passholders will have access to the market, and film festival programming, including online streaming options on mobile devices, tablets, computers, and apps like Roku and Fire TV.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

For in-person event guidelines, including COVID-19 safety protocols, visit tasveerfestival.org.

TASVEER : Tasveer is committed to fostering social change through South Asian films and storytelling. With a rich legacy spanning over two decades, Tasveer remains at the forefront of promoting diversity, inclusion, and representation in the arts. Learn more at tasveerfestival.org.

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#TFFM

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

BOISE LAUNCHES DEBUT FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Miracle

Credit / theboisefilmfest.com

The inaugural Boise Film Festival (BFF) will make its debut October 10-13 with a 20th Anniversary screening of Gavin O'Connor's tale of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's Gold Medal journey, 'Miracle'. The new film festival will present a highly curated list of 27 films (16 features, 11 shorts), along with master classes on producing and screenwriting as it brings filmmakers and film and television industry veterans (including prolific producer Mark Ciadi, and CSI's Anthony Zuiker) to the city to celebrate independent film via a four-day event packed with programming and special events.

The film festival's epicenter and all screenings will be held at Boise's Egyptian Theater Screenings (700 West Main Street) and The Flicks (646 West Fulton Street).

Created to be a film festival focused on discovery, looking to find, highlight, and celebrate new cinematic voices and faces, to promote the next generation of film makers and artists. BFF will also include a special focus on films created and shot in the Pacific Northwest.

BFF Founders and Executive Directors, Christine, and Mark Holder, said, "We are thrilled with the inaugural lineup of films and special events our team has lined up for this first edition of the Boise Film Festival. From the beginning, we have said we hope to be matchmakers here in our adopted city between film lovers and the type of films and filmmakers that we have championed in our careers as producers and filmmakers. Following what should be a fun night of hockey on film with our 20th anniversary presentation of 'Miracle,' will be a carefully curated and diverse group of films spanning several genres, as well as highly anticipated film industry panels, Q&As, and master classes, bringing a lot of top talent right here to Boise."

2024 BOISE FILM FESTIVAL (BFF) LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Miracle (2004) : Director: Gavin O'Connor; USA; 135 minutes

The true story of Herb Brooks, the player-turned-coach who led the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team to victory over the seemingly invincible Soviet squad.

Preceded by

ECHL Unfiltered Episode 1: Idaho Steelheads - For the Love of the Game

Director: Tyler Nimmons; USA; 30m

The first episode of the series looks at the Idaho Steelheads hockey team and the challenges they face in the new season and their quest for Kelly Cup glory.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

Audrey

Director: Natalie Bailey; Australia; 97m

Birthrite

Director: Ross Partridge; USA; 100m

Chaperone

Director: Zoë Eisenberg; USA; 102m

Christmas Eve in Miller's Point

Director: Tyler Taormina; USA; 106m

Cold Wallet

Director: Cutter Hodierne; USA; 84m

Grassland

Directors: Sam Friedman, Will Bermudez; USA; 88m

La Cocina

Director: Alonso Ruizpalacios; Mexico, USA; 139m

Saturn

Director: Eric Esau; USA; 100m

Tapawingo

Director: Dylan K. Narang; USA; 109m

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

A New Kind of Wilderness

Director: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen; Norway; 84m

Every Little Thing

Director: Sally Aitken; Australia; 93m

Linda Perry: Let It Die Here

Director: Don Hardy; USA; 93m

Maya and the Wave

Director: Stephanie Johnes; USA; 95m

Porcelain War

Directors: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev; Australia/USA/Ukraine; 87m

Resynator

Director: Alison Tavel; USA; 96m

Shari & Lamb Chop

Director: Lisa D'Apolito; USA; 92m

Sugarcane

Directors: Emily Kassie, Julian Brave NoiseCat; Canada; 107m

SHORTS

Bite

Director: Jorey Worb; USA; 14m

Bird Drone



Bird Drone

Credit / theboisefilmfest.com

Director: Radheya Jegatheva; Australia; 9m

Bogota Story

Director: Esteban Pedraza; Colombia, USA; 16m

Border Hopper

Director: Nico Casavecchia; USA; 14m

Chauncey

Directors: Reilly Anspaugh, Daniel Rashid; USA; 11m

Fanatic

Director: Taran Killam; USA; 16m

ILY, Bye

Director: Taylor James; USA; 14m

Mankind

Director: Jacob Ronnow; USA; 26m

Midnight Snack

Directors: Samuel Dhooge, Rani Nagels, Jarne Meersman; Belgium; 2m

Mother Of Portland - WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Kyle LaMontagne; USA; 7m

The Soul Trader

Director: Susan Dynner; USA; 12m

Learn more about the Festival and the complete lineup of films and events, visit theboisefilmfest.com

TICKETS

To purchase passes and tickets, or for more information, visit theboisefilmfest.com.

THE BOISE FILM FESTIVAL (BFF)

Set to make its debut in October 2024, the Boise Film Festival will feature and celebrate independent films and filmmakers during a four-day event which will feature screenings, panels, Q&As, and masterclasses. BFF seeks to be a festival of discovery, looking to find, highlight, and celebrate new cinematic voices and faces, and to promote the next generation of filmmakers and artists. BFF will also include a special focus on films created and shot in the Pacific Northwest.

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



Nartan Rang Dance Academy

Presents

NAVRATRI CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 12th, 2024
Soundrific DJs Inc
Featuring DJ Parminder

Donation \$15

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Sunday, October 13th, 2024
Medley Entertainment
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LIVE

Donation

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7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

VENUE

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Dussehra: Embracing the triumph of good over evil

VIJAYADASHAMI, ALSO KNOWN AS DUSSEHRA, MARKS THE CULMINATION OF THE TEN-DAY FESTIVAL OF NAVARATRI, SYMBOLISING THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL. THIS DAY IS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT FERVOUR AND ENTHUSIASM ACROSS INDIA AND OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH ASIA. THE WORD VIJAYADASHAMI IS DERIVED FROM TWO SANSKRIT WORDS - VIJAYA, MEANING VICTORY, AND DASHAMI, REFERRING TO THE TENTH DAY OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR. THE FESTIVAL FALLS ON OCTOBER 12 THIS YEAR.

The festival of Dussehra is celebrated every year on the tenth day of Shukla Paksha of Ashwin month. This festival symbolizes the victory over evil. Over the period of time, this festival also comes to instil a new energy into the cultural consciousness and the sense of patriotism in the country. Even today, the need to enliven the culture of this inspirational and motivational festival has become all the more necessary in order to fight the forces of darkness. The question is who should protect the culture? Who should lead the rise of ideals? Who should get his first name written in the foundation of life values? The process of fighting evil is very difficult. This practice of awakening brilliance and power is very difficult. It is very complex to give a high peak to self-existence and self-identity. After all, how to fight the evils hidden in our house, when Ravana is taking birth in the courtyard of the house, be it in the form of corruption, be it in the form of political criminalization, be it in the form of those spreading communal hatred, be it in the form of anti-national elements. Be it in the form of terrorists who break the law, or in the form of those who make education, medicine and justice a business. Celebrating this festival every year, where strength is prayed for, attention is drawn towards various issues of national importance. This provides new inspiration, new freshness, new strength, new dreams and new directions.

The festival of Dussehra, which follows Navratri, is a very special festival for Hindus; it comes 20 days before the festival of Diwali. Dussehra is celebrated to mark the victory of Lord Shri Ram over the demon king Ravana. People stage the war between Shri Ram and Ravana in the form of a drama for ten days prior to the arrival of Dussehra. This dramatic life depiction is called Ram-Leela in North India— people organize Ram-Leela by wearing masks and through various dance forms, which they enjoy, making it a medium of Hindu culture, following the verses of Ramayana. They also make giant size effigies of the three great demons namely— Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna in which big fire-crackers are filled; and when the effigies are made to burn, they turn out to be the brilliant spectacles to watch on.



Lord Shri Ram is, thus, the symbol of truth, while his opponent Demon King Ravana is the evil incarnate. This great religious festival and custom is celebrated by the Hindus with the worship of Goddess Durga. The traditions and procedures of celebrating this festival are different across the country. Lord Ram was a devotee of the war goddess Maa Durga, who worshiped Maa Durga for nine days preceding the war, and killed Ravana on the tenth day of war. After this, Shri Ram rescued His Divine consort Sita through fighting a big war in company with His brother Lakshman, devotee Hanuman, and an army of monkeys. Therefore, Vijayadashami is a very important day of the victory of Good over the Evil, of the Truth over the Falsehood and the Light over the Darkness. On this day, along with burning of Ravana, there is also a tradition of worshipping weapons, vehicles and worshipping Maa Durga, Lord Shri Ram and Ganpati Devata. Therefore, Vijayadashami has also been called as Vijaya Tithi. It is believed that this day is very auspicious to please Goddess Lakshmi.

Dussehra has a cultural aspect also. It is also a festival to unite the cultural unity and integrity of the country. This year's Vijayadashami festival has special significance, because with the positive

revolutionary energy of this festival, not only a strong message has to be given to the negative and anti-national forces active in the nation, but also a challenge and caution against the misdeeds of neighbouring countries like Pakistan, China etc. After celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav year of Independence, the nation has to be strengthened for the Centenary Year that is 2047. The new consciousness that has come in the country with the strengthening of fundamental beliefs, nationalism is a living evidence of a powerful leadership. The efforts being made in search of renewable sources of energy for nationalism, self-identity, patriotic sentiments and the Hindu culture are unprecedented. The contemporary environment in which the nation is being led in accordance with the popular aspirations is extraordinary.

Dussehra is also a festival of Shakti sadhana, karma, new creation and worship. During the last eight decades, there have been continuous political moves to weaken the Hindu religion and culture. Actually Hindu is not a religion, it is an idea, and a culture. Being a Hindu nation does not mean to be a theocratic state, but the all-embracing spirit of Hindu culture. Hindu culture is the inherent sound of generosity, because it is the only culture in the entire world

which embraces pluralism i.e. all religions, ideas and cultures. This country also gave the title of Rishi to a materialistic philosopher- thinker like Charvak who had said that 'Rinaam Kritva Ghritam Peevet' i.e. whatever is there is today, who has seen tomorrow, hence today should be lived to the fullest and even if one has to take loans. If it has to be done, it should be done. Along with this, our other sages also gave us this advice that 'Satyam Buryat Na Buryat Satyam Apriyam' i.e. speak the truth, but do not speak the bitter truth. The greatness and specialty of Hindu culture has been that it advocates the beloved truth, but also asks for its prohibition when it becomes harsh.

The Hindu culture is that of non-violence, but it also talks about self-defence by taking up arms if necessary. The word 'Hindu' itself gives the sense of 'Swarashtra' which is a part of the larger form of Hindu culture. Vijayadashami festival is a powerful medium to strengthen this ideology. Through this festival, everyone's voice and objective is to destroy evil and encourage goodness. After Navratri, the last i.e. tenth day of Dussehra is Vijayadashami, which means that you have conquered all the three gunas – Tamas, Rajas or Satva. You passed through these three qualities, saw all three, participated in all three, but

you were not attached or tied to any of these three in any way, you overcame all three of them. This is Vijaydashami – the day of your victory.

Indian culture is a worshiper of bravery and valour. The festival of Dussehra has been organized to display bravery in the blood of individuals and society. The festival of Dussehra provides good inspiration to give up ten types of sins – lust, anger, greed, attachment, jealousy, ego, laziness, violence and theft. One who is full of hatred, full of anger, full of malice, full of jealousy, full of greed, is increasing fear. All these lead to fear and powerlessness. While celebrating Dussehra festival of force and bravery, the biggest need is to burn these vices within us.

India never supported war or violence, but when somebody challenged us and created war-like situations, the skill of Indian politics is to attack and defeat the enemy, instead of waiting for his attack. Since the time of Lord Ram, this day is the symbolic day of victory. Lord Ram had left for the war against Ravana on this day. Maratha Ratna Shivaji also protected Hindu religion by leaving for war against Aurangzeb on this day. There are many examples in Indian history when Hindu kings used to march in victory on this day. The celebration of Dussehra symbolizes protection of religion, display of power and coordination of power. Apart from this, Dussehra symbolizes the victory of positive forces over negative forces.

Celebrations in Different Regions of India?

1. Mysore Dussehra

Mysore's Dussehra or Dasara as they call it is one of the most spectacular Dussehra celebrations in the country. The royal heritage of Mysore interspersed with the ritualistic celebration is worth witnessing. Celebrated elaborately over a span of 10 days, the city honors Goddess Chamundeswari, who killed the great demon Mahishasura. The biggest highlight of the festival has to be the beautifully illuminated Mysore palace, which is decorated with 100,000 light bulbs from 7 P.M to 10 P.M on each day of the festival. Many cultural and religious programs, song and dance performances are also organized in front of the palace. The festivities culminate with a procession through the streets, carrying an idol of the Goddess Chamundeshwari atop an elephant adorned in gold and lavish accessories. The ride is taken through the city of Mysore, from the historical Mysore Palace to the Banni Mantapa. The revelry continues till late in the evening with a torch-light parade that takes place in the outskirts of the city.

2. Dussehra in Bengal, Tripura and Orissa

Come September and the excitement of Durga Puja takes over the state of Bengal, Orissa and Tripura. In these states, Dussehra celebrations are not quite tied to the epic battle of the Ramayana unlike the other parts of the country, rather they celebrate the victory



of Goddess Durga over buffalo king Mahishasura. The five day long extravaganza starts from Shashti (6th day of Navratri) and goes on till last day known as Vijaya Dashmi. The preparations begin months in advance - from setting up pandals, organising various cultural activities like poetry recitation, singing, dancing and painting competitions to the simple joy of purchasing new clothes. A lavish bhog is offered, and many traditional delicacies are served in the pandals. On the tenth day, married women bid a tearful goodbye to Goddess Durga. After the ritual of Sindoor daan, they offer sweets, betel leaves and prasada to the idol of Durga, and later distribute sweets amongst themselves. Women also put sindoor on each other's cheeks and foreheads (symbolizing the well-being of their married life). People gather again one last time in the evening, to wish each

other 'Shubho Bijoya' and later feast on some good mutton biryani, ghugni or mutton kosha with pooris.

3. Dussehra In Kullu

The Dussehra celebrations in the valley are imbued with rich culture, traditions and a rich legacy of the yesteryears. On Vijay Dashmi, Kullu valley's Dhalpur maidan is beautifully decorated with flowers and lights to celebrate Dussehra. In the 17th century, local King Jagat Singh installed an idol of Raghunath (Lord Ram) on his throne on Dussehra and from thereon God Raghunath was declared as the ruling deity of the Kullu Valley. In Kullu, they don't burn the effigies of Ravana. On the first day of the celebrations, Goddess Hadimba is carried from the temple in Manali down to Kullu, from where she's taken to the palace of the royal family. Later, in a procession she is taken to

Dhalpur and is joined by the idol of Lord Raghunath or Lord Rama where they stay until the end of the festival with many more Gods and Goddesses. Cultural performances, fairs and exhibitions are spread across the maidan and they further add to the excitement. On the last day of the festivities, the chariot carrying all the Gods and Goddesses is immersed in the Beas river. There is also a tradition of setting a pile of bushes on fire which is believed to depict the burning of Lanka.

4. Dussehra of Gujarat

Navratri or Navratra is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Gujarat. Devotees fast through the day, and perform pujas. In the evening, men and women gather, clad their vibrant clothes, to play Garba and Dandiya (Gujarat's folk dance). The folk melodies, and a lot of singing and dancing makes for a fascinating sight on the last few days of Navratri. Several devotees also take a tour of iconic pilgrimages like the temples of Goddess Ashapura Mata, Ambaji temple, and Chamunda Mata Temple.

5. North India's Spectacular Ram Lila

Navratri is one of the most significant festivals up north. Celebrated with much grandeur and enthusiasm, Sharad Navratri brings alive the festive spirit in all devotees. Devotees observe ritualistic fasts and do pujas to please their beloved deity. On the eighth or ninth day, there is a ritual of doing Kanya puja. Nine girls (seen as the nine avatars of Goddess Durga) are welcomed into the house by first washing their feet and then tying moli (red thread) around their wrists. These girls are seated in a line and given halwa, poori and chole. There is also a practice of organizing grand bhandaras, in honour of the Goddess, where Prasad is distributed to the neighbours and the needy in the locality. The Ram Lila depicting the historic tale of Rama defeating Ravana and winning back his wife Sita is also a common part of the festivities. On the last day, the celebrations culminate with the splendid Dussehra festivities, wherein Ravana's effigies are burnt, symbolizing his epic defeat at the hands of Lord Ram and the ultimate victory of good over evil.

6. Telengana's Floral Bathukamma

The newest state in the country, Telangana is a melting pot people and cultures. Apart from visiting temples and conducting the ritualistic pujas, Telangana also celebrates the Bathukamma Panduga or the Bathukamma festival during Navratri. This is a flower festival where the women of the house create beautiful flower arrangements and decorations in seven concentric layers in the shape of the Temple of Gopuram. 'Bathukamma' literally translates into 'Mother Goddess come Alive'. The flower arrangements are an attempt to invoke the Goddess and seek her blessings. Each year, this festival is celebrated as per the Shalivahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadrpada Amavasya (also known as Mahalaya Amavasya) till Durgashtami,



Ranbir Kapoor as negative lead in YRF's Dhoom 4

Actor Ranbir Kapoor might just have signed YRF's Dhoom 4. At least that's what the latest buzz in the media suggests. The actor, who's currently shooting for Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, will hop on to begin the fourth film in Aditya Chopra's Dhoom franchise next.

As per a report published in Pinkvilla, Ranbir has given his final nod to the makers and Chopra is busy providing finishing touches to the script with writer Vijay Krishna Acharya. A source close to the production informed that YRF is looking at completely 'rebooting' the entire franchise and Ranbir would play a key role in the same. Apart from Ranbir, the rest of the casting is going to take place soon and no one from the old Dhoom films will be cast in the fourth film.

The report quoted a source as saying, "Dhoom is a franchise dear to Aditya Chopra, and he has decided to reboot the franchise to keep in line with the current times. Like all previous parts, the script of Dhoom 4 (Dhoom Reloaded) has been developed by Aditya Chopra with Vijay Krishna Acharya. The idea and vision is to create a cinematic experience like never before with the fourth Dhoom film."

While talking about Ranbir's involvement in the film and how he came onboard, the source said, "The discussions with Ranbir have been going on for the longest time. He had always shown interest in being a part of Dhoom 4 on hearing the basic idea, and is now finally confirmed to lead the franchise. Adi Chopra feels that RK is the ideal choice to carry forward the Dhoom legacy."

Dadasaheb Phalke Award: Reward for Mithun Chakraborty's versatility

In an industry which foists a new deity every Friday, Mithun Chakraborty's has been a story of resilience. Announced as the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on Monday (September 30, 2024), Mithun Chakraborty has never been a prisoner of image. From arthouse to mainstream commercial cinema to even fare meant unabashedly for frontbenchers, he has straddled different genres with consummate ease.

Beginning with Mrinal Sen's Mrigayaa in 1976, he has probably been the only major actor to make a successful transition from arthouse cinema to commercial potboilers and back. While Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Om Puri and Smita Patil each dabbled with limited success in mainstream cinema after carving out their own niche in parallel cinema, Mithun is the only one to get a good bite of the cherry.

In parallel cinema, he has worked with the likes of Mrinal Sen, Buddhadeb Dasgupta and Goutam Ghose, winning three National Awards in the process. He switched to mainstream fare with the likes of B. Subash, K.C. Bokadia, Manmohan Desai and Parto Ghosh without a hiccup, giving his fans films like Disco Dancer, Dance Dance, Pyar Jhukta Nahin, Ganga Jumna Saraswati, Agneepath and Dalaal, etc. Director B. Subash's Disco Dancer got Mithun an international fan following with the film raking it rich in the Soviet Union, Japan and China besides India. For a few years in the mid-80s, he was the best-known Indian abroad. At a time when Hindi cinema was dominated by Salim-Javed's 'Angry Young Man' persona, Mithun rewrote the box office rules with Disco Dancer, where Bappi Lahiri's music and his dance numbers ensured repeat audiences.

For a brief while in the late 80s, he challenged Amitabh Bachchan for the top slot in Hindi cinema, encouraging Desai to give him a meaty role in Ganga Jamunaa Saraswati, a rarity in Hindi cinema where most heroes played second fiddle to Bachchan.

Yet, Mithun's most durable claim to fame has to be his foray into serious cinema where his work in films like Tahader Katha, Kaalpurush, Swami Vivekanand and Gudiya is still remembered. With his restrained work in arthouse cinema, he disproved the notion that an action hero of Hindi cinema could not pull off neorealism fare. Tahader Katha, Kaalpurush, Swami Vivekanand and Mrigayaa, each one got a National Award giving Mithun his own niche in serious cinema, and making sure his popularity traversed from first-



day-first-show to film festival circuit.

There is, however, another aspect of Mithun's career which has been under-appreciated. He is probably the first A-grade star to work in films specially made for the less-discerning audiences. In the mid-90s, Mithun reworked the economics of cinema by shooting for films exclusively in Ooty with a standard cast comprising the likes of Hemant Birje, Gautami, Deepti Bhatnagar, Kiran Kumar and Raza Murad with music by Dilip Sen-Sameer Sen. The films, made on a shoe-string budget of around ₹40 lakh, were completed within a month or so and released without fanfare at smaller centres. Films like Jallad, Chandaal, Dada, Hitler, The Don and Cheetah were not heard of in metropolises but earned the producers sizeable profit besides keeping Mithun's hardcore fans in small towns happy. Interestingly, while G.V. Iyer took 11 years to complete the research for Mithun's Swami Vivekanand, the star meanwhile completed more than 20 films!

In recent times, Mithun has played supporting roles in films like The Kashmir Files and The Tashkent Files, forays which probably went some way in convincing the three-member jury comprising former Dadasaheb awardee Asha Parekh, actor-politician Khushbu Sundar and filmmaker Vipul Amrutlal Shah to select Mithun Chakraborty for the highest honor in Indian cinema.

Source: ANI

Makers of Emergency film agree to changes by censor board



The makers of Kangana Ranaut's Emergency on Monday, September 30, agreed to the changes suggested by the revising committee of the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). During the latest hearing in the Bombay High Court, the representative of Zee Studios informed the court that they have submitted a format for the implementation of the changes and are waiting for the board to respond now. The development in the case was confirmed by the news agency ANI. A notification by the agency also revealed that the further hearing in the matter will take place on October 3. "Production company Zee Studio's lawyer told Bombay HC that they have agreed to the suggested changes by the Revising Committee, and they have submitted a format for the implementation of the changes suggested by the CBFC. CBFC will respond to this format and the next hearing on the matter is kept on Thursday, 3rd October (sic)," read the post shared by

the agency on social media platform X.

Earlier, the board issued around 13 cuts and changes to the film, passing the content with a UA certificate. The revising committee told the makers to make the changes and obtain the certificate for its release in theatres. The list of cuts included removal of a few violent scenes, and a reference to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as 'saint or sant' in a dialogue. The decision was made following multiple complaints by several Sikh groups, alleging the film showed the Sikh community in a bad light.

The makers had three options to proceed ahead: to accept all the changes and cuts, to contest the recommendations in a higher court, or to follow up with the board in further discussions and try to reach a common ground. It seems like the makers chose to end the entire fight to finally get the certificate and release the film on the big screen.



Joaquin Phoenix and Rooney Mara got engaged in 2019.

Joaquin Phoenix addresses Rooney Mara as 'wife', sparks marriage rumors

Hollywood actor Joaquin Phoenix, 49, recently fuelled marriage rumours with his longtime partner, Rooney Mara. During a Sunday appearance on the Talk Easy with Sam Fragoso podcast, the Joker star publicly referred to the 39-year-old as his 'wife' for the first time while discussing his 2020 Oscars speech.

Joaquin Phoenix shared with host Sam Fragoso that the inspiration for his Oscar acceptance speech came from a conversation he had with his "mom" and "wife". Moments later, the 49-year-old confirmed he was referring to Rooney Mara by mentioning her name: "Rooney was like, 'That's what you should say!'" Despite calling Mara his wife for the first time publicly, Phoenix did not clarify their marital status during the podcast.

Phoenix first met Mara in 2012 while working on Spike Jonze's drama Her, though they didn't start dating at the time. They reconnected while filming Mary Magdalene and went public with their relationship in 2017, eventually getting engaged in 2019. Although they've kept their relationship mostly private, Phoenix once revealed in a 2019 interview, "She's the only girl I ever looked up on the internet."

Phoenix and Mara welcomed their first child, 4-year-old son, River, in 2020. Earlier this year, the couple revealed they were expecting their second child.

Angelina Jolie withdraws lawsuit over alleged Brad Pitt abuse: Report

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie has reportedly withdrawn a lawsuit against the Department of Justice and the FBI over the release of documents which concerned the investigation of the 2016 alleged plane altercation. The said altercation allegedly took place between Angelina and her former partner, Brad Pitt.

"The parties to this action hereby stipulate to dismiss this action with prejudice, with each party to bear its own fees and costs," read a dismissal obtained by E! News.

The lawsuit was filed in April 2022 with the plaintiff listed as anonymous. NBC News had reported that the plaintiff said her (then) husband "allegedly physically and verbally assaulted" her and their children aboard a plane, which caused them "lasting physical and mental trauma as a result of the assault."

Later, the allegations coincided with an FBI report in which Jolie had reportedly accused Pitt of attacking her and one of their children during a flight from Europe to America on September 14, 2016.

No charges were pressed against Pitt, who denied abuse allegations.

Angelina Jolie filed for divorce from Brad Pitt on September 19, 2016. The actors were declared legally single in 2019.

On the work front, Jolie has been receiving rave reviews for her performance in Maria, while Pitt co-starred with close friend George Clooney in the comedy-thriller Wolfs.



Jolie seemingly confirms relationship with rumoured rapper boyfriend

It seems Angelina Jolie is ready to give love another chance with rapper Akala, who is younger than her. The actor confirmed her relationship with him via a social media post. The two have been spotted together on several occasions in New York. Jolie was previously married to actor Brad Pitt, but the two parted ways in 2016, followed by a long legal battle.

The 49-year-old actor posted a carousel post on Instagram, which featured pictures of the Carried Away

rapper and the former at an event. The post on Atelier Jolie's account began with the 40-year-old rapper attending Jolie's event and featured the actor in the latter set of images.

The caption read, "Atelier Jolie welcomed Mustafa at 57 Great Jones, hosting a special listening party and panel discussion for his debut album, Dunya, out now. Join us in celebrating this stunning 12-song collection, where folk meets poetry. The album is available to stream now on all platforms." Director and actor, Zoe Kravitz was also present at the event.

Nicole Kidman stars in a tense erotic thriller

The trailer for Babygirl, a 2024 American erotic thriller written, directed, and co-produced by Halina Reijn, has been released, giving audiences a 2-minute 25-second glimpse into a tense, provocative narrative that explores power dynamics and sexuality in a corporate setting.

The film stars Nicole Kidman as a high-ranking CEO who embarks on a dangerous and forbidden romance with a significantly younger intern, portrayed by Harris Dickinson. Supporting performances by Sophie Wilde and Antonio Banderas add further depth to the intricate power plays and emotional entanglements.

Babygirl debuted on August 30, 2024, at the prestigious 81st Venice International Film Festival, where Kidman's gripping portrayal earned her the Volpi Cup for Best Actress. Her performance has been lauded for its nuanced depiction of vulnerability and control in a high-stakes environment.

As the trailer builds to an intense crescendo, it showcases the simmering chemistry between Kidman and Dickinson. Kidman's character, navigating the moral ambiguities of her position, delves into uncharted emotional territory as she becomes entangled in a romance that threatens to unravel both her personal and professional life.

The film promises to provoke discussion with its bold



exploration of societal taboos, power structures, and the consequences of blurred lines in professional and personal relationships.

Babygirl is all set for a Christmas release - December 25, 2024.

WW-II bomb goes off at Japanese airport

A US bomb, likely dropped during World War II, exploded near the runway at Miyazaki Airport in southwest Japan on October 2, forcing its closure. The blast created a 7 metre-wide and 1 metre-deep crater on the taxiway, prompting authorities to shut down the runway, South China Morning Post reported. According to Japan's Transport Ministry, a bomb disposal team confirmed the explosion was caused by an American bomb buried beneath the surface, dating back to a wartime air raid.

Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The runway shutdown has led to the grounding of 87 flights but there is no danger of any further explosions. Repairs to fill the crater are expected to be completed by Thursday morning, said Japan's top government spokesperson, Yoshimasa Hayashi. The officials are also determining what caused its sudden detonation.

The disruption at Miyazaki Airport impacted flights operated by major carriers Japan Airlines (JAL) and All Nippon Airways (ANA), as well as other airlines. These affected flights typically connect Miyazaki with key Japanese cities, including Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka, according to the airport's website. The airlines affected are working to resume normal operations as soon as possible, following the completion of repairs to the damaged taxiway.

Typhoon Krathon: two people killed and two missing in Taiwan

Two people have been killed, two are missing and more than 100 injured in bad weather from a typhoon approaching Taiwan, which grounded flights and closed all schools, offices and financial markets for Wednesday and Thursday.

Typhoon Krathon reached super typhoon status in recent days but movement stalled overnight and its intensity has weakened as it moves slowly towards Taiwan's southwest. It is expected to make landfall near Kaohsiung on Thursday, Oct 3, afternoon. Authorities warned the threat of strong winds and storm surges remained for coastal and low-lying communities on the densely populated west coast, and the mountainous areas remained at high risk of landslides and torrential rain.

More than 38,000 troops have been placed on standby and almost 10,000 people evacuated from some mountain areas. Rescue authorities said on Wednesday afternoon that one man in his 70s had died after falling from a tree and two were missing – one reportedly having fallen into rough seas and another swept away by a river. On Thursday a truck driver was reported killed after a falling boulder struck his vehicle. At least 70 injuries have also been reported, mostly in the east coast county of Taitung, which has been battered by high winds and rain. One person was reported missing in the central county of Yunlin.

New NATO chief visits Ukraine

KYIV (TIP)

New NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte visited Ukraine on Thursday, October 3, in his first official trip since taking office and pledging the alliance's continued support for Kyiv in its war with Russia.

Ukraine President Zelenskyy said he discussed with Rutte elements of Ukraine's so-called victory plan, ahead of a NATO meeting at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany next week. The two also discussed the battlefield situation and the specific needs of Ukrainian military units. Zelenskyy reiterated that Ukraine needed more armaments, including long-range weapons it had long requested.

He also appealed for Western countries to scrap restrictions on Ukraine's use of Western-supplied long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russia.

Rutte said recent steps taken by NATO 'build a bridge to NATO membership' for Ukraine, including 40 billion euros (\$44 billion) of funding assistance, bilateral security agreements between allies, and the formation of a new



Zelenskyy and Mark Rutte address a press conference in Kyiv.

NATO command to coordinate assistance and training.

Rutte arrived after a Russian glide bomb struck a five-story apartment block in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, injuring at least 12 people, including a 3-year-old girl, local officials said.

Source: AP

Kim Jong Un threatens nuclear attack if provoked, vows to wipe out South Korea

SEOUL (TIP)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported on Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms.

The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests.

Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders.

During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons", if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name.

Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-US alliance.

Kim responded that Yoon's address fully betrayed his "bellicose temerity" and showed "the security uneasiness and irritating psychology of the puppet forces".

In a derisive comment, Kim called Yoon "an abnormal man", saying that "the puppet Yoon bragged about an overwhelming counteraction of military muscle at the doorstep of a state that possesses nuclear weapons". On Thursday, Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, also ridiculed South Korea's showcasing of the Hyunmoo-5 missile, saying there is no way for South Korea to counter the North Korea's nuclear forces with conventional weapons.

Since adopting an escalatory nuclear doctrine in 2022, Kim has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons



Kim Jong-Un.

preemptively. But many foreign experts say it is still unlikely that he would use his nuclear arms first because his military is outmatched by the US and its allied forces. In July, South Korea and the US signed a defence guideline on integrating South Korea's conventional capabilities with the US nuclear forces to better deal with North Korea's advancing nuclear programme. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

Animosities between the Koreas are at the worst point in years with Kim's provocative run of missile tests and the South Korean-US military exercises intensifying in a cycle of tit-for-tat. All communication channels and exchange programmes between the rivals remain stalled since 2019, when a broader US-North Korea diplomacy on ending the North's nuclear programme collapsed.

In January, Kim called for rewriting North Korea's constitution to eliminate the idea of a peaceful unification between the war-divided countries and to cement the South as an "invariable principal enemy".

He also reiterated that his country does not recognise the Northern Limit Line, a western sea boundary that was drawn by the US-led UN Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. He called for the new constitution to include a clear definition of the North's territories. North Korea has traditionally insisted upon a boundary that encroaches deeply into waters currently controlled by South Korea.

On Friday, Oct 4, South Korea's military said North Korea was again flying balloons likely carrying trash across the border into South Korea. Since late May, North Korea has launched thousands of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea, prompting South Korea to resume anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas.

Source: PTI

At least 78 people died when a boat with 278 on board capsized in eastern Congo, official says

GOMA, CONGO (TIP): At least 78 people died when an overcrowded boat capsized on Lake Kivu in eastern Congo on October 3, a local governor said. A frantic search and rescue operation was underway hours later as many remained unaccounted for from the vessel, believed to have had 278 people on board.

Jean-Jacques Purusi, the governor of the South Kivu province, said the death toll was provisional and that the number of fatalities could rise further. He said that according to the information that local authorities had, there were 278 people on board. The boat set off from the port of Minova, in South Kivu province, earlier in the day and was en route to Goma, in North Kivu province, Purusi said, speaking over the phone.

“We do not yet have (the full picture of) the whole situation but we will have it by tomorrow,” he told The Associated Press. The boat sank while trying to dock just meters (yards) away from the port of Kituku, according to witnesses who said they saw rescue services recover at least 50 bodies from the water.



It was the latest deadly boat accident in the central African country, where overcrowding on vessels is often to blame. Maritime regulations also are often not followed. Congolese officials have often warned against overloading and vowed to punish those violating safety measures for water transportation. But in remote areas where most passengers come from, many are unable to afford public transport for the few available roads.

“We will establish responsibilities and put in place a sanctions regime but also recommendations to improve

navigation on the lake,” Purusi told the AP.

He added that a lack of adequate equipment — there were no life jackets on the vessel — likely contributed to the tragedy, as did the overcrowding and negligence. Also, there had been a strong storm in the morning in the area of the lake, he added.

In June, an overloaded boat sank near the capital of Kinshasa and 80 passengers lost their lives. In January, 22 people died on Lake Mai-Ndombe and in April 2023, six were killed and 64 went missing on Lake Kivu. (AP)

'Brutal attacks': Qatar's Emir pledges support for Lebanon amid Israeli ground invasion

DOHA (TIP): Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, expressed his "full support" for Lebanon October 3 and said he ordered that emergency aid be provided in the face of Israel's offensive against Hezbollah.

"I affirm the State of Qatar's full support for Lebanon and its brotherly people against the brutal attacks they are being subjected to," the emir said on social media platform X.

"I have directed rapid action and the provision of all necessary resources to provide humanitarian and relief support to all displaced persons and those affected by this aggression."

Israel has shifted the focus of its operation from Gaza to Lebanon, where heavy bombing has forced hundreds of thousands to flee. The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry.

"The failure of the international community to stop the war on Gaza was a green light to expand the conflict," Sheikh Tamim said.

The Emir's statement comes as Israel issued extended evacuation warnings in South Lebanon on Thursday, signalling a



wider offensive as part of its ground invasion, which it claims to be a "limited, localised and targeted" operation against Hezbollah.

Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah after nearly a year of rocket attacks that began on October 8 and displaced some 60,000 Israelis from communities in the north. Israel has carried out retaliatory strikes over the past year that have displaced tens of thousands on the Lebanese side.

In recent weeks, Israeli strikes in

Lebanon have killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and several of his top commanders.

The vast majority of recent strikes have been in areas where Hezbollah has a strong presence, including Beirut's southern suburbs known as Dahiyeh.

But Israel has also carried out strikes in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and a strike in central Beirut earlier this week killed three members of a leftist Palestinian militant group. (Agencies)

TAIWAN HOSPITAL FIRE LEAVES AT LEAST 9 DEAD AS TYPHOON BATTERS ISLAND'S SOUTH

TAIPEI, TAIWAN (TIP): A fire at a hospital in southern Taiwan killed at least nine people October 3 as the island was being battered by a typhoon.

The fire occurred in Pingtung county, which has been hit hard by Typhoon Krathon, which made landfall in the afternoon with torrential rains and heavy winds and has brought parts of the island to a standstill.

Those who died inhaled smoke from the fire, the source of which was still under investigation. (AFP)

ALCOHOL POISONING KILLS DOZENS OF PEOPLE IN IRAN

TEHRAN, IRAN (TIP): At least 26 people died in Iran after drinking alcoholic beverages that contained toxic methanol in recent days, state media said.

The official IRNA news agency reported late October 3 that toxic methanol had killed men and women in various cities and towns in the northern provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan and the western province of Hamadan.

Alcohol poisoning also led to hundreds of hospitalizations, IRNA said. The source of the alcoholic beverages was not clear in the reports.

The consumption of alcohol has been generally prohibited in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution brought hardline Islamists to power. (AP)

UK LAWMAKERS TO CONSIDER LAW LEGALISING ASSISTED DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PERSONS

LONDON (TIP): UK lawmakers are to consider a proposal to legalise assisted dying, a member of the ruling Labour party said October 3, as calls mount to change the law. Parliamentarians will discuss the emotive issue after MP Kim Leadbeater introduces a bill on October 16 to give terminally ill people "choice" at the end of life. If successful, the legislation will only affect England and Wales.

Leadbeater is the sister of Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered by a far-right extremist during the 2016 EU referendum campaign. Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged to make parliamentary time for the subject as part of his Labour party's election campaign in July. On Thursday, his most senior civil service adviser, Cabinet Secretary Simon Case, said it would be a free vote as it was an "issue of conscience." "That means that ministers can vote, or not, however they wish," he wrote in a letter. (AFP)

'COMMITTED' TO IMF'S BAILOUT PACKAGE: LANKA

COLOMBO (TIP): The new Sri Lankan government during its first meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it was committed to the global lender's USD 2.9 billion bailout package clinched by the previous Wickremesinghe regime and hoped to renegotiate certain conditions. "The primary objective of the visit was to initiate discussions on the progress of the IMF Programme and necessary steps towards the release of the fourth tranche of the USD 2.9 billion Extended Fund Facility," a statement from the President's Media Division said here about the meeting. (PTI)

4K RESCUED IN NEPAL, FLOOD TOLL RISES TO 224

NEPAL (TIP): Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on October 2 that more than 4,000 people were rescued while 24 were missing in the rain-induced floods and landslides that have claimed 224 lives so far. In a press meet at Singha Durbar, Oli said the government operated at its full capacity during the natural disaster. He said the authorities had rescued 4,331 people across the country from the flooding disaster. At least 224 people have lost their lives. (PTI)

OVER 700 IMRAN SUPPORTERS 'HELD' AHEAD OF MARCH PLANNED BY PARTY IN ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD (TIP) : Over 700 supporters of the jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan were arrested from different parts of Punjab on October 3, a day before a major protest march in Islamabad by his party for the independence of the judiciary, release of the party founder and against rising inflation.

"Do or die — October 4th is the battle cry! No more waiting, no more silence. This is the final stand at D Chowk (Islamabad), where the brave gather and the weak fall behind. We are unstoppable, unbreakable, and ready to fight for the soul of this nation. Either we win or we perish trying," Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said soon after the arrests started.

It said the Punjab police arrested over 700 of its workers and leaders in different districts including, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Mianwali and Jhangh following its announcement to hold protests on Friday. Punjab's provincial government had adopted similar measures to prevent PTI's jalsa — the power show — at Lahore last month.

PTI's central information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said the government led by PML-N had holding protests and public meetings. (PTI)

Bilawal indicates his party could pardon Imran Khan if he is convicted by military court

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on October 2 indicated that his party could pardon jailed former prime minister Imran Khan if he is convicted by a military court.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and other top officials had last month said that the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder may face a military trial for allegedly instigating his followers to attack army installations after his workers went on rampage following his arrest on May 9, 2023.

Talking to reporters here, Bilawal, 36, was asked about his stance on Khan's military trial and he responded in measured words. "We need to assess the evidence first. After all, we have the authority to grant a presidential pardon," he said while maintaining that his party was against the death penalty.

His father, Asif Ali Zardari, being the incumbent president, has the power to grant pardon to condemned prisoners who have exhausted their right of appeals against conviction.

The former foreign minister had his father's power of pardon in mind when he talked about the presidential pardon, even though it is too early to speculate about Khan's trial by the military and sentence.

Bilawal also spoke about the constitutional amendments.



When questioned about the proposed amendments and their deadline of October 25, he stated, "If the amendments are made before October 25, the matter can be settled peacefully. While they can be done later, it may lead to confrontational situations."

He further asserted that his party would not abandon the matter concerning the constitutional court, vowing to see it through to completion. "We have already faced significant delays, our demands date back to 2006 and are part of our manifesto," he added.

He mentioned that the head of the

constitutional court would serve a three-year term and expressed his opposition to the establishment of military courts, emphasising that the justification for the federal constitutional court lies in the Supreme Court's historical precedents.

Last month, a Pakistani high court disposed of a petition regarding holding a military trial of Khan after it was informed that no decision had been taken by the federal government.

The former cricketer-turned-politician had petitioned the Islamabad High Court against his trial being handed over to the military authorities. (AFP)

Bangladesh recalls envoy from India in major diplomatic reshuffle

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh has withdrawn its High Commissioner from India, Mustafizur Rahman, indicating a 'foreign policy' re-set from the times of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regime that ended on August 5 following street protests in Dhaka.

Rahman is among six other diplomats Bangladesh has withdrawn from various postings across the world.

A letter signed by Mohammad Nazmul Haque, Director General (administration) of the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, did not give details why Rahman was being withdrawn but asked the diplomat to return to Dhaka immediately.

Separately in Dhaka, the Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma had, yesterday posted on social media platform X about his meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh, Mohd Touhid Hossain.

"Discussed ways to promote bilateral relations towards realizing shared aspirations of the people of both the countries."

External Affairs Minister S



Jaishankar and Hossain had also met on the sidelines of the US meet in New York last week.

On August 5, Hasina had flown on board a special plane from Dhaka and landed at Hindon air base near New Delhi. An Interim Government led by Noble Peace awardee Mohd Yunus was sworn in on August 8.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs at

Dhaka has recalled five other envoys from missions, which include Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Mohammad Abdul Muhith, Ambassador to Belgium Mahub Hasan Saleh, High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem, Ambassador to Australia M Allama Siddiky and Ambassador to Portugal Rejina Ahmed. (PTI)



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4 vitamins you need to nourish your skin

Vitamins play a crucial role in nourishing the body and the skin, and their deficiency leads to maladies like dark spots, redness, wrinkles, rough patches and excessive dryness. Experts list the most important vitamins for a healthy skin and their sources.

Vitamin A

Also called Retinol, this is a compound which stimulates the production of new skin cells and actively works to counter acne and signs of ageing like formation of wrinkles and lines. Vitamin A is found naturally in foods like carrots, sweet potatoes, eggs, dairy products and spinach.

Vitamin B3

Niacinamide or nicotinamide - a form of vitamin B3 - is among the eight vitamins responsible for maintaining good health. This is a water-soluble vitamin known for its anti-inflammatory properties, which is used to treat skin ailments like acne, spots, hyperpigmentation and rosacea - a skin condition characterised by spreading of redness due to rashes. Chicken breast, tuna, salmon, peanuts, green peas, mushrooms and potatoes are some foods rich in vitamin B3.

Vitamin C

The anti-oxidant properties of



vitamin C help prevent acne and protect the skin from the effects of free radicals and creation of collagen structures. Taking adequate Vitamin C can help repair skin and reduce wrinkles. Citrus fruits, strawberries, tomatoes, mangoes, bell peppers, broccoli and Brussel sprouts are some sources of vitamin C.

Vitamin E

Also known as Tocopherol, vitamin E is a powerful anti-oxidant

that protects skin from free radicals. Free radicals are generated by internal and external factors.

Their internal generation happens when the body converts food into energy, while externally, the skin gets them through pollution, exposure to UV rays, and excessive smoking and drinking. Natural sources of Vitamin E include almonds, hazelnuts, sunflower seeds, olive oil, spinach, corn and mangoes.

Hacks to remove nail paint when you don't have a remover

Toothpaste

For the first hack, all you need is a toothpaste and an old toothbrush. Just apply drops of toothpaste on your nails, wet your brush, and gently scrub your nails. Make sure you scrub just the nails, as the bristles of the brush might harm the skin. The presence of ethyl acetate in the paste will remove your nail paint in no time. This chemical is also present in nail paint removers.

Vinegar And Lemon

Vinegar can also help in removing the nail paint if you are running out of remover. To begin with, soak your hands in warm water for 5-10 minutes. Now take two tablespoons of vinegar and two tablespoons of lemon juice. Stir it and soak a cotton ball in it. Now use this cotton ball to remove the paint. You might need to press the cotton ball on your nails, as it might take a little longer for the vinegar to remove the paint. You can also try rubbing a lemon slice on your nails if you have bits of chipped nail paint.

Hand Sanitiser

One thing which must be available in abundance in every household nowadays must be hand sanitiser. We have all been using it to keep our hands clean, so why



not use it to remove nail paint? Hand sanitiser contains rubbing alcohol, which will help in removing the paint off your nails. Just drop some sanitiser on your nails and quickly use a cotton ball to rub it. You might need to repeat this process 3-4 times. Make sure you wash your hands and apply a hand cream after you are done, in order to prevent your hands from drying.

Hairspray

Hairspray too contains rubbing alcohol, which can help in getting rid of chipped nail paint. Just spray some of it on your nails and use a cotton swab to wipe it off. You need to be quick with it, as the cotton might stick to your nails and create a mess.

FOOD CORNER



Tawa Chicken Fry

A delicious lip-smacking dish, the Tawa Chicken Fry is easy to make and can be served as a starter or as an appetizer to a meal.

Ingredients

Chicken - 500 gms
Gram Flour - small handful
Juice of 1 Lemon
Ginger Garlic Paste - 2 tbslp
Turmeric Powder - 1/3 tsp
Coriander Powder - 1/3 tsp
Curry Leaves - few
Red Chilli Paste - 3 tsp
Saunf - 1/2 tsp
Cumin Seeds - 1/2 tsp
Salt as per taste
Oil as required

Method

- Clean, wash and dice the chicken into bite-sized pieces.
- Combine the gram flour, lemon juice, ginger garlic paste, turmeric powder, coriander powder, curry leaves, red chilli paste, saunf, cumin seeds and salt in a bowl.
- Mix well with a little water.
- Add the chicken pieces and mix until evenly coated.
- Keep aside for 45 to 75 minutes.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
- Fry the chicken pieces until golden brown and cooked.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve with mint chutney.

Tandoori Chicken Wraps

Ingredients

Tortillas (or Plain Rotis/Naans) - 4, cooked and kept warm, Chicken Breasts - 2, skinless, boneless, cut into small pieces, Plain Yogurt - 2tbslp, Ginger Garlic Paste - 3 tsp, Red Chilli Powder - 4 to 5 tsp (adjust as preferred), Garam Masala Powder - 2 tsp, Coriander Powder - 1/2 tsp, Juice of 1/2, Lime Lettuce as required, torn, Salt as per taste, Black Pepper Powder as per taste, Oil as required

Method

Heat oil in a pan over medium flame. Combine the yogurt, ginger garlic paste, redchilli powder, coriander powder, garam masala powder and lime juice. Mix well. Season with salt and pepper powder. Finally add the chicken pieces and mix everything. Keep aside for 10 to 15 minutes. Then add to the pan and cook, stirring from time to time, for 5 to 10 minutes. Once the chicken is cooked, remove the pan from the flame. Place the warm tortillas (or rotis) on a flat surface.

Drinking coffee can lower risk of developing multiple cardiometabolic diseases

Consuming moderate amounts of coffee and caffeine regularly may offer a protective effect against developing multiple cardiometabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and stroke, according to new research published in the Endocrine Society's Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Researchers found that regular coffee or caffeine intake, especially at moderate levels, was associated with a lower risk of new-onset cardiometabolic multimorbidity (CM), which refers to the coexistence of at least two cardiometabolic diseases.

The prevalence of individuals with multiple cardiometabolic diseases, or CM, is becoming an increasing public health concern as populations age around the world, notes the study.

Coffee and caffeine consumption could play an important protective role in almost all phases of CM



development, researchers found.

"Consuming three cups of coffee, or 200-300 mg caffeine, per day might help to reduce the risk of developing cardiometabolic multimorbidity in individuals without any cardiometabolic disease," said the study's lead author Chaofu Ke, M.D., Ph.D., of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health at Suzhou Medical College of Soochow University, in Suzhou, China. The study found that compared with non-consumers or consumers of less than 100mg

caffeine per day, consumers of moderate amount of coffee (3 drinks per day) or caffeine (200-300 mg per day) had a 48.1% or 40.7% reduced risk for new-onset CM.

Ke and his colleagues based their findings on data from the UK Biobank, a large and detailed longitudinal dietary study with over 500,000 participants aged 37-73 years. The study excluded individuals who had ambiguous information on caffeine intake. The resulting pool of participants included a total of 172,315 individuals who were free of any cardiometabolic diseases at baseline for the analyses of caffeine, and a corresponding 188,091 individuals for the analyses of coffee and tea consumption.

The participants' cardiometabolic diseases outcomes were identified from self-reported medical conditions, primary care data, linked inpatient hospital data and death registry records linked to the UK Biobank.



Doctors warn breast cancer is rising among younger women

US doctors are warning about the rise of another form of cancer in young people: breast cancer. The American Cancer Society (ACS) has just released its Breast Cancer Statistics 2024, highlighting breast cancer occurrence and trends. Per their findings, rates of breast cancer among women younger than 50 are becoming more common despite the huge leaps in breast cancer treatment over the last couple of decades.

The new report shows that breast cancer mortality has decreased by 44 percent since the late 1980s. This progress is the result of advances in treatment and earlier detection through screening.

Per the report, there is a continued upward trend in breast cancer incidence, rising by 1 percent annually during 2012-2021, with the steepest increase in women younger than 50 years (1.4 percent per year) and Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) women of any age (2.5-2.7 percent per year).

The US report showed differences among groups highlighting disadvantages in social determinants of health – it highlighted a stark racial disparity that has persisted for decades.

Black women are still more likely to die of any type of breast cancer than white women. Black women continue to have a 38 percent higher breast cancer mortality rate than white women, despite a 5 percent lower incidence. Among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women under 50, breast cancer diagnoses have increased by 50 percent since 2000. Breast cancer rates in AAPI women younger than 50 are now higher than those in Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native women of the same age group. In 2000, AAPI women under 50 had the second-lowest rates of breast cancer.

"The encouraging news is breast cancer mortality rates continue to decrease thanks to advances in early detection and treatment," said Angela Giaquinto, associate scientist, cancer surveillance research at the American Cancer Society.

Source: HT

Sources of protein for those on a vegan diet

If exercise helps build strength and flexibility, it is one's diet and nutrition intake that builds health and energy. While there are different types of diets that may help one achieve the desired results, many people tend to believe that there are not many adequate sources of protein for vegans.

Pistachios

Pistachios make for an excellent high-protein snack on the go. You can also use them in your favourite recipe. They've got 25 grams of protein per cup.

Almond butter

Almond butter contains more fibre, calcium, potassium, and iron than peanut butter. Add a scoop of almond butter to your oatmeal, smoothie, or slather it on top of a banana or piece of sourdough toast. Contains seven grams of protein per two-tablespoon of serving.

Pea protein powder

Pea protein is a popular vegan protein option. It's easy to digest, and a good source of arginine (an amino acid the body needs to build muscle), and branch chain amino acids (protein compounds that can delay



fatigue during exercise).

Add some to your post-workout smoothie. Contains 14 grams of protein per two teaspoons of serving or one scoop.

Spirulina

Another rich source of protein, spirulina is a worthy addition to your morning smoothie or juice. Contains a hefty 57g per 100g, but the average serving is between 1-3 grams.

Chia seeds

Chia seeds pack a surprising amount of protein, and are also high in fibre. Contain five grams of protein per two teaspoons of serving.

Sesame seeds

Sesame seeds are rich in lignans that may help burn fat as they cause the body to release more fat-burning liver enzymes. They are also an excellent source of vegan protein. Contain five grams of protein per three teaspoons of serving.

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Indian study finds method to create nanostructures for use in biomedicine, electronics

A team of Indian researchers from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru -- autonomous institutes under Department of Science and Technology (DST) -- have unravelled new method to create nanostructures for use in biomedicine and electronics.

The team made a breakthrough in understanding the process of controlling the assembly of tiny molecular units into complex structures.

This, they said, holds promise for creating new materials that could revolutionise industries like electronics, healthcare.

"Supramolecular self-assembly is a process where small molecules spontaneously organise into larger, well-defined structures without external direction," said the Ministry of Science and Technology, in a statement.

"Understanding this process is crucial for creating new organic materials that can be used to develop nanodevices -- tiny machines useful for performing specific tasks at the molecular level," it added.

The researchers explored the self-assembly behaviour of specific molecules called chiral amphiphilic naphthalene diimide derivatives (NDI-L and NDI-D). They experimented with two different methods of assembling these molecules -- solution-phase assembly and air-water interface assembly. The solution phase involved assembling molecules in a liquid solution. This leads to the formation of spherical nanoparticles, which display unique optical properties, such as strong mirror-imaged circular dichroism (CD) signals. These properties are important for materials that interact with light in precise ways.

On the other hand, the air-water interface assembly involved the assembling of molecules at the boundary between air and water. Here, instead of forming spherical nanoparticles, the molecules arranged themselves into flat, two-dimensional layers with irregular edges.

Source: IANS

SpaceX docks at ISS to bring back Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore home next year

NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov embarked on a special mission to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard the SpaceX Dragon capsule. Their main objective was to bring back NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who had been stranded on the ISS since June 2024. The tension of uncertainty loomed over the entire mission, but hope and determination fueled their journey.

Upon successfully docking the Dragon capsule with the ISS on a serene Sunday, the atmosphere onboard transitioned from apprehension to elation. As Hague and Gorbunov stepped onto the space station, they were warmly greeted by the Expedition 72 crew, which included NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. The sense of relief and joy was palpable as the crew embraced the returning astronauts.

The entire crew, comprising a mix of NASA and Roscosmos astronauts, worked in harmony to ensure a smooth transition for the arrival of Hague and Gorbunov. The space station buzzed with activity as preparations were made for the return journey of Williams and Wilmore aboard the Dragon spacecraft, scheduled for the following year.

Amid this momentous occasion, NASA's Johnson Space Center shared the official welcome on social media, marking the significance of the reunion in space. With the temporary increase in the crew size to accommodate the new arrivals, the space station became a bustling hub of international collaboration and scientific exploration.

Meanwhile, the rescue mission launched by SpaceX unfolded against a backdrop of challenges posed by external factors such as high winds and rain due to Hurricane Helene. Despite the hurdles, the successful arrival of the crew at the ISS underscored the resilience and dedication of the astronauts involved.

The Dragon capsule, carrying NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russia's Alexander Gorbunov, will stay docked at the ISS until February, extending Wilmore and Williams' mission to over eight months instead of the originally planned week-long trip. Two NASA astronauts were removed from the return mission to make room for Wilmore and Williams.

Williams, the space station commander, welcomed Hague and Gorbunov, saying, "I just want to say welcome to our new compadres," as the newcomers were embraced by the station's crew of nine. Hague reflected on the journey, noting the smooth flight and the emotional moment of arrival, predicting an "amazing expedition" ahead.



In this image made from a NASA livestream, the two astronauts stuck at the International Space Station since June 2024, Butch Wilmore, far left, and Sunita Williams, far right, welcome two new residents who flew up on SpaceX, NASA's Nick Hague, front left in blue, and the Russian Space Agency's Alexander Gorbunov, front right in blue, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. Behind them, from left in black, are NASA's Jeanette Epps, Russia's Alexander Grebenkin, NASA's Mike Barratt and NASA's Matthew Dominick. From left, wearing red, are Russia's Ivan Vagner, NASA's Don Pettit and Russia's Alexei Ovchinin. (AP/PTI)

Boeing's Starliner faces scrutiny after capsule safety concerns

NASA generally rotates station crews every six months, and since 2020, SpaceX has been responsible for astronaut transportation. Boeing, initially contracted for ferry flights, faced multiple delays and over \$1 billion in repairs due to software glitches and other issues with its Starliner capsule. Post-flight inspections and data reviews of Starliner are currently underway at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, though NASA hasn't given up on Boeing entirely, according to Jim Free, NASA's associate administrator.

With the arrival of the new astronauts, the four who have been aboard since March are set to return to Earth in a week using their SpaceX capsule, bringing the ISS crew back to its usual size of seven. Their stay was extended by a month due to the Starliner complications. While Saturday's SpaceX launch went smoothly, a malfunction in the rocket's upper stage caused it to miss its targeted Pacific Ocean impact zone, prompting SpaceX to suspend Falcon launches until the issue is resolved.

X users will no longer see these posts in the main timeline

Elon Musk, the owner of X, has advised users of the social media platform to refrain from excessively using bold fonts in their posts.

He stated that such posts would no longer be displayed prominently in the main timeline.

Musk highlighted that the bold font feature, intended to help users emphasise specific parts of their messages, can detract from the overall appeal of a post when overused.

He expressed his frustration in a post, saying, "You will have to click on post details to see anything in bold. My eyes are bleeding."

Due to immediate and excessive use of bold font on X, it will be removed from



view in the main timeline.

You will have to click on post details to see anything in bold. My eyes are bleeding.

The change, effective immediately, means that any text formatted in bold will be hidden from direct view on the main feed.

Users will now need to click on individual posts to see the bold text. This update applies not only to web users but has recently been extended to those using the iOS and Android apps.

Previously, X only allowed bold and italic text formatting for web users, but the feature's expansion to mobile platforms has led to a notable increase in its usage.

This new rule has been announced to remind users about maintaining readability and aesthetic quality in their posts, ensuring that the platform remains user-friendly.

With this new rule, X aims to enhance the visual experience for its users and maintain the integrity of the platform's content.

Source: ANI



Government considering proposal for 'Made in India' branding

The Union Government is discussing a proposal to formulate a scheme for 'Made in India' label with a view to promote brand India in the global markets, an official said. The official said that a high-level committee was examining the details of the scheme.

The objective is to create a strong brand identity for India, similar to how 'made in Japan' or 'made in Switzerland' evokes about specific images and qualities.

"This is what we want for India also," the official said, adding, for instance, "when we think of Switzerland, we often think of their watches, chocolates, and banking systems. We are having discussions on how to do that. Do we make this scheme for specific sectors such as textiles where we considerable strength. So we are looking into such things".

Stricter norms to curb speculative trading in F&O

To curb speculative trading, markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday put in place a stricter framework for equity index derivatives by increasing the minimum contract size and mandating upfront collection of option premiums.

Other measures announced by Sebi included intra-day monitoring of position limits, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day, rationalisation of weekly index derivatives and increased tail risk coverage. These measures, aimed at protecting investors and maintaining market stability, particularly in the high-risk environment of index options trading on expiry days, will become effective in a phased manner starting November 20, Sebi said in its circular. The framework comes days after Sebi came out with its study on Futures & Option (F&O) segment.

A recent Sebi study found that 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual traders in the F&O segment lost an average of around Rs 2 lakh each between FY22 and FY24.

Middle East conflict lifts oil prices despite large US crude build

NEW YORK (TIP)

Oil prices edged up on worries that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could threaten oil supplies from the world's top producing region, but a large build in U.S. crude inventories limited gains.

Brent futures rose 34 cents, or 0.46%, to settle at \$73.90 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed 27 cents, or 0.39%, to settle at \$70.10 per barrel.

On Tuesday, Oct 1, OctIran fired more than 180 missiles at Israel, its biggest ever direct attack on the country. Israel and the United States vowed retribution for the attack, a sign that conflict in the region is intensifying.

Israel's retaliation could include targeting Iranian oil production facilities among other strategic sites, U.S. news website Axios reported on Wednesday citing Israeli officials.

Iran said its missile attack on Israel was over, barring further provocation. It added that any Israeli response to its attack would be met with widespread destruction.

An attack on Iran's oil infrastructure could provoke Tehran to respond with a strike on Saudi oil facilities, similar to one conducted in 2019 on crude processing facilities there, said Tamas Varga of oil brokerage PVM.

"Any of these events would irretrievably send oil prices considerably higher," he said.

In another escalation of the conflict, the Israeli military on Wednesday sent regular infantry and armored units to join ground operations in southern Lebanon against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

At a United Nations Security Council meeting about the Middle East on Wednesday, Israel and Iran threatened each other with retaliation if attacked.

"A major escalation by Iran risks bringing the U.S. into the war," Capital Economics said in a note. "Iran accounts for about 4% of global oil output, but an important consideration will be whether Saudi Arabia increases production if Iranian supplies were disrupted."



Iran's oil output rose to a six-year high of 3.7 million barrels per day in August, ANZ analysts said.

Offsetting some gains made during the week, U.S. crude inventories rose by 3.9 million barrels to 417 million barrels in the week ended Sept. 27, the Energy Information Administration said. This compared with analysts' expectations in a Reuters poll for a 1.3 million-barrel draw. Gasoline stocks also rose last week, but distillate inventories fell. "As we descend into seasonal refinery maintenance, a chunky drop in refining activity has ushered in a build to crude inventories," said Matt Smith, lead oil analyst at Kpler.

A meeting on October 2 of the top ministers of OPEC+ kept oil output policy unchanged. The group is set to raise output by 180,000 bpd each month from December.

"Any suggestion that production hikes will proceed could offset concerns of supply disruptions in the Middle East," ANZ analysts said.

Source: Reuters

Mark Zuckerberg is now world's second-richest person, surpassing Jeff Bezos

CALIFORNIA (TIP)

Index. Meta shares have jumped almost 70% since the start of this

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg surpassed Jeff Bezos to become world's second richest person as his net worth reached \$206.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. With this, Mark Zuckerberg topped the \$205.1 billion net worth of former Amazon CEO and president Jeff Bezos. At present, the Facebook co-founder trails Tesla CEO Elon Musk by almost \$50 billion, the index showed. Mark Zuckerberg, who owns a 13% stake in the Menlo Park, California-based company, has seen his fortune grow \$78 billion so far this year and has gained four spots this year on the wealth index. In 2024, Mark Zuckerberg's net-worth has risen by \$78 billion- more than any member of the of the 500 richest people who are tracked by the Bloomberg

World's Richest Billionaires		
RANK	NAME	CURRENT NET WORTH
1	ELON MUSK	\$256B
2	MARK ZUCKERBERG	\$206B
3	JEFF BEZOS	\$205B
4	BERNARD ARNAULT	\$193B
5	LARRY ELLISON	\$179B

Source: Bloomberg.com

year owing to increase in Mark Zuckerberg's personal wealth alongside investor enthusiasm. Meta has repeatedly boasted of its artificial intelligence (AI) investments as a reason for its sales growth. This is a huge turnaround for the company which laid off 21,000 employees in late 2022 as Mark Zuckerberg instituted a major cost-cutting plan that investors feel helped the company rebound.

At present, Meta is spending billions of dollars on the virtual and augmented reality technologies, but investors continue to support the company whose core ad business remains healthy. Last week, Meta debuted its Orion AR

glasses, which garnered positive reviews.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES : Ganesha says this week is going to start a little challenging for you. You may face difficulties in your day-to-day work. Therefore, you need to make your preparation and hard work even stronger. This is a good time for you to increase your perseverance and confidence. You need to be even more determined towards your goals. This week you may get good news about your career. You may get success in your work and you can earn a name in your field. Therefore, you need to work even harder in your work. This week is good for students. You will succeed in your studies and you will be able to achieve your goals. You can also get a good opportunity in the business field. You can get a good opportunity to earn money and you can take your business forward.



TAURUS : Ganesha says your horoscope is looking very good from the beginning of the week. You may have to face many pleasant events in your life this week. This week will be very good for you and you will get success in your work. You will get a chance to fulfill your dreams and you will be ready to make your life even better. This week you may get golden opportunities for your career, which will give you a chance to move forward. You have to choose these opportunities carefully and take advantage of them on time. This week will be very good for you as students too. Your hard work will bring you success and you can earn a name in your field. This week will be very good for you in the business sector as well. You will get a good chance to earn money and you will be able to promote your business even more. You will have to work a little hard during the week.



GEMINI : Ganesha says your horoscope will be very auspicious for this week. You will get very good results in your work this week and get a chance to realize your dreams. This week may bring golden opportunities for your career, and you will need to use these opportunities at the right time. This week can be good for students who are preparing for medical. Your hard work will get the right result and you can earn a name in your field. This week can also be auspicious for moving forward in the business sector, and you can get a good opportunity to earn money. This week you have to take a little care of your health and try to keep your routine

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCT 7, 2024 TO OCT 13, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

healthy. After the hustle and bustle of the day, there can also be a chance to spend time with your loved ones in the evening, which will be very relaxing for you.



CANCER : Ganesha says this week will start with some challenges for Cancer people. You may have to face some objections in the coming days. Therefore, you will need to be more careful in your work. You have to do your work carefully and maintain your focus. You will get a chance to succeed in impressing your seniors with your working style. With your determination and hard work, you can also get your boss to praise your work. This will be a perfect time for your career. This week will also be a very auspicious time for your relationships. Your interaction with people will increase and your relationships will be strengthened. This week you may get a chance to make a new relationship with your friends. There can be a beautiful beginning of love in your friendship and you will get the support and cooperation of your friends.



LEO : Ganesha says this week is bringing an excellent start for you as per the horoscope week for Leo. You will see new and advanced paths in your work which will lead you to success. Your religious and spiritual nature will give you the necessary strength to succeed in your work. You should show more enthusiasm and activeness in your business and job today. You should cooperate with your group which will help you in achieving your goals. You are expected to see growth in your business work by the end of the week. You are also likely to gain in money matters. You will feel strong with your family and you will enjoy spending your time with them. Students should be active in their studies and do their studies with more enthusiasm. This week can prove to be financially profitable for you.



VIRGO : Ganesha says this week is bringing some trouble for Virgo people. You have to focus on your work as well as be careful of your opponents. Avoid trusting people around you, especially your family relatives. You do not need to react to everything, especially when you are angry. Control your anger and try to avoid disputes in the family. Your expenses may be a little high this week, due to which you may feel a shortage of money. Therefore, try to handle your expenses and also try to keep yourself strong mentally. This week you may get a chance to spend some time in your favorite hobby, which can help in reducing your mental stress. Students may need to take a little break from their studies today. Focus on your work this week and be careful of your opponents.



LIBRA : Ganesha says this week will be marvelous for you. You will experience a lot of good luck and success in your life. This will be a very auspicious week for you. You will get a chance to spend a lot of time with your partner and family in your life. This will be a very wonderful week for you. You will get a lot of excitement and happiness in your family and social life. You will experience a lot of good luck and success in your life.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says this week will be difficult for Scorpio from the beginning. You may face many problems in your daily activities. Therefore, you need to be careful. Do not ignore health or else you may get into a big problem. Try to take care of your health. This week you may get some special gifts from your relatives. Your married life will also be full of love. Employed people will be very busy in their work and their work will also be appreciated. People preparing for a government job may get good news this week. You need to control your increasing expenses. Do not do any work in excitement, otherwise you may be misunderstood. Complete the necessary tasks on time and make a budget for your income and expenditure. This will help you avoid problems later.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Sagittarius can be a bit difficult for you. You may have to face a lot of confusion even on normal days. You will have to work hard this week and it will take you a lot of time to complete your work. Do not disappoint yourself, rather you have to focus on your work. You should take the right advice from your seniors regarding your work. There may be a need to improve your working style. This week can be a great time for personal relationships for you. Your interaction with people can increase and you can get a chance to spend time with your family. Your friendship with friends can have a beautiful beginning of love. You can also get help from your friends in your work. This week you can get a chance to go to new places with your friends. This week there will be no major problem regarding your health.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says this week will be very happy for Capricorns. Along with getting monetary benefits, you will get signs of a lot of happiness and prosperity throughout your day. Your financial condition will be strong and you will get a lot of success in your business. You may get a new project for your work which will give you a chance to earn a lot of money. This week you

have to take care of your health. You should take care of your body and take care of your food. This week you may have arguments with your relatives. You have to control your speech and handle your thoughts. Employed people have to stay away from their office politics today. If you look at it closely, you may face some problems in your office. You have to focus on your work and stay away from your office politics.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says this week is going to be very auspicious for Aquarius. You will get a very good experience in the coming days. You will get a lot of success in life today. You will work with great enthusiasm and zeal and will be fully dedicated to achieving your goals. You will get very good results in your business today and you will be able to find new ways to increase your wealth. You will also get good profits from your investments. You will get a chance to enjoy a romantic dinner date with your partner today. You will share comfort and happiness and also talk about your future. This week will be very favorable for you and you will get a lot of happy moments in your life. According to the horoscope, this week will be very auspicious and favorable for you.



PISCES : Ganesha says this week will be full of problems for Pisces people from the beginning. You may have to fight financial issues and you will have to take care of your expenses completely. You may have to spend more time and effort to do your work. This week you may need to build good relations with your colleagues. You may have to take time out to resolve your family matters. Whatever auspicious work will happen in your house, you will be successful in it. This week you will have to pay attention to yourself and also take care of your health. If you are a student, then this week you will have to pay more attention to your studies. You will try to acquire knowledge from new places and will give others a chance to learn your knowledge. You will also have to be a little careful in money matters. You may also need to check your investments in your business.

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 : OCTOBER 7 TO OCTOBER 13
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

OCTOBER 7 : Ganesha says you love someone with all your heart, but you have to learn to control your sometimes erratic and rebellious behavior. You are constantly on the lookout for a committed romantic relationship, and the thought of being alone can make you sad. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits. You must amass knowledge, information, and lasting connections. Entrepreneurs can diversify their businesses into new and lucrative areas.

OCTOBER 8 : Ganesha says you enjoy reading to expand your knowledge and learn about new and unseen things, and you constantly welcome new ideas, but you must learn to control the urge to act at times when you are shy, be cocky or moody. May you get respect and appreciation in the coming year. Economic benefits can come from various sources. Your living conditions can improve by getting new sources of income. You can get big benefits in matters of real estate.

OCTOBER 9 : Ganesha says you

enjoy being alone and independent, which enables you to take small steps toward your goals, but you need to manage your tendency to be reckless, overbearing, and at times restless. You can have enough energy available with you and if you use it properly, it can give impressive results. Friends and family may not be of much help, so don't count on them. In terms of money, this would be an excellent moment to buy stocks and real estate, but all purchases should be made with the long term in mind.

OCTOBER 10 : Ganesha says this year, you can get profits from the contacts you have made recently. You can enter lucrative industries thanks to your extensive business expertise, which can also help you become more visible in the market. Money gain is certain, but the unexpected loss can also happen. More attention should be paid to health, especially for people with chronic diseases. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits.

OCTOBER 11 : Ganesha says the

time is now to make important business decisions. During this time investment can give good returns. Home repairs and other construction-related work may also be high on your priority list. Property matters can be beneficial. Distant travel, even to another country, is enjoyable and there can be a possible reunion with old friends. Patients with chronic diseases need to pay more attention to their health.

OCTOBER 12 : Ganesha says if you pay attention to the words of your family members this year, you can achieve a lot. By getting new sources of income, your financial condition can improve and your confidence can be at its peak. Your wife and other female family members may make every possible effort to keep you satisfied. If there is any career change then it can be beneficial. Your outspoken personality can be beneficial for you. Avoid becoming a permanent surety or guarantee for others as this can lead to awkward situations and legal problems.

OCTOBER 13 : Ganesha says you can make new relationships and sign new

collaborations this year which can help your career a lot. Financial gains can result from past investments. Family members and friends can offer encouragement and support. You will experience some minor stress and tension, especially about the health of your parents and an increase in household expenses. Trips for fun or socializing with friends can be interesting and intellectually stimulating.

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

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Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 4 TO OCTOBER 10

4th October



1708 Guru Gobind Singh appointed Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) as the Jathedar of the Panth and attached to him five leading Sikhs. These Sikhs were to provide the corporate leadership to the Khalsa. The Guru handed him a seal, five arrows from his quiver and the nishan sahib, flag pole. Baba Gurbakhash Singh accompanied by about 25 Sikhs left for the Punjab on this day, to punish the Subedar of Sirhind, and uproot the oppressive Mughal rule.

1708 Guru Gobind Singh stabbed by Jamshed Khan, a hired assassin.

1930 Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh released from imprisonment. He was arrested on May 9, 1915 for participating in an unsuccessful attempt to attack Ferozpur Fort on November 27, 1914.

5th October

1708 SPIRITUAL guruship passed to Sri Guru Adi Granth while CORPORATE guruship transferred to Guru Khalsa Panth. Mata Sahib Devan was given the title of being the "MOTHER OF KHALSA"

1983 6 Hindu passengers murdered near Dhilwa. As a result, the Punjab government was suspended and President's direct rule imposed over Punjab.

6th October

1661 JOTI JOT, Patshahi Seventh, Guru Har Rai Ji.

Patshahi Seventh, Guru Har Rai Ji, left for heavenly abode. Guru Har Rai had retired to Nahan to avoid confrontation with his elder brother Dhirmal, who had set himself as the Guru at Kiratpur and was in possession of the original copy of Granth Sahib, and to avoid Mehrban, son of Prithi Chand, Guru's great grand uncle, who had taken over control of Harimandir Sahib and had declared himself as the Guru at Amritsar. Guru Har Rai lived at Nahan for 12 years though he did visit other Sikh places for short intervals. Here he left for his heavenly abode.

1661 GUR GADHI, Patshahi eighth, Guru Har Krishan Ji. Patshahi Eighth, Guru Har Krishan Ji, ascended to Guruship. Guru Har Rai selected Har Krishan, his youngest son, to lead the Sikh nation, who at the date of his anointment was only five years old. The eldest son, Baba Ram Rai, was disinherited and disowned by Guru Har Rai for sycophancy at the Royal court in Delhi, where he was sent by Guru Har Rai to represent him. Guru Har Rai put before Har Krishan five paise and a coconut and bowed to him. Baba Gurditta put the saffron mark on his forehead and declared him to be the eighth Guru of the Sikhs.

1840 Davender Singh, son of Jasant Singh became Raja of Nabha.

1920 The control of Babe Ki Baer at Sialkot passed over to SGPC. This was the first Gurdwara to be liberated after Khalsa Sewak Jatha of local Sikhs,

despite hurdles, started performing daily services at the Gurdwara and restarted Guru Ka Langar. C.M. King, the commissioner of Lahore Division, approved the Committee of 13 persons under Baba Kharak Singh to control and manage the Gurdwara.

1922 Babbars appealed, through their "Babbar Akali Doaba" newspaper, to Sikhs in British forces to join the Babbar ranks.

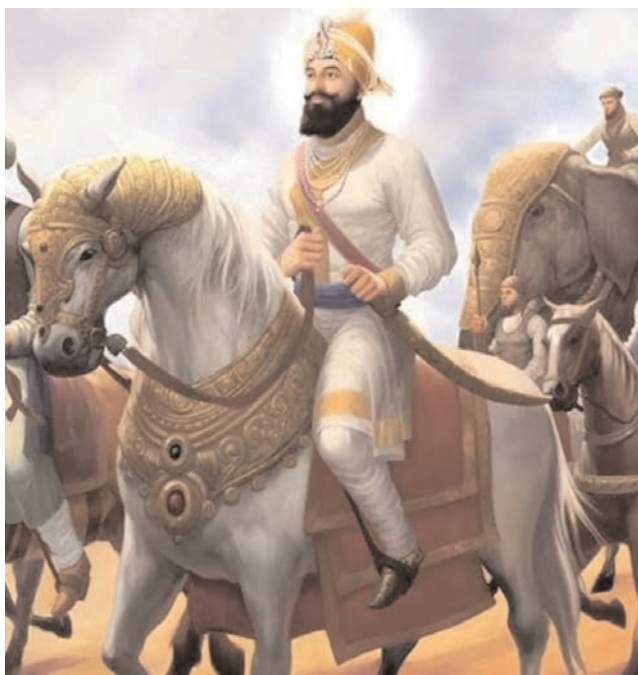
1963 Baba Khadak Singh, leading Panth luminary, passed away.

7th October



1534 Prakash Utsav, Fourth Patshah, Guru Ram Das Ji. GURU RAM DAS (1534-1581). the Fourth Master, ascended the holy gaddi (throne) of Guru Nanak in 1574 and continued to adorn the exalted office till 1581. Though he was the son-in-law of Guru Amar Das, being married to his daughter Bibi Bhani, yet he revered the Third Master as a Guru with an unwavering fervor. Inebriated with the nectar of the divine Nam, he spurned delights, and spent all his time in an ecstatic communion with the Lord through moments of deep meditation.

1664 Guru Tegh Bahadur disclosed his mission, through Makhan Shah, a trader from Muzaffrabad, Kashmir. He announced thrice from the house top, to the congregation gathered for Diwali – "Guru has been found".



1708 JOTI JOT, Patshahi Tenth, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, at Nanded.

Tenth Patshahi, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, left for heavenly abode in Nanded, South India. This is the actual date of Joti Jot, though it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth. His mortal remains were consigned to flames by Bhai Daya Singh.

Shortly before his demise, the Guru advised the Sikhs to henceforth seek guidance from the Holy Granth. He didn't appoint any successor. The abolition of the personal Guruship actually took place in 1699 when the Guru established the Khalsa and after administering 'Khanda Pahzzl' to his five disciples, himself took Khanda Pahul from them in the same manner whereby the Guru also became the disciple. The personal Guruship stood formally abolished after the death of Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Gobind Singh was a great scholar, a brave warrior, and a great commander. He wrote many compositions which are named 'Dasam Granth'. He fought 20 battles in 30 years. He breathed a spirit in his Khalsa disciples, that has been evident in exemplary courage for the last about two centuries. Khushwaqt Rai in his 'History of Sikhs' has stated that Guru Gobind Singh issued a coin with the legend, "Deg Tegh Fated, Nasrut Baidarang, Yaft uz Nanak Guru Gobind Singh".

1753 Nawab Kapur Singh passed away in Amritsar.

8th October

1745 Bhai Taru Singh's scalp was removed by orders of Nawab Zakaria Khan.

Nawab Zakaria Khan's orders were carried out and Bhai Taru's scalp was removed. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world.

1839 Maharaja Khadak Singh was dethroned by Dogras and Maharaja's chief advisor, Sirdar Chaet Singh Bajwa was murdered. This event took place barely three months after the demise of Ranjit Singh and marked the beginning of a long drawn tragedy of intrigues and murders of royal princes and high officials.

9th October

1664 Sikh masses rediscovered their Ninth Guru with the help of Makhan Shah. Makhan Shah was a sea merchant, who when caught in a storm at sea, had vowed to make an offering of a hundred and one gold coins to the Guru if his ships were saved. On this day he arrived in Bakala. Upon seeing so many Gurus, he was confused. He went to each one of the imposters and placed two gold coins and bowed; each one was pleased to have an offering of two gold coins. However, Makhan Shah was disappointed. He knew that the Guru would know about the promised offering of hundred and one gold coins, and would not be willing to accept just two gold coins. At the end he went to Tegh Bahadur and put two gold coins and bowed his head. Tegh Bahadur smiled and said that Makhan Shah had promised to give a hundred and one gold coins and not just two gold coins, if his ships were saved. The Guru showed him the wound he had on his shoulders when he had rescued the ships. Makhan Shah was stunned, he could not believe his eyes or ears. He ran to the roof of the house and shouted at the top of his voice, "Guru Lado re, Guru Lado re" (I have found the Guru, I have found the Guru). Thus was re-discovered the Ninth Guru of the Sikhs by the masses. This historic incident sealed the affair for good and the people renounced the imposters and came to the fold of the true Guru.

10th October

1946 Ishar Singh Mahjail moved a resolution, in the Indian house, for the creation of a Sikh State. The resolution was seconded by Sardar Swaran Singh.

While Sharadiya Navratri is celebrated with great enthusiasm across India, it holds a unique charm in Gujarat and Bengal. In Bengal, the Durga Puja festival is celebrated in full swing.

This year, Durga Puja will start on October 8, 2024, and will conclude on October 12 with Vijayadashami. Durga Puja is the biggest and most important festival for the Bengali community. Each day of the festival, including Shashthi, Mahasaptami, Mahaashtami, Mahanavami, and Vijayadashami, holds special significance. Durga Puja lasts for five days, from the Shashthi (sixth day) to Dashami (tenth day) of Sharadiya Navratri.

Significance Of Each Day Of Durga Puja

Bilva Nimantran (October 8, 2024):

Bilva Nimantran Timing: 3:39 PM - 5:59 PM

On this day, Goddess Durga is invited to reside in the Bilva tree or kalash (pitcher). This ritual of inviting Goddess Durga is known as the Nimantran. The evening time and the conjunction of Shashthi are considered the most suitable for Bilva puja.

Kalpambh (October 9, 2024):

According to scriptures, on the day of Kalpambh, Goddess Durga, along with Maa Saraswati and Goddess Lakshmi, descends to Earth alongside Kartikeya and Ganesh Ji. The Kalpambh puja is performed at an auspicious morning time. In Bengal, the curtain is drawn from the idol of Maa Durga on this day. The rituals of Kalpambh are similar to the Bilva Nimantran observed in other states.

Navapatrika Puja (October 10, 2024):

Navapatrika Day: 5:05 AM

The day of Navapatrika Puja is also known as Mahasaptami. On this day, Goddess Durga is invited to a group of nine plants known as Navapatrika. The Goddess is also given a grand bath on this day.

Sindoor Khela (October 12, 2024):

This day marks the last day of Durga Puja. On this day, married women offer red vermillion (sindoor) to the Mother and apply it to one another. It is believed that this ritual grants the blessing of everlasting marital bliss.

Why is Durga Puja Celebrated: Origin, Significance, and Traditions

The origins of Durga Puja can be traced back to ancient Indian scriptures. According to mythology, Mahishasura was a demon who had received a boon from Lord Brahma that he could not be defeated by any god or man. This made him powerful, and he caused great distress to the gods in heaven. In response to the gods' plea for help, Lord Brahma, along with Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva, created Goddess Durga, endowing her with their supreme powers to battle Mahishasura.

A fierce battle ensued between Mahishasura and Goddess Durga. To gain an advantage, the demon transformed himself into a buffalo. The conflict lasted for 10 days, at the end of which Goddess Durga emerged victorious by beheading the buffalo and defeating Mahishasura as he appeared in his original form.

In essence, the festival of Durga Puja commemorates this epic battle, spanning over 10 days, with the final day known as Vijayadashami celebrating the triumph of good over evil, in addition to celebrating Goddess Durga's visit to her parental home with her children.

The celebrations kick off with Mahalaya, marking the beginning of Goddess Durga's journey to Earth. The formal festivities start on "Maha Sashthi," the sixth day, highlighted by the grand unveiling of Durga's idol to the public amid the vibrant beats of "dhakis" playing the traditional "dhak" drum, a staple of the puja and Bengali tradition.

The next day, "Maha Saptami," begins with the early morning ritual of immersing a banana tree in water, symbolically transforming it into the "Kola Bou"

Durga Puja: Celebrating the triumph of Goddess

Durga Puja, one of the most revered festivals in Hinduism, celebrates the triumph of Goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishasura. In 2024, this vibrant five-day celebration, known as Durgotsava, will start from October 8. Beyond its religious significance, Durga Puja serves as a cultural and spiritual gathering for millions of devotees, particularly in India, symbolising the victory of good over evil.



(Banana Bride), dressed in a saree with a red border and placed beside Lord Ganesha. The "Kola Bou" is interpreted by some as Ganesha's bride, while others see it as a representation of Goddess Durga herself or a sacred assembly of nine plants embodying the goddess's plant form.

"Maha Ashtami," the eighth day, is crucial as it commemorates Durga's triumph over Mahishasura.

"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

This day is filled with devotees offering prayers with "Anjali" and enjoying festive meals like khichdi. The following day, "Maha Navami," commences after the "Sandhi Puja," culminating in the grand "Maha Aarti," drawing large crowds for participation.

The festivities conclude on "Maha Dashami," the tenth day, with the immersion of Durga and other deities' idols in the river Ganges, a ceremony known as "Visarjan." Before this immersion, married women partake in "Sindoor Khela," applying vermillion to each other's faces. The day wraps up with processions and joy, and the tradition of visiting relatives to exchange "Bijoya Dashami" greetings signals the end of Durga Puja.

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Pachmarhi: The Queen of Satpuras

Pachmarhi has a number of waterfalls and lakes. Known as the Queen of Satpuras, Pachmarhi is an enchanting place. It is always full of life and has a great cultural heritage. It is a place that dates back to the time of the Mahabharatas because legend has it that the Pandavas stayed in these hills. The waterfalls in Pachmarhi are among the prime tourist destinations of the place. These cascading falls falling in torrents from a height are a spectacle to watch.

The silver cascades of water falling down from sandstone rocks amidst the surrounding greenery make the waterfalls in Pachmarhi gracious. Geographically Pachmarhi is a collection of waterfalls. There are a number of Waterfalls in Pachmarhi in India, and the most well known among them is the "Bee Fall" or the Jamuna Prapat. Rajat Prapat or the big fall is ideal for those who want to have adventure. It is just 10 mins walk from the Apsara Vihar. The Duchess Falls or the Jalwataran has a steep fall and it takes 4kms to reach the base of the first cascade of the fall.

"Bee Fall" provides drinking water to Pachmarhi. The Bathing pools above the fall are frequented regularly and are popular. The fall gently cascades about 50 meters down the face of the rock and is shaded beautifully. In the nearby trees giant squirrels play on the branches and different types of birds provide soothing music. There are many Waterfalls in Pachmarhi but Bee Fall is the most accessible one. It is just 10 mins walk from Apsara Bihar.

There are many waterfalls in Pachmarhi that are lesser known. Clinging to the rounded sandstone structures these falls have an aura of their own. The Sunlight falling on Pachmarhi Waterfalls make for good visuals and you have a chance to trek as none of these are accessible by cars.

Rajat Waterfall

Rajat waterfall is one of the essential waterfalls in Pachmarhi and the 30th highest fall in India. With a height of 350 feet, the waterfall will surely amaze you with its natural beauty. As the waterfall is located quite close to Apsara Vihar, you will have to make an uphill journey to reach there. Most tourists love to trek to enter Rajat Prapat because the view offered in the passage is quite beautiful, and adventure seekers do not want to miss that. Apart from being a beautiful waterfall, the area surrounding the waterfall is perfect for having a nice picnic with your family. Do not forget to bring your camera to click gorgeous pictures of the waterfall.

Bee Waterfall

Bee waterfall is one of the most famous waterfalls located in Pachmarhi because of its intensity and the view of the area surrounding it. As the waterfall originates from perennial rivers, a pool is formed below the waterfall that is



perfect for taking part in different water activities including swimming. The reason so many people love this fall is that the water available in the pool is quite clean. To reach the waterfall, you will have to climb down more than 400 steps though the route where the stairs are located is covered in the lush greenery of thick forests. You will fall in love with the ambiance of the area.

Duchess Waterfall

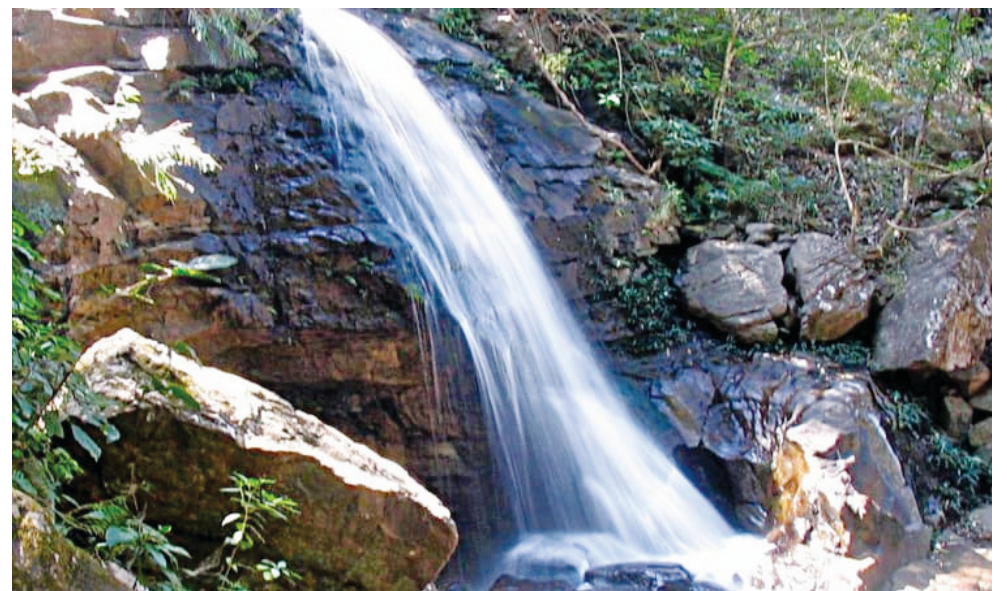
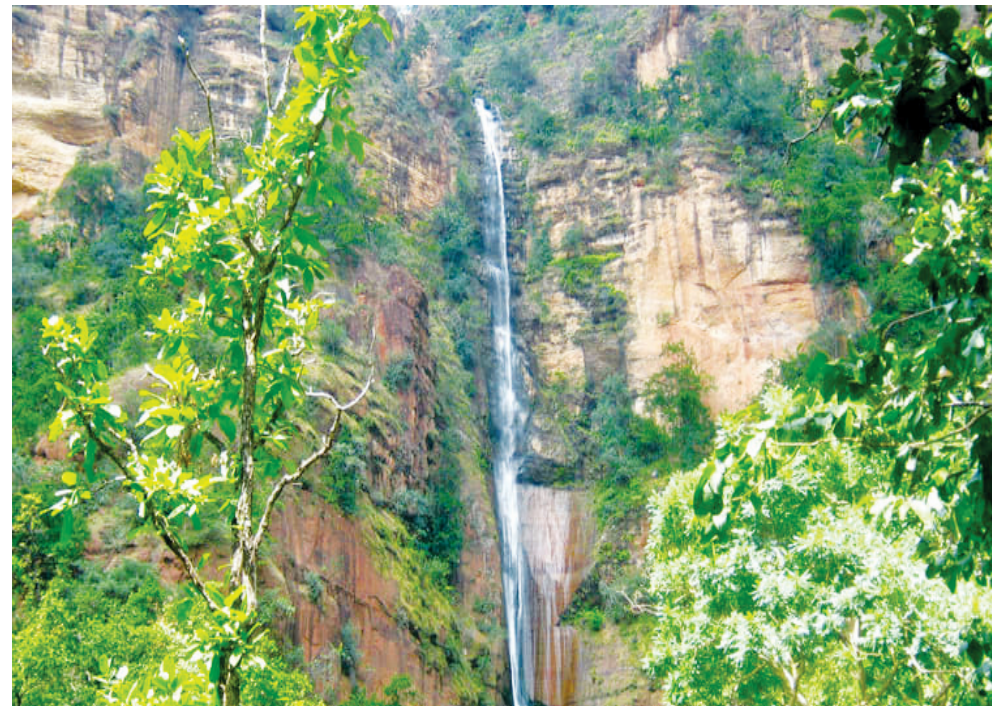
Duchess waterfall is located in the Bhrant Neer area of Pachmarhi that can be reached after undergoing a 4 km uphill trek. The reason this waterfall is immensely popular among nature lovers is that the waterfall originates as one stream by getting bifurcated into three different streams. When you reach there, you will be stunned by the gorgeousness of the streams of the cascading water.

A considerable number of people do not visit the fall, so the surrounding area of the falls is quite clean and well-maintained. If you are a bird-lover, you will love this area as there are several different categories of birds living there in the forest. You must bring your binocular as well as your camera when you visit the falls.

Apsara Waterfall

Apsara waterfall is a hidden gem located in Pachmarhi. To reach there, you will have to hike approximately 3 km, and among the trail, you will have to do a steep climb of 1.5 km. The journey to reach the waterfall is not quite easy. Many tourists cannot go there due to the arduous journey to reach the falls. When you ultimately reach there, you will find all your tiredness to be washing out because the area where the fall is located is breathtakingly beautiful. The water of the fall is entirely fresh, and most tourists drink the water to replenish themselves. You will get to enjoy a break from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Pavas Prapat Waterfall



Pavas Prapat is commonly known as little falls in Pachmarhi because it is located quite close to the Rajat waterfalls. This tiny fall may not be immensely popular among tourists, but it serves a great picnic spot for all the tourists and the local people living out

there. On the weekends, the area surrounding the falls stays quite crowded. Like other waterfalls in Pachmarhi, this one is also best enjoyed in the monsoon. Even though the waterfall is not that massive, it is quite beautiful.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Israel continues its extensive bombing...

The Israel Defense Forces said it had struck a tunnel used for smuggling weapons into Lebanon, but the country's economic minister said most weapon smuggling takes place through "illegal channels, illegal roads" and not the main crossing. Taking out the only land border entry point into Syria has left Lebanon more isolated, adding "another layer of desperation" for those fleeing and seeking shelter, Amin Salam told CNN's Isa Soares.

Meanwhile in Iran: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led a rare commemoration service for slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as part of Friday prayers in Tehran. Khamenei said Iran will strike Israel further if necessary, after launching its largest-ever attack on its regional adversary Tuesday. Thousands of people gathered at Tehran's Grand Mosque for the prayer service, according to the broadcast from state media outlet IRIB.

No public funeral yet for Nasrallah: A source close to Hezbollah told CNN "nothing has been decided" about the time and place of Nasrallah's burial, as Israel's intensive bombing campaign has battered many Shia-majority neighborhoods and towns in Lebanon, leaving no conceivably safe place to hold it.

Hezbollah attack: Israeli police reported heavy damage in northern Israel following a Hezbollah rocket barrage on Friday. Several fires broke out but no injuries were reported. Hezbollah said it had targeted the city of Kiryat Shmona and surrounding areas with a rocket barrage "in defense of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the barbaric Israeli assaults on cities, villages, and civilians."

Israel tells more Lebanese residents to evacuate: Residents of more than 30 villages in southern Lebanon were asked to leave their homes and move north on Friday. Some of the villages listed in the new order had been included in previous Israeli warnings. The IDF would notify residents when it was safe to return to their homes, Arabic-language spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote on X. About 1 million displaced people in Lebanon have sought shelter from the fighting.

More Hezbollah members killed: The IDF said it killed the head of Hezbollah's communication unit in strikes on southern Beirut on Thursday afternoon local time. Hezbollah has not yet made any announcements about casualties. The IDF says it has killed "approximately 250" Hezbollah militants since launching its ground offensive in southern Lebanon earlier this week.

Health care "under attack": Dozens of medical workers were killed over a 24-hour period of Israeli bombardment in Lebanon, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Thursday. At least 37 health facilities have closed in southern Lebanon and several Beirut hospitals have evacuated staff and patients, with health and humanitarian workers struggling to provide care with limited

supplies. "Health care continues to come under attack," he said at a briefing in Geneva. *(With inputs from CNN)*

UN Security Council backs Guterres...

Mr. Guterres on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, issued a brief statement referencing only the "latest attacks in the Middle East" and condemning the conflict "with escalation after escalation". Earlier on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Israel had sent troops into south Lebanon.

Earlier Wednesday, October 2, 2024, Israel declared Mr. Guterres "persona non grata" as they think he didn't specifically condemn Iran's missile attack when he condemned on Tuesday the "broadening conflict in the Middle East."

UN chief Antonio Guterres called on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, for an end to the "sickening cycle of escalation" in the Middle East, while specifically condemning Iran over its latest missile attack after facing harsh criticism from Israel.

Vance, Walz clash on 2020 election...

(a legal precedent which, broadly, protected a woman's right to an abortion) in 2022, by a Supreme Court with three judges appointed by Mr. Trump when he was President.

"We've got to do so much better of a job at earning the American people's trust back on this issue..." said Mr. Vance, who had earlier expressed support for a "national standard" on abortion. The Yale Law School educated Ohio Senator, whose remarks over the years have included references to the U.S. being run by "a bunch of childless cat ladies" sought to rehabilitate and polish his image, measuring his words on Tuesday night.

Mr. Vance pushed back against Democrats being defined as "pro-abortion".

"We are pro-freedom for women to make their choices," he said, emphasizing also that Ms. Harris had planned a \$6,000 child tax credit for parents, if elected.

During the final minutes of the debate, Mr. Vance equivocated and did not agree that Mr. Trump lost the 2020 elections, saying that he believed "we should fight about those issues, debate those issues peacefully in the public square" and that he was "focused on the future". He also said

Ms. Harris was engaged in censorship.

"That is a damning non-answer," Mr. Walz responded, in perhaps one of the governor's strongest moments during the debate.

On the other hand, Mr. Walz floundered when he was asked to clarify his whereabouts during the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. The governor, who used to organize educational trips to China, deflected the conversation to his gubernatorial record, before calling himself a "knucklehead" and admitting he "misspoke" when he had earlier said he was in Hong Kong in 1989.

Mr. Vance dismissed economists' relatively favorable assessment of Ms. Harris's plan, saying the academics "have PhDs, but they don't have common sense and they don't have wisdom". Throughout the debate, Mr. Vance repeatedly pivoted to illegal migration into the U.S., blaming Ms. Harris, who has been serving as U.S. President Joe Biden's 'border czar', for the record high number of undocumented migrants in the country. Mr. Vance blamed Mr. Trump for derailing a border security Bill in Congress.

Referring to immigration at one point, Mr. Vance told his opponent, "I think that you want to solve this problem, but I don't think that Kamala Harris does."

SC ropes in CBI to probe Tirupati laddu...

the apex court as a "political battleground" to trade allegations at each other.

"We don't want any political drama. Fortunately or unfortunately, both sides are warring groups," Justice Gavai remarked orally. In a September 30 hearing, the apex court had remarked that "gods at least should be kept away from politics".

On Friday, October 4, 2024, the court roped in the Centre, saying it too should play a role in unearthing the truth about the allegations. Besides making the CBI a part of the probe, the Bench brought the enquiry directly under the supervision of the Central agency's Director.

The court's move to give the CBI a larger role in the probe was despite Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, expressing confidence in the competency of the State's SIT. Mr. Mehta had submitted in court that there was "no issue if the investigation is conducted by the SIT [constituted by the Andhra Pradesh

government]". He had at the most, suggested having an officer of the Central government supervise the State SIT's probe.

But the Bench on Friday emphasized the gravity of the allegations of adulterated ghee used in the manufacture of the temple prasadam.

"The allegation in the FIR has the potential of hurting the sentiments of crores of devotees/people residing worldwide," the top court stressed.

The court clarified that the formation of the independent SIT, which would also include two Andhra Pradesh Police officers and a representative of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), was a step taken to "assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotees" and must not be seen as a negative remark on the State SIT.

"We clarify that the instant order should not be construed as any reflection on the independence or fairness of the officers of the SIT constituted by the State government. We are entrusting this matter to an independent agency only to assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotees having faith in the deity," the court explained.

The court disposed of petitions, including one filed by former Rajya Sabha member Dr. Subramanian Swamy, seeking a direction to constitute a committee consisting of a retired Supreme Court judge or a former High Court Chief Justice for a "deeper probe into the allegations about the preparation of prasadam" at the Tirupati temple.

The probe would be based on an FIR that ghee received in two tankers supplied on July 6 and July 12 by the same supplier was adulterated. Mr. Naidu had held a press conference on the issue on September 18.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the Andhra Pradesh government, said there was "conclusive proof that lard was used" in the ghee. He said the Chief Minister had been speaking on the completion of 100 days of government. He was responding to the stern observations from the Bench in the previous hearing about the Chief Minister's supposed haste in calling a press conference. Mr. Rohatgi defended that the media had quoted Mr. Naidu out of context.

Mr. Mehta submitted that if there was any element of truth in the allegations, it was unacceptable.

"Devotees are spread all over the world. Food safety is also involved," he highlighted.

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Jagmeet-led NDP bails minority Liberal government through 2nd no-confidence

LAST MONTH, THE NDP ENDED A SUPPLY-AND-CONFIDENCE AGREEMENT THAT HAD STABILIZED THE MINORITY GOVERNMENT FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OTTAWA (TIP)

In less than a month after tearing its supply and confidence agreement with the ruling Liberal party, Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party and Bloc Quebecois have bailed the Justin Trudeau Government through its second successive no-confidence motion. The motion was defeated 207-121.

Incidentally, Liberals have the largest representation of MPs of Indian descent, while the NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, belongs to the Indian Diaspora. He is the only NDP MP of Indian descent in the present House.

After tearing the supply and confidence agreement on September 5, Jagmeet Singh had declared himself a prime ministerial candidate maintaining that the next election would be a direct contest between the NDP and the Conservatives as the Liberals were too weak to stop Conservatives.

The main opposition party, the Conservatives, which wants the present government to go, is also well represented

by Members of Indian descent.

Even after the defeat of the no-trust motion brought in by the main opposition Party, the Conservatives, the threat continues to loom large over the minority Liberal Government.

The Bloc Quebecois has already served an ultimatum on the Liberals to concede two of its demands, including extending higher pensions to senior citizens belonging to the 65-74 age group, by Oct. 29 failing which it would side with the Conservatives as and when they bring in the next no-confidence motion.

After surviving a second non-confidence vote in as many weeks, the Liberal government has put at bay again the possibility of the country being plunged into an immediate election campaign.

Members of Parliament voted on a Conservative motion this afternoon that called for them to declare they have lost faith in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his nine-year-old government.

The Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois voted against the motion, as they did with a similar motion last week.

Last month, the NDP ended a supply-and-confidence agreement that had stabilized the minority government for more than two



Jagmeet Singh, leader of the left-leaning opposition New Democrats

File photo

years. Earlier in the day, the Bloc forced a debate in the House of Commons about increasing old-age security payments for all seniors, something that the party says is key to earning its support.

Bloc Leader Yves-François Blanchet has given the government until October 29 to green-light the pension bill, which is estimated to cost about \$16 billion over five years.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed that he would continue to work for the Canadians while the Conservatives and NDP were playing politics. Trudeau survived a second parliamentary confidence motion in less than a week after opposition parties vowed to keep his minority Liberal government alive for now.

The Conservatives, who have a big lead in the polls ahead of an election that must be held by October 2025, say Canadians want an anti-Carbon tax election as they cannot afford a planned increase in the federal carbon tax. The main opposition party has also been accusing Trudeau of presiding over high prices and rising crime.

To trigger an election, the Conservatives need the backing of every single opposition

legislator. But the separatist Bloc Quebecois, which wants independence for the province of Quebec, backed Trudeau. The party said last week it would back Trudeau until at least the end of this month in return for boosting seniors' pensions.

Even if the Bloc does turn against Trudeau, he could still be saved by the left-leaning New Democratic Party (NDP).

A Nanos poll released on Sept. 27 showed the Conservatives on 42 percent public support, far ahead of the NDP on 22 percent and the Liberals on 21 percent. Given this would result in a huge Conservative victory if replicated in an election, the NDP could be tempted to keep Trudeau in power, in the hope its own fortunes might recover.

(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.)

Petition for fresh Kanishka probe stirs a controversy

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

OTTAWA (TIP)

Spearheaded by Sukh Dhaliwal, Liberal MP from British Columbia, leaders of various Sikh organizations have petitioned the Canadian House of Commons demanding a fresh inquiry into one of the worst air tragedies in history.

Reacting to the petition sent to the House of Commons, Chandra Arya, also a Liberal MP (from Ontario), made a statement in the House saying "Now, there is a petition on the Parliament portal asking for a new inquiry and promoting conspiracy theories promoted by Khalistan extremists."

There was no official word on the petition from the House of Commons or the Government of Canada.

Though the petition has been made to the House of Commons, its copies, urging Canadians to sign it, have been pasted at gurdwaras throughout Canada and several other important public places.

Signed among others by Manveer Singh, H S Hansra, Amarjit S Mann, Bhupinder S Dhillon, Sukhdev Singh and



The mid-air blast of Air India Flight 182 killing all 329 persons on board 39 years ago has once again started hawking media headlines in Canada.

File photo

Manjit Singh Mann, the petition reads: "The Air India bombings of June 23, 1985, that left 331 people dead was the worst tragedy in the history of aviation terror before 9/11. The victims' families continue to wait for justice and closure. The Sikhs in Canada widely believe that this was the handiwork of foreign intelligence to discredit their political activism and undermine their advocacy work for human rights in India.

"The recent developments within the Sikh community in British Columbia give credence to this perception. The Canadian government is looking into growing foreign interference in its political affairs.

"The Sikhs are living under fear since the murder of Surrey Delta Gurdwara President Hardeep Singh Nijjer in June 2023; and on September 18, 2023, the Prime Minister of Canada stated that there are credible allegations of a link between

agents of the Government of India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjer," the petition said while calling upon the Government of Canada to order a fresh inquiry into the Air India episode to determine whether any foreign intelligence was involved in the crime.

"Mr. Speaker, 39 years back, Air India Flight 182 was blown up mid-air by a bomb planted by Canadian Khalistan extremists. It killed 329 people, and this is the largest mass killing in Canadian history, said Mr Chandra Arya in the House of Commons.

"Even today, the ideology responsible for this terrorist attack is still alive among a few people in Canada. Two Canadian public inquiries have found Khalistan extremists responsible for the bombing of the Air India flight. Now, there is a petition on the Parliament portal asking for a new inquiry and promoting conspiracy theories promoted by Khalistan extremists.

"Mr Bal Gupta, whose wife Rama was killed in this attack, told The Globe and Mail, "It's deeply frustrating. It opens up old wounds all over again. It's all garbage. It's an attempt to gain publicity and support for terrorist activities," Chandra Arya concluded.

National Cricket League Unveils Prestigious New Stadium at The University of Texas at Dallas: Seating Thousands with Coachella-Style Entertainment

ICONIC CRICKET LEGENDS, COACHELLA-STYLE PERFORMANCES, AND NIGHTLY TRIBUTES TO HEROES. BILLIONS WILL WATCH AS NCL PIONEERS ECO-FRIENDLY SPORTS AND INTRODUCES CRICKET TO NEW FANS WORLDWIDE.

DALLAS, TX (TIP)

The National Cricket League (NCL) and The University of Texas at Dallas proudly unveils its prestigious, environmentally friendly cricket stadium at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas), with seating for over 3,500 fans. This cutting-edge venue is an important moment in the rise of cricket in the U.S., merging world-class sports with Coachella-style entertainment, and along with NCL's commitment to environmental sustainability and community service.

Designed with solar power and a zero-waste policy, the stadium exemplifies the NCL's goal of becoming fully environmentally friendly by 2030. In addition, for every boundary hit during the tournament, the NCL will plant a tree as part of its reforestation efforts, contributing to global environmental health.

The NCL is bringing cricket to the world stage, with billions of viewers expected to tune in via ESPN, NDTV, WFAA, SKY, Fox Sports, and the NCL Cricket app, which will provide exclusive content, the full game schedule, and updates on star players.

This season, the NCL brings together cricket legends known worldwide-Sunil Gavaskar, Zaheer Abbas, Wasim Akram, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sir Vivian Richards, Venkatesh Prasad, Sanath Jayasuriya, Moin Khan, and Blair Franklin. These cricketing heroes will mentor and coach the next generation of players, passing on their expertise and legacy.

The league will also feature top-tier players from around the globe, including Shahid Afridi, Suresh Raina, Dinesh Karthik, Shakib Al Hasan, Robin Uthappa, Tabraiz Shamsi, Chris Lynn, Angelo Mathews, Colin Munro, Sam Billings, Mohammad Nabi, and Johnson Charles, making it one of the most prestigious cricket events in the world.

"Our mission is not only to promote the sport of cricket but to make a positive impact on the communities we touch," said Arun Agarwal, Chairman of the NCL. "This stadium shows that vision. It represents the merging of sports and sustainability, as we aim to give back to the community and the environment."

In keeping with its mission to give back, the NCL will honor local heroes each night of the tournament. On Healthcare, Police, and Fire Heroes Night, the NCL will honor Officer Darron Burks for his exceptional service and dedication to the community. This night will also recognize healthcare workers and



The NCL team



The cricket stadium at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas), with seating for over 3,500 fans

firefighters for their heroic contributions.

To engage new fans, the NCL will feature live cricket tutorials from commentators throughout the game, helping everyone understand and enjoy the sport in real-time. Fans are also encouraged to download the NCL Cricket app for in-depth tournament details, player stats, and match schedules, making it easy to follow along and stay connected to all the action.

Each night of the tournament will feature a unique theme, offering a festival-like experience for attendees:

Gringo and Raga Boyz.

October 8: Healthcare, Police, and Fire Heroes Night - Honoring first responders, with a performance by Jawad Ali.

October 9: Sustainability Night - Showcasing environmental efforts, with performances by Wajid Ali and celebrating the NCL's green initiatives.

October 10: Alumni Night - Featuring a tribute to UT Dallas alumni, with a special show by Tanmay Chaturvedi.

October 12th-14th: The Playoffs - The stakes couldn't be higher-win or go home. The top teams will battle it out for the championship trophy.

After the first match, fans will enjoy live Bollywood performances before the next game begins, adding excitement and cultural flair to the entire event.

For the complete game schedule and more information, fans can download the NCL Cricket app or visit NCLCricket.com.

As part of the NCL's commitment to giving back to the community and protecting the environment, the league is inspired by the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Through its actions on and off the field, the NCL aims to leave a lasting positive impact on both the community and the planet.

MEDIA INVITED TO ALL GAMES:

The National Cricket League invites media to cover any of the tournaments. Please RSVP dates by emailing media@nclcricket.com.

About the National Cricket League

Headquartered in Dallas, the National Cricket League (NCL) USA is redefining the sport of cricket in the United States through its innovative Sixty Strikes format, a fast-paced version of the game. Endorsed by the prestigious International Cricket Council (ICC), the NCL is establishing cricket as a key player in American sports. Supported by SEE Holdings, a Dubai-based leader in sustainability, the NCL is implementing eco-friendly initiatives that set a new standard for responsible sports management.

Follow us on social media.

Facebook: National Cricket League USA
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October 4: Opening Night - Marks the highly anticipated opening night of the National Cricket League, featuring not only cricket but also a show-stopping live performance by Bollywood sensation Mika Singh.

October 5: Domestic Violence Awareness Night - Honoring advocates and survivors, raising awareness for those affected by domestic violence.

October 6: Community Partner Appreciation Night - Celebrating local organizations that have supported the NCL's mission to give back.

October 7: Veterans Night - Recognizing veterans for their service, with special performances by Danny

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History This Week OCT 04 - OCT 10

OCTOBER 4

October 4, 1943 - The Island of Corsica became the first French territory in Europe freed from Nazi control as Free French troops liberated the city of Bastia.

October 4, 1957 - The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in U.S. efforts to be the first on the moon.



October 4, 1965 - Pope Paul VI became the first Pope to visit the U.S. and the first to address the United Nations.

October 4, 1993 - Russian tank-soldiers loyal to President Boris Yeltsin shelled the Russian White House, crushing a hard-line Communist rebellion. Yeltsin then fired Vice-president Alexander Rutskoi and jailed other opposition leaders.

Birthdays - St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was born in Assisi, Umbria, Italy (as Giovanni Francesco Bernardone). He renounced his family's wealth and founded the Friars Minor (Franciscan Order).

Birthdays - Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893) the 19th U.S. President was born in Delaware, Ohio. He served from March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1881. He was a Republican best known for his much-quoted statement, "He serves his party best who serves his country best."

Birthdays - Artist Frederic Remington (1861-1909) was born in Canton, New York. He studied at Yale Art School then traveled extensively throughout the American West in the late 1800s sketching cowboys, Native Americans, frontiersmen, and soldiers. He also created lively sculptures featuring bucking broncos.

OCTOBER 5

October 5, 1908 - Bulgaria proclaimed its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

October 5, 1910 - Portugal became a republic following a successful revolt against King Manuel II.



October 5, 1938 - Czech President Dr.

Eduard Benes resigned and fled abroad amid threats from Adolf Hitler.

October 5, 1964 - The largest mass escape since the construction of the Berlin Wall occurred as 57 East German refugees escaped to West Berlin after tunneling beneath the wall.

October 5, 1986 - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua. This marked the beginning of the "Iran-Contra" controversy resulting in Congressional hearings and a major scandal for the Reagan White House after it was revealed that money from the sale of arms to Iran was used to fund covert operations in Nicaragua.

Birthdays - "Father of the Space Age" Robert Goddard (1882-1945) was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. During his lifetime he was ridiculed by the public and the press over his idea of constructing a space flight machine. In 1926, he launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket on a farm near Auburn, Mass. In 1935, his liquid-fueled rocket surpassed the speed of sound. Other developments included a steering apparatus for rocket machines, staged rockets to reach high altitudes, rocket fuel pumps, and a self-cooling rocket motor.

Birthdays - Czech playwright and political leader Vaclav Havel was born in Prague, October 5, 1936. He spent over 5 years in prison for speaking out against government abuses. He went on to lead the peaceful "velvet revolution" which ended Soviet-style Communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989.

OCTOBER 6

October 6, 1927 - The first "talkie" opened in New York. The Jazz Singer starring Al Jolson was the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.



October 6, 1928 - Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek became president of the Republic of China upon the introduction of a new constitution.

October 6, 1949 - "Tokyo Rose" (Iva Toguri d'Aquino) was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years imprisonment and fined \$10,000 for treason. She had broadcast music and Japanese propaganda to American troops in the Pacific during World War II. She was pardoned by President Gerald Ford in 1977.

October 6, 1973 - The Yom Kippur War started as Egypt and Syria launched attacks on Israeli positions on the East Bank of the Suez and the Golan Heights.

October 6, 1978 - Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini was granted asylum in France after being expelled from Iran for his opposition to the Shah.

October 6, 1981 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (1918-1981) was assassinated in Cairo by Muslim fundamentalists while watching a military parade. He had shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize with Menachem Begin of Israel. He had signed an American-sponsored peace accord with Israel, but had been denounced by other Arab leaders.

Birthdays - Engineer and inventor George Westinghouse (1846-1914) was born in Central Bridge, New York. He developed air brakes for trains and was later responsible for the adoption of alternating current (AC) systems for electric power transmission in the U.S. He was also the first employer to give his employees paid vacations.

Birthdays - Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl was born in Larvik, Norway, October 6, 1914. He used Kon-Tiki and other primitive ocean-going vessels to prove the possibility of transoceanic contact between ancient, widely separated civilizations.

OCTOBER 7

October 7, 1940 - During World War II in Europe, German troops invaded Romania to take seize strategic oil fields.

October 7, 1949 - The German Democratic Republic came into existence in East Germany. Dominated by Soviet Russia, it lasted until German reunification in 1990.

October 7, 1985 - Palestinian terrorists seized the Italian passenger ship Achille Lauro carrying about 440 persons, threatening to blow it up if Israel did not free 50 Palestinian prisoners. Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly wheelchair-bound American, was murdered.

OCTOBER 8

October 8, 1918 - During World War I in the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin C. York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre.

October 8, 1993 - The U.N. General Assembly lifted economic sanctions against South Africa following the end of racial apartheid. The sanctions had been imposed since the 1960s.



October 8, 1996 - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat made his first public visit to Israel for talks with Israeli President Ezer Weizman at his private residence.

October 8, 1998 - The U.S. House of Representatives voted 258-176 to approve a resolution launching an impeachment inquiry of President Bill Clinton. It was

only the third time in U.S. history the House launched a formal impeachment inquiry of a sitting president. (The other two: Andrew Johnson and Richard Nixon).

Birthdays - American fighter pilot Ace Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973) was born in Columbus, Ohio. He commanded the first U.S. aero unit to take part in World War I and was credited with 26 victories, becoming America's leading Ace. He was awarded the Medal of Honor. He later got involved in auto racing and headed Eastern Air Lines from 1934-63.

OCTOBER 9

October 9, 1962 - Uganda achieved independence after nearly 70 years of British rule.

October 9, 1970 - Cambodia declared itself the Khmer Republic following the abolishment of the monarchy by the legislature.

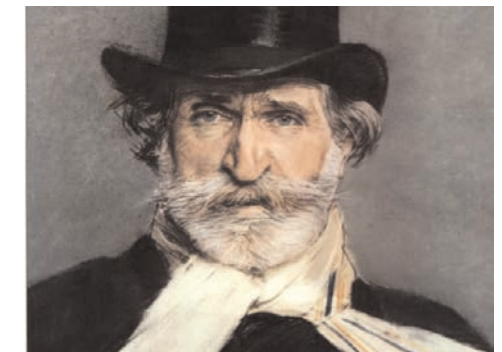


Birthdays - John Lennon (1940-1980) was born in Liverpool, England. He was a member of The Beatles, an influential rock group which captivated audiences first in England and Germany, and later in America and throughout the world. He was murdered in New York City on December 8, 1980.

OCTOBER 10

October 10, 1954 - Ho Chi Minh entered Hanoi, Vietnam, after the withdrawal of French troops, in accordance with armistice terms ending the seven-year struggle between Communist Vietnamese and the French.

October 10, 1973 - Spiro T. Agnew (1918-1996) resigned the office of Vice President of the United States amid charges of income tax evasion on illegal payments allegedly received while he was governor of Maryland and after he became Vice President. He was later given a \$10,000 fine and sentenced to serve three years probation. He was succeeded as Vice President by Gerald R. Ford, who went on to become President after the resignation of Richard M. Nixon.



Birthdays - Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) was born in Le Roncole, Italy. His 26 operas include; Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, La Traviata and Aida, and are among the most popular of all classical music performed today.



Bumrah back on top in Test ranking, Yashasvi Jaiswal up to No. 3

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is back at the summit of the ICC Test bowling rankings following his match haul of six wickets in the second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur.

The 30-year-old replaced his India team-mate Ravichandran Ashwin – Player of the Series against Bangladesh – at the top of the chart.

Spinner Ravindra Jadeja maintained his sixth place, while fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav stayed in 16th.

In batting, Player of the Match from the Kanpur Test, Yashasvi Jaiswal, moved to a career-high third position after just 11 Tests. Jaiswal played scintillating knocks of 72 and 51 and helped India win the rain-marred match by seven wickets.

With 792 rating points, the 22-year-old is behind second-placed Kane Williamson (829) and Joe Root (899).

Also, veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli is back in the top 10, gaining six places to rise to the sixth position after knocks of 47 and 29 in Kanpur.

Rishabh Pant, too, remained in the top 10, dropping three spots to ninth, with skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill on 15th and 16th, respectively. *Source: PTI*

Alcaraz bounces back to outlast Jannik Sinner

Carlos Alcaraz roared back from a set down to beat world number one Jannik Sinner in a thriller and win his first China Open title on October 2.

The four-time Grand Slam champion from Spain edged a captivating final 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) for his fourth ATP crown of the year and 16th overall.

Alcaraz, who is set to return to number two in the world behind Sinner, was 3-0 down in the final-set tie break only to fight back and win in three hours, 21 minutes.

The dramatic triumph ended Sinner's run of 14 victories in a row and saw him deposed as the Beijing champion after an almighty fight.

In front of a packed house in Beijing, the early exchanges were nervy with both players under immediate pressure on their service games.

Sinner, 23, was the first to blink, with second-seeded Alcaraz breaking for a 3-1 lead and celebrating with a pump of the fist.

The Spaniard held easily for 4-1 and had his opponent uncharacteristically rattled.

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

India beaten in opener as Pak, Bangladesh make a winning start



DUBAI (TIP)

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 has started on a mixed note for the Asian teams as India was humbled in its opener while Pakistan and Bangladesh made winning starts in the tournament that got underway in UAE after it was shifted from strife-torn Bangladesh. India, who lost to New Zealand by 58 runs, will have to come back strongly in its next assignment against Pakistan to stay in the hunt for a place in the knockout round. New Zealand, buoyed by this win will enter with a lot of confidence against six-time champion Australia in its next encounter.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 31 runs while Bangladesh recorded its first-ever win in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup since 2014 defeating Scotland by 16 runs. In another match, South Africa recorded an impressive 10-wicket win over West Indies.

After opting to bat first, the Kiwis started strong, with openers Bates and Plimmer laying a solid foundation in the first six overs. They played cautiously yet effectively, setting the stage for a competitive total. However, the game's momentum shifted when India claimed a couple of quick wickets, turning the match into a tactical contest. India's spinners took control, effectively slowing the run rate during the middle overs. Despite these challenges, New Zealand forced its way back in the death overs. Sophie Devine's unbeaten half-century, along with crucial partnerships with Kerr and Halliday, propelled the team forward. The Kiwis finished strong, scoring 51 runs in the final five overs and posting a challenging total for India to chase. Following an impressive performance by its batters, New Zealand bowlers, too, stepped in capitalizing on the advantages with no apparent dew and the ball moving both in the air and off the pitch. Their disciplined attack yielded quick wickets in the early stages, effectively tearing apart the



New Zealand team members congratulate Eden Carson, third from left, after she took the wicket of India's Smriti Mandhana during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 match on October 4. Credit: Altaf Qadri/AP

Indian batting order. Young Eden Carson delivered an impressive performance, while the seasoned Lea Tahuhu claimed three wickets but it was Rosemary Mair who chipped in with a spectacular 4-fer. The Kiwi bowlers worked together effectively, thwarting any potential partnerships from flourishing. Their disciplined bowling was complemented by outstanding fielding, leaving no Indian batter able to score more than 20 runs. To make matters worse, no partnership managed to exceed 20 runs either.

This pressure to accelerate certainly got the better of them as Jemimah Rodrigues too fell early in her innings in an attempt to counterattack. In stark contrast to their opponents, the Indian innings got off to a disastrous start. The Powerplay proved brutal as it lost its top three batters - Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, and Harmanpreet Kaur - cheaply. With the score at a precarious 43/3 in 6 overs, India found itself in deep trouble already.

As a result, with too many wickets down, India crawled through the mid-overs and could only get to 63 at the halfway stage versus New Zealand 72/2 at this very stage. They never found the momentum and the asking rate zoomed

up massively and it was a matter of time before a procession of wickets which further depleted their hopes. And in the end, they were bowled out with an over to spare.

New Zealand 160 for four in 20 overs (Sophie Devine 57 not out, Georgia Plimmer 34; Renuka Singh Thakur 2/27)

India 102 all out in 19 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 15, Jemimah Rodrigues 13; Rosemary Mair 4/19, Lea Tahuhu 3/15)

New Zealand won by 58 runs.

(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.)

India defeat Bangladesh, make clean sweep of two-Test series

KANPUR (TIP)

Yashasvi Jaiswal scored another half-century as India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in the weather-hit second Test to make a clean sweep of the two-Test series.

India, after dismissing Bangladesh for 146 runs in the second innings, thanks to three-wicket hauls by Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah, achieved

the victory target of 95 runs in 17.2 overs, with Jaiswal and Kohli scoring 51 and unbeaten 29 runs, respectively.

Earlier, Ashwin (3/50), Jadeja (3/34) and Bumrah (3/17) broke the back of Bangladesh batting, allowing them an addition of just 120 runs to their overnight total of 26/2.

Overnight batter Shadman Islam was the highest scorer for

Bangladesh in the second innings, scoring 50 runs. The lunch session was extended by nearly an hour to complete Bangladesh's innings.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 233 in their first innings before India scored a quick-fire 285/9 and declared their innings on Monday in a match in which two days were completely lost due to a wet outfield.



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

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