



The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated New Year edition to bid GOODBYE to 2024 and to WELCOME 2025.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by December 10, 2024. Please email your queries, if any to salujaindra@gmail.com or call The Indian Panorama at 646-247-9458.

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The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out on January 4, 2025 a special edition to mark the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) which witnesses a large gathering of the worldwide Indian Diaspora, at Bhubaneswar in Odisha, India from January 8 to January 10, 2025.

The event offers a rare opportunity for international recognition of people, products and services.

The Indian Panorama invites you to advertise in the PBD special edition. For prices and further information, please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or call + 1-646-247-9458.

The last date for ordering advertisement insertion is Dec 22, 2024.

For any questions, please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or call 1+646-247-9458.

Fadnavis Returns as Maharashtra Chief Minister for a Third Term

Shinde, Pawar take oath as Deputy Chief Minister; Cabinet expansion next week



PM Narendra Modi and Governor CP Radhakrishnan with CM Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar in Mumbai.

Photo : PTI

DECEMBER 6, 2024

MUMBAI (TIP): BJP legislature party leader Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday, December 5, took the oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, while leaders of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers at a grand ceremony in south Mumbai's Azad Maidan.

Fadnavis included the names of his mother and father while taking the oath. "I Devendra Sarita Gangadharrao Fadnavis do swear in the name of God..." said the 54-year-old to thunderous applause as

Governor CP Radhakrishnan administered him the oath of office and secrecy in the presence of PM Narendra Modi, senior NDA leaders and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states.

A sulking Eknath Shinde was reportedly reluctant to take the deputy CM's post. Shiv Sena's Uday Samant said Shinde relented after Fadnavis requested him to join his team

Another Sena leader said Shinde agreed to accept the post after all party MLAs met him & persuaded him to do so.

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Keen to start manufacturing ops in India: Putin



Vladimir Putin, Russian President praised Modi's 'Make in India' initiative and expressed Russia's readiness to establish manufacturing operations in India.

DECEMBER 5, 2024

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' initiative and expressed Russia's readiness to establish manufacturing operations in India.

Speaking at the 'Russia Calling Investment Forum', Putin acknowledged India's efforts to create a stable environment for economic growth. According to a statement from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Putin emphasized how these policies

CONTD ON PAGE 36

India slams developed countries for climate crisis at ICJ hearing

DECEMBER 6, 2024

THE HAGUE (TIP): India slammed developed countries for causing the climate crisis during a landmark hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Thursday, December 5, saying they exploited the global carbon budget, failed to honor climate-finance promises and are now demanding that developing countries restrict their resource use. The court is examining what legal obligations countries have to address climate change and the consequences if they fail.

CONTD ON PAGE 36



India slammed developed countries for causing the climate crisis during a landmark hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Thursday, December 5, saying they exploited the global carbon budget and failed to honor climate-finance promises.

-Photo for representation only



UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was shot and killed on the streets of Manhattan

UnitedHealthcare CEO shot, killed outside New York City hotel

DECEMBER 5, 2024

MANHATTAN, NY (TIP): Brian Thompson, the CEO of UnitedHealthcare, was fatally shot outside a hotel in midtown Manhattan on Wednesday, December 4 morning, according to a person briefed on the investigation.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak on the investigation.

CONTD ON PAGE 36



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GUEST COMMENT

If Trump's tariffs start a trade war, it would be an economic disaster

BY
MARK WEISBROT

The president-elect's two main arguments for his tariff threat - to reduce migration and to combat drugs - are not credible

"To me, the most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariff, and it's my favorite word," said Donald Trump last month. Pundits, politicians and financial markets are trying to figure out why, since he announced a week ago that he would impose tariffs on the United States's three biggest trading partners: 25% for Mexico and Canada, and 10% for China.

One theory is that tariffs can be a beautiful distraction. Trump, more than any previous US president, has fed on distractions for years, both to campaign and to govern. He can move seamlessly from one distraction to the next, like a magician preparing for the opportune moment to pull a coin from where it appears to have been hidden behind your ear.

Although he still has seven weeks before he takes office, he could use a distraction that can start sooner. He has run into problems with cabinet and other appointments that require Senate confirmation. Of course he could easily find people who would do his bidding and be acceptable to a Senate with a Republican majority. But that would defeat the main purpose of nominating people who seem indefensible: to force Republican senators to display the abject subservience that Trump needs to be public, in order to ensure his unwavering dominance within his party.

This is no small part of his governing strategy; it involves a big takeaway from the failures of his first term, from his point of view. The lesson is: loyalty to Trump first. Violators will be banished. And with small margins in the Senate and the House, things could begin to unravel if this core imperative goes unenforced.

But the days before Trump actually takes office could also be the best time for him to use the threat of tariffs to

begin bullying foreign governments for things that might benefit his allies, donors or himself. Other governments besides the three that he named are trying to figure out what they can offer Trump to avoid the economic disruption of tariffs. Christine Lagarde, the head of the European Central Bank, who does not see Trump as a friend, has urged the EU to negotiate with him, rather than adopt a retaliatory, e.g., tariff, response.

Trump's two offered pretexts for the tariff threat - migration and drugs, in this case fentanyl - are not credible. About 18% of the undocumented people encountered by border patrol over the past year have been from Venezuela and Cuba, two countries that have been devastated economically by sanctions imposed by the US government. If reducing immigration were really Trump's concern, he would not have deployed sanctions that have driven millions of people from their homes to the US border; and he could end these sanctions in January by himself.

Broad economic sanctions are a form of economic violence which targets civilians in order to achieve political ends, including regime change. US congressman Jim McGovern, a Massachusetts Democrat, made this clear in a letter that he wrote to Joe Biden asking for the sanctions on Venezuela to be dropped. The Trump sanctions in Venezuela in 2017 killed tens of thousands of civilians during the first year, and many more in the years that followed, including under Biden.

As for fentanyl, about 75,000 people died from overdoses of this drug in 2023. But it's difficult to see how Trump's tariffs could help solve this problem. It's a glaring example of how more than four decades of a failed "war on drugs", based on criminalization of use and supply-side intervention, have made things worse. In this case the drug war has led to an innovation - fentanyl - that is vastly more powerful than heroin, much cheaper to produce, more addictive and easier to transport, distribute and produce.

There is general agreement in the economic research on the effects of Trump's trade and tariff wars in his first term as president, in which he placed tariffs on about \$380bn of US imports.

The overall impact on living standards for US workers and most Americans is found to be negative, with the cost of the tariffs being absorbed by US consumers. Employment overall did not increase, and may have fallen due to the negative impact of retaliatory tariffs.

The economic research looking at the expected impacts of tariffs that Trump has talked about going forward also finds the impact on the US economy to be negative. And there is potential for much more damage if other countries respond with more retaliatory tariffs than they did in 2018-2020.

Meanwhile, the productivity of Trump's tariff offensive in generating distractions remains high. On Sunday he took a shot at the so-called Brics countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and other economic powers: "We require a commitment from these countries," Trump wrote on Truth Social, "that they will neither create a new Brics currency nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar or they will face 100% tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy."

None of these things will happen while Trump is in office. Nor will threats like this deter the majority of the world, when it is ready, from replacing a system of global governance that is overwhelmingly run by one country with help from the richest people in other rich countries. Our current system is one in which the "exorbitant privilege" that the dollar-based financial system bestows upon the US government gives the president the power to destroy whole economies with the stroke of a pen.

But this is a longer story; for Trump it's just another threat and another distraction in the post-truth world that he, as much as anyone, helped create. But he will need more than distractions to take this country further down the road toward de-democratization, which is what brought to him and his party the power that they now have.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. He is the author of Failed: What the "Experts" Got Wrong About the Global Economy

(Source: The Guardian)

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Sikh Community in New Jersey Serves Free Thanksgiving Meals to Thousands Across the U.S.



Onkar Singh, one of the key organizers of the event explained that "Let's Share a Meal was inspired by the life and teachings of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, who established the concept of Langar, or community kitchen

DECEMBER 1, 2024

JERSEY CITY , NJ (TIP): This Thanksgiving week, Let's Share a Meal (LSM), a nonprofit organization led by the Sikh community, once again exemplified its mission of spreading love and compassion through the act of selfless service. With over 700 volunteers from New Jersey and beyond, Let's Share Meals prepared and delivered fresh vegetarian meals to more than 10,000 individuals across 80 locations in five U.S. states, including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, volunteers from all walks of life, including American citizens, came together to cook, package, and distribute meals at homeless shelters, senior citizen residences, and soup kitchens. This Thanksgiving initiative is just one example of the broader work LSM has been doing for the past 12 years, reaching millions across the United States and beyond.

Onkar Singh, one of the key organizers of the event, highlighted the spiritual inspiration behind this initiative: "Let's Share a Meal was inspired by the life and teachings of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, who established the concept of Langar, or community kitchen. This tradition is built on the values of selfless service and equality - feeding the hungry without discrimination, regardless of their race, religion, or background."

Singh continued, emphasizing the importance of "Oneness" in Sikh teachings: "We are trying to teach our children the core values of our religion, which include peace, harmony, and Oneness. Oneness is not just for Sikhs, but for all of humanity. The world is one



Volunteers are seen packing meals

community, and nobody should be hungry or unequal. We are proud that over 700 volunteers, including many from the broader American community, have come together to support this cause."

The Thanksgiving initiative represents a major milestone for Let's Share a Meal, which has served over 1 million meals across the U.S. since its inception. According to Harleen Kaur, a long-time volunteer, "I have been part of this incredible effort for over 15 years, and I am so grateful to see how it has grown. Every year, more and more people - volunteers and donors alike - come together to make this possible."

The meals prepared by the volunteers include a variety of fresh vegetarian dishes, and the organization's drive has grown significantly in recent years. From serving just 1,500 meals in its first year, LSM now distributes more than 20,000 meals annually. The organization's efforts continue to expand, with plans to reach even more people in need in the coming years.

LSM'S REACH EXPANDS BEYOND U.S. BORDERS

success of the Thanksgiving meal drive has helped the organization extend its impact beyond the U.S. to countries like India, the United Kingdom, and Australia, where similar efforts are underway. The initiative's expansion is a testament to the universal appeal of selfless service and the Sikh community's commitment to spreading compassion worldwide.

"Our Langar serves as a beacon of hope and unity, emphasizing humanity and equality across all boundaries," Singh added. "It is a reminder that we are all human beings, and we should treat each other with care and respect, regardless of caste, creed, or gender. This is the true spirit of Thanksgiving."

Let's Share a Meal is not only about feeding the hungry but about spreading

the message of unity, equality, and compassion. Through their efforts, the Sikh community continues to leave an inspiring mark on the world, showing

that when people come together with love and purpose, they can make a profound difference in the lives of others.

a magical cirque christmas
dec 5 @ 7:30PM

Bring the family! A Magical Cirque Christmas features acrobats, aerialists, jugglers and more — with a holiday twist.

the hip hop nutcracker

with MC Kurtis Blow
Sun, Dec 8 @ 2 & 7PM
NJ PAC's original holiday mash-up remixes Tchaikovsky's ballet with supercharged hip hop dance (and some surprises)!

the nutcracker

The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine
Sun, Dec 15 @ 2 & 7PM
Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, **The Nutcracker** is sure to become your favorite Christmas tradition.

PAW PATROL LIVE! A MIGHTY ADVENTURE

Sat, Dec 28 @ 10AM, 2PM & 6PM; Sun, Dec 29 @ 10AM & 2PM
With bark-loads of interactive fun, **PAW Patrol Live! A Mighty Adventure** will leave tails wagging and kids cheering.

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Jan 21 Swan Lake The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine	Feb 8 Patti LaBelle The 80/65 Tour	Mar 14 Pinky Patel #isaidwhatsaid Tour
Jan 26 Momix: Alice	Mar 8 Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Bruce Liu	Apr 26 Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion

Horizon. music & comedy
Generous support for The Hip Hop Nutcracker is provided by the Smart Family Foundation/ David S. Stone, Esq., Stone & Magnanini

Indo-Scottish Sikh artist Jasleen Kaur wins prestigious Turner Prize 2024

DECEMBER 4, 2024

LONDON (TIP) : Glasgow-born artist of Indian heritage Jasleen Kaur, whose works are inspired by her life growing up in Scotland's Sikh community, has won Britain's prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her considered weaving together of the "personal, political and spiritual".

Kaur collected the GBP 25,000 (Rs 26.84 lakh approximately) prize at a ceremony at the Tate Britain in London on Tuesday, December 3 night for her solo exhibition 'Alter Altar', which included sculptures from gathered and remade objects, each of which are animated through an immersive sound and musical composition interspersed with the artist's own renditions.

The Turner Prize jury said they chose Kaur for her reflections upon everyday objects, animating them through sound and music to summon "community and cultural inheritance".

The jury noted the considered way in which Kaur weaves together the personal, political and spiritual in her exhibition 'Alter Altar', choreographing a visual and aural experience that suggests both solidarity and joy," Turner Prize said in a statement.

"They praised her ability to gather different voices through unexpected and playful combinations of material, from Irn-Bru to family photographs and a vintage Ford Escort, locating moments of resilience and possibility," they said.



Jasleen Kaur has won Britain's prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her considered weaving together of the "personal, political and spiritual". One of the world's best-known prizes for the visual arts, the Turner Prize aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art.

Objects including family photos, an Axminster carpet, a vintage Ford Escort covered in a giant doily (ornamental mat), Irn-Bru (Scottish drink) and kinetic hand bells have been orchestrated to convey the London-based artist's upbringing in Scotland.

"I have had so many messages today from people from the local Sikh community and from folk that I grew up with. Something like this that is so visible means a lot to a lot of different people. It means something to different groups and I'm up for representing all of them," said Kaur, on winning the honor.

The artist, in her 30s, studied jewelry

making and then applied art, which got her interested in making objects in combinations around the stories that they can tell.

Her exhibition, along with the three other shortlisted artists who each win GBP 10,000, is on display at Tate Britain Museum by the river Thames until mid-February 2025.

Linsey Young, co-curator of the exhibition at Tate Britain, said: "Her room is made up of installations that are looking at anti-colonialist discussion, anti-imperialist struggles and really assessing those against her lived experience, her family and upbringing.

"It includes a Ford car and she talks about it as being one of her dad's ambitions and migrant desires; when he moved from India to Glasgow, having a car like that was an aspiration. It's covered in a crocheted cotton doily, so a kind of domestic object made very, very large where the cotton material relates to histories of migration and labor - of Indian people coming to the north of England after the war and working in cotton mills."

Other items making up Kaur's display include a harmonium on a lush carpet inviting visitors to sit and observe the kinetic worship bells.

A central feature is music entitled 'Yearnings 2023', an improvised vocal soundscape of the artist's voice layered over snippets of pop songs playing from the speakers of 'Sociomobile 2023' - the vintage Ford Escort - filling the space with Kaur's own musical memory.

The Turner Prize jury praised her "evocative combination of sound and sculpture to address specifics of family memory and community struggle".

In an accompanying film at the exhibition, the artist reflects upon the Sikh concept of Miri Piri, which talks of finding a balance between the political and spiritual and wants to explore the different ways for humanity to live together through her art.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Co-founder of British Indian Medical Association wins 2024 Diana Award

DECEMBER 5, 2024

LONDON (TIP): A London-based student who co-founded the British Indian Medical Association (BIMA) to address the critical need for mentorship and support among Indian-origin medical students was on Thursday, December 5, named among the winners of this year's Diana Award.

Harroop Singh Bola, 23, has been recognized for going above and beyond in his daily life to create and sustain positive change.

Established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, the award is backed by her sons - William, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex - as an accolade for a young changemaker in the field of social action and humanitarian efforts.

"It is both a profound honor and a valuable opportunity to be recognized with the Diana Award for our efforts in addressing and bridging inequalities within the British Indian medical community," said Bola.



Harroop Singh Bola, 23, has been recognized for going above and beyond in his daily life to create and sustain positive change
Photo: LinkedIn

"This recognition underscores the importance of inspiring others to become changemakers and future leaders in health care," he said.

Bola overcame significant personal challenges as a first-generation medical student at Imperial College London to create a thriving community when he co-founded BIMA in 2020.

Now in his final year at the leading university, he attracted praise for demonstrating exceptional leadership by heading four committees, collaborating with the General Medical Council (GMC) and championing increased British Indian representation in health care.

Under his stewardship, BIMA has grown to a membership exceeding 2,000 and has delivered over 250 events, reaching more than 7,000 individuals globally.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin Leicester based man sentenced to life imprisonment for girlfriend's 'brutal' murder

NOVEMBER 30, 2024

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin man who brutally beat up his girlfriend to death at his home in East Midlands region of England, has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a UK court.

Police described it as a case of domestic abuse and said it is vital anyone suffering gets the support, they need to put a stop before it is too late.

Raj Sidpara, a 50-year-old resident of Leicester, was convicted last week of the murder of Tarnjeet Riaz, also known as Tarnjeet Chagger, following a trial at Leicester Crown Court.

On Friday, Sidpara was handed a life sentence with a minimum term of 21 years behind bars before being considered for parole, according to Leicestershire Police.

The couple had been in a relationship for around five months and by the time emergency services were called to his home on Tarbat Road on the afternoon of



Raj Sidpara, a 50-year-old resident of Leicester has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a UK court

May 6, Tarnjeet was already dead.

Tarnjeet, 44, was found with extensive trauma to her face, as well as multiple broken ribs, when she was found unresponsive by the emergency services, who had been called by Sidpara.

In October, Sidpara admitted the lesser manslaughter charge of causing the injuries to his girlfriend but denied intending to kill her or cause her serious harm.

The court heard that his victim was left with "two enormous black eyes", bleeding on the brain and 20 rib fractures, among other injuries. "You have steadfastly refused to explain what you did or why," Judge William Harbage said, addressing the accused in court.

"What's clear is that you attacked her in a savage and merciless way; you punched, kicked and stamped on her in a sustained attack," a BBC court report read.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Bumble names Indian American Neil Shah Chief Business Officer for strategic transformation

DECEMBER 3, 2024

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Austin, Texas - based online dating App provider Bumble has appointed Indian American executive Neil Shah to the newly created role of Chief Business Officer as its Indian American Chief Financial Officer Anu Subramanian quit to pursue other opportunities.

Shah, who has served as an advisor to Bumble Inc will assume the key leadership position with responsibility for the execution of Bumble's strategic transformation, including driving the company's revenue model, pricing strategy, and partnerships, according to a media release.

Shah previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Head of Business Operations at Slack, where he rose through strategy, data and business operations over the last eight years. Earlier in his career, Shah held strategy roles at Twitter, and began his career as a consultant at McKinsey & Co.

"Since the start of this year, we have taken bold steps to transform Bumble and strengthen our business to capture the large opportunity ahead, while changing online dating for the better. Our new Chief Business Officer role leverages Neil's deep experience scaling technology companies and driving business improvements to advance our mission," said Lidiane Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Bumble Inc. "With Neil's



Neil Shah has been appointed Chief Business Officer of online dating App provider Bumble

partnership and our clear vision for Bumble's future, we believe we are well positioned to deliver on the tremendous potential we see in the business."

Meanwhile Subramanian will continue to serve as CFO through March 14, 2025, including through Bumble's year-end earnings and the filing of its Form 10-K, and will assist with the transition of her responsibilities.

The Company has commenced a search process to identify her successor. Subramanian joined Bumble as CFO in 2020 and was instrumental in the Company's 2021 initial public offering and presided over a period of rapid growth and global expansion.

"I want to sincerely thank Anu for her partnership and for her many significant contributions, which have helped grow Bumble into a billion-dollar global business today," said Jones. "Anu has built a strong finance organization that has supported the Company's growth and financial discipline, propelling consistent

margin improvement and cash generation over the past several years. We are grateful for Anu's leadership during a critical moment in our Company's history and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

While announcing the leadership changes, Bumble also reaffirmed its financial outlook for the fourth quarter and full year of 2024, which was previously announced on Nov 6, 2024.

During the earnings call, executives noted that the company is in the early stages of a transformation of Bumble begun this year, CFO Dive reported.

"While we are making good early progress with Bumble-app strategic repositioning, we remain in the early innings of the work we are undertaking to strengthen our foundation, re-imagine the user experience and ultimately drive revenue aligned with the value we are delivering," Subramanian said, according to a transcript of the call cited by Dive.

The company on Monday declined to comment further on the leadership changes, but in its filing affirmed its financial outlook for Q4 and the full year 2024 and said Subramanian's decision to resign was not the result of any disagreement with the company, the company's management or board, or on any matter relating to the company's operations, policies, or practices, according to Dive.

FRESHWORKS NAMES INDIAN AMERICAN AI AND AUTOMATION EXPERT SRINIVASAN RAGHAVAN AS CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER



Srinivasan Raghavan has been appointed new Chief Product Officer (CPO) of Freshworks, a California based AI service software firm

DECEMBER 4, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP) : California-based AI service software firm Freshworks has named Indian American AI and automation expert Srinivasan Raghavan, with over two decades of leadership experience in the enterprise SaaS industry, as its new Chief Product Officer (CPO).

Raghavan will lead and scale Freshworks' product strategy and vision for its people-first AI service software used to deliver exceptional customer experiences (CX) and employee experiences (EX), according to a company announcement. He joins the Freshworks executive management team, reporting directly to Chief Executive Officer and President Dennis Woodside.

"Srini is a key addition to our team to lead innovation that delivers a scalable trajectory for growth across our three key business priorities: employee experience, artificial intelligence, and customer experience," said Woodside. "Srini's track record driving enterprise growth and managing complex multi-product scaling efforts coupled with his bold vision for the future of AI, make him uniquely qualified to lead our CX and EX product strategy."

"Joining Freshworks at a time when AI is unlocking new possibilities for businesses worldwide to drive growth and improve operational efficiency is an incredible opportunity," said Raghavan. "By continuing to integrate AI and workflow automation across the Freshworks platform and solutions, we can add significant customer value and shape the future of CX and EX together." Raghavan 's deep technical expertise, rooted in his engineering background, is complemented by his experience in product management, user experience and corporate strategy and development, the release stated. He has a passion for creating customer-centric, innovative and scalable solutions. His global leadership experience across the US, Europe, and Asia positions him to bring a diverse and strategic perspective to Freshworks.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Praveen Tipirneni joins TiE Boston as a charter member



Praveen Tipirneni has joined TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) Boston as a charter member, a non-profit organization that aims to foster up-and-coming entrepreneurs.

Corporate executives, and senior professionals of Indian origin, to support and encourage future innovators.

Claimed to be the world's largest not-for-profit network dedicated to helping startups grow, TiE has reportedly reached 12,000 members across 14 countries and contributed \$250B in wealth creation.

TiE Boston offers a range of programs, including networking events, educational seminars, pitch competitions, and access to a community of experienced entrepreneurs, investors, and business professionals. The chapter is part of a global network with chapters in various cities, creating an international platform for entrepreneurs to connect, share ideas, and collaborate.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student from Telangana shot dead in Chicago

DECEMBER 1, 2024

CHICAGO (TIP) : A youth from Khammam district of Telangana was shot dead by miscreants at a gas station in Chicago where he was working, family members said on Saturday, November 30.

Sai Teja Nukarapu (22) was shot by the assailants in the gas station near Chicago in the early hours of Saturday, November 30.

Sai Teja was not on duty when the incident happened but helped a friend who asked him to stay on for some time. The friend had gone out on some work.

Sai Teja completed BBA in India and is pursuing MBA in US. One of the relatives of the victim told media people that the deceased was doing a part-time job. It is sad to know that Sai Teja was shot dead when he stayed on at the place of work to help a friend, the relative said.

Indian Consulate in Chicago demands action against killers. The Consulate General of India in Chicago on Saturday, November 30, demanded immediate action against the culprits and said it would extend all possible help to Nukarapu's family and friends. "We are shocked and deeply sad at the murder of Indian Student Nukarapu Sai Teja. We demand immediate action against the culprits. Consulate will extend all possible help to the family and friends of the victim," the Consulate General of India in Chicago posted on X.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he is "deeply grieved at this news."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Sai Teja Nukarapu was shot at by the assailants in the gas station near Chicago in the early hours of Saturday, November 30.

New York City Council Passes Historic Citywide Zoning Reforms Estimated to Create over 82,000 New Homes, Tackling Affordability Crisis throughout City

Council modifications address affordability and neighborhood differences; agreement will invest \$5 billion in City for All housing plan

Council also voted on bills to establish basement apartments and ADUs in city codes, support building rehabilitation, track approved housing projects, and update flood maps and sewer plans

DECEMBER 5, 2024

CITY HALL, NY (TIP): The New York City Council, on December 5, passed a historic citywide zoning reform that is estimated to create over 82,000 new homes throughout the five boroughs. Together with an agreement to invest \$5 billion in the Council's City for All housing plan to support affordable housing, homeownership, and neighborhood infrastructure improvements, the Council-modified zoning changes represent one of the most significant advancements of housing solutions in New York City history. It is another major step by the Council to address the city's housing and affordability crisis, building on Speaker Adrienne Adams' Fair Housing Framework Act and the recently passed FARE Act to reform broker fees.

The Council also passed legislation to provide complementary legal frameworks to the zoning reforms for ADUs and basement apartments, as well as to better track approved affordable housing developments, provide tax abatements for the maintenance and preservation of affordable housing buildings, update flood maps and sewer maintenance plans, and support older adults aging in place.

"Today, the Council made historic strides to create more homes and make our city more affordable by approving the modified Zoning for Housing Opportunity text amendment with \$5 billion of major investments in our City for All housing plan," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "By taking a major step to address the housing shortage, while supporting existing homeowners and tenants, making housing more affordable, expanding homeownership opportunities, and strengthening the infrastructure of neighborhoods, we are advancing a safer and stronger city. This shows that our city can ensure every area helps contribute to confronting the housing crisis by creating more housing, while respecting the differences of neighborhoods across the five boroughs and investing in New Yorkers."

BUILDING MORE HOMES, INVESTING IN AFFORDABILITY AND NEIGHBORHOODS

City of Yes: Zoning for Housing Opportunity - A citywide zoning text amendment, initiated by the Department of City Planning and modified by the Council, to change residential height, density, parking requirements, affordability, urban design, and other aspects within city zoning regulations. It is the first citywide

zoning text amendment designed to increase housing production across all neighborhoods and is estimated to create over 82,000 housing units over 15 years.

In response to robust community engagement, the Council modified the proposal in three primary ways: to make new housing development more contextual with existing neighborhoods, particularly for blocks of small homes; to increase the amount of affordable housing that will be created and make sure it reaches New Yorkers with lower incomes; and to protect existing tenants and homeowners.

Council modifications precisely tailored certain proposals to reflect a neighborhoods' public transit, flood risks, and existing homes, while preserving all key elements in the initial text amendment



City Council Chambers

and the core fair housing principle that every neighborhood contribute to housing production. A key modification by the Council includes establishing affordable housing incentives in low-density areas that make inclusionary zoning citywide for the first time in New York City, ensuring the creation of affordable housing is possible in every part of the city. The Council also advanced modifications to establish greater affordable housing levels for existing and new zoning incentive programs, so they reach New Yorkers with incomes at or below 40% of area median income (approximately \$43,000 for an individual and \$62,000 for a family of four).

THE MODIFICATIONS ARE DETAILED HERE.

In addition to the zoning changes, the

Council secured \$5 billion in City and State funding commitments for its City for All housing plan. The funding will support affordable housing, NYCHA, Mitchell-Lamas, affordable homeownership, sewer, street and open space infrastructure improvements, tenant protections, city housing agencies, and new neighborhood planning efforts to create more housing in future years.

ESTABLISHING BASEMENT AND ANCILLARY DWELLING UNIT LEGALIZATION

Introduction 1127-A, sponsored by Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez, would establish a basement and cellar dwelling unit legalization program in certain community districts. The Department of Buildings would inspect

such units prior to issuing an authorization and, if issued, the building owner would be permitted to do any necessary construction on the unit to legalize the unit and apply for an amended or partial certificate of occupancy. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development would be required to provide technical assistance and outreach to owners of eligible basement or cellar residences.

Introduction 1128-A, sponsored by Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez, would set forth eligibility and design requirements for ancillary dwelling units (ADUs) in one- or two-family dwellings, including utility systems and fire prevention requirements. This bill would prohibit basement and cellar ADUs in coastal and inland flood hazard areas, to

mirror such prohibitions in the New York City Zoning Resolution. In localities where ADUs are legalized, homeowners have used them in variety of ways including supplementing their income, downsizing while renting out the primary residence, and sustaining multigenerational living.

"New Yorkers already live in ancillary dwelling units, including basement apartments and garages, and they deserve safe and dignified housing. Alongside zoning changes that the Council is voting on today, Intros. 1127 and 1128 will provide the necessary building code updates to ensure ADUs are safe for existing and future residents. Regulating these units addresses a range of potential risks including fires, carbon monoxide poisoning, and with the growing consequences of climate change, flooding. These bills will bring existing and future ADUs up to code by assuring they have proper heating, ventilation, electrical, gas, and emergency service systems," said Council Member Pierina Sanchez. "Together with the modified ADU proposal in City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, and financial support for homeowners who wish to add an ADU in the Council's City for All plan, these bills mark a crucial step toward preserving and creating safe, affordable housing options throughout New York City."

RENEWING THE J-51 TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction 654-A, sponsored by Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez, would implement a renewed version of the J-51 program for rehabilitation and renovation projects of certain multiple dwelling buildings. Following the expiration of J-51 in June 2022, the State Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, legislation authorizing the City to enact a new, altered version of the J-51 program. Eligible buildings would include: condos and coops where the average assessed valuation is under \$45,000 per unit, and rental buildings where more than half the units are affordable, they are operated by limited-profit housing companies, or they receive substantial governmental assistance. Owners of these buildings could recover up to 70% of the cost of work to rehabilitate these buildings in the form of tax abatements for up to 20 years. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development would establish a certified reasonable cost schedule to identify the work and costs that

CONTD ON PAGE 7

NEW YORK CITY HOSTS NATIONAL CONVENING OF CITIES FOCUSED ON IMMIGRANT INCLUSIVE POLICIES

DECEMBER 5, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Manuel Castro today announced the Cities for Action (C4A) annual convening hosted by New York City that will bring together cities across the country. Participants will join national advocacy groups, philanthropists, and business leaders to discuss how to further advance immigrant inclusive policies.

"The Cities for Action (C4A) annual convening provides an important platform for cities nationwide to unite, exchange insights, and enhance our collaborative efforts in supporting immigrant communities. Over the past few years, New York City and other cities across the country have been at the forefront in responding to the humanitarian needs of asylum seekers, said Camille Joseph Varlack, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Mayor. "As we move forward, we are dedicated to supporting vulnerable immigrant populations and securing essential resources and protections."

"Over the last two and a half years, New York City has welcomed hundreds of thousands of individuals and families seeking asylum. Throughout that time, we have worked with other

cities to coordinate efforts when possible and to share lessons learned along the way," said Anne Williams-Isom, Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services. "The Cities for Action convening is an important opportunity to once again come together, to listen and learn from one another, and to chart a path ahead for continued collaboration.

"We are exciting to be bringing together cities with national leaders across local government, business, philanthropic, and advocacy sector to better coordinate on immigrant inclusive policies," said Manuel Castro, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. "New York City will continue to stand firmly by the values that have made it a thriving city of immigrants, where all residents-no matter their immigration status-should feel able to trust their local government and seek a better future for themselves and their families,"

C4A is a national coalition of more than 200 U.S. mayors, county executives, and their local government representatives who advocate for pro-immigrant and inclusive immigration policies and programs that strengthen communities and families. At this year's convening, New York City will

be joined by 27 localities from across the country, including Albuquerque, NM; Atlanta, GA; Aurora, CO; Austin, Houston, El Paso, TX; Baltimore, Baltimore County, MD; Boston, Somerville, MA; Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Louisville, KY; Memphis, TN; Minneapolis, Saint Paul, MN; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, PA; Roselle, NJ; San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Clara County, Los Angeles, CA; SeaTac, Seattle, WA; St. Louis, MO.

"Chicago is proud to serve as a co-chair of Cities for Action, and we are deeply grateful for the dedication and advocacy of the Coalition. Now more than ever, it is critical for cities to work together in advancing immigrant rights. Chicago remains unwavering in our commitment to support immigrants and refugees and build a welcoming city for all," said Deputy Mayor Ponce de León, Deputy Mayor, Chicago Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights.

"Atlanta is proud to stand as a beacon of inclusivity and opportunity. Our immigrant communities are essential to the diversity that defines our city's identity and strength. As a welcoming city, we are committed to working with Cities for Action (C4A) to address the national humanitarian



Over the past few years, New York City and other cities across the country have been at the forefront in responding to the humanitarian needs of asylum seekers, said Camille Joseph Varlack, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the New York City Mayor.

crisis, sharing best practices, and advocating for the federal support necessary to ensure all new arrivals have the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities for growth and unity," said Paulina Guzman, Executive Director of the Atlanta Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs.

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

qualify for this program and will report annually on its implementation and enforcement.

"New Yorkers are leaving the city in record numbers, and those who stay are left to face the intersecting crises of housing unaffordability, evictions, and homelessness. For our low- and middle-income neighbors, we must do everything we can to preserve and upgrade their homes for the next generation," said Council Member Pierina Sanchez. "I am proud to have championed Int. 654, which re-establishes the J-51 tax benefit-a critical preservation tool that offsets improvement costs for low-to-moderate cost residential buildings. This iteration of J-51 includes important reforms: added tenant protections, prioritization of energy efficiency work to meet our city's climate goals, and data transparency to understand the full reach of the program. This bill will save 166,000 families in co-ops across the city thousands of dollars each year, while enabling buildings across the city to comply with the ambitious and necessary climate goals of Local Law 97. Local Law 97 is the nation's most aggressive municipal climate law, targeting emissions reduction that can make our communities easier to live and breathe in. With Int. 654, we can upgrade our housing, put money back into the pockets of everyday New Yorkers, and green our city."

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT STATUS

Introduction 850, sponsored by Council Member Rafael Salamanca, would require

the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to submit biannual reports to the Council regarding city-financed affordable housing development projects involving the disposition of city property. The reports would include the date the developer was selected by HPD, the date the project received ULURP approval, the 6-month cycle during which the disposition is expected to occur, and the actual closing date for projects that have already closed.

"As the Chair of the Committee on Land Use for the last seven years, I have had the privilege of overseeing the approval of well over 100,000 units of new housing across New York City," said Council Member Rafael Salamanca. "In my district alone, I've approved over 10,000 units of 100% affordable housing. Unfortunately, there is a sad reality. Despite the lengthy negotiations it takes to approve a project and the critical need within our communities for new housing, the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) often takes *years* to provide the necessary project funding to facilitate a development's groundbreaking, delaying much-needed housing in the process. This lack of transparency is why I introduced Intro 850, which would require HPD to report biannually when projects can expect to receive financing as part of the agency's twice-a-year closing period. If a project does not close within a targeted closing cycle, HPD would be required to report the reasoning, and when a new closing date can be expected.

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Turmoil in Bangladesh: Implications for Regional Stability and Communal Harmony



BY PROF.
INDRAJIT S. SALUJA

It is imperative that both Bangladesh and India, along with the international community, work together to defuse tensions, protect minority rights, and uphold the values of democracy and human dignity. Only through collective efforts can the region hope to achieve lasting peace and stability.

"Indian electronic media, always hungry for sensational stories, has devoted hours to covering the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh. Graphic visuals, emotional narratives, and provocative debates dominate prime-time slots, often amplifying the crisis and shaping public perception.

This relentless media focus has created a charged atmosphere in India, where communal sensitivities are already high. The portrayal of Hindus as victims of Islamist aggression resonates deeply in a country where religious identity often intersects with political agendas. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been accused by critics of leveraging such narratives to consolidate its Hindu nationalist base."

Bangladesh, historically a beacon of resilience and progress in South Asia, is currently grappling with political and social turmoil of a magnitude that has sent ripples across the region. The ouster of Sheikh Hasina, the country's longest-serving prime minister and leader of the Awami League, has left a void in the political landscape and unleashed a wave of uncertainty. The situation has been further exacerbated by the former leader seeking asylum in India, a move that has added fuel to the already simmering tensions between the two nations.

THE POLITICAL VACUUM IN BANGLADESH

Sheikh Hasina's leadership, marked by economic progress and relative political stability, came to an abrupt end amidst allegations of authoritarianism and electoral manipulation. Her ouster has plunged Bangladesh into a state of political uncertainty, with power struggles between rival factions, including the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Islamist groups, intensifying. The absence of a strong central authority has emboldened extremist elements, leading to a spike in communal violence and targeted attacks.

The Hindu minority in Bangladesh, which constitutes approximately 8% of the population, has found itself at the center of this unrest. Reports of attacks on Hindu men and women, desecration of temples, and threats of mass killings by radical Islamist groups have surfaced, painting a grim picture of the ground reality.

ATROCITIES AGAINST HINDUS: A FRIGHTENING TREND

While communal violence in Bangladesh is not a new



ISKCON in Bangladesh.

Photo for Representation : Courtesy The Hindu

phenomenon, the scale and intensity of the recent attacks have raised alarm. In the past few months, several incidents have been reported.

Desecration of Temples: At least 15 Hindu temples have been vandalized or destroyed since the political upheaval began, according to local sources. Religious idols and sacred texts have been desecrated, fueling fears among the Hindu community.

Attacks on Individuals: Human rights organizations have documented over 200 cases of violence against Hindus, including physical assaults, abductions, and sexual violence against women.

Mass Exodus: Fear of persecution has reportedly driven thousands of Hindus to flee their homes, with many seeking refuge in neighboring India. Border towns in West Bengal and Assam have reported a sharp increase in the arrival of Bangladeshi Hindu refugees.

The situation has drawn widespread condemnation from international human rights groups, but the lack of decisive action from the interim government in Bangladesh has only emboldened extremist factions.

INDIA'S MEDIA FRENZY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

Indian electronic media, always hungry for sensational stories, has devoted hours to covering the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh. Graphic visuals, emotional narratives, and provocative debates dominate prime-time slots, often amplifying the crisis and shaping public perception.

This relentless media focus has created a charged atmosphere in India, where communal sensitivities are already high. The portrayal of Hindus as victims of Islamist aggression resonates deeply in a country where religious identity often intersects with political agendas. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been accused by critics of leveraging such narratives to consolidate its Hindu nationalist base.

In recent years, the Modi government has faced allegations of using Hindu sentiment as a political tool, particularly during elections. The crisis in Bangladesh provides fertile ground for the BJP to further this narrative, potentially leading to a rise in anti-Muslim rhetoric and actions within India.

THE DANGER OF ESCALATION

The repercussions of the Bangladesh crisis are not confined to its borders. In India, a country with a significant Muslim population, the politicization of the issue risks triggering communal clashes. Historically,

incidents of violence against Hindus in neighboring countries have often been followed by retaliatory attacks on Muslims in India.

THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS OF TENSION:

Communal Rhetoric: Religious leaders and political figures in India have begun invoking the atrocities in Bangladesh to rally support, often using inflammatory language.

Protests and Violence: Demonstrations condemning the attacks in Bangladesh have been organized in several Indian cities, with some turning violent. Mosques and Muslim-owned businesses have been targeted in isolated incidents.

Border Tensions: The influx of refugees from Bangladesh has strained resources and heightened security concerns in border states like West Bengal and Assam, where communal relations are precarious.

If not managed responsibly, these developments could spiral into sustained clashes, not just in India but across the region, destabilizing South Asia as a whole.

THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Amidst this volatile situation, the onus lies on the leadership in both Bangladesh and India to act responsibly. The political vacuum in Bangladesh must be addressed through dialogue and democratic processes to restore stability. International pressure and mediation may be necessary to ensure that minority rights are protected and extremist elements are curtailed.

In India, the government must resist the temptation to exploit the crisis for political gains. Instead, it should focus on:

Diplomatic Engagement: Collaborating with the interim government in Bangladesh to address the violence and ensure the safety of Hindus.

Media Regulation: Encouraging responsible reporting that informs rather than inflames public sentiment.

Community Outreach: Promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding to counter communal tensions within India.

Refugee Management: Developing a humane and effective strategy for managing the influx of Bangladeshi refugees, while addressing the security concerns of border states.

THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE

The crisis in Bangladesh and its potential spillover into India underscore the interconnectedness of South Asia's socio-political dynamics. The region, home to over a billion people, cannot afford to be mired in communal conflicts that hinder development and progress.

Moreover, the international community must recognize the global implications of the crisis. Communal violence and political instability in South Asia have the potential to fuel extremism, disrupt trade routes, and impact global security.

It is imperative that both Bangladesh and India, along with the international community, work together to defuse tensions, protect minority rights, and uphold the values of democracy and human dignity. Only through collective efforts can the region hope to achieve lasting peace and stability.

Do not write off Trump's America

The U.S. is still the world's most diverse and innovative economy; and Donald Trump proved in his first term that he is no isolationist



BY SHASHI THAROOR

In the aftermath of Donald Trump's resounding victory in the U.S. presidential elections, with a stunning Electoral College triumph of 312 votes to 226, the Indian commentariat appears to be divided between those lamenting the demise of Liberal America and those celebrating the rise of a right-wing transactional leader who might be "good for India". Both sides, however, appear to think that the America, over which Mr Trump will preside, has given one more sign of its irresistible decline, as the world becomes increasingly multi-polar and China continues its inexorable rise. For them, Mr. Trump's victory merely sets the seal on an America more divided against itself, more insular, more xenophobic, more racist and misogynist and less inclined to engage with the world than at any time since the Second World War.

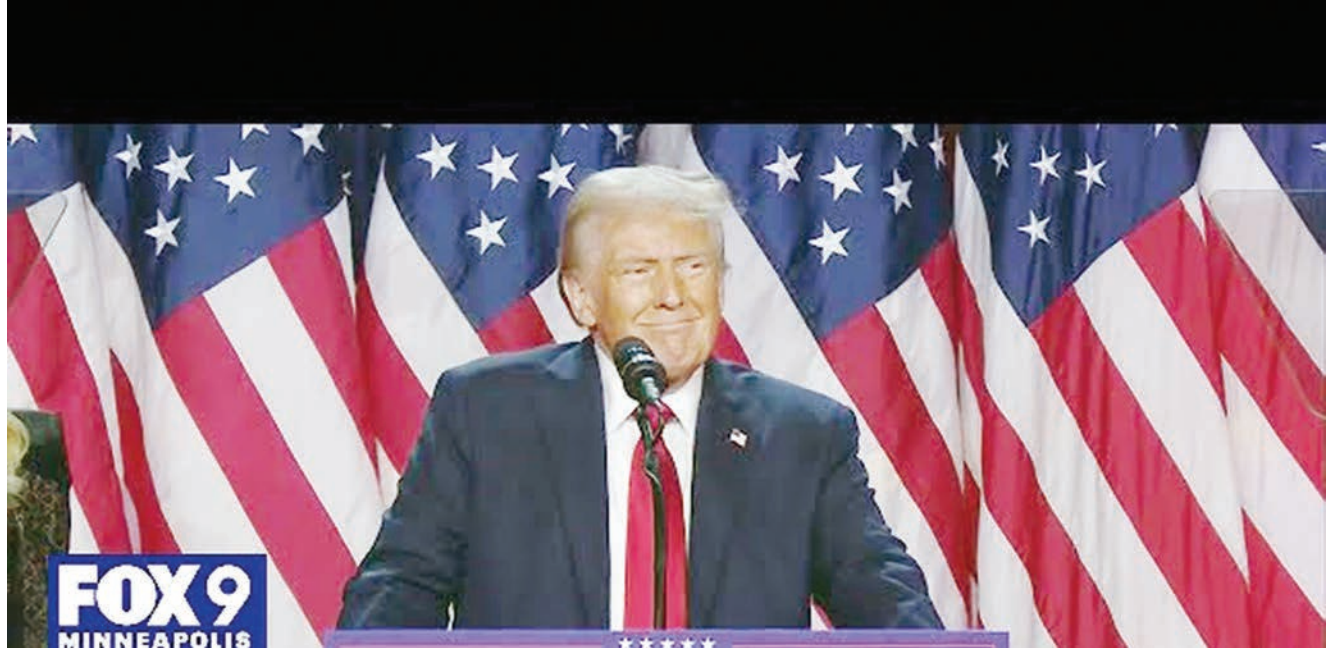
THE CORE ELEMENTS ARE STILL STRONG

I am not prepared to write America off quite so quickly. For one thing, the fundamental elements of American global power remain unchallenged. It is still the world's largest, most diverse and most innovative economy. Its military budget dwarfs those of the rest of the planet's countries combined. It has a remarkable level of energy security, with its own domestic sources of oil, gas, solar and wind power, and seems to be gradually expanding its nuclear capacity as well. Its labor force may have priced itself out of the manufacturing business but American labor productivity and its talent for business and entrepreneurship remain incomparable. Its capital markets are thriving and stable, defying every doomsday prediction since the Great Depression. It has more billionaires than in any country on earth; the U.S. dollar remains the world's benchmark currency; and the average working American is still better off than the average worker almost anywhere else in the world.

It is still a land that wields an unparalleled influence over global culture - as the home of Coca-Cola, Starbucks, Levi's, McDonald's, Disney, Hollywood, CNN, Google, Microsoft, and Nvidia, it sets the global cultural agenda in ways that no one else comes remotely close to approaching. The "unipolar moment" that lasted from roughly 1990 to 2010 may have passed, but these factors mean that whatever degree of multi-polarity may be dawning, it is very much amongst second-order powers jostling for space with each other, rather than truly competing with the United States for global dominance.

It is of course true that the couple of decades of absolute dominance - politically, militarily, economically, and technologically - of the world by the United States of America have passed. This was an era in which Washington faced no near-term rivals for global power and influence, and one in which the defining feature of international politics was that America held sway over world affairs, and usually had its way. But in the last decade or so, it has become clear that the U.S. was no longer going to be uncontested in any of these domains. The first, largest, tallest, biggest everything - from skyscrapers to planes - used to be in America. That is no longer the case.

There are also the undoubted weaknesses with which America is now reckoning. Its industrial base has been weakened by decades of over-reliance on imports from China. Its public debt is out of control and is expected to rise to 122% of GDP by 2034. It is already the case that America spends more on public debt interest than on defense, even though its defense budget is larger than that of the rest of the world combined. Its public, as the recent election showed, is increasingly resentful of the country's own globalist elites, has rejected cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism, and wants to return to a more insular and arguably xenophobic



Donald Trump declares victory

Screen shot / Fox

insularity. Its appetite for global adventure has shrunk dramatically and might increasingly prompt American administrations to withdraw from their current engagements across the world and cease to make the major efforts required to manage and defuse international conflicts.

THE RISE OF CHINA

And then there is China. Roughly around the 2008-09 financial crisis, pundits recognized that there had emerged on the global scene the specter of Beijing. China's "peaceful rise" for the last quarter of a century, fueled by American investment in its industries and burgeoning export trade for its manufactures, has culminated in its supplanting the U.S. as a manufacturing and industrial power, rivalling it in economic size and exceeding its surpluses, as well as challenging it in new cutting-edge technologies such as 5G. Under the assertive autocracy of Xi Jinping, China has emerged, after decades of uncontested U.S. hegemony, as the other aspiring hegemon - and it has the resources to make the Americans sweat. No wonder many American thinkers have called for policymakers to evolve a comprehensive strategy to counter China, much as George Kennan's famous "Long Telegram" from Moscow in 1946 led to the birth of the "containment strategy" that hemmed in the Soviet Union.

Such a strategy, by definition, will require the U.S. to stay engaged, if only to preserve its dominance in world affairs. Mr. Trump's first term demonstrated that he was no isolationist. His initiatives in promoting a "grand bargain" involving the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other moderate West Asian powers, did indicate a willingness to pursue a new regional compact that would isolate Islamic extremists. (The "I2U2" among Israel, India, the U.S. and the UAE, which was part of this vision, has been rendered dormant by the Gaza conflict, but will certainly be revived once that war is brought to an end.) His withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)/nuclear agreement with Iran, his imposition of extremely rigorous sanctions on that country, and the American assassination of Iran's intelligence chief, Qasem Soleimani, suggest a willingness to be belligerent in pursuing adversaries deemed to be hostile.

Mr. Trump has made it clear, especially through the trade war he launched against China, that a United States led by him will not permit Beijing to establish

itself as the unchallenged Asian hegemon. To this end, Mr. Trump is likely to prioritize strengthening the Quad (India, Australia, Japan, the U.S.), and should India prove skittish in this regard, the new "Squad" (in which the Philippines replaces India in the quartet), could be energized.

Mr. Trump understands that if China is allowed to gain unchallengeable dominance over east and central Asia, the resources and markets it would command would enable it to seriously challenge American strategic and economic interests. A struggle for influence in this part of the world will certainly ensue over the next few years and India will be called upon to define its stand in relation to it.

AN INDIAN RESPONSE

New Delhi will have to carefully juggle some crucial choices: how to define its uneasy relationship with a China that continues to threaten its borders, even while India's import dependence on that country grows to record levels each year; how to manage its close relationship with a Russia that is increasingly becoming a client state of Beijing; how to manage its friendship with Iran at a time when Israel's war with Hamas and Hezbollah and the U.S.-led attacks on the Houthis render Iran increasingly a regional undesirable; and how to defend its own strategic autonomy in a world where the freedom of maneuver we have so far enjoyed among all these actors is narrowing. The U.S. under Donald Trump will undoubtedly seek to contain China, limit Russia, disempower Islamic Iran, and further isolate North Korea - the new "axis of evil" identified by Washington - while it promotes Israel and whips Europe into shape. U.S. support for India will be contingent on how adroitly India manages to navigate its own relationships with these countries so that it is seen as willing to go along with, or at least not undermine, these objectives.

Not only is it unwise to write off Trump's America - in light of these considerations - we should take it very seriously indeed.

(Shashi Tharoor is the fourth-term Congress Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Thiruvananthapuram, the author of 26 books including Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century, and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs)

What Trump 2.0 means for India's economic aspirations



BY SUSHMA
RAMACHANDRAN

"The rancor against the BRICS group stems from Brazil's proposal, at the last summit, to develop an alternative currency to reduce reliance on the dollar. The annoyance seems hugely out of proportion as the suggestion has little chance of becoming a reality. Wide differences in ideology and outlook among member countries militate against the formulation of such a scheme. Undoubtedly, there has been concern over the sanctions imposed on Russia after the Ukraine war kept it out of the worldwide financial settlement system known as SWIFT. This created obstacles in doing business with that country. Alternative ways are, thus, being explored to evolve a new international transaction system, but they are still at a nascent stage. As for India, it has been using a rupee payment mechanism for oil purchases from Russia, but this is merely a continuation of a longstanding arrangement harking back to the Soviet era."

Even before being formally anointed as US President, Donald Trump's pronouncements are creating ripples in global economies. Recent salvos on tariffs and the dollar have sparked concerns over the prospect of trade and currency wars in the coming days. Policymakers in both developed and developing countries are voicing concerns over the impact of his new plans. While some fears are valid, given the track record in his previous tenure, others are not. Some comments are in a serious vein while others seem to be aimed merely at reasserting the primacy of the US in the world economic order.

For India, the reality is that having a

stable economic relationship with the US is critical to its growth and development. This is the country's biggest trading partner in tandem with China. But there is a significant difference between the ties with the two economic superpowers. There is a trade surplus with the former and a yawning deficit with the latter. Other disparities in the bilateral ties include the fact that investments from the US are expanding, especially as the China Plus One strategy is gaining ground. In contrast, investments from the northern neighbor have slowed down considerably recently due to strained



The suggestion that the BRICS group would float a new currency to replace the dollar has little chance of becoming a reality

political relations. As for the China Plus One policy, it may be one of the factors for the foreign direct investments having perked up this year. From April to September, the FDI inflows are reported to have risen by 45 per cent - from \$20.5 billion to \$29.79 billion.

The tariff hikes being proposed by Trump, on the other hand, could have a dampening effect on this country's exports to its biggest market. Till recently, India had been excluded from the list of countries against which the President-elect was planning to levy higher import duties. In specific terms, so far, he has declared that a 10 per cent tariff hike would be levied on China, with an even higher 25 per cent levy on imports from the neighboring Mexico and Canada. One reason cited is the inability of these countries to curb drug smuggling into the US.

His latest acerbic comment, however, has been against the BRICS group, of which India is a founding member. Threatening to levy 100 per cent tariffs, he has taken exception to reports that an alternative currency would be floated by the group to bypass the dollar.

The rancor against the BRICS group stems from Brazil's proposal, at the last summit, to develop an alternative currency to reduce reliance on the dollar. The annoyance seems hugely out of proportion as the suggestion has little

chance of becoming a reality. Wide differences in ideology and outlook among member countries militate against the formulation of such a scheme. Undoubtedly, there has been concern over the sanctions imposed on Russia after the Ukraine war kept it out of the worldwide financial settlement system known as SWIFT. This created obstacles in doing business with that country. Alternative ways are, thus, being explored to evolve a new international transaction system, but they are still at a nascent stage. As for India, it has been using a rupee payment

License raj era. While some sectors may genuinely need protection, by and large, the Indian industry is at a more resilient stage than ever in the past. Besides, if this country is to plug into the global supply chains, it must rethink the entire strategy on import levies. Raising revenues should not be the rationale for putting a high tariff regime in place.

The other advantage that could arise from Trump's plans to hike tariffs on goods from China is that Indian exporters could gain a competitive edge. Several studies have emerged highlighting the potential for growth in

sectors like textiles, information technology and pharmaceuticals. Apart from these gains, it is possible that investors will shift out of China to avoid the punitive tariffs imposed on imports from there. Though some of this movement may benefit smaller economies like Vietnam and Indonesia, larger ventures would prefer India for relocation. It has the benefits of low-cost labor and availability of skilled manpower, especially in high-tech areas.

India, thus, needs to review its own inward-looking policies while considering the way forward in dealing with the tectonic shift in tariffs envisaged by the incoming administration. It may not be easy going as Trump has already pronounced this country to be an abuser of tariffs. There are bound to be tough negotiations as the US seeks greater access to the temptingly large Indian market. Dealing with more aggressive trade diplomacy will mean adopting a more flexible approach, especially as this country cannot afford to continue raising protectionist walls in a globalized world. This may be a radical change from the past, but it could ultimately benefit trade and industry in the long run.

On the positive side, this could be just the push needed for this government to shift from its recent policies of hiking import tariffs. The process has been continuing gradually for the past few years in the guise of launching the "Make in India" programme. This has raised the real danger of protectionism in the form of tariff walls to insulate the domestic industry, as was done in the

mechanism for oil purchases from Russia, but this is merely a continuation of a longstanding arrangement harking back to the Soviet era.

Setting this issue aside, therefore, one must examine the real problems on the tariff front. On the negative side, the prospect of a global trade war could lead to recessionary conditions in some of India's key markets. To that extent, this could affect exports, especially to Europe and the Americas. There is also a possibility that tariffs could be raised on exports to the lucrative US market in retaliation for the relatively higher duties imposed on imports here. Trump has repeatedly cited the instance of Harley Davidson, which was unable to enter the Indian market due to high tariffs. It is inevitable that easier access to the sizable domestic market would be sought by the new US administration, as has been done in the past. The difference now is that there is a real likelihood of retaliatory tariffs.

(The author is a journalist and writes on economy)

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CERTIFICATE
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POPULAR
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STATE
OF THE ART
AUDITORIUM



FREE
PARKING

SCAN FOR
REGISTRATION



Dance
Participant
Age Category



Minor 11 & under

Junior 15 & under

Senior 20 & under

Adult 21 & above

Trump nominates Indian American Kash Patel as FBI Director

DECEMBER 1, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday, November 30, nominated close confidante Kash Patel for the powerful position of Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, making him the highest ranking Indian American in his incoming administration.

I am proud to announce that Kashyap 'Kash' Patel will serve as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Kash is a brilliant lawyer, investigator, and 'America First' fighter who has spent his career exposing corruption, defending Justice, and protecting the American People, Trump announced on Truth Social, a social media platform he owns.

Trump said Patel played a pivotal role in uncovering "the Russia, Russia, Russia Hoax," standing as an advocate for truth, accountability, and the Constitution. Patel, 44, served as chief of staff to the Acting United States Secretary of Defense in the last few weeks of the Trump Administration in 2017.

Kash did an incredible job during my First Term, where he served as Chief of Staff at the Department of Defense, Deputy Director of National Intelligence, and Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the National Security Council. Kash has also tried over 60 jury trials, he said.

This FBI will end the growing crime epidemic in America, dismantle the migrant criminal gangs, and stop the evil scourge of human and drug trafficking across the Border. Kash will work under our great Attorney General, Pam Bondi, to bring back Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity to the FBI, Trump said.

New York-born Patel has his roots in Gujarat. However, his parents are from East Africa -mother from Tanzania and father from Uganda. They came to the US



Kash Patel with Donald Trump -File photo

from Canada in 1970. We are Gujarati, he had told PTI in an earlier interview.

The family moved to Queens in New York often called as Little India -- in the late 70s. It is here that Patel was born and grew. Patel's parents are retired now and spend their time in both the US and Gujarat. After his schooling in New York and college in Richmond, Virginia, and law school in New York, Patel went to Florida where he was a state public defender for four years and then federal public defender for another four years.

So, lots of trials, lots of international investigations, lots of time in court, understanding the federal system and trying cases and learning how to run investigations, he said.

From Florida he moved to Washington DC as a terrorism prosecutor at the Department of Justice. Here he was an international terrorism prosecutor for about three and a half years. During this period, he worked on cases all over the world, in America in East Africa as well as in Uganda and Kenya.

While, still employed by the Department of Justice, he went as a

civilian to join Special Operations Command at the Department of Defense. At the Pentagon, he sat as the Department of Justice's lawyer with Special Forces people and worked interagency collaborative targeting operations around the world.

After a year in the position, Congressman Davin Nunes, Chairman of the House Permanent Select on Intelligence Committee, pulled him as senior counsel on counterterrorism. After April 2017, he spearheaded the Russia investigation of the House Intelligence Committee. It was here where he attracted media attention and played a key role in drafting a GOP memo, which, according to then-President Donald Trump, exposed the role of Democratic party and its leadership in the Russian investigation.

The New York Times described this as a Kash Memo. Patel said that this was a great team effort.

Patel is an Ice hockey fan and has been playing the sport since he was six. I still play and I spend a lot of time volunteering coaching youth hockey in

the area.

Patel, who attended both the Houston and Ahmedabad rallies of Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2019 and February 2020, had earlier told PTI that the bilateral relationship had deteriorated under the Biden Administration.

President Trump and Prime Minister Modi had an extraordinary relationship with respect. And they were working together to counteract the things like Chinese aggression, not just on the Indian border but on the global stage. They were also working together to counteract things in Pakistan when it came to counterterrorism matters and hostage situations, Patel said.

The two leaders knew that not only the strong relationship but also allowing the economies of scale to be built in India and America were mutually beneficial, Patel said. Last fall he wrote the book 'Government Gangster' which argued that there is a severe lack of accountability. The book talks about the deep state and is highly critical of the US bureaucracy, which he claims is highly infiltrated or dominated by lawbreakers.

Responding to a question, Patel then told PTI that the Biden Administration and the deep state are interwoven.

"The Biden administration is filled by these corrupt government gangsters who I list in the back of my book by name and title. It's not a Democrat or Republican thing. It's an apolitical thing that these individuals, whether they're Trump appointees like Christopher W Ray or Biden appointees like Merrick Garland, they are led to this two-tier system of justice where they weaponize government and intelligence and law enforcement to target either conservatives or Trump supporters or call people on January 6th, domestic terrorists," he said. (Source: PTI)

Library to Host 25th Anniversary National Book Festival in September 2025



Library to Host 25th Anniversary National Book Festival on Sept. 6, 2025, at the Washington Convention Center, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced.

DECEMBER 4, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Library of Congress will host the 2025 National Book Festival on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at the Washington Convention Center, festival organizers announced today.

This will mark the 25th anniversary of the Library of Congress National Book Festival, which was co-founded in 2001 with first lady Laura Bush. In 2025, the festival will expand its footprint in the Washington Convention Center to host book lovers from across the region and nationwide. Updates on plans will be shared at loc.gov/bookfest.

"We are thrilled to announce plans are set to celebrate the National Book Festival's 25th anniversary in September 2025," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "This festival has grown to become one of the most

beloved literary events in the nation and one of the most popular festivals in our nation's capital."

The festival is free for everyone and provides a full day of conversations with dozens of authors, poets and illustrators from a variety of genres about their latest books and book signings with each writer. The festival offers readings, giveaways, and activities for children and young adults, as well as the opportunity to purchase books from the festival's official bookseller. For festival updates, subscribe to the Library's Bookmarked blog.

At the 2024 festival, tens of thousands of people joined the festival, setting an all-time ridership record for travel to the convention center on the Metro transit system Aug. 24. Videos of select stages are available online, and NPR produced a series of podcast interviews from

festival presentations, extending the festival's reach.

The National Book Festival is made possible by the generous support of private- and public-sector sponsors who share the Library's commitment to reading and literacy, led by National Book Festival Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States - and extensive materials from around the world - both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov

Trump warns BRICS against ditching US dollar, threatens tariffs

DECEMBER 1, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday, November 30, warned BRICS countries against any move to replace the US dollar and has sought a commitment from the nine-member group that includes India, Russia, China, and Brazil.

BRICS, formed in 2009, is the only major international group of which the United States is not a part. Its other members are South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Over the past few years a few of its member countries, in particular Russia and China, are seeking an alternative to the US Dollar or create own BRICS currency. India has so far not been part of the move.

On Saturday, Trump warned BRICS nations against such a move.

"The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER," the president-elect said in a post on Truth Social, a platform owned by him.

"We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs and



"The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, a platform owned by him.

should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy," Trump warned.

"They can go find another 'sucker!' There is no chance that the BRICS will replace the US Dollar in International Trade, and any Country that tries should wave goodbye to America," he said. At the 2023 summit in South Africa, BRICS countries committed to study the feasibility of a new common currency. A

proposal in this regard was made by the Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva.

"...ask you about de-Dollarization as a possibility for the world. At times India has expressed interest in alternative currency. It can serve as a reserve mechanism. I wonder how do you see that right now what you see as the role of the dollar and these discussions about your national policy? India's External

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said during his appearance at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace this fall.

"I think you have us confused for someone else because we have never actively targeted the dollar. That's not part of either our economic policy or our political or our strategic policy. Some others may have," Jaishankar said.

"What I will tell you is a natural concern there. We often have trade partners who do not have dollars to take. So, we now have to look at whether we forego dealings with them or do we find some settlement which works otherwise. So, there's no, I can say malicious intent vis-a-vis the dollar in business. WE are trying to do our business," he said.

"Sometimes you make it difficult in the use of dollars. We have some trade partners with whom trade in dollars becomes difficult because of your policies. We have to obviously look for workarounds. But for us, as we spoke about rebalancing, we spoke about multiple obviously all of this is also going to reflect on currencies and economic needs," said the External Affairs Minister on October 1 this year.

(Source: PTI)

US senators introduce bill to reunite immigrant families, raise per-country family-based immigration cap



Senator Mazie K. Hirono and Senator Tammy Duckworth .

-File photo

DECEMBER 5, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Two Democratic Party Senators on Wednesday, December 4, introduced a legislation aimed at reuniting the immigrant families and raising the per-country family-based immigration caps, allowing more visas to go to a single country such as India and China.

Introduced by Senators Mazie K. Hirono, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Tammy Duckworth introduced the Reuniting Families Act, which would promote family unity in the country's immigration system, reduce the family-based immigration backlogs, and update laws to reflect how families immigrate to the US.

The bill also includes Senator Hirono's Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, legislation that would speed up the visa process for children of Filipino World War II veterans.

"As the only immigrant currently serving in the US Senate, I am proud to introduce the Reuniting Families Act to update our country's family immigration system

and promote family unity," said Hirono.

"By implementing changes to reduce the backlog of family-based immigration visas, exempting close relatives from visa caps, and preventing the separation of LGBTQ+ families, this bill will better prioritize family unity in our immigration system," she said.

"We desperately need comprehensive immigration reform, but in the meantime, the Reuniting Families Act is a step in the right direction to help reunite or keep families together as they navigate our immigration system," she said.

Duckworth said, "Our country's broken immigration system is riddled with unnecessary barriers that have created backlogs and kept families apart for years." "This legislation would implement commonsense reforms to help end family-based backlogs, which keep too many with approved green card applications stuck in bureaucratic limbo, and get more families where they belong-together," he said.

The legislation would "recapture" unused visas from previous years, adding them to the number of visas United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may distribute; exempt close relatives from visa caps, extending the current exemption to spouses, unmarried children under 21, and certain parents of legal permanent residents.

It would raise the per-country family-based immigration caps, allowing more visas to go to a single country such as India, China, Mexico, and the Philippines; provide discretion to the government when applying certain "bars" on individuals, eliminating unfair requirements for individuals to go to their home countries if that individual unlawfully entered the United States.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US calls for respect for fundamental freedoms amid attack on religious minorities in Bangladesh

DECEMBER 4, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

The United States on Tuesday, December 3, called for respect for fundamental freedoms including religious and basic human rights in Bangladesh amid attacks on minorities.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.

"We are consistent with every government in which we have a relationship with. We are clear that there needs to be the respect of fundamental freedoms," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters.

"Governments need to respect the rule of law, they need to respect basic human rights as part of that. That's something we'll continue to emphasize," Patel said.

There needs to be respect for religious freedom and basic human rights. Any kind of protest should be and need to be peaceful, he said.

"We continue to stress and emphasize that even those who are in detention need to be afforded appropriate representation and need to be treated with basic fundamental freedoms and human rights," Patel said in response to a question.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August.



"We are clear that there needs to be the respect of fundamental freedoms," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters.

File photo: LinkedIn

Varanasi college bans 'outsiders' after Hanuman Chalisa-namaz row

Amid escalating tensions at the Uday Pratap College here over a mosque located on its premises, police on Thursday restricted outsiders' entry to the campus, allowing only students with valid identity cards.

The move follows unrest after students recited Hanuman Chalisa when namaz was being offered near the mosque. Seven men were briefly detained after the row on Tuesday, December 3, according to the local police.

Student leader Vivekanand Singh on Thursday, December 5, said, "Police personnel are stationed at the college gate, checking identity cards to ensure that no outsiders enter the campus. A group of students is also monitoring the gate."

He added that no one came to offer namaz on Thursday and that additional precautions will be taken on Friday during the "Jumma" prayers.

In a related development, students of the college have formed a "student court" and sent an 11-point letter to the Uttar Pradesh Waqf Board, demanding a response within 15 days regarding the status of the mosque and its ownership.

India, China hold 1st diplomatic dialogue since disengagement

India and China on Thursday held the first meeting of a key mechanism for handling border affairs since the disengagement at Demchok and Depsang, and agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity on the disputed frontier in line with bilateral agreements and protocols.

The meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs in New Delhi "reflected on the lessons learnt from the events of 2020 in order to prevent their recurrence", the external affairs ministry said in a readout.

Both sides "agreed on the need for effective border management and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements, protocols and understandings reached between the two governments", the readout said.

This was the 32nd meeting of the WMCC since its creation in 2012, but the first held since the two countries reached an understanding on October 21 that paved the way for disengagement of front line forces at Demchok and Depsang and resumption of patrolling at these two "friction points" on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The military standoff on the LAC since April-May 2020, and a brutal clash at Galwan Valley in June the same year that killed 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese troops, had taken bilateral ties to their lowest point since the 1962 border war.

Source: HT

DNA of events in Ayodhya, Sambhal, Bangla same: Yogi

AYODHYA (TIP)

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on December 5, accused the Opposition of trying to divide the society, saying the actions of Babur's commander in Ayodhya and Sambhal around 500 years ago and ongoing events in Bangladesh shared the same nature and intent.

"Look at the kind of acts our enemies are committing in neighbouring countries. Around 500 years ago, a general of Babur committed certain deeds in Ayodhya, similar acts were observed in Sambhal, and now what is happening in Bangladesh — the nature and DNA of all three events are the same," he added.

The CM, who was in the temple town for the inauguration of the 43rd Ramayan Mela, cautioned people against dismissing these issues as distant or irrelevant.

"Had we given importance to unity and not let the strategy of nation's enemies succeed in creating social animosity, this country would have never become a slave. Our pilgrimages would not have been desecrated. A handful of invaders would not have dared to invade us and would be crushed by India's brave soldiers," he added.

The Opposition shot back at the



Uttar Pradesh CM, saying he was indulging in "divisive politics" and peddling "false narratives".

When asked to comment on Adityanath's remarks, Congress MP Tariq Anwar said his language did not behove that of a chief minister. "It is surprising and saddening that being a big leader of the BJP and the Chief Minister of a large state like Uttar Pradesh, he uses such language that is aimed at dividing people," Anwar said.

'First get your DNA checked':

Akhilesh Yadav attacks Yogi

Reacting to Yogi Adityanath's remark that the DNA of what happened in Ayodhya under Babur's rule, Sambhal and Bangladesh is the same, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Uttar Pradesh chief minister must get his DNA tested before making such remarks.

"I don't know how much science the chief minister knows and how much biology he has studied... But I want to request that he not talk about DNA," he was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

The former UP CM said he would also get his DNA checked.

"Through you (media), and I am saying this with full responsibility, that he should not talk about DNA...and if he talks about DNA then we all want to get our DNA checked. The chief minister should also get his DNA checked... I want to get my DNA checked and the chief minister should also," he added.

Akhilesh Yadav said being a saint, Yogi Adityanath must refrain from using such language.

"This talk of DNA does not suit him (Adityanath). Being a saint, a yogi in saffron robes, this language should not be used and this talk about DNA should not be done," he said.

Chaos in LS after BJP calls Rahul 'traitor'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Parliamentary proceedings were disrupted on Thursday, December 5, after BJP leaders accused Congress' Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of being a "traitor of the highest order" with alleged ties to international forces aimed at destabilising India's democracy.

The BJP also linked Gandhi to US billionaire George Soros and the investigative media group Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), prompting strong protests from the Congress.

The Lok Sabha saw uproar after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey raised the issue during the zero hour, leading to chaos and a two-hour adjournment. Opposition members accused Dubey of using "derogatory" language against Rahul, further escalating tensions. The Congress-led opposition stormed the well of the House during the Railways Amendment Bill discussion, forcing a full-day adjournment.

The SP and Trinamool Congress remained seated during the protests and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the Chair, adjourned the Lok Sabha for the day. Similar disruptions were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha, where BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged "external



Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a protest in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

attacks on national interest", sparking protests.

The BJP's claims stem from a report by French publication 'Mediapart', which alleged that OCCRP is funded by the US government, Soros' Open Society Foundation and European entities. The BJP accused OCCRP of publishing reports critical of India, which the Congress allegedly used to target the government and domestic business interests. BJP MP Sambit Patra said, "I don't hesitate to call the

Leader of the Opposition a traitor." He claimed that Rahul follows directives from OCCRP. "Such agencies work for the interests of their funders, and Rahul, by aligning with them, is betraying the entire country," Patra alleged. Congress MP Manickam Tagore wrote to LS Speaker Om Birla, expressing concern over Patra allegedly using "slandering language" against Rahul and sought stringent action against the ruling party leader.

Source: TNS

Sukhbir attacker a 'lone wolf': Police probe

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

Narain Singh Chaura, who attempted to assassinate former deputy chief minister Sukhbir Badal at the Golden Temple, acted alone and was "self-motivated," preliminary police investigation revealed, even as Badal returned on Thursday to take up sewadar duty as part of his atonement.

While investigators haven't completely ruled out a larger conspiracy, initial probe suggests Chaura, an ex-militant with over 30 terror-related cases against him, planned the assassination only after Akal Takht pronounced its verdict on Badal regarding the Bargari sacrilege case.

"Because Chaura has remained a hardcore terrorist in the past, breaking him during interrogation isn't easy. So far, he maintains he was self-motivated, claiming that Badal's admission of 'sins' before Akal Takht was the trigger. He felt the sentence pronounced was too lenient," said a senior police official familiar with the investigation, citing disclosures by Chaura.

To be sure, statements made during interrogation do not count as evidence unless a suspect repeats them when taking the stand during trial.

Fresh questions also arose on Thursday after Shiromani Akali Dal leaders released CCTV footage showing Chaura's multiple interactions with superintendent of police (SP) Harpal Singh, who was supervising security arrangements outside the shrine, a day



Narain Singh Chaura, who attempted to assassinate former deputy chief minister Sukhbir Badal at the Golden Temple, acted alone and was "self-motivated," preliminary police investigation revealed, even as Badal returned on Thursday, Dec 5, to take up sewadar duty as part of his atonement.

before the attack.

At a press conference, former minister Bikram Singh Majithia presented video evidence showing SP Singh, who shares Chaura's home constituency of Dera Baba Nanak, being "on friendly terms" with the accused despite knowing his militant background.

"Even more suspicious is that SP Harpal was seen entering the Information Office at Sri Darbar Sahib exactly three minutes before the attack on Badal, despite being in a state of high alert," Majithia said.

The 9mm pistol used in the assassination attempt bears no

identifying marks, and investigators are trying to determine whether Chaura had been carrying it while inside the shrine or retrieved it from elsewhere just before the attack.

"Chaura has been involved in bringing arms and ammunition from across the border to be used in pro-Khalistan activities. Chaura was still in touch with sleeper cells of Khalistani activists," said the official quoted in the first instance, asking not to be named.

Chaura's social media activity had shown clear animosity toward SAD. In a Facebook post about a month ago, he wrote: "The Sikh community has

politically rejected the Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) due to its grave misdeeds, and now the party is using the Akal Takht Sahib as a means to revive its reputation. This party is an enemy of the Panth."

Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, who is personally supervising the investigation, remained cautious about drawing conclusions. "We have taken him on three-day police remand and have involved all our state agencies in the probe. We are investigating the case from all angles to uncover the truth," he said.

The cyber cell of Amritsar Police is analysing Chaura's social media accounts, where he had previously justified violence against those accused in sacrilege cases, indicating a possible premeditation to the attack.

Chaura sent to 3-day police remand

A court in Amritsar on Thursday sent former Khalistani terrorist Narayan Singh Chaura, who opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside Golden Temple on Wednesday, to three-day police remand, officials said.

Chaura (68), whose bid on the Akali leader's life was foiled by alert Punjab Police personnel present on the spot in plainclothes, was produced in the court amid tight security on Thursday.

The Punjab Police demanded seven-day remand for Chaura, but the court granted three days, a defence counsel told reporters in Amritsar.

1,871 women abandoned by NRI spouses: Minister

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on December 6 reported that 1,871 women married to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been abandoned by their spouses in foreign countries.

In a written reply to a question posed by Rajya Sabha MP Satnam Singh Sandhu, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh provided detailed data on such cases. The highest number of cases was reported in Dubai, where 1,044 women were assisted by Indian missions, followed by Singapore (256), Doha (118) and the US (112). Other notable cases include 62 in Australia, 57 in the UK and 45 in New Zealand. The MEA stated, "The government has implemented various mechanisms to address the plight of Indian women abandoned by their NRI spouses." These include counselling, legal guidance and advice on available procedures. Financial and legal aid is also provided under the Indian Community Welfare Fund to alleviate the distress of affected women abroad, the minister added. *Source: TNS*

Cash found from Parliament seat allotted to Abhishek Manu Singhvi, probe ordered

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday, December 6, informed the House that during a routine anti-sabotage check, a wad of currency notes was discovered from seat number 222, allotted to Congress MP and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi. The matter has been handed over for investigation, he said.

Responding to the statement, Abhishek Manu Singhvi denied any involvement, terming the situation "bizarre".

"I hereby inform the members that during the routine anti-sabotage check of the chamber after the adjournment of the House yesterday. Apparently, a wad of currency notes was recovered by the security officials from seat number 222 which is presently allotted to Abhishek Manu Singhvi, elected from the state of Telangana. The matter was brought to my notice, and I made sure an investigation takes place and the same is underway," Jagdeep Dhankhar said.

Speaking to reporters, Abhishek Manu Singhvi detailed his brief presence in Parliament on Thursday.

"I am quite astonished to even hear about it. I never heard of it. I reached

the inside of the House yesterday at 12.57pm. The House rose at 1pm. From 1 to 1:30pm, I sat with Ayodhya Prasad in the canteen and had lunch. At 1:30 pm, I left Parliament. So my total stay in the House yesterday was 3 minutes, and my stay in the canteen was 30 minutes," the Congress MP said.

"I find it bizarre that politics is raised even on such issues. Of course, there must be an inquiry as to how people can come and put anything anywhere in any seat. It means that each of us must have a seat where the seat itself can be locked and the key can be carried home by the MP because everybody can then do things on the seat and make allegations about this. If it was not tragic and serious it would be comical. I think everybody should cooperate in getting to the bottom of this, and if there is a failing in the security agencies that must also be completely exposed," Abhishek Singhvi added.

Here's what we know so far:

Jagdeep Dhankhar's statement triggered an uproar from the Opposition benches, with Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge saying the Chairman should not have named the

member without the investigation being completed.

The Chairman said the wad is of ₹500 currency notes, and appears to have 100 notes.

Jagdeep Dhankhar also said it was not clear if the currency notes were real or fake.

"It was my duty and I'm obliged to inform the House. This is a routine anti-sabotage check which takes place," he said.

Dhankhar added that he was expecting someone would claim the currency notes, but no one has claimed it so far "Does it reflect the state of the economy that people can afford to forget it," he said.

Uproar was witnessed from both treasury and opposition benches over the issue.

"Why should there be an objection to the name being taken? The Chairman has pointed out seat number and member who occupies that, what is the problem with that," Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said. He said carrying bundles of notes in the House is not appropriate, adding that he agrees there should be a serious investigation.

India in history this Week

DECEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 12

06 DECEMBER

1732 Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of the East India Company, was born.

1907 The first incident of dacoity related to India's freedom struggle took place at Chingariipota railway station.



1992 Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished by Hindu kar sevaks. After this, riots broke out in many states of India.

1907 The first incident of dacoity related to India's freedom struggle took place at Chingariipota railway station.

1956 Bahujan political leader and constitution builder Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar died.

1987 MiG-29 joined the Indian Air Force, renamed 'Baz'.

07 DECEMBER

1949 Indian Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated.

1782 Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore died.

1825 The first steam-powered ship 'Enterprise' reached Kolkata.

1856 The 'Hindu widow' was officially married for the first time in the country.

1995 India launched communication satellite INSAT-2C.

2003 Raman Singh holds the post of Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

2008 Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh won the Japan Tour title.

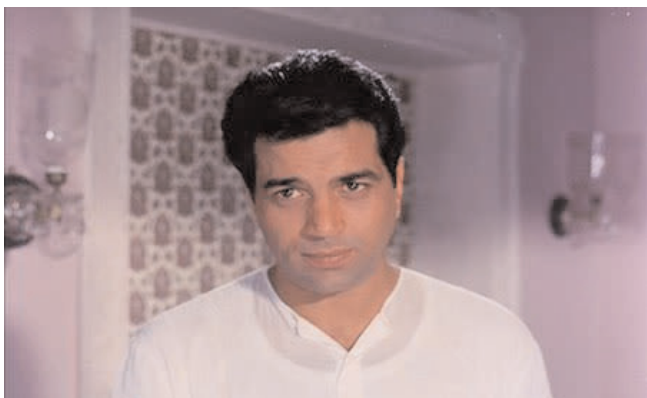
2016 Famous Indian actor, comedian, political satirist, playwright, film director and advocate Cho Ramaswamy passed away.

08 DECEMBER

1900 Pandit Uday Shankar, dancer and dance director of modern India, was born.

1967 The first submarine INS Kalwari was inducted into the Indian Navy.

2010 The house of former Telecom Minister of India and his partners has been raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation of India regarding a corruption scam.



1935 Bollywood veteran actor Dharmendra was born.

09 DECEMBER

1946 The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly that made the country's highest law was on this day.



1946 UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi was born.

1971 During the Liberation War, the Indian Army had pierced the air campaign Meghna Heli Bridge.



1484 The great poet and saint Surdas was born.

1758 The thirteen-month-long war of Madras began in India. This was the most dangerous war between Britain and France in India.

1898 Belur Math was established in Kolkata.

2001 United National Party leader Ranil Vikram Singhe was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

1825 Rao Tula Ram, a prominent hero of the Sepoy Mutiny was born.

1913 India's first female photo journalist Homi Vyarawala was born.

10 DECEMBER

1878 The freedom fighter leader G. Rajagopalachari was born.



2001 Dada Muni, one of the stalwarts of Indian cinema, said goodbye to the world.

1878 Birth of Muhammad Ali Johar, one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia in Rampur.

1992 The first hovercraft service of the country was started in Gujarat.

1998 Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in Stockholm.

11 DECEMBER

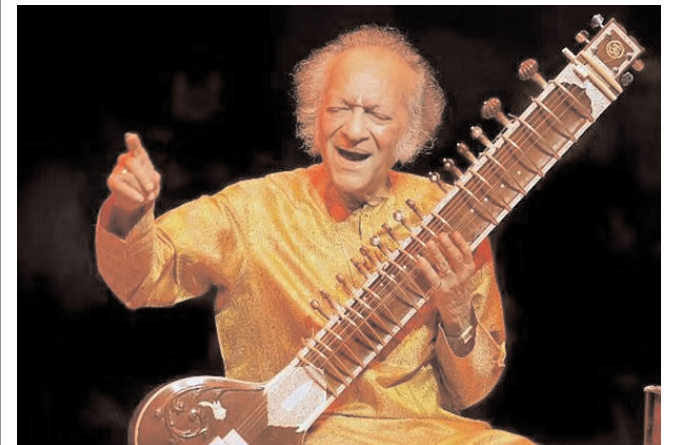


1911 Dilip Kumar, one of the greatest actors of Indian cinema, was born.

1935 Former President of the country Pranab Mukherjee was born in Birbhum in West Bengal.

1969 Vishwanath Anand, the emperor of chess, was born.

2011 Pandit Ravi Shankar died.



1845 First Anglo-Sikh War: The Sikh army crossed the Sutlej River in Punjab.

1858 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Yadunath Bose became the first Bachelor of Arts subjects from the University of Calcutta.

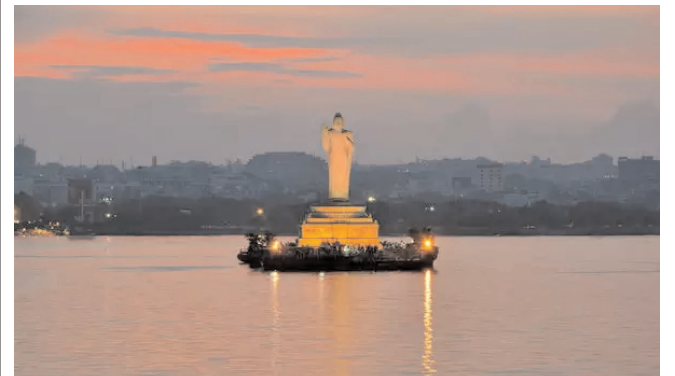
1946 Rajendra Prasad was appointed the President of the Constituent Assembly.

1967 In western India, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake killed 170 people.

12 DECEMBER

1911 The capital of India was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.

1971 All the facilities provided to the former kings by the Indian Parliament were canceled.



1992 Giant Buddha statue was installed in Hyderabad's Hussain Sagar lake.

1990 TN Seshan appointed as Chief Election Commissioner.

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NEW JERSEY WELCOMES STARRING ROLE IN FILM AND TV PRODUCTION

BY MABEL PAIS

New Jersey - has become a hotbed of TV and film production - where moving pictures were invented. And now, it's where more and more film and television projects are produced every day. This is thanks to a welcoming tax credit environment for content creators and studios, and the streaming industry's appetite for more product.

Classics), including Best Picture nominations for 'The Father,' 'Call Me By Your Name,' 'Whiplash,' 'Amour,' 'Midnight In Paris,' 'An Education,' 'Capote,' 'Howards End,' and 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.'

JON CROWLEY

In his role as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission (NJMP TVC),

seamless, coordinated approach to navigating municipal locations and requesting city services that projects require. Desiree will also focus on initiatives to engage the community in events and workforce training opportunities to ensure that Newarkers that can be a part of this growing industry.

KATHERINE OLIVER

know how, but I want to be part of that."

"I grew up in Queens, and I lived at the last stop on the subway. Starting at the age of nine, my parents let me take the subway into the city, and they gave me \$5, and I could buy a seat in the balcony at a Broadway show. I have memories of seeing Carol Channing in 'Hello Dolly,' Angela Lansbury in 'Mame,' Linda Lavin in 'It's a Bird,' 'It's a Plane,' 'It's Superman.' And I fell in love with the



Newark, NJ's Film & TV Studios -Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

NJPAC, at the next Business Partners Roundtable at 8:30 AM on December 10 will welcome Tom Bernard, Co-President and Co-Founder of Sony Pictures Classics, Jon Crowley, Executive Director of the New Jersey Motion Picture & Television Commission, Desiree Hadley, Director of the Newark Office of Film and Television and Katherine Oliver, Principal, Bloomberg Associates, to discuss the industry's growth in the Garden State. NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber will moderate this conversation!

PANELISTS

TOM BERNARD

As Co-President and Co-Founder of Sony Pictures Classics, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022, Tom Bernard (with Michael Barker) has distributed some of the finest independent movies. Previously, he was the director of the first modern-day specialized distribution company, United Artists (1980-1983), and went on to co-found Orion Classics (1983-1991) and Sony Pictures Classics.

Over the span of his career, Bernard has released prestigious films that have won 41 Academy Awards® (37 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered 187 Academy Award® nominations (161 at Sony Pictures

Crowley will serve as the senior leader of all of New Jersey's film initiatives, leading both the NJEDA's (New Jersey Economic Development Authority) film sector development work, as well as the management of the NJMP TVC.

Prior to joining the NJEDA, Crowley worked within the television industry for over two decades, producing and directing several well-known television series including 'Impractical Jokers,' 'House Hunters International,' 'Big Brother,' 'Lizard Lick Towing,' 'Love After Lock-Up,' 'Trading Spouses,' 'Breaking the Ice,' 'Full Contact,' and 'Upload with Shaquille O'Neal' among many others. Crowley is a two-time EMMY award winner and CableACE Writing Nominee. He has also been a vice president at NBC/Comcast, The Food Network and Time-Warner.

DESIREE HADLEY

Desiree Hadley serves as the Executive Director of the first ever Newark Mayor's Office of Film and Television, a specialized agency dedicated to marketing and promoting the City of Newark as a premiere production location and facilitating film, television and multimedia production in the city.

Desiree is the City's primary liaison to the entertainment industry, ensuring production companies experience a

Katherine Oliver is a founding Principal of Bloomberg Associates, an international philanthropic consultancy founded by former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Katherine oversees the media and digital strategies portfolio, advising global cities on economic development and public communications strategies, while helping them harness the power of media and technology to improve government services. Katherine also oversees Bloomberg Philanthropies' film portfolio, serving as Executive Producer on 'From the Ashes' and 'Paris to Pittsburgh,' two environmental documentary films tackling climate change; and 'The Invisible Shield,' a docuseries on the history and significance of public health.

She actively supports nonprofit organizations dedicated to storytelling and filmmaking, including the Academy Museum, Ghetto Film School, Paley Center, and Center for Communication. Katherine is also a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Art and Sciences (AMPAS).

MODERATOR

JOHN SCHREIBER, PRESIDENT AND CEO - NJPAC

John quips about himself, "I fell in love with the theater and I thought, I don't

theater and with what it felt like to be transported into another world. I thought that was the greatest."

"And I thought, 'I don't know how, but I want to do that.' I want to be part of that.' When I went to college, I ran a concert series, and I started a summer theater. And I just knew that I needed to be in this universe somehow. I went to work for George Wein, who was the founder of the Newport Jazz Festival. I've been doing this sort of thing in music and theater and television and festivals ever since. And it's been a glorious ride."

"I'm especially proud that Savion Glover has become such an engaged and active part of our family here. Savion has this amazing ability to connect and inspire young people, give them a sense of confidence in themselves, a feeling of ownership of the development of the work they're doing. A few summers ago, he directed and choreographed a new production of 'The Tap Dance Kid,' which he starred in when he was 11 on Broadway. It's one thing to be a genius, another thing to be kind. To combine those two things in service of young people's growth is very moving to me."

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

RITUAL4RETURN ENABLES CITIZENS TRANSITION FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BY MABEL PAIS

Ritual4Return (R4R) is a 12-week homecoming project for citizens returning to the community after incarceration. R4R uses theater, mindfulness practices, drumming, movement, mask-making and storytelling to support individuals in addressing and overcoming the dehumanizing effects of incarceration.

On December 8, participants will enact the theatrical rite of passage they created together to formally mark the transition from prison back to their communities and into a new chapter of their lives.

Watch the video -
player.vimeo.com/video/992064128?

PROGRAM

WHERE: NJPAC Center for Arts Education, 24 Record Street, Newark, NJ 07102; 973 353 7058; artseducation@njpac.org

WHEN: Sunday, December 8 @ 1 PM
COST: FREE
1PM Pre-event audience workshop and dialogue
3PM Homecoming ritual
5PM Dinner and celebration
To learn more, visit ritual4return.org

WHAT IS A 'RITE OF PASSAGE'?



R4R individuals

Credit: njpac.org

'A rite of passage' is a specific type of ritual meant to support a person's transition from one identity within the community, to another. These transitions can elevate or degrade. When a person is convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison, they undergo a powerful rite of passage. It is a rite of degradation. People are downgraded from the status of "citizen" to the status of "convict," "prisoner" or "outcast."

But words like convict and prisoner are more than just legal labels. They become new social identities. They stick to a person. Too often, the broader public defines people by the crimes they've committed, and formerly incarcerated men and women can carry feelings of shame and stigma for many years after they are released from prison. Often these feelings last the rest of their lives.

Drawing from more than five decades of

literature that point to the power of ritual and rites of passage as tools for helping to welcome people back into society after incarceration, Ritual4Return (R4R) begins with the organizing concept that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution, and ends with a premise - articulated by criminologist Jeremy Travis - that to confront the many crises associated with mass incarceration, we must "close the gap between 'us' and them'."

R4R is a semester-long course through which returning citizens engage with and explore the many aspects of their own experiences getting into, through, and out of prison. Reading from a wide variety of source materials and then trying to understand them through dialogue, writing, movement exercises, and theatrical devising techniques, participants will explore - individually

and collectively - themes like Home, Sin, Judgement, Punishment, Exile, Bondage, Trauma, Grief, Freedom, Repair, Forgiveness, Justice, and Homecoming.

The process culminates with a one-time-only public ritual marking and celebrating the end of incarceration and the beginning of an individual's new identity within the community. This rite of passage is the centerpiece of a one-day gathering that aims to extend the conversation to family members, loved ones, and other community stakeholders who care about the impacts of incarceration.

This Project's goal, broadly, is to change the narrative around those who have been incarcerated and who are working to lead positive lives after their release. But as a community who has had their story told for them and about them, they must fight, first, to better understand their own stories. Then they must learn how to tell them. Ritual4Return opens a public space to tell their stories, and to position them as catalysts for deeper dialogue between people - "us" and "them" - who often don't see themselves in the other.

If you or someone you know is ready to tell their own story and announce the next chapter of their life, reach out to find out how to join the next cohort!

SPEND AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH DAVID FOSTER AND KATHARINE MCPHEE

BY MABEL PAIS

Get Ready for an intimate evening with David Foster and Katharine McPhee performing their hits and holiday favorites at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents. See the power couple perform live on Thursday, December 12, at 7:30 pm.

Broadway and TV sensation Katharine McPhee joins 16-time GRAMMY® Award-winning musician, composer and producer David Foster for this intimate cabaret-style concert. With David on the keys and Katharine at the mic, this power couple brings undeniable musical chemistry to the stage. The show will be packed with David's hits from Chicago, Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Josh Groban and Michael Bublé, as well as Katharine's biggest hits from 'American Idol,' 'Smash' and Broadway's 'Waitress.' Plus, some of their favorites that they just love.

DAVID FOSTER

DAVID FOSTER is one of the most illustrious composers of our time. With 16 Grammy Awards, including three for Producer of the Year, an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe, and Three Oscar nominations for "Best Original Songs," Foster has earned a reputation as a keen spotter of new talent, playing a key role in the discovery and career launches of Celine Dion, Josh Groban, and Michael Bublé.

Few other individuals can claim to have their fingerprints on more major moments in all of popular music than David Foster. He has created hit songs for a diverse array of artists including Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bublé, Josh Groban,



David Foster and Katharine McPhee

Credit: njpac.org

Rod Stewart, Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire, Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Michael Bolton, Seal, Chaka Khan, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Chicago, Hall & Oates, Brandy, 'N Sync, Boz Scaggs, and Gloria Estefan.

Foster is gearing up to take on Broadway with several projects including writing the music for a new musical about the iconic animated character 'Betty Boop.' He is also writing the music for a musical based on the Amy Bloom novel and New York Times bestseller 'Lucky Us.'

KATHARINE MCPHEE

KATHARINE MCPHEE can most recently be seen starring in the Netflix Original Series Country Comfort. Previously she starred as 'Paige Dineen' on the CBS' spy drama Scorpion and was featured in NBC's award-winning musical series 'Smash,' executive produced by Steven Spielberg. Her other television credits include 'CSI: NY,' 'Community,' and 'Family Guy.'

Katharine appeared on the big screen in Relativity's Shark Night 3D and Columbia's romantic comedy 'The House Bunny.' In addition to her acting career, she finds great success in the music space after her turn on Season 5 of 'American Idol.' Katharine's first single debuted at #2 on the Billboard's Hot Singles Sales chart. Her debut album landed on the Billboard 200 chart and went gold in 2008.

TICKETS

For tickets to see David Foster and Katharine McPhee, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey or call 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

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

SPEND THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY IN THE GARDEN STATE

BY MABEL PAIS

"What the New Jersey Symphony has established, bringing music to the Garden State in schools and in six different cities, is a sincere accomplishment. And it's never been better." - nj.com

This holiday season, celebrate great events throughout the Garden State with the New Jersey Symphony.

Come ready to sing, dance and clap along!

PROGRAM

Music in Motion

Presented in collaboration with NJ TRANSIT New Jersey Symphony Brass Quintet Newark - Tuesday, Dec 10, 4:45 pm, Newark Penn Station

Featuring a mix of upbeat brass quintet tunes and holiday favorites!

Gregory D. McDaniel is the 2024-25 Colton Conducting Fellow

Newark Winter Village

Neighborhood Concerts

New Jersey Symphony Brass Quintet

Newark - Wed, Dec 11, 4 pm, Mulberry Commons
Featuring a mix of upbeat brass quintet tunes and holiday favorites!

New Jersey Ballet's Nutcracker with New Jersey Symphony

Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with Mayo Performing Arts Center and New Jersey Symphony

Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor

New Jersey Ballet

New Jersey Symphony

Morristown - Mayo Performing Arts Center

Friday, Dec 13, 2024, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 14, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Sunday, Dec 15, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Friday, Dec 20, 2024, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 21, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Sunday, Dec 22, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Monday, Dec 23, 2024, 1 pm

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024, 1 pm

Thursday, Dec 26, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky 'The Nutcracker'

Based on 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King'

by E.T.A. Hoffman

A Gospel Holiday



Gospel Holiday

New Jersey Symphony Family Concert

Gregory D. McDaniel conductor

New Jersey Symphony Gospel Chorus | Gwen Moten, director

New Jersey Symphony

Newark - Saturday, Dec 14, 2024, 2 pm, Science Park High School

Selections

Various / arr. Johnnie Dean Calypso Christmas Medley

Jason Webb / arr. Brad Henderson "Hallelujah to the King of Glory"

Leroy Anderson Selections from Suite of Carols

Traditional / arr. Michael McElroy & Joseph Joubert "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Michael O'Shields / arr. B. Dexter Allgood "O, Magnify the Lord"

Traditional / arr. Morton Gould It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Traditional / arr. Luther Henderson Ding, Dong, Merrily on High

Traditional / arr. Jack Gale Deck the Halls

Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Traditional / arr. Michael McElroy & Joseph Joubert "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

B. Dexter Allgood "Hallelujah (to the Newborn King), Jesus is Born"

Handel's Messiah

New Jersey Symphony Holiday Tradition

Jeannette Sorrell conductor

Sonya Headlam soprano

John Holiday countertenor

Ed Lyon tenor

Kevin Deas bass-baritone

Montclair State University Singers | Heather J. Buchanan, director

New Jersey Symphony

Princeton - Friday, Dec 20, 2024, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Princeton - Saturday, Dec 21, 2024, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Newark - Sunday, Dec 22, 2024, 7 pm, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

George Frideric Handel 'Messiah'

For more information on concerts and tickets, visit njsymphony.org/events.

TICKETS

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THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

The New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of the Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 60 concerts at mainstage venues across the state, including Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank and Morristown as well as schools and public spaces statewide.

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RAYWA HONORS INSPIRATIONAL ACHIEVERS AT 25TH GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

The RAYWA (Raising Awareness of Youth with Autism) Foundation, with its roots in Roshni Media, presents the highly anticipated TIA (The Inspirational Achievers) Awards Gala to take place on December 14th, 2024. Initially founded by Roshni Media to honor the achievements of Indian individuals in the United States, the platform has expanded to celebrate excellence across North America and has now evolved into a global recognition of achievers from diverse backgrounds. This year's event marks the 25th anniversary of celebrating diversity worldwide and will be held at the iconic 'The Pierre' (A Taj Hotel), in New York City.

Hosted by the RAYWA Autism Foundation, the gala will honor exceptional individuals through award ceremonies, interspersed with captivating live entertainment.

As Roshni Media's initiatives now fold into the RAYWA Foundation, this gala reflects the enduring legacy of celebrating diversity and inclusion while supporting RAYWA's mission to empower neurodiverse youth and foster a more inclusive society.



ROSHNI Coffee Table Book

Credit: roshnimedia.com

HONOREES INCLUDE:

1. Lifetime Achievement Awards

- Alan Cumming - Actor, Author, and Activist
- Princess Diya Kumari - Philanthropist and Politician
- Tonino Lamborghini - Luxury Brand Innovator

2. Corporate Leadership Excellence

- Saul Van Buerden - Head of Consumer & Small Business Banking, Wells Fargo
- Dennis Mathew - CEO, Altice USA

- Chiro Aikat - Executive Vice President, Mastercard
- Ashu Rathor - Partner, EY

3. Philanthropy and Community Impact

- Robin Ganzert - President & CEO, American Humane
- Parekh Family Foundation - Philanthropic Organization
- Mayor Neena Singh - Mayor of Montgomery Township
- Raju Sethi - Media Entrepreneur
- Dr. Rajendra Bansal - Philanthropist and Healthcare Entrepreneur

4. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Sunil Bagaria - Founder & President, GDB International
- Bobby Garg - Branding Expert in the Liquor Industry
- Greg Reid - Author, Speaker, and Entrepreneur

5. Healthcare and Science Leadership

- Dr. Julie Russak - Board-Certified Dermatologist and Founder, Russak Dermatology Clinic

- Chirag Patel - Chief Strategy Officer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

- Dr. Satheesh Kathula - Oncologist and Philanthropist

6. Arts and Culture Excellence

- Claudia Wells - Actress and Philanthropist
- Rhea Raj - Singer and Songwriter
- Ashfer Biju - Executive Chef, The Pierre Hotel
- Namratha Prashanth - Winery Expert, Italy

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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

Conservatives make yet another move to bring down Justin Trudeau's government



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto based award-winning senior journalist.)

He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said he "won't play Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre's games by voting to bring down the government on an upcoming non-confidence motion."

DECEMBER 5, 2024

OTTAWA (TIP): After losing the first two battles to bring down the minority Liberal government, Conservatives, the Official Opposition Party, tabled its third successive no-confidence motion in the penultimate week sitting of the House of Commons. The House of Commons will adjourn for holiday break at the end of next week.

Unmindful of the earlier failed attempts to topple Justin Trudeau's Government and force an early election to the House of Commons, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre tabled his motion before the House of Commons on Thursday.

Structuring its no-confidence motion on the past criticisms, especially the quotes from the statements the NDP leader Jagmeet Singh made while tearing down the supply and confidence agreement with the Liberals.

Earlier no-confidence motions moved by Conservatives in September and October failed. The minority Liberals are likely to survive the third no-confidence motion as well as the NDP leader had already declared that his party would not play Pierre Poilievre's game. The Liberals need the support of one of the other parties - Bloc Quebecois or NDP - in the House of Commons to continue in the saddle in the New Year.

Voting on the no-confidence motion will take next week when the House of Commons resumes its sitting on Monday.

While introducing the motion on Thursday afternoon, Pierre Poilievre said he was presenting this motion in the "spirit of non-partisanship."

The language of the motion refers to a statement the NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh made when he announced in September that his party was pulling out of the supply-and-confidence agreement with the Liberal government.

Pierre Poilievre said, "I rise today in the spirit of non-partisanship, put our differences aside and take a good idea and a good perspective no matter where it comes from." He further commented, "Too often in this place, we refuse to accept ideas or input

from other people and so I thought I would remedy that by taking the words and the message of the leader of the NDP and putting them in a Conservative motion so that all of us could vote for the very wise things that he said."

"Whereas the NDP Leader said, 'the Liberals are too weak, too selfish and too beholden to corporate interests to fight for people,' the motion states in the preamble and continues to ask that: "Therefore, the House agrees with the NDP Leader and the House proclaims it has lost confidence in the Prime Minister and the Government."

The motion further includes Singh's comment criticizing the Liberal government for imposing binding arbitration to end the railway shutdown in August.

The minority Liberals are likely to survive the third no-confidence motion as the NDP leader had already declared that his party would not play Pierre Poilievre's game.

As the debate on the motion started, the Conservatives held that the next federal election would be an axe Carbon tax election that would bring face-to-face the Conservatives vs the rest - the Liberals, NDP, Bloc Quebecois and Greens.

Pierre Poilievre while moving the motion held that Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon's order to impose binding arbitration on railway workers violated their right to strike.

In a debate that followed the tabling of

the motion, MacKinnon accused Poilievre of backing anti-union bills.

"On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, Liberals have been there for workers from day one. On this side of the House, we stand on our record, not an empty slogan," MacKinnon said.

Since the NDP leader Jagmeet Singh was not at the debate, NDP MP Matthew Green criticized Poilievre's stance on workers' rights. "Despite all this cosplay we see in front of us ... has this member ever once in his life visited a picket line?" he asked. To which Poilievre responded: "Yes, Mr. Speaker."

Early this week, when the Conservative leader revealed the content of the next no-confidence motion, Jagmeet Singh reacted by saying he won't play Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre's games. He maintained he was not going to vote non-confidence and trigger an election as he believed Pierre Poilievre would cut programs the NDP fought for, like dental care and pharma care.

"I am not going to be playing Pierre Poilievre's games. I have no interest in that. We are frankly not going to allow him to cut the things that people need. I want to have dental care expanded, I want people to start to benefit from the pharma care legislation we passed," Singh said.

Another two Conservative motions would be heard Monday, December 9 and Tuesday, December 10, with both set for a vote on Tuesday, December 10, barring changes to those plans.

Stop ripping off or become the 51st state of US: Donald Trump tells Canadian PM

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

DECEMBER 4, 2024

TORONTO (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister and members of his delegation who had a closed-door meeting with the US President-elect Donald Trump last Friday, November 29, were reportedly stunned when, during the deliberations on the 25 per cent import tariff, the host surprised everyone by suggesting that Canada should become the 51st state of the US.

According to media reports, Donald Trump said in a lighter vein that if Justin Trudeau did not like the tariff, perhaps Canada could become the 51st state and Trudeau could serve as its governor. Trudeau laughed nervously at the apparent joke, the media reports said.

Yesterday, when the House of Commons resumed its sitting, the issue of border security was raised by the Leader of Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, saying that his party had been asking the Prime Minister to wake up and regain control of the order but he continues to do the opposite. Pierre said that in 2015, the number of unprocessed asylum claims was under 10,000. Today, there were over 260,000. oration with provincial police forces to crack down on the human trafficking, illegal entry, drug production and trafficking.

These are the issues because of which the US President-elect Donald Trump had been threatening to impose 25 per cent duty on items imported from Canada and Mexico.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with U.S. president-elect Donald Trump

Photo : (@JustinTrudeau/X)

After talking to Donald Trump on the phone early last week, the Canadian Prime Minister accompanied by some senior functionaries of his Government, air dashed to Florida last weekend. The Canadians met Donald Trump and his team over a dinner meeting that reportedly lasted three hours. It was during this meeting that Donald Trump made that comment of suggesting Canada to become 51st state.

Media reports quoting an insider who was at the meeting said: "We are told that when Trudeau told President-elect Trump that new tariffs would kill the Canadian economy, Trump joked to him that if Canada cannot survive without ripping off the U.S. to the tune of \$100 billion a year, then maybe Canada should become the 51st state and Trudeau could become its governor".

Media reports further said that someone at the

table noted that a Canadian state in the U.S. would be liberal, prompting Trump to say that the territory could be divided into two states, one liberal and one conservative. That reportedly drew more laughter. Donald Trump's humor-veiled bombast last weekend was somewhat reminiscent of his wish during his term of Presidency. At that time he had made public his wish to purchase Greenland.

While responding to issues raised by Pierre Poilievre, Canadian Minister Dominic LeBlanc, who was with Justin Trudeau in the meeting with Donald Trump, the previous weekend, said that the Canadian delegation had had a very cordial and constructive conversation with our American partners on Friday evening. "We talked about security at the Canada-U.S. border over the decades and the integration of Canadian police forces with their American partners. We talked, for example, about the important work that the RCMP is doing in the fight against fentanyl, which has led to drug seizures and significant arrests, often in partnership with our American allies.

Another Conservative MP, while joining the debate in the House of Commons, said that President-elect Trump just asked the Prime Minister to do something. "We have been asking for the same thing over here for nine years. We are calling for additional measures to stop gun smuggling, drug trafficking and auto theft. He never listened. Gun smuggling and auto theft are a scourge in Quebec. We have suggested enhanced surveillance at the Port of Montreal and at the border, but nothing has changed.



Vikrant Massey returns to work after announcing 'long break'

Actor Vikrant Massey recently shocked his fans when he announced plans to take a long break from acting, with many wondering if he was considering retirement. However, Vikrant has resumed work and is currently shooting for his next film in Dehradun.

Vikrant was recently spotted in Dehradun, where he is currently shooting for his upcoming film, *Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan* alongside Shanaya Kapoor. The appearance comes after Vikrant's announcement about taking a break from acting, which sparked a frenzy among his fans. As the team started the shoot in Dehradun, Vikrant was seen wearing a black puffer jacket. A video of him meeting Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has surfaced on social media where he was seen greeting the politician. They were seen shaking hands and chatting. Meanwhile, Shanaya was spotted wearing a sweater with a denim pant.

Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan will explore a contemporary take on romance and ghosting. The plot of the project remains under wraps at the moment. As per reports, the film is directed by Santosh Singh and is being produced by Mansi and Varun Bagla. It has been written by Niranjana Iyengar and Mansi Bagla.

Priyanka Chopra hints at Bollywood comeback next year — could it be for Jee Le Zaraa?

While Priyanka Chopra Jonas is currently juggling two major projects — the American action-comedy *Heads of State*, where she shares the screen with Idris Elba and John Cena, and the action drama *The Bluff* — it appears that the global star is finally set to return to her home turf after a six-year hiatus. In a significant update, Priyanka recently revealed that she is close to zeroing in on a new Hindi project.

"Not joking, I meet many filmmakers here, read scripts. I have actively been looking for something I want to do in Hindi. This year was really busy for me. But I have something up my sleeve, I will leave it at that," Priyanka said during a chat with HT City. Naturally, the next question was whether she was referring to the Farhan Akhtar directorial *Jee Le Zaraa*. "You will need to speak to Excel (Entertainment, Farhan Akhtar's production house) about that," she said, offering no further details.

Touted as a road movie, *Jee Le Zaraa* has been generating significant buzz since its announcement in 2021, since it features Priyanka, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhat in the lead roles. Co-written by Zoya Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar and Reema Kagti, with Farhan himself at the helm, the film has faced delays due to difficulties in coordinating the schedules of the three lead actors and the director. Zoya, during an appearance on *The Indian Express' Expresso* show earlier this year, confirmed that the film remains in the works and that the delays were due to scheduling conflicts.

Though her home ground misses her, Priyanka remains at the top of her game globally. She recently wrapped up filming for the second season of her Amazon Prime Video spy series *Citadel*. Reflecting on her ability to navigate



different cultures, she credited her teenage years in the United States with making the transition smoother.

"The industry in itself... the process of filmmaking is same everywhere. It's the cultural differences which make them different industries, else the cameras, the shots, everything is the same. I can't be rigid in India, expecting it to be Hollywood-like in Bollywood, or vice versa. Be like water, and not rigid. I have always been like that my whole life... keep quiet, listen and find your place. I was thrown into it to figure it out," she told HT City.

"I have been a public person more than half my life, for 25 years now. I am extremely private. So, the hard part is really to be able to manage expectations or public pressures. I have changed a lot. Being a professional, being able to deal with failure and change... that's the hardest part. I am not someone who talks about my vulnerabilities or hardships very much. There are some people who do, and I find it very... inspiring. I was raised to be tough and hold yourself together," she added. Her last Bollywood film was *The Sky Is Pink* (2019).

Vivek Oberoi calls Bollywood 'insecure place'



Vivek Oberoi established himself in Bollywood with films like *Saathiya* and *Company*. However, the actor's career saw a dull phase when he had to sit at home for months despite his films working at the box office. Vivek then decided to pursue his plan B, which was to become a businessman.

In a conversation with *SCREEN*, Vivek Oberoi reveals how he had to switch to business to counter the efforts of a lobby that existed within the industry. He revealed that after *Shootout at Lokhandwala*, he had no work for 14 to 15 months despite the success of the film and this prompted his decision to become a businessman.

He said, "I have done about 67 projects in 22 years, but the industry is a very insecure place. You could be performing well, winning awards, and doing your job as an actor, but at the same time, you can get no work for other reasons. After 2007 when I did *Shootout At Lokhandwala*, the *Ganpat* song went viral, I won

awards, so I expected a lot of offers, but I didn't get any. I sat at home for 14 to 15 months after the success of the film. It was only around the 2009 mark when I decided I didn't want to be completely dependent on this but build my economic independence. I didn't want to be in a situation where a lobby could decide your future. Somebody could bully you into doing something because they controlled things."

Vivek Oberoi further revealed that doing business was always his plan B and how it gave him financial independence.

He said, "Business was always a Plan B, and I decided cinema will be my passion. My livelihood should be my business, which helped me earn my independence and get out of that whole trap of lobbies, or having to sell your soul or suck up to somebody that is no great way to live at least for me. Some people make a living out of it but for me, that's not the case." *Source: HT*



Nicole Kidman is not ready for memes on erotic drama *Babygirl*

Nicole Kidman takes on the most challenging role of her career in *Babygirl*. The actor is receiving a lot of award season attention for her performance in the erotic drama, and was also declared the Best Actress at the National Board of Review awards. But if there's anything that might bother Nicole about the film, it will be the memes that will emerge once the film releases in theatres later this month during Christmas.

During a new interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, when Nicole was asked whether she finds it to be a compliment when she is memed, she said: "Of course. You've got to let go and be able to make fun of yourself. It's very much an Australian trait, but I think it's a necessary trait for life. I know who I am. I try to stay deeply focused on my authentic self and stay with that. Everything else is beyond my control. But let's wait and see what happens with the [memes from] *Babygirl*. I may be terribly upset the next time you talk to me."

Gal Gadot's casting as Evil Stepmother in *Snow White* receives backlash

The much-awaited trailer of Marc Webb's live-action adaptation of Disney's classic fairytale, *Snow White*, has finally released. After playing Wonder Woman for a long time, Gal Gadot has now stepped into the role of the Evil Stepmother. However, moviegoers are not very happy with it.

Since the trailer released, Gal Gadot has been receiving massive hate with many questioning her casting in *Snow White*. Fans took to X (formerly Twitter) to express their disappointment and many feel she 'can never be' like Charlize Theron in Rupert Sanders' *Snow White and the Huntsman*.

One of the tweets read, "Why do movies keep casting Gal Gadot like are the actors still on strike??"

Another user criticized Gal Gadot's acting skills and wrote, "Gal Gadot has no range, no talent, no charisma, no morals so, naturally, Hollywood is committed to make her a movie star. You really have to suck to make it in that business."

Another tweet read, "Gal Gadot is such an impressively bad actor like she somehow gets worse the more she does it. the second she opened her mouth in that snow white trailer she stumbled and fell and she never got back up."

Sharing the poster of the film, another user wrote, "It's insane that even in the poster Gal Gadot looks like she cannot act." A few fans also defended Gal Gadot's casting in *Snow White*.

Snow White, is an American musical fantasy film directed by Marc Webb



with a screenplay by Greta Gerwig and Erin Cressida Wilson. It is a live-action reimagining of Walt Disney Productions' 1937 animated film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which

itself is based on the 1812 fairy tale *Snow White* by the Brothers Grimm. The film stars Rachel Zegler, Andrew Burnap, and Gal Gadot and is slated to release in cinemas on March 21, 2025.

Jessica Biel 'breaking up' with Justin Timberlake for the holidays



While Justin Timberlake is off on his Forget Tomorrow World Tour, his wife Jessica Biel will be able to get the much-needed break from drama she so desperately wants. The "Mirrors" hitmaker has been touring since April and is scheduled to continue the musical journey through next summer.

The 43-year-old pop star hit a snag earlier this year when he was apprehended in New York for driving while intoxicated. In light of the bubbling drama surrounding his troublemaking status, Timberlake eventually pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of driving while ability impaired. Although the issue of his June arrest was settled in September after he agreed to pay a fine and perform community service for the updated noncriminal traffic violation, his wife has had no choice but to deal with another rough path through their already rocky 12-year marriage.

Despite Timberlake's handful of concert cancellations in the past few weeks, the tour has put distance between him and Biel, offering her

some emotional respite "to get away from all the drama."

An insider recently babbled to RadarOnline.com that while she's "willing to support him" publicly by showing up to "one or two of his concerts," privately the actress is "relieved to be having some space so she can take stock, catch up on her own projects, and see friends."

The grapevine has long been concerned with Timberlake's end of messy mishaps. In 2019, the "Sexy Back" crooner was spotted holding hands with his Palmer co-star Alisha Wainwright, sparking trouble in paradise with Biel. On and off, he's been caught spiralling back into controversy associated with ex-Britney Spears as well. Even though the In Time actor was served with a lesser charge for a careless blunder made earlier this year, it has reportedly exacerbated the strain on his relationship with the Candy star, who seems to be doing some heavy lifting in their marriage behind the scenes.

SYRIAN REBELS ANNEX HAMA IN SOUTHWARD PUSH

DEC 05, 2024

AMMAN (TIP) : Syrian rebels captured the key city of Hama on December 5, bringing the insurgents a major victory after a lightning advance across northern Syria and dealing a new blow to President Bashar al-Assad and his Russian and Iranian allies.

The Syrian army said it was redeploying outside the city "to preserve civilians lives and prevent urban combat" after what it called intense clashes.

Rebels said they were preparing to keep marching south towards Homs, Syria's great crossroads city that links the capital Damascus to the north and coast. "Your time has come," said a rebel operations room in an online post, calling on city residents to rise up in revolution.

TAIWAN ROMANCE NOVELIST CHIUNG YAO DIES IN APPARENT SUICIDE

04 DEC 2024

TAIPEI, TAIWAN (TIP): Taiwanese writer Chiung Yao, whose romance novels were wildly popular in the Chinese-speaking world, has died, authorities said December 4. She was 86.

The body of Chiung Yao, which was the pen name used by Chen Che, was found at her home in New Taipei City, the local fire department told AFP.

She appeared to have taken her own life, the department said.

Chiung Yao was a prolific writer, publishing over 60 books in a career spanning more than five decades.

"In the drawers of every literary young girl in 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, there were a few Chiung Yao novels tucked away, hidden from the fear of being confiscated by teachers," said Tsai Mei-tzu, a professor of Chinese literature at the National Cheng Kung University.

"Even after the 1990s, Chiung Yao's old-fashioned romances did not fade away. The classical undertones and dramatic tension continued to sustain her empire of love stories," she told AFP.

Chiung Yao was born in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu on April 20, 1938, Taiwan's semi-official Central News Agency reported.

She fled to Taiwan with her family in 1949 after Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist forces lost a civil war to Mao Zedong's fighters.

She began writing as a child and her first novel was published when she was 25, local media reported.

A number of her novels were turned into television series, which were a huge hit in both Taiwan and China, especially the 18th century period drama "My Fair Princess". (AFP)

Will neutralise hostages if Israel launches rescue ops: Hamas

DEC 05, 2024

DUBAI (TIP): Hamas said it had information that Israel intended to carry out a hostage rescue operation similar to one conducted in Gaza's Nuseirat camp in June and threatened to "neutralize" the captives if any such action took place, according to an internal statement seen by Reuters on December 4.

In the statement dated November 22, Hamas told its operatives not to consider what the repercussions of following the instructions might be and said it held Israel responsible for the fate of the hostages.

The statement, which a senior Hamas source told Reuters was circulated to its factions by the intelligence unit of the group's military wing Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, did not say when any Israeli operation was expected to take place.

There was no immediate Israeli response to the statement. On Wednesday, Israeli media cited Defence Minister Israel Katz as saying pressure on Hamas was increasing and this time "we will really be able to advance a hostage deal".

Israel's Nuseirat rescue operation on June 9 saw Israeli forces free four hostages, who had been held by Hamas since October 2023, in a raid Palestinian



officials said killed more than 200 people, making it one of the bloodiest Israeli assaults of the war.

In the Hamas statement, the group told its operatives to "tighten" the living conditions of the captives and said this should be done in accordance with instructions issued after the Nuseirat operation.

In a section titled "recommendations", Hamas also instructed its operatives to "activate neutralization orders ... as an

immediate and swift response to any adventure by the enemy". Israel launched its campaign in Gaza after Hamas-led fighters attacked Israeli communities across the border on October 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking over 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's military campaign has since killed more than 44,500 Palestinians and injured many others, according to Palestinians figures. (TT)

South Korean lawmakers call for impeachment of President Yoon after back-track on martial law

DEC 04, 2024

SEOUL (TIP): South Korean lawmakers on December 4 called for the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol after he declared martial law only to reverse the move hours later, triggering the biggest political crisis in decades in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

The surprise declaration late on Tuesday ignited a standoff with Parliament which rejected his attempt to ban political activity and censor the media, as armed troops forced their way into the National Assembly building in Seoul.

A coalition of lawmakers from Opposition parties said they planned to propose a Bill to impeach Yoon on Wednesday which should be voted within 72 hours.

"Parliament should focus on immediately suspending the President's business to pass an impeachment Bill soonest," Hwang Un-ha, one of the MPs in the coalition, told reporters.

Yoon's chief of staff and senior secretaries offered to resign en masse, a presidential official said.

Yoon told the nation in a TV address that martial law was needed to defend the country from nuclear-armed North



Korea and pro-North anti-state forces, and protect its free constitutional order, although he cited no specific threats.

Chaotic scenes ensued as helmeted troops climbed into the parliament building through smashed windows and military helicopters hovered overhead. Parliamentary aides sprayed fire extinguishers to push the soldiers back, and protesters scuffled with police outside.

The military said activities by parliament and political parties would be banned, and that media and

publishers would be under the control of the martial law command.

But within hours of the declaration, South Korea's Parliament, with 190 of its 300 members present, unanimously passed a motion requiring martial law be lifted, including all 18 members present from Yoon's party. The President then rescinded the declaration. Protesters outside the National Assembly shouted and clapped. "We won!" they chanted, and one demonstrator banged on a drum.

(Reuters)

56 die in Guinea soccer stampede

DEC 03, 2024

CONAKRY (TIP): A controversial refereeing decision sparked violence and a stampede at a soccer match in southeast Guinea, killing 56 people, according to a provisional toll, the government said on December 3.

The fatalities occurred during the final of a tournament held in honour of Guinea's military leader Mamady Doumbouya at a stadium in Nzerekore, one of the West African nation's largest cities.

A witness, who had attended the match, said a disputed red card in the 82nd minute of the match kicked off the violence. "The stone throwing started and the police joined in, firing tear gas. In the rush and scramble that followed, I saw people fall to the ground, girls and children trampled underfoot. It was horrible," Amara Conde told Reuters on phone.

The crowd rushed to leave, leading to a dangerous scrum at the exits, a police source said. A video authenticated by Reuters showed dozens of people scrambling over high walls to escape.

Ousted President Alpha Conde said the event had been badly organised at an



uneasy time for the country, which is waiting for Doumbouya to hold promised elections after he seized power in a 2021 coup. "In a context where the country is already marked by tensions and restrictions, this tragedy highlights the dangers of irresponsible organisation," Conde said in a statement.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official from the city's administration said many victims were minors who got caught in the turmoil after police started

firing tear gas. The official described scenes of confusion and chaos with parents retrieving bodies before they were officially counted.

Opposition group National Alliance for Change and Democracy said the authorities bore responsibility for organising tournaments to bolster political support for Doumbouya in contravention of a transition charter prior to the long awaited presidential election. — Reuters

CONGO GOVT SAYS IT'S 'ON ALERT' OVER MYSTERY FLU-LIKE DISEASE THAT KILLED DOZENS

KINSHASA (TIP): Public health officials in Africa urged caution December 5 as Congo's health minister said the government was on alert over a mystery flu-like disease that in recent weeks killed dozens of people.

Jean Kaseya, the head of Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters that more details about the disease should be known in the next 48 hours as experts receive results from laboratory samples of infected people.

"First diagnostics are leading us to think it is a respiratory disease," Kaseya said. "But we need to wait for the laboratory results." He added that there are many things that are still unknown about the disease — including whether it is infectious and how it is transmitted.

Authorities in Congo have so far confirmed 71 deaths, including 27 people who died in hospitals and 44 in the community in the southern Kwango province, health minister Roger Kamba said.

"The Congolese government is on general alert regarding this disease," Kamba said, without providing more details.

Of the victims at the hospitals, 10 died due to lack of blood transfusion and 17 as a result of respiratory problems, he said.

The deaths were recorded between Nov. 10 and Nov. 25 in the Panzi health zone of Kwango province. There were around 380 cases, almost half of which were children under the age of five, according to the minister.

The Africa CDC recorded slightly different numbers, with 376 cases and 79 deaths. The discrepancy was caused by problems with surveillance and case definition, Kaseya said.

Authorities have said that symptoms include fever, headache, cough and anemia. Epidemiological experts are in the region to take samples and investigate the disease, the minister said. The Panzi health zone, located around 435 miles (700 kilometers) from the capital Kinshasa, is a remote area of the Kwango province, making it hard to access.

The epidemiological experts took two days to arrive there, the minister said. Because of the lack of testing capacity, samples had to be taken to Kikwit, more than 500 km away, said Dieudonne Mwamba, the head of the National Institute for Public Health. "The health system is quite weak in our rural areas, but for certain types of care, the ministry has all the provisions, and we are waiting for the first results of the sample analysis to properly calibrate things," Kaseya said. Mwamba said that Panzi was already a "fragile" zone, with 40% of its residents experiencing malnutrition. (AP)

France's Macron to address nation day after no-confidence vote topples government

05 DEC 2024

PARIS (TIP): French President Emmanuel Macron will address the nation December 5 following the resignation of ousted Prime Minister Michel Barnier, a day after a historic no-confidence vote at the National Assembly left France without a functioning government.

Macron "took note" of Barnier's resignation, the Elysee presidential palace said in a statement. Barnier and other ministers will be "in charge of current affairs until the appointment of a new government," the statement said.

Macron is expected to focus on stabilizing the political crisis in his speech, though it is unclear when he will name a new prime minister to navigate the fractured parliament.

The no-confidence motion passed by 331 votes in the National Assembly, forcing Barnier to step down after just three months in office—the shortest tenure of any prime minister in modern French history.

Pressure to act swiftly

Macron faces the critical task of naming a replacement capable of leading a minority government in a parliament where no party holds a majority. Yaël Braun-Pivet, president of the National Assembly and a member of Macron's party, urged the president to move quickly.

"I recommend he decide rapidly on a new prime minister," Braun-Pivet said



Thursday on France Inter radio. "There must not be any political hesitation. We need a leader who can speak to everyone and work to pass a new budget bill."

The process may prove challenging. Macron's administration has yet to confirm any names, though French media have reported a shortlist of centrist candidates who might appeal to both sides of the political spectrum.

Macron took more than two months to appoint Barnier after his party's defeat in June's legislative elections, raising concerns about potential delays this time.

Calls for Macron to step down

The no-confidence vote has galvanized opposition leaders, with some explicitly calling for Macron's resignation.

"I believe that stability requires the departure of the President of the Republic," said Manuel Bompard, leader of the far-left France Unbowed party, on BFM TV Wednesday night.

Far-right National Rally leader Marine Le Pen, whose party holds the most seats in the Assembly, stopped short of calling for Macron's resignation but warned that "the pressure on the President of the Republic will get stronger and stronger."

Macron, however, has dismissed such calls and ruled out new legislative elections. The French constitution does not call for a president to resign after his government was ousted by the National Assembly.

"I was elected to serve until 2027, and I will fulfill that mandate," he told reporters earlier this week.

The constitution also says that new legislative elections cannot be held until at least July, creating a potential stalemate for policymakers.

Economic uncertainty

The political instability has heightened concerns about France's economy, particularly its debt, which could rise to 7% of GDP next year without significant reforms. Analysts say that Barnier's government downfall could push up French interest rates, digging the debt even further.

Rating agency Moody's warned late Wednesday that the government's fall "reduces the likelihood of consolidating public finances" and worsens the political gridlock.

Macron's speech, scheduled for 8 p.m. local time, is expected to address these economic challenges while setting a course for the future government. (AP)

IMRAN DEMANDS PROBE INTO 'KILLINGS' OF PARTY WORKERS

ISLAMABADE (TIP) : Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has demanded the constitution of a Supreme Court-led judicial commission to probe alleged killings of his party workers by law enforcement officers' "direct firing" in Islamabad last week.

Khan's PTI had launched a protest on November 24. His supporters were forcibly dispersed on the night of November 26 when they reached close to D-Chowk in Islamabad's Red Zone, where most government buildings are located.

In a post on X, Khan said he was informed about how "peaceful protesters were directly shot" and dozens of unarmed citizens who "spoke up for the Constitution and rule of law" were killed. (PTI)

NEPAL, CHINA SIGN BRI COOPERATION AGREEMENT

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal and China on December 4 signed a much-awaited framework agreement on the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), paving the way for enhanced economic cooperation on the projects.

The BRI Cooperation Framework agreement was inked during Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's official visit to China — his first official visit to that country after assuming office for the fourth time.

The BRI is a mega connectivity project that connects China with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe.

Though Nepal and China signed the BRI agreement in 2017, not a single project has been implemented under the framework. However, the details of the agreement have not been made public. A joint statement issued by both sides on Tuesday said that "the two sides expressed their readiness to sign the MoU on building the Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network (THMDCN) and the framework for Belt and Road Cooperation between the two governments as soon as possible," without specifying a distinct deadline.

"Both sides expressed their commitment to strengthening connectivity between the two countries in such areas as ports, roads, railways, aviation, power grids and telecommunication, to help Nepal transform from a land-locked country to a land-linked country," it said. According to The Kathmandu Post newspaper, the Chinese side had removed the word "grant" proposed by the Nepali side and suggested replacing it with "investment" for projects under the BRI. (PTI)

Protests erupt in Bihar over atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh

05 DEC 2024

PATNA (TIP): Processions and protest marches erupted in Bihar on December 5 in support of minority Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists who were being subjected to torture in Bangladesh after the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government.

The protesters have demanded immediate intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rescue the Bangladeshi Hindus.

The reports of sit-in protests and marches poured in from Nalanda, Purnea, Katihar, Rohtas, Begusarai and many other districts.

In Nalanda, a sit-in protest was organised under the aegis of Rashtriya Bharatiya Samaj. District coordinator of Rashtriya Bhartiya Samaj Satish Kumar said that the atrocities against the minorities in Bangladesh should be stopped immediately. He also demanded the unconditional release of ISKCON priest Krishna Das from jail.

In Katihar, protest marches were taken out under the banner of Sarv Hindu Samaj.

Later a delegation of Sarv Hindu Samaj met the district magistrate and



handed over a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu. Similarly, protest marches were also held in Rohtas district under the aegis of Rashtriya Bharatiya Samaj.

Meanwhile, Girindra Mohan Mishra, national president of Mag Dharma Sansad, said that his organisation was ready to help 11,000 Hindus if they were evacuated from Bangladesh and brought to India.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Mishra said that he was getting information from Bangladesh about the atrocities being committed against the

Hindus.

On Wednesday, union minister and Begusarai MP Giriraj Singh said the attack on Hindus in Bangladesh reflected that the interim government of the neighbouring country was in the 'clutches' of fundamentalists' and sought the intervention of the United Nations in the matter.

Condemning the arrest of a Hindu leader in Bangladesh, Giriraj said that such attacks were against humanity. The Bangladesh interim government is headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. (PTI)

Pak sectarian violence: Death toll rises to 130 as clashes continue in Kurram despite ceasefire

PAKHTUNKHWA (TIP): The death toll from sectarian violence in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province surged to 130, with at least six people killed and eight injured on December 2, as clashes in the volatile Kurram district continued for the eleventh consecutive day.

The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in the district started on November 22, after an attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed a day earlier. Several passengers who had sustained grave injuries succumbed later, raising the toll in the convoy killing to 57.

Police said the situation remained tense, and violence persists despite a recent ceasefire agreement between the Sunni and Shia groups.

The six new deaths reported on Sunday brought the death toll to 130, while the total number of injured rose to 186 after eight fresh injuries were reported.

The 10-day truce brokered last week has been rendered ineffective by intermittent violence, which shows no signs of abating.

The continued violence forced the closure of the main Peshawar-Parachinar Road for travel, and commuting at the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border has also been suspended.

The closure of the main arteries has



created a scarcity of oil, food commodities and medicines in the region.

The Kurram region is also experiencing a communication blackout, with mobile and internet services suspended and educational institutions closed.

Police and other security forces personnel had been deployed in various parts of Lower Kurram, said Deputy Commissioner Javed Ullah Mehsud, adding that all-out efforts will be made for a truce in other areas today as well.

"We are hopeful for progress on a ceasefire and reopening of transport routes," he stated.

Previous efforts to mediate peace, including a seven-day truce brokered by provincial officials in November have failed to hold.

A high-powered delegation, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, had also negotiated a ceasefire last weekend, but violence resumed shortly afterwards. (PTI)

Sikh History This Week

DECEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 12

6th December

1778 Khalsa Dal, the combined forces of 11 Sikh Misls, attacked Ruhel Khand, U.P.

1921 Kishan Singh Garhgaj delivers an anti-British speech at Haripur.



1947 Winston Churchill sent a note to S. Baldev Singh suggesting him to stay in London for couple more days and let Jawaharlal Nehru go back to India, hoping that by talking to the British govt. and the Muslim League they could possibly find a solution, "So as to enable the Sikhs to have political feet of their own on which they may walk in the current of World-History."

S. Baldev Singh mentioned this to Nehru and then called a press conference and read a statement (apparently prepared by Nehru) that the Sikhs demand nothing from the British. Whatever the Sikhs want will get it from the Congress and the only demand of the Sikhs is that the British leave India.

7th December

1715 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) along with 740 of his men were arrested from Gurdas Nangal. A Fierce fight took place between Baba GurBakhash Singh and Abdus Samad Khan. Baba GurBakhash Singh and his men were besieged in the Gurdas Nangal fortress near Gurdaspur. The unbreakable siege lasted for 6 months. In Dec, the entire food stock and ammunition exhausted and the Mughal forces captured Banda Bahadur with 740 men. All taken



to Delhi.

8th December

1922 Letters of the Sikh solidiers printed in the "Babbar Akali Doaba".

1933 The Babbar Akalis murder Bela Singh of Zian. The early 20th century was a time of great turnoil for Sikhs in Canada – the first wave of immigration had arrived, the notorious Komagta Maru incident happened, Sikhs had to contend with openly racist laws and societies, and the Ghadar movement was underway.

1946 During the violence instigated by India's partition, Muslims killed 102 members of a Sikh family in Ughi Nagar.

1990 International Conference on Sikh Studies was held at George Washington University, Washington, DC. Some of the topics covered at this conference include: "Sikh Fundamentalism and Punjab Problem; Western Approaches to the Sikh Tradition; Sikh Mysticism; Sikhs in Americam – Stress and Survival; Sikhism and Modern Technology; and Evolution of Sikh Philosophy and Misinterpretation of Sikhism in Western Writings". Nearly 200 people attended this conference.

9th December



1710 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) escapes Mughal forces.

1946 Nehru introduces assurances for Sikhs in Constituent Assembly.



1979 The Dal Khalsa in its first annual conference at Gurdaspur passed a resolution demanding the declaring of Amritsar as a "Holy City." The Youth (Dal Khalsa and the Sikh Students Federation) had long since been demanding the declaration that Amritsar was a Holy City. The SGPC chief, G. S. Tohra, had met the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, on September 24, 1980, and had asked her to make a

declaration to that effect. When more than six months had passed and there was no movement in that case, the Sikh Youth decided to organise a procession to press the Sikh demand. A joint meeting of the Dal Khalsa and the Sikh Students decided to take out such a procession on May 31, 1981.

10th December

1710 Bahadur Shah issued the orders to kill Sikhs.

1841 Battle for the conquest of Tibet by Sikhs.

1988 Conference on Sikh Studies, Long Beach

11th December



1705 Guru Gobind Singh escapes Mughal forces in Macchiwara.

1710 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) escaped unhurt from the fort Lohgarh.

1836 Sardar Zorawar Singh captured Ladakh.

1845 Sikhs cross Sutlej River and surprise British, causing outbreak of Anlo-Sikh War.

1991 Khalistan Flag was hoisted at CSU Chico.

12th December

1762 Abdali left Sikh Homeland after defeat. Sikhs became de facto rulers of their land.



1841 Zorawar Singh dies while fighting the Lhasa force.

1844 Dogra Hira Singh attempted to escape to Jammu. Sham Singh and Jawahar Singh with 6000 troops caught up with and killed the fleeing Dogras.

1920 Inaugral meeting of SGPC at Sri Akal Takhat.

1704 SHAHEEDHI, Chotae Sahibjadhae, Sakka Sirhind.

1921 Master Dalip Singh of Gossal attended a diwan at Rukha Kalan and delivered a lecture.

1922 Shahadat of Sardar Banta Singh and Juyala Singh Babbar.

1923 Munder carnage takes place.

Signs of ageing can be easily developed if you do not do your skincare routine the right way. Here are five reasons that prove you're doing it all wrong:

Skipping out moisturiser

If you think that oily skin produces enough oils to moisturise the skin, you're wrong. The sebaceous glands produce natural oils to compensate for the dryness. It is imperative to apply sunscreen and moisturizer even if you have oily skin. Your skin will naturally adapt to the topical ingredients provided and produce less oils. Make sure to use a water-based moisturiser instead of a cream-based. This will ensure that your skin will not feel sticky throughout the day.

Taking long showers

Your skincare routine starts with cleansing and if you're doing the first step wrong, the next few don't really matter. Taking long showers especially hot ones end up stripping your skin off its natural oils. This dry skin then becomes prone to fine lines and wrinkles.

Skipping out on sunscreen

No matter what your skin type is what season you're in, never miss out on sunscreen. It is one of the most important steps in any skincare routine. It not only protects your skin from the

Oily to dry: Skincare mistakes to avoid



harmful UV rays of the sun but also works as a protective layer against all other environmental factors like pollution.

Not taking your makeup off

Makeup has a reputation of clogging the pores only if you do not take it off properly.

Every night, make sure to wash off your makeup and ensure you double cleanse so no residue is left off.

Adding to it, make sure that you only use brushes and sponges that aren't used on other people.

Overdoing it

We often forget that the skin needs to breathe. So overdoing it with serums, creams, products and masks will only confuse your skin. Make sure you use minimal ingredients and products that give maximum benefits. Don't over-exfoliate and give your products some time to work before you switch them. Make sure to apply your products from the lightest of consistency to heaviest.

Reasons why you're not losing weight

You're eating too many calories

To lose weight, you need to take in fewer calories than you burn. This is called a calorie deficit. If you're in a calorie surplus, your body stores those extra calories as fat.

To ensure you're consuming the right amount of calories, monitor your caloric intake, as well as physical activity. You can do this by keeping track of the calories you're eating and burning through fitness apps or in a food log. A large 2006 study found that those who planned meals and tracked calories successfully lost weight and maintained weight loss more than those who did not.

You're drinking too much alcohol

Alcohol is energy dense, meaning it contains a high amount of calories per volume. For reference, alcohol has about seven calories per gram, while a carbohydrate has four calories per gram. Alcohol can also reduce inhibitions about eating, making you more likely to choose high-calorie foods if you're drinking, Chao says. A large 2018 study of overweight and obese people with type 2 diabetes found that people who drank heavily lost less weight over a four-year period than those who did not drink and decreasing alcohol consumption may improve weight management in people with diabetes.

You're not drinking enough water

Drinking water can help you lose weight by boosting your metabolism and suppressing your appetite, thus making you feel fuller.

A study found that drinking 500 mL (two cups) of water increased energy expenditure by 24% in overweight or obese individuals. Additionally, a small 2015 study of obese people compared participants who drank two cups of water before meals with those who did not. It found those who drank water lost an average of almost three more pounds.



FOOD CORNER

One pot turmeric chicken and rice

Ingredients

1 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces, salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste, 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, 1 teaspoon ground turmeric, 1 cup chopped onion, 2 teaspoons peeled and minced fresh ginger, 2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced, 1 cup chopped tomato, 2 cups green beans, cut into 2-inch pieces, 1 teaspoon curry powder, 1 pinch ground cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin, 1 cup jasmine rice, 2 bay leaves, 2 teaspoons fish sauce, 1 1/2 cups chicken stock.



Directions

- Pat chicken pieces dry; season with salt and pepper.
- Melt butter in a large casserole or Dutch oven, and sprinkle with turmeric. Add chicken pieces in a single layer and cook over medium-high heat until lightly browned, 2 to 3 minutes. Turn and brown the other side, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer chicken to a plate and keep warm.
- To the same pot, add onion, ginger, and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to brown, about 2 minutes. Add tomatoes, green beans, curry powder, cinnamon, cumin, and rice. Stir constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Return chicken and any accumulated juices to the pot, and add bay leaves, fish sauce, and chicken stock. Be sure to stir up all the browned bits from the bottom of the pot into the sauce.
- Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to low; simmer for 10 minutes.
- Adjust the lid to partially cover and vent, and continue to simmer until rice is tender, 10 to 15 minutes longer.
- Remove from heat, uncover, and let stand for 5 minutes. Serve warm, with raita as a garnish, if desired.

Why are people in their 30s suffering from cardiac arrest?

Cardiac arrest is a heart condition that occurs suddenly and can often lead to unexpected loss of heart function, breathing, and consciousness. It can result from an electrical disturbance caused in the heart that disrupts the pumping action. This can further prevent oxygen-rich blood from circulating to vital organs, including the brain. If immediate medical help such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or the use of a defibrillator is not provided, the cardiac arrest can turn fatal in a matter of minutes. Unlike a heart attack, way it is caused by blockage reducing blood flow to the heart, a cardiac arrest is primarily an electrical issue.

Reasons why cardiac arrest may be an increasing concern for youngsters

1. Sedentary lifestyle

Prolonged hours of screen time due to remote work and minimal physical activity can also lead youngsters to a sedentary life. This increases the risk of obesity, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular diseases which can lead to cardiac arrest.

2. Poor dietary habits

The consumption of processed foods, foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats is very common among younger people. These dietary habits can contribute to conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol and other health issues which are risk factors for cardiac arrest.

3. Chronic stress and anxiety

The pressures caused by academics, careers, and social expectations can all contribute to chronic stress and anxiety in young people. Stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline are known to strain the heart and can lead to arrhythmias, increasing the risk.

4. Inadequate sleep

Lack of proper sleep patterns disrupts the body's natural rhythms leading to an increased amount of stress levels which negatively impacts heart health.



Over time this can raise the chance of a cardiac event.

5. Substance abuse

Recreational drug use including cocaine and amphetamines as well as excessive alcohol consumption can cause severe damage to the heart's electrical system, leading to cardiac arrest.

6. Smoking and vaping

Even though there is increased awareness smoking and vaping are prevalent among youngsters. Both of them can cause inflammation, damage blood vessels, and trigger arrhythmias, increasing the risk of sudden cardiac events.

7. Environmental and genetic factors

Exposure to pollution along with genetic predispositions may play a role in the early onset of cardiovascular issues. Genetics can increase one's risk of electrical abnormalities, even in individuals with a healthy lifestyle.

8. Overtraining and strenuous activities

While regular exercise is healthy, overtraining without adequate rest or engaging in extreme sports can lead to stress on the heart. This may be more expected in individuals with undiagnosed conditions.



Study shows long-term use of antibiotics may raise Parkinson's disease risk

Long-term exposure to antibiotics may significantly raise the risk of Parkinson's disease, finds a study.

To validate the findings on Asians, researchers from the Seoul National University Hospital in South Korea examined 298,379 people aged 40 years and older who underwent a national health examination in 2004-2005.

The findings, published in the Neurology Clinical Practice journal, showed that the risk of Parkinson's was statistically higher (29 per cent higher) in people exposed to antibiotics for more than 121 days, compared to those not exposed to antibiotics.

Further, compared to people exposed to antibiotics for 1-14 days, those exposed to antibiotics for more than 121 days had a 37 per cent higher risk of Parkinson's disease.

"Extended usage of antibiotics was linked to a higher incidence of PD, even after controlling for several risk variables," said the researchers while calling out for further research to warrant the causation and mechanisms.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurologic disorder that affects movement, causing tremors, stiffness, and balance issues.

In a post on X, Dr. Sudhir Kumar from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad highlighted the role of the gut as the potential reason behind the associations between antibiotics and Parkinson's disease.

"Antibiotic use can alter the gut microbiota. This alteration can last for several years. Antibiotics can alter the gut-brain axis," Kumar said. He noted that antibiotics could also have neurotoxic effects on the brain. The neurologist suggested that antibiotics should be used cautiously, given the potential harms of long-term antibiotic exposure.

Another recent study, published in the journal Parkinsonism & Related Disorders, showed that treatment with two or more courses of antifungals raised the risk of Parkinson's disease by 16 per cent.

Source: IANS

Your love for coffee may alter your gut microbiome

Coffee is one of the most beloved beverages. There are various points of debate and discussions on its physical effect. A study found a new physical effect of coffee that tells how much a particular drink or food; here in particular the coffee can have an effect. The study published in the journal Nature Microbiology in particular uncovered that frequent coffee drinkers have a certain type of gut bacteria more than non-coffee drinkers.

Coffee influences gut microbiome. The makeup of the gut microbiome is influenced by coffee. It is a community of bacteria and fungi living in the gut. The researchers, part of a large team, examined stool and blood samples from approximately 77,000 individuals across the U.K, U.S, and



211 other global cohorts. They were particularly interested in understanding how coffee consumption affected the gut microbiome, given the beverage's universal appeal and daily consumption patterns. With coffee, people are either regular drinkers or not at all, which implies a more distinct difference in the gut microbiome for those who don't share the same affinity for the

beverage. The researchers found a substantial difference in the levels of a gut bacteria called Lawsonibacter asaccharolyticus found in coffee drinkers. Those who consumed coffee regularly had bacteria levels up to eight times higher than those who did not. This reflected across different population groups around the world, signalling that this is more universal than regional. The study showed a correlation between coffee consumption and this specific gut bacteria. This study is significant in explaining how the consistent consumption of a single beverage can impact the gut microbiome. Although the focus was on coffee, this reminds how important dietary choices are as they can shape the makeup of the gastrointestinal (GI) system.

Source: HT

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Devices can read human emotions without a camera: Study

Tokyo Metropolitan University researchers employed long-term skin conductance measurements to distinguish between emotions. Volunteers were given videos representing frightening scenarios, family bonding, and humor, while their skin conductance was measured.

The team's investigation revealed that traces might be used to create accurate estimations about which emotions were being experienced. Advances like this assist in reducing an overreliance on facial data, bringing emotionally sensitive technologies closer to home.

A new frontier is being pioneered in consumer electronics: one day, digital devices might be able to offer services depending on your emotional state. While this sounds amazing, this depends on whether devices can correctly tell what people are feeling. The most common methods depend on facial expressions: while these have had some success, such data may not always be available. This has led to researchers looking for different biological signals which could be interpreted to access emotional states, like brain wave measurements or cardiograms.

A team of scientists led by Professor Shogo Okamoto from Tokyo Metropolitan University have been using skin conductance as a doorway to human emotions. When people feel different things, the electrical properties of their skin change drastically due to perspiration, with signals showing up within one to three seconds of the original stimulus. Previous research has already shown that measurements of peak conductance, for example, can be correlated with certain emotions. In their most recent work, the team focused on the dynamics of the response i.e. how quickly the conductance trace following some stimulus reaches a peak, and how it decays back to normal.

iPhone 16: Things to check to identify whether iPhone is original or fake

iPhones are one of the most selling smartphones in India due to their durability, top-notch performance, and advanced features. While iPhones are available at higher prices, they tend to grab much attention globally, and everyone wants to own an iPhone. Therefore, people look for several ways to save money and buy iPhones at a much cheaper price from different sources such as e-commerce websites, unverified stores, and others. In several cases, sellers scam buyers by providing them with counterfeit iPhones that look exactly like an iPhone but turn out to be duplicate versions. Therefore, it's crucial to verify the authenticity of the iPhone you've purchased. Here are a few ways, through which buyers can ensure that their iPhone is real or fake.

Ways to identify if iPhone is real or fake

Not sure which mobile to buy?

Examine iPhone's packaging material and accessories provided: Scammers are quite sharp when it comes to replicating the packaging, however, it's quite easy to detect if the packaging is real or fake. Ensure that the box material is sturdy, it has high-resolution images and no poor printing is involved. In terms of provided accessories, check if they have a "Designed by Apple" label and are of top-end build and quality.

Verify Serial Number and IMEI

Every authentic iPhone comes with a serial number and IMEI which ensures credibility. The serial number can be located on the iPhone's settings when you go to the "About" section. Now, go to Apple's Check Coverage page and enter the serial number where users will be provided with warranty, model, and other information. However, to check the IMEI number, users have to dial *#06# from



their iPhone to get the number, now cross-check it with the number provided on the box and SIM tray.

Inspect iPhone's build quality

Now, carefully check every detail of the iPhone to ensure the material used is top quality and the device has a sturdy build. Check for gaps, loose casing, buttons that are working properly, etc. Also, check the SIM tray for any possible faults or imperfections.

Examine software updates

Ensure that the iPhone is running on Apple's latest OS version. Go to Settings and locate "General" and then go to Software Update to check the latest update dates. In several instances, the counterfeit iPhones run on Android versions.

Go to an authorised Apple service centre

If you are still sceptical about the device, then locate an authorised Apple service centre near your location and get

the device checked by professionals.

Apple is expected to launch its first foldable iPhone in 2026

Apple is reportedly planning to release its first foldable iPhone in the second half of 2026. According to reports, Apple's upcoming foldable device will include some flagship features as well as unique folding mechanisms. While Apple has not confirmed the development of foldable iPhones, leaks indicate that it may shake up the foldable phone market.

According to reports, Apple's foldable iPhone could feature a flexible OLED display that can withstand hundreds of thousands of folds without wearing. Speaking of hardware, the foldable iPhone could be powered by a newly designed powerful chipset, high-quality cameras, a sleek, premium design, and much more. Foldable iPhones, like all iPhones, will integrate seamlessly with services such as iCloud, Apple Music, and Apple Pay.

Why Sunita Williams is growing lettuce in space



NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, aboard the International Space Station (ISS), is leading an innovative agricultural experiment. She is growing "Outredgeous" romaine lettuce in microgravity, a study that promises significant benefits for space missions and Earth-based agriculture.

The experiment, known as Plant Habitat-07, is designed to explore how varying levels of water availability influence plant growth in space.

Its primary objectives are optimising plant cultivation techniques for deep-space missions and developing sustainable farming solutions for water-scarce regions on Earth.

This study involves analysing growth rates, nutritional content, and the overall health of lettuce grown in microgravity. By addressing these parameters, the research aims to support NASA's goal of establishing self-sustaining life-support systems for space exploration.

As the lead scientist, Williams has set up the experiment by collecting baseline water samples from the Advanced Plant Habitat's distribution reservoir and installing the Plant Habitat-07 science carrier, which serves as the cultivation chamber for the lettuce.

The implications of this lettuce experiment extend beyond space exploration. For space missions, the research helps reduce reliance on costly resupply missions, ensures astronauts have access to fresh food, and boosts their psychological well-being by allowing them to grow and eat fresh produce. On Earth, the findings could inform water-efficient farming practices in drought-prone areas, improve crop yields with fewer resources, and promote sustainable food production worldwide.

NASA's plant experiments in space have evolved over time, and the Advanced Plant Habitat aboard the ISS provides an advanced platform for these studies.

Bitcoin tops \$100K as markets await Trump

Bitcoin broke \$1,00,000 on Thursday as investors bet on a friendly US regulatory shift, while world stocks touched fresh record highs with sentiment bolstered by upbeat comments on the economy from Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell.

Its latest surge followed Trump saying he would nominate Paul Atkins, who is pro-crypto and pro-deregulation, to run the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“At the end of the day, it’s just a number,” said Geoff Kendrick, global head of digital assets research at Standard Chartered.

“But the reality is we’ve been able to get to this level because the industry has become institutionalised this year particularly - and that’s mostly the ETF inflows,” he said, referring to exchange traded funds approved earlier this year.

US rate cut optimism supported sentiment across broader markets.

Over the past week and a half, markets have all but priced in an extra US rate cut for 2025 and the implied chance of a cut in December has lifted from even to around 75%.

Earlier this week, Fed Governor Christopher Waller had said he was leaning towards a cut later in December.

The closely-watched US ISM survey showed services sector activity slowed in November after posting big gains in recent months.

Benchmark 10-year Treasury yields edged up after falling the previous day.
Source: Reuters

MUMBAI (TIP)

Myntra has launched “M-Now,” its quick-commerce offering that promises to deliver apparel and other lifestyle accessories within 30 minutes.

With fast delivery of goods becoming the normal of the day in the Indian market, retailers are quickly adapting to the changing scenario.

Myntra doesn’t want to be left behind in the transition, with the country’s largest fashion e-commerce brand saying that its M-Now service will offer customers access to 10,000 styles across fashion, beauty and lifestyle categories from popular brands like Vero Moda, MANGO, Tommy Hilfiger, MAC, Bobbi Brown and others, according to a report by TechCrunch.

The firm serves around 70 million customers a month and is owned by Flipkart. The e-commerce giant plans to expand this offering to over 100,000 styles in the next 3 to four months, it announced.

First being launched in Bengaluru, the M-Now service will be available in major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and others in a few months.

With the launch, Myntra has become the first major e-commerce company to

RBI keeps policy rate unchanged at 6.5%, lowers GDP growth forecast to 6.6%

ISTANBUL (TIP)

The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the 11th straight policy meeting. The MPC unanimously agreed to maintain neutral policy stance, signalling a cautious approach to current economic conditions.

The RBI has been maintaining the repo rate at 6.5 per cent since February 2023. With the repo rate unchanged, all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) that are linked to the repo rate will not increase, giving relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will not increase.

“The recent spike in inflation highlights the continuing risks of multiple and overlapping shocks to the inflation outlook and expectations. Heightened geo-political uncertainties and financial market volatility add further upside risks to inflation. High inflation reduces the purchasing power of both rural and urban consumers and may adversely impact private consumption. The MPC emphasises that strong foundations for high growth can be secured only with durable price stability. The MPC remains committed to restoring the balance between inflation and growth in the overall interest of the economy. Accordingly, the MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent in this meeting,” said Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das while announcing the outcome of the MPC meeting.

Driven by a sharp increase in prices of food products, particularly the vegetables, India’s retail inflation touched a 14-month high in October. The inflation based on the consumer price index increased to 6.21 per cent in October, up from 5.49 per cent in September.

He emphasised the central bank’s effort is to follow the flexible inflation target. He said high inflation would begin easing out in January-March with seasonal harvest.

Also, India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slowed to 5.4 per cent in the second quarter (July-September) of 2024-25, the third consecutive quarter of slower growth, reflecting weakened



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

manufacturing, consumption, and private investments. As per government data, this is the lowest growth rate in seven quarters. The last time the economy fell below this was in the third quarter of fiscal 2023.

Inflation forecast

Governor Das said Inflation for FY25 is projected at 4.8 per cent. For Q3, it is expected to rise to 5.7 per cent, but is anticipated to decline to 4.5 per cent in Q4. For Q1 FY26, inflation is projected at 4.6 per cent.

GDP growth projection

The RBI has cut the GDP growth projection to 6.6 per cent for the current financial year, from earlier forecast of 7.2 per cent. The real GDP growth for FY25 is now projected at 6.6 per cent. For Q3, the growth rate is expected to be 6.8 per cent, while Q4 is projected to rise to 7.2 per cent.
Source: TNS

Myntra enters quick-commerce market with M-Now, to deliver goods in 30 minutes



enter the quick commerce business in the fashion vertical at this scale.

The quick commerce business in India The quick commerce market is growing rapidly in India, with the market expected to grow to a whopping \$42 billion by the year 2030, according to estimates by Morgan Stanley. So it is no surprise that major e-commerce players want a piece of the pie.

“Fashion, a highly aspirational category, thrives on a diverse selection that empowers customers to style their complete look. As enablers, we are truly grateful for Myntra’s strong association with leading brands across the globe, which are at the front and center of catering to the evolving fashion aspirations of the country,” Myntra CEO Nandita Sinha said in a statement.

According to Myntra, the pilot runs of its quick commerce offering were received strong and that encouraged the company to finally launch it to the wider customer base.
Source: HT



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is indicating a very wonderful day for Aries.

You will get a lot of resources to make your day enjoyable. You will have to spend more time on your work and use your power to make your plans successful. You will have to take support from the people around you to start your day. You may get a chance to spend more time with your friends and family. You will have to pay more attention to your work and increase your limits to achieve your goals. You will have to start your day with your goals and end your day with your work. You may get a chance to spend your day with your friends and family. You may get a chance to make your day great with your friends and family. You may get a chance to spend your day with your friends and family.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will not be favorable for Taurus.

Normal days will not be favorable for you. You will need to fulfill your responsibilities well this week. You will also have to be cautious about your health. This week you will not have to have a good time with your loved ones. There may be a rift with family members and you may also get confused with them. Therefore, pay attention to your behavior and talk to them wisely. This week you may have to face some new challenges in financial matters. You have to understand your financial situation and invest accordingly cleverly. This week you have to understand the new investment well and only then invest. You will also have to review your plans to improve your financial situation. There will not be any compatibility in your work area this week.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is going to start with inauspicious results for Gemini people. You have

to be careful about your work. You have to work carefully with your opponents. You should not trust anyone. You do not need to give your opinion on everything. You can avoid quarrels among your family by keeping a calm mind. Your anger can harm your work. You need to pay attention to your expenses as you may feel a shortage of money. You need to stay mentally strong. Spending some time on your favorite hobby can relax you. Students may need to take a break from their studies for a while. This week you need to focus more on your work.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be very good for Cancer. You will get a chance to take new successful steps in your life. This week will be very auspicious for you. You will be successful in all areas of your life. You will get a chance to have a good time with your family and friends. There is a possibility of some auspicious work happening in your house. You will get a chance to build a good relationship with your relatives. You will improve your financial condition and there will be an increase in wealth. This week you will get a lot of success in your business or work. You can start new projects in your enterprises. This week will be a great time for students to study. You will try to acquire knowledge from new places. You will also share your knowledge with others and guide them. You will also improve your health and personal life.



LEO

Ganesha says the horoscope for the week for Leo is indicating a great day for you. Despite being a normal day, you will get good results in your work. You will get money from a job or business. However, you may have to face arguments with your relatives. Therefore, you will need to maintain restraint on your language. Employed people are advised to stay away from office politics today, otherwise you may get into trouble. You will get a chance to spend time with your loved ones. You may need to spend money on your entertainment. Marriageable people may get a good proposal for marriage. Today you can buy a new vehicle or some household items. This week you may gain more money than usual.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week will bring inauspicious results for Virgo from the beginning. None of the work you are thinking of doing will be fruitful for you. You need to focus on your work and take the right advice from the people around you. You have to be alert against your competitors and do not try to hide your work from them. This week you may also have to compromise with your friends and relatives. You will not get satisfaction in your personal and professional life. You also need to pay attention to your health. In business, you will have to implement new plans to increase your work. This week you will also need to pay attention to your financial situation. You will need to manage your expenses and try to save. This week you may face a shortage of money.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week will be unfavorable for you. You will have to remain busy in your daily activities. Taking care of your health will

be very important for you. You should not ignore your health as it can cause you trouble. This week you can receive some special gifts from your relatives. Love will pour in married life and working people will be very busy at work. Your work will be appreciated and people preparing for government jobs may get to hear good news. But this week you will need to control your expenses. Do not do any work out of overexcitement and complete the necessary tasks on time. You should make a budget for your income and expenditure. This will help you avoid problems later. This week you have to focus on your work and do not forget to spend time with your friends and family.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week is expected to be great for you. You will get signs of improvement in your financial condition and a chance to be active in achieving your goals. Your business may also progress well and you may get new opportunities. This week will also be good for love birds. Sweetness will remain in your relationship and you will get a chance to spend more time with your partner. Due to improvement in your financial condition, you may need to keep an eye on your expenses to keep your financial condition stable. This week you may also have to pay attention to your health. Regular exercise and consumption of a healthy diet will keep your health good. This week you may also need to pay attention to yourself and practice yoga and meditation to keep your mind calm.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is likely to be excellent for Sagittarius. You may get a golden opportunity to start a new relationship in your life. If you are talking about marriage, then this week your relationship can be confirmed. Manglik functions may be organized in your house which will bring happiness to your family. Your credibility with relatives will increase and you will be able to talk to them more intelligently. This week you can also buy some new things for your home which will make your home even more beautiful. Students may need to spend more time on research work. You will try to acquire knowledge from new places and increase your knowledge even more. This week you will be successful in sharing your knowledge with others as well. Your financial side will remain strong due to profit in financial matters as well. This week you will be successful in your work.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will bring nausea for you. You will have to face failure in your work. You will need to make more effort to make your work successful. This week can also be full of challenges for you in terms of money

and health. You may need to keep your expenses controlled. You will also have to take care of your health. If you do not take care of your food, you can put your health in danger. So, take care of your food and pay attention to your health. This week you will also have to take care of your health. This week you will pay more attention to your work. You may need to make more effort to make your work successful. You will need to pay more attention to your work. This week you will need to make more efforts in your work.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will be very good for Aquarius. You will be successful in your daily tasks and your day will be very pleasant. Do not ignore health, it will be very important to take care of it this week. You may get some special gifts from your relatives and your love will pour into your partner. Employed people will be very busy in their work and your work will be appreciated. People preparing for a government job may get to hear some good news today. You have to control your expenses, otherwise there may be a problem later. Do not do any work with too much enthusiasm, otherwise they may misunderstand you. Complete the necessary tasks on time and make a budget for your income and expenditure. This week you will succeed in achieving your goals and your life will be full of happiness.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will not be fair for Pisces. You will not get favorability in your day-to-day work. You will need to be careful with your opponents. You will not have to trust anyone. You do not need to react to everything. You can fulfill your responsibilities to your family by staying calm. Anger can cause loss to your work. This week you will need to pay attention to your expenses. You may feel a shortage of money. Therefore, you need to stay mentally strong. Try to spend some time on your favorite hobby this week. Students can get a break from their studies today. Keep your education in mind and adapt each day to achieve your goals. This week you also have to take care of your health. You should take care of your body and do not forget to exercise regularly.

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 : DECEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 15
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

DECEMBER 9 : Ganesha says you will attempt to go to whatever length to carry out and achieve your predetermined plans. Even though your family discussions are bitter, only sweetness will fill the void in the end. Before starting any project, you are a dependable source who carefully investigates all the information. Your health conditions could not satisfy you. Through financial assistance that you might receive due to luck, your assistance to the poor and needy will help to dry their sorrows. Your profession may have many twists and turns, so you must exercise great caution.

DECEMBER 10 : Ganesha says you enjoy leading a self-determined lifestyle. You need to be careful to seize the opportunities that knock on your door. You will become a wonderful person because of your insatiable passion for accomplishing your objectives. Avoiding excessive displays of winning emotions is an urgent need right now. With no expectations or complaints, you will accept life as it is. What you experience in life is a series of ups and downs. To prevent resentment from dividing you from your admirers, try to avoid disagreements with them.

DECEMBER 11 : Ganesha says you adore leading an independent life. Opportunities will knock on your door, so be careful to seize them. You will become a wonderful person because of your unquenchable desire to achieve your objectives. Avoiding excessive displays of winning emotions is a crucial current need. With no expectations or complaints, you will accept life as it is. Your life will be full of ups and downs. Avoid disputes with your admirers to prevent resentments from dividing you.

DECEMBER 12 : Ganesha says your original concepts would provide you with the most sought-after abilities. A large crew is relatively simple to manage. You would perform exceedingly well in the upcoming time and get amazing honours and awards. But occasionally, because of your snarky and peculiar behaviour, you start to seem mysterious to your friends. On a professional front, you must restrain or conceal your erratic behaviour. You will undoubtedly increase your savings but you will also likely indulge in extravagant spending. It would be planned to be brief but exciting for a change.

DECEMBER 13 : Ganesha says joining the crowd, you keep yourself informed at

all times. Your sense of unbelievable Ness could propel you to fame shortly. Similar to how honey attracts more flies than vinegar, you are surrounded by kind people. You have good leadership qualities, which will help you succeed as you move up the organisational ladder. To avoid creating factions, you should be devoted to your coworkers. Even if your family comes first in your life, you find yourself having less time to spend with them.

DECEMBER 14 : Ganesha says about your life experiences and their substance, people will be inquisitive. This romantic relationship is a win-win for you. Your level of intimacy will probably rise, and you might be preoccupied with creating your wedding invitation. You will fulfil all of your requirements through your spouse and receive your desired outcome. It will take time for you to travel through a long passage as the number of people who admire you will continue to grow. Love, sacrifices, provocations, disengagement, and peace are all available to you at this moment. You'll always achieve the outcomes you want by learning from experience.

DECEMBER 15 : Ganesha says you're more likely to actively explore the notion

of your business deal. You always look into anything that comes your way because you think, "No pain, no gain." Your prowess could occasionally bring you into disrepute. Check your toad-like characteristics, which include conservatism introversion and a preference for staying in one place. You can be concerned if the number of people who support you declines since it could make you feel as though you have no one to encourage you.

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

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAHI ||



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Vivah Panchami: Honoring divine wedding of Lord Rama and Sita

To celebrate and honor the divine wedding of Lord Rama and Sita, every year, devotees of Shri Ram celebrate the Vivah Panchami on the panchami tithi, or the fifth day of the Hindu calendar month Margashirsha, also called Agrahayana. It was on this day that Lord Ram visited Janakpur, Sita's birthplace, and broke Lord Shiva's 'Dhanush' in the Swayamvara and married Princess Sita. Vivah Panchami aligns with November - December in the Gregorian calendar. This year, Vivah Panchami falls on the 6th of December.

On this auspicious day, the sunrise is anticipated to be at 06:59 am, while the sunset is expected at 05:36 pm, and the moonrise is foretold to be at 11:12 am and the moonset at 10:26 pm. Additionally, the panchami tithi commences at 12:49 pm on December 5th and extends till 12:08 pm the following day.

Vivah Panchami celebrations are held in great grandeur in the temples of Lord Ram around the nation, especially in the Mithilanchal region, parts of north India, and Janakpur in Nepal, where the ceremony is believed to have been held. Devotees from different parts of the world gather at these places to witness the grand celebrations of Vivah Panchami.

Like all other Hindu weddings, Vivah Panchami is celebrated several days in advance. Before the celebrations begin, all the temples of Shri Ram are beautifully decorated with lamps, and the idols of Lord Ram and Sita are adorned magnificently with beautiful clothes and jewelry, resembling a bride and groom. On the day, grand processions are held from one temple to another, which ends with a ceremonial wedding in the evening. The events are popularly known as Ram Vivah Utsav.

On this day, several stage performances and cultural programs depicting the lives of Lord Ram and Devi Sita are held. These performances are known as Ramleela. At Janakpur, celebrations last for seven days, during which thousands of devotees visit the temples of Dashrath, Ram, and Janki to seek blessings for leading a happy family life.

The auspiciousness of the divine day bestows a happy and prosperous life to all the devotees. Happy Vivah Panchami!

Ram Sita Vivah Story

Maharishi Vishwamitra approached King Dasharath to ask him to allow Ram to guard his Yagna. King Dasharath unwillingly agreed with the wise Vishwamitra and permitted Prince Ram and Lakshman to go with the sage. Vishwamitra finished his Yagna successfully and returned with Ram and Laxman to Mithila. The ruler Janak of Mithila organised Princess Sita's Swayamvar.

The task of the Shiva Dhanusha Swayamvar was for everyone to raise and string a huge bow that lay on the ground. However, the participants couldn't raise this heavy and enormous bow. Sage Vishwamitra then asked Ram, who had already strung the bow, to split it into two. King Janak was elated and got Princess Sita married to Lord Ram.

Ram Sita's marriage is celebrated even today with great vigour, as her marriage is a sign of courage, commitment, duties and love.

Marriage Is Not To Be Performed On Vivah Panchami Day

While Vivah Panchmi has untold meaning in the Hindu world, it is surprising that marriages aren't arranged today. This is regarded very highly and followed judiciously in Mithilanchal and Nepal since it has over the years been the practice of not arranging marriages on this day.

People believe that since Mata Sita's marital life was



extremely sorrowful, they should not get married on Panchami day. After 14 years of exile Lord Shri Rama sacrificed pregnant Mata Sita leaving her with no opportunity to become a queen, and hence marriages are not arranged on the Vivah Panchami day. There is a misconception among the people today that the married life of a person becomes as painful as Mata Sita if a marriage ceremony takes place that day.

Ram Vivah Panchami Celebrations

- Devotees bathe and wear clean and fresh clothes in the morning.
- Bhagwan Rama and Mata Sita's Sthapana of idols is made.
- Yellow Robes are offered to Bhagwan Ram and Red clothes are offered to Mata Sita.
- Either the priest or the family members read from the sacred Baal-Kand script, the 'Vivah Prasang.'
- The story of the marriage of Bhagwan Rama and Mata Sita is thought to bring happiness and blessings.
- The Ramcharitmana recitation on this day grants a happy and prosperous family life.
- Bhagwan Rama and Mata Sita's worship will help you get rid of all the differences among the family members.
- Devotees sing holy mantras in the praises of the deities and sing devotional and religious songs (bhajans).
- The Vivah Panchami takes place in different locations in an artistic production called 'Ramleela.'

"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

- After the priest completes the Vivah Panchami Puja, the celebrations come to an end with the offering of a final Aarti and Bhog Prasad.

Benefits of Vivah Panchami

- If any obstacles arise during marital life, puja on the day of Vivah Panchami will help eradicate them all.
- Each individual is blessed by the most wanted fruit of his/her life.
- Any problem arising in a person's married life can be resolved through worship on this day.
- Worshipping of the Joint Form of Lord Shri Ram and Mata Sita helps get both their blessings and get rid of all hurdles in an individual's marriage.
- Moreover, during the wedding affair of the idols, reciting Bala Kanda's Path holds great importance.
- Also, reciting the Ramcharitmanas leads to happy family life.

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There was no foreign interference in the Conservative Leadership election: Patrick Brown



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto based award-winning senior journalist.

He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

DECEMBER 5, 2024

TORONTO (TIP): Patrick Brown, mayor of Brampton and one of the candidates in the run, says there was no foreign interference in the Conservative Leadership election in 2022.

Appearing before a Parliamentary Committee looking into allegations of foreign interference in the Canadian Conservative Leadership election in which the incumbent Leader of the official Opposition Pierre Poilievre won by 68 per cent of the first vote, Patrick Brown firmly held that foreign interference did not play a role in the 2022 election.

The Parliamentary committee had convened to investigate allegations of foreign interference in Canadian politics, focusing on the 2022 Conservative leadership race.

An earlier report from a national security committee had hinted at possible Indian involvement in influencing the leadership campaign. However, Brown, who initially refused to appear before the committee, addressed these concerns during his testimony while firmly rejecting the idea that foreign meddling impacted the final results of the race.

"I don't believe foreign intervention affected the outcome of the Conservative leadership race," Brown stated in his testimony on Thursday, December 5. Stressing the importance of protecting Canadian politics from foreign influence, he held that he did not want to be dragged into partisan disputes in Parliament.

When the Committee asked him early

this week to give his testimony as he was a part of the leadership race, Patrick Brown took to social media to comment on the committee's summons. He maintained that he had no new evidence to contribute to the inquiry and reiterated that the ongoing public inquiry into foreign interference was the appropriate venue for addressing such allegations.

The public inquiry into foreign interference, which concluded its hearings earlier this fall, is expected to release a final report in the coming months. Brown, however, was not called as a witness during the inquiry.

Intriguingly, Patrick Brown's leadership bid in 2022 was marred by allegations related to campaign financing, which led to his disqualification from the race under the Canada Elections Act. The Election Commission decided early this year not to continue with its investigation against Patrick Brown.



Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton
Photo: courtesy office of the Mayor

Patrick Brown, however, continues to advocate for impartial investigations and transparency into the issue as it was both sensitive and important holding that Canada's political processes must remain free from external influence.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Fadnavis Returns as...

This is the third time as CM for Fadnavis and the sixth time as Deputy CM for Pawar. After Fadnavis, Shinde of the Shiv Sena and NCP's Pawar also included the names of their mothers while taking the oath.

While Shinde took the oath as Eknath Gangubai Sambaji Shinde, Pawar called himself Ajit Ashatai Anantrao Pawar.

The politically significant move by the CM and his deputies signals solidarity with women, who, NDA leaders say, voted generously in their favor, helping the Mahayuti alliance return to power with a massive four-fifths majority (230 seats in

a 288-member House). Fadnavis, Shinde and Pawar have repeatedly acknowledged the contribution of the Ladli Bahin scheme to their massive win in the Assembly elections in which the Congress, Shiv Sena-UBT and NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar were literally routed.

"The inclusion of the names of mothers along with fathers in the middle names of the CM and his deputies is a strong message of equality and solidarity with women. That is the commitment of the BJP, especially of PM Modi," said a senior BJP leader.

Soon after the swearing-in, the CM and his deputies drove to the Maharashtra Secretariat for the first Cabinet meeting, which recommended to the Governor to call the Assembly session for MLAs' oath from December 7 to 9. The election of the Speaker will be held on the last day of the session. The Cabinet expansion will take place next week, sources said.

Before chairing the Cabinet meeting, Fadnavis signed a file granting Rs 5 lakh aid to a patient awaiting bone marrow transplant.

Meanwhile, the ruling Mahayuti's rivals, NCP's Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena-UBT's Uddhav Thackeray, although invited, skipped the ceremony.

Present at the event were senior NDA leaders, including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, N Chandrababu Naidu, Nitish Kumar, JP Nadda, Bhupender Yadav, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Chirag Paswan.

The CM's of BJP-ruled states who attended the event included Yogi Adityanath, Pramod Sawant, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Nayab Singh Saini and Mohan Majhi. Among celebrity guests were Mukesh Ambani, Sachin Tendulkar, Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. (With inputs from agencies)

Keen to start...

have significantly contributed to India's development.

He highlighted the role of the 'Make in India' initiative in boosting manufacturing and attracting foreign investment, underscoring its importance in strengthening India's position in the global economy.

"We are ready to set up our manufacturing operations in India. The Indian Government, under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, has created stable conditions, driven by a policy of putting India first. We believe that investing in India is profitable," Putin said, as quoted in the ministry's statement.

India slams developed...

India also urged the ICJ to avoid creating new obligations that go beyond the existing climate-change framework.

"The court may exercise due caution to avoid devising new or additional obligations beyond what is already agreed under the existing climate-change regime, which take into consideration historic emissions, climate justice and the principal principle of equity and CBDR-RC, as well as the equitable access to the global carbon budget," the country said.

Making submissions on behalf of India, Luther M Rangreji, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said, "If contribution to degradation is unequal, responsibility must also be unequal."

He said climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution, but the solutions must respect the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), which is at the heart of the climate-change regime.

"It is inequitable and unjust to expect countries with negligible historical emissions to bear an equal burden in mitigating climate change... Developed nations must lead by example by achieving net zero well before 2050 and providing the means of implementation to developing nations," India said.

Rangreji said developing nations are the hardest hit by climate change, despite contributing the least to it.

"The developed world, which historically contributed the most, is ironically the best equipped with the technological and economic means to address this challenge," the official said. (Source: PTI)

UnitedHealthcare CEO...

Police did not release the victim's name, but said a 50-year-old was shot around 6.45 am outside a Hilton before the shooter fled.

He was taken to a nearby hospital but could not be saved.

UnitedHealthcare, the insurance arm of the health care giant UnitedHealth Group Inc, was scheduled to have its annual meeting with investors Wednesday morning in New York City, according to a company media advisory. The hotel is a short walk from tourist sites such as the Museum of Modern Art and Rockefeller Center.

An announcement was made to attendees Wednesday, December 4 morning that the conference was being ended early.

Thompson has served as CEO for more than three years and had been with the company since 2004.

UnitedHealthcare is the largest provider of Medicare Advantage plans in the country and also manages health insurance coverage for employers and state-and federally funded Medicaid programs.



Darjeeling: Perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts

Darjeeling, nestled among rolling mountains, is a perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Popular places to visit include Tiger Hill, Batasia Loop and the War Memorial, and the Himalayan Zoological Park and Snow Leopard Breeding Center. What should you bring home? Tea, tea, and more tea—and beautiful local handicrafts.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway also referred to as the DHR, and lovingly called the 'Darjeeling Toy Train', is a 2 feet narrow gauge train that runs between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, in West Bengal, India. The construction of this 88-kilometre long railway line took place between 1879 and 1881, and a ride on this train route has been a coveted experience ever since. A journey in the Darjeeling Toy Train has amazing sights with pleasing mountain views and pass by villages and local shops on the way, with children merrily waving at them.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway provides significant transport links between various parts of the Darjeeling hills and lower plains and is a piece of sheer engineering inventiveness and vision. How else can a small steam engine pull mini coaches up the steep mountains by overcoming almost unfeasible curves and gradients? This is perhaps why the Darjeeling Toy Train was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 2 December 1999.

Later on, two more railway lines were added, and the site came to be known as the Mountain Railways of India. A ride on such a heritage transport is no doubt a relaxing and charming one but is also prestigious because this train is what once provided the first and most important mountain transportation link in the country.

Tiger Hill

Lying at an altitude of 2590 meters and a distance of 13 kilometres away from the Darjeeling, Tiger Hill is most famous for its splendid sights of sunrise from where you can see the peaks of Kanchenjunga illuminate before the sun is seen at lower elevations. The magnificent view of snow-capped mountains sitting amidst cotton clouds attracts tourists to Tiger Hill from all over the country. Interestingly, this is also the summit of Ghoom, which is the highest railway station in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The starting time from Darjeeling is 3.30 AM to reach tiger hill by 4.15 AM. The starting time becomes 4.15 AM in winters due to delayed sunrise time. The roads get blocked by a convoy of jeeps and cars during the peak season. To get



up to the sunrise spot, it requires a short climb on foot from the parking spot.

Batasia Loop

Perhaps one of the most picturesque train routes in all of Darjeeling, the Batasia Loop is a lush green toy train pathway that is meant to minimise the elevation of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. The unique design of this magnificent attraction allows the track to wrap around itself through a hilltop tunnel. One of the most enchanting aspects of the Batasia Loop is its unmatched natural beauty which is a wonderful sight to behold. Located on Hill Cart Road (NH 55), you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Darjeeling in all its verdant glory.

Situated in Ghoom which is about 5 kilometres from Darjeeling, the motive behind creating the magnificent pathway of the Batasia Loop was rooted in easing navigation around the terrain of Darjeeling. It rises from the midst of emerald carpets of mountain vegetation and overlooks the snowy peaks of Kanchenjunga on one side as well. Endearing flowers line the way, which makes a trip through Batasia Loop a must after you have witnessed the fascinating sunrise of Tiger Hill. The view of the train tearing past the white of the clouds and deeper into the green beauty of the terrain is a refreshing and enchanting expedition which should not be missed.

Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

The history of the tea gardens can be traced back to 1852 when Darjeeling was only a tiny hamlet and was used as a hill resort by the British officials and their families. The British started planting tea leaves here and to gather manpower, labor was hired even from across the Nepal border. Gradually the business took shape and in 1866 alone, there were



39 flourishing tea estates. In 1870, the number increased to 56, and eventually, Darjeeling became one of the best tea-producing estates in the country.

Darjeeling Ropeway

Darjeeling is renowned across the world as one of the most picturesque hill stations, where one can witness a myriad

of exquisite landscapes, from the glorious snow-capped mountains to the charming valley replete with verdant tea estates. For this reason, the Darjeeling Ropeway finds itself as a prime attraction of Darjeeling, giving its passengers an array of divine panoramic views as they travel across the magical valley.

Hockey: India completes a hat-trick of triumphs in Asia Cup for Junior Men



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

DECEMBER 5, 2024

TORONTO (TIP): Defeating its traditional rivals and neighbor Pakistan 5-3 in the final, India won its third successive Asia Cup for Junior Men hockey title in Muscat. Arajit Singh Hundal, who scored four goals in the final, was declared player of the match.

India were the winners of the 2004, 2008, 2015 and 2023 editions of the event as well. It was the fifth title triumph for India in the 11 editions of the tournament held so far.

Hockey India would be closing the year on a cheerful note as Indian men's and women's teams have already retained their Asian Champions Trophy titles while Junior Men have completed a hat-trick of triumphs in the Asia Junior Cup.

With this win, India gets direct entry to the FIH Hockey World Cup for Junior Men. It is the first title triumph for former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh as a coach. Though he took the Indian Colts to the Sultan Hockey Tournament in Malaysia early this year, the Indian team had finished with a bronze medal.

Arajit Singh Hundal (4', 18", 47", 54") was in top form for India while Dilraj Singh (19') scored the other goal. Pakistan's captain Shahid Hannan (3') and Sufyan Khan (30', 39') did their utmost to keep



The triumphant team celebrates victory.

their team in the tie for the majority of the game.

The win handed the Indian colts, currently coached by two-time Olympic medalist. PR Sreejesh, a record-extending fifth title (2024, 2023, 2015, 2008 and 2004) in the competition and also helped keep arch-rivals Pakistan from winning its fourth crown.

As Indian players were getting into their groove, Pakistan skipper Shahid Hannan pounced on a stray ball in the shooting circle and beat Bikramjeet Singh in a one-on-one situation to put Pakistan ahead.

India responded immediately by earning a penalty corner and Arajit Singh Hundal unleashed a powerful drag flick to the right top corner to restore parity. Both teams went on to trade circle

entries without finding the back of the net till the end of the first quarter.

Within three minutes of the second quarter, India was awarded another penalty corner and Arajit stepped up again, finding the gap between Pakistan's goalkeeper Muhammad Janjua and another defender with a thunderous drag flick to give India the lead. Following this, the Indian forwards relentlessly pressured Pakistan's defense. Soon, Dilraj weaved past two defenders on the left wing and struck the board, extending India's lead to 3-1.

As the first half was drawing to a close, Pakistan's Sufyan Khan showcased his drag-flicking skills, beating Bikramjit Singh in goal to make it 3-2.

Arajit created two chances in quick

succession as the third quarter began but Pakistani goalkeeper Muhammad Janjua pulled out amazing saves on both occasions to keep Pakistan in the match.

Both teams went back and forth until Sufyan Khan, with six minutes left in the quarter, flicked the ball into the Indian goal from a penalty corner and ensured Pakistan headed into the last quarter level on the score.

As soon as the final quarter began, India seized the initiative. Manmeet Singh skillfully dribbled past his marker and found an unmarked Arajit in front of the goal, who deflected the ball into the goal to restore India's lead and complete his hat-trick.

With ten minutes to go, Zikriya Hayat tried to launch a counter-attack but Indian goalie Prince Deep Singh rushed out to avert any danger.

With six minutes left in the game, India earned a penalty corner and employed a variation to free up Arajit, who smashed the ball into the top right corner with his flick, making it 5-3 for India.

As the game headed to a close, Hannan Shahid carved out a significant goal-scoring opportunity but Prince Deep stood firm in goal, swatting away the attempt and sealing India's victory.

Earlier, India defeated Thailand 11-0, Japan 3-2, Chinese Taipei 16-0, Korea 8-1 before getting better of Malaysia at 3-1 in the semi-finals and 5-3 against Pakistan in the final.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based award-winning senior sports journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

BY SHIV NARESH



This centenary year pays tribute to a century of excellence and future aspirations, highlighted by the relaunch of the Men's Hockey India League (HIL) and the historic inauguration of the Women's HIL. The national body for hockey, formed on November 7, 1925, in Gwalior, laid the foundation for India's prominent position in the sport, evidenced by eight Olympic Gold medals and a Hockey World Cup victory. Indian Hockey has also witnessed a resurgence in recent years, with the Men's Team clinching back-to-back medals at the

100 Years of Indian Hockey

Olympics after a 52 year long wait.

The return of HIL symbolizes the union of past achievements and future ambitions, with Indian hockey continually evolving and adapting. The league's comeback, featuring equal opportunities for men and women, demonstrates Hockey India's dedication to progress and gender equality, solidifying its legacy and forward-looking vision for the sport.

About HOCKEY INDIA

HOCKEY INDIA (HI) is the governing body with exclusive mandate to direct and conduct all activities for both men and women's hockey in India. It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India as the sole body responsible towards promoting Hockey in India.

Headquartered in New Delhi, Hockey India was established on 20th May, 2009 and is affiliated to the International Hockey Federation (FIH), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

Committed to the development of Hockey in the country, Hockey India with

the assistance of Sports Authority of India and Department of Sports, Government of India, trains players at sub-junior, junior and senior level. The governing body engages in Coaching the coaches with International Standard certification programs, educates and equips technical officials and umpires to find a foothold in international arena, provides world-class infrastructure and International exposure for the players besides regular international competition. Hockey India has also pioneered in bringing top International hockey events to India such as the FIH Men's World Cup in 2010 and 2018, FIH Champions Trophy in 2014, FIH Junior Men's World Cup in 2016 and 2021, FIH Hockey World League Final in 2017. With its vision to popularize the game and constantly promote it, Hockey India brought the Indian Men's Hockey Team into the top three in the world. Hockey India is also dedicated to getting the Indian Women's Hockey Team into the top three in the world.

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Odisha - the Eastern State of India - is known for its love for Hockey and over the years it has evolved to be the Global Hub of Hockey. The State successfully hosted the Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018, followed by the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha, FIH Olympic Qualifiers Odisha, and FIH Hockey Pro League 2020-21. Odisha has previously hosted the Champions Trophy 2014 and the Odisha Men's Hockey World League Final Bhubaneswar 2017. Odisha also hosted the FIH Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in 2021. Kalinga Lancers, the team owned by the State, were the winners in the Hockey India League 2017. Taking a step further towards realizing the dream of restoring the glory of Indian Hockey at the global level, the State is sponsoring the Indian Hockey Teams till 2033.

Odisha also hosted the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 and the Rourkela and Bhubaneswar legs of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 and 2023/24.

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Hybrid model finalised for Champions Trophy?

The International Cricket Council has reached a consensus to conduct next year's Champions Trophy in a hybrid model, allowing India to play its share of matches in Dubai while agreeing "in principle" to a similar arrangement in multi-lateral events till 2027. According to a top ICC source, the decision was more or less finalised during an informal meeting between the body's new president Jay Shah and the Board of Directors, including Pakistan, at its headquarters in Dubai on Thursday, December 5.

"It's been agreed in principle by all parties that the Champions Trophy will be held in the UAE and Pakistan with India playing its matches in Dubai. It's a win-win situation for all," the source said.

The Champions Trophy is to be held in February-March next year. Pakistan, while withdrawing its boycott threat and agreeing to go hybrid in the previous ICC meet last week, had demanded a reciprocal arrangement for itself till 2031. However, the ICC has agreed to a hybrid model for all its events till 2027. During this period, India will be hosting the women's ODI World Cup in October next year and the 2026 men's T20 World Cup jointly with Sri Lanka.

Source: PTI

INDIA-AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S ODI SERIES

Australia win opener after Indian batters fall like ninepins

BRISBANE (TIP)

India put up a dismal show with the bat as Australia stamped their superiority over the visitors with a five-wicket win in the first Women's ODI.

Opting to bat, India collapsed from 62/3 to 100 all out in 34.2 overs with Australia pacer Megan Schutt picking up an impressive five-wicket haul. Jemimah Rodrigues, who batted at No. 5, top-scored for India with a 23 off 42 balls.

Australia did experience a minor stutter in the run chase, when Renuka Thakur struck twice in the same over, but coasted to victory in 16.2 overs. Debutant opener Georgia Voll (46 not out off 42 balls) produced a measured knock to ensure a comfortable win. Her effort included a six off Renuka in the cow corner region. Her opening partner Phoebe Litchfield (35 off 29 balls) was the aggressor in their 48-run stand, smashing six fours in a row — four coming off Renuka and two off debutant pacer Titas Sadhu.

"We bowled well even though it was a disappointing total on board," India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said.

"A few of us got starts in the batting but we were not able to take the batting till the end and we should work on the partnerships. We know the pitch now and hopefully have some clear ideas for the next ODI," she added.

The second ODI will be played here



Pacer Megan Schutt picked up a five-wicket haul.

on Sunday, December 7.

India coach Amol Muzumdar picked out lack of application on the part of the batters for his team's disappointing start to the series. "Definitely, I am disappointed because we were expecting some more runs. It wasn't the best wicket as they also lost wickets chasing 100 runs," Muzumdar said. "If we could have applied ourselves a little bit better with the bat, we could have got more runs on the board."

Muzumdar, though, was happy with the bowlers. "The bowlers, especially young ones, did a fantastic job which is a good sign for Indian cricket. Priya (Mishra) is in her second series in international cricket. She did well against New Zealand and was really impressive today," he said.

Brief scores: India: 100 all out in 34.2 overs (Rodrigues 23; Schutt 5/19); Australia: 102/5 in 16.2 overs (Voll 46*; Renuka 3/45, Priya 2/11).

Pink Ball Vs Red Ball in Test: How pink ball is different?

India and Australia are locking horns in the second Test of the ongoing five-match Test series between the two teams at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide. The match is a highly-anticipated affair amongst cricket fans being a day/night fixture. Notably, a day/night Test is played with a pink ball rather than the usual red ball used in Test cricket which adds to the excitement of the game.

The pink ball is known to assist bowlers a lot more than the red ball even more so during the night session played under flood lights. Hence, it's often a herculean task for the batters to see off the bowlers under lights making their stay at the crease all the more miserable. Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee also recently explained how does a pink ball behave differently than a red ball calling it a Rosé.

The legendary fast bowler recalled how he loved to bowl under lights with the white ball and explained how the humidity at night makes the ball shape a lot more.



"It is the pink ball test of what I like to call the Rosé. Not quite red, not quite white, right in the middle rose. It definitely swings around a lot more, it shapes around. The pink ball test is under light, so generally when you're

playing the lights it's a bit more movement, it's cooler by night time as well in terms of heat. It can be a little bit more humid sometimes which makes the ball shape. So, I actually really enjoyed bowling with the white ball under lights.

The pink ball, I'm heard and I'm hearing it's actually a lot better. So that would be a lot of fun for the fast bowlers," said Lee on his Youtube Channel.

Among Indian batters, Virat Kohli is the leading run scorer in the pink ball Tests having 277 runs from five matches at an average of 46.16 with one hundred and one fifty to his name. Among bowlers, Ravichandran Ashwin is most successful having picked 18 wickets from five matches at an average of 13.83 with best figures of 4/48.

For Australia, Marnus Labuschagne is the leading run scorer in the day/night Tests with 894 runs from nine matches at an average of 63.85 with four hundreds and three fifties to his name. On the other hand, Mitchell Starc is the highest wicket taker with 67 scalps from 13 matches at an average of 18.80 with three five wicket hauls to his name.

With two heavyweight sides, set to collide against each other, the pink ball Test promises to be a mouth-watering affair for the cricketing fraternity.



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History This Week DEC 6- DEC 12

DECEMBER 6

December 6, 1917 - Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship Imo collided with the French munitions ship Mont Blanc which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.

December 6, 1921 - The Irish Free State became an independent member of the British Commonwealth.

December 6, 1971 - The Democratic Republic of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, was recognized by India. Pakistan then broke off diplomatic relations with India.



December 6, 1973 - Gerald Ford was sworn in as vice president under Richard Nixon following the resignation of Spiro Agnew who pleaded no contest to charges of income tax evasion.

December 6, 1978 - In Spain, a new constitution was approved by referendum, providing for a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary form of government.

Birthdays - American poet Alfred Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918) was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Best known for his poem *Trees*, published in 1913. He was killed in action during World War I near Ourcy, France. The U.S. Army's Camp Kilmer was named in his honor.

Birthdays - American lyricist Ira Gershwin (1896-1983) was born in New York City. He collaborated with his brother George to create many Broadway successes including; *Lady Be Good*, *Funny Face*, *Strike Up the Band*, and songs such as *The Man I Love*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, and *I Got Rhythm*.

Birthdays - Photojournalist Alfred Eisenstaedt (1898-1995) was born in Dirschau, Prussia. Best known for his *Life* magazine cover photos, including the sailor kissing a nurse in *Time*'s Square, celebrating the end of World War II.

DECEMBER 7

December 7, 43 B.C. - Cicero (Marcus Tullius) died. He was a writer, statesman, and was considered ancient Rome's greatest orator.

December 7, 1787 - Delaware became the first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.



Birthdays - Wax modeler Marie Tussaud (1761-1850) was born in Bern, Switzerland. She established Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London in 1802 and later added a Chamber of Horrors.

DECEMBER 8

December 8, 1940 - During the Blitz, the House of Commons and Tower of London were seriously damaged amid an overnight air raid by German bombers on London.

December 8, 1941 - A day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States and Britain declared war on Japan.



December 8, 1980 - Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

December 8, 1987 - President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Russia's General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed the INF Treaty eliminating all intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

December 8, 1991 - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist, as the leaders of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine signed an agreement creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining republics of the former USSR, with the exception of Georgia, joined the new Commonwealth.

Birthdays - Mexican artist Diego Rivera (1886-1957) was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. He created large works for display in the U.S. which aroused controversy due to his political point of view as a Communist. In 1933, his fresco *Man at the Crossroads* was removed from Rockefeller Center in New York City amid claims it included a figure resembling Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin. A year earlier, a mural done for the Detroit Institute of Arts had been criticized as irreligious. Following these controversies, he was denied further commissions in the U.S., although his work remained popular in Mexico.

Birthdays - American humorist and artist James Thurber (1894-1961) was born in Columbus, Ohio. Best known for *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

DECEMBER 9

December 9, 1941 - During World War

II, China issued a formal declaration of war against Japan, Germany and Italy.

December 9, 1948 - The United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It took effect on January 12, 1951, following ratification by 20 member nations.

December 9, 1958 - The John Birch Society was founded in the U.S. by Robert H.W. Welch as an anti-Communist political organization named for Capt. John Birch, a U.S. Army officer killed in 1945 by Chinese Communists.



December 9, 1990 - Lech Walesa won a landslide victory in the Polish presidential election.

December 9, 1992 - Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Prince Charles and Princess of Wales, Dianna.

December 9, 1993 - A five-day repair job in space on the \$3 billion Hubble Space Telescope was finished by U.S. astronauts.

December 9, 1994 - Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, held its first formal talks with Britain in over 70 years.

December 9, 1998 - Swiss politicians elected Interior Minister Ruth Dreifuss as president, making her the first woman to lead the Swiss government.

Birthdays - British poet John Milton (1608-1674) was born in London. Considered second only to Shakespeare in importance, his works include; *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, *Samson Agonistes*, the pamphlets *Of Reformation Touching Church Discipline*, *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce*, *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* and *Pro Populo Anglicano*.

Birthdays - American industrialist Clarence Birdseye (1886-1956) was born in Brooklyn, New York. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was one of the founders of General Foods Corp.

DECEMBER 10

December 10, 1941 - During World War II, British Battleships *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* were sunk by Japanese warplanes in the South China Sea, killing nearly 800 crewmen.

December 10, 1948 - The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

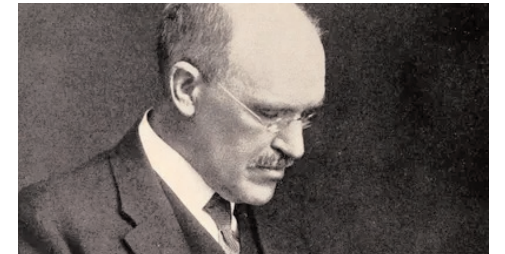
December 10, 1950 - Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African American man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for his efforts in mediation between Israel and nearby Arab states the previous year.

December 10, 1989 - The first non-Communist government since 1948 assumed power in Czechoslovakia.

Birthdays - Educator Thomas Gallaudet

(1787-1851) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He co-founded the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1817.

Birthdays - Poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) was born in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her poetry became known only after her death when her sister discovered nearly 2,000 poems locked in her bureau, written on the backs of envelopes and scraps of paper. They were published gradually over the next 50 years, beginning in 1890.



Birthdays - American librarian Melvil Dewey (1851-1931) was born in Adams Center, New York. He invented the Dewey decimal book classification system, advocated spelling reform, and urged use of the metric system.

DECEMBER 11



December 11, 1936 - King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England to marry "the woman I love," a twice-divorced American named Wallis Warfield Simpson. They were married in France on June 3, 1937, and then lived in Paris.

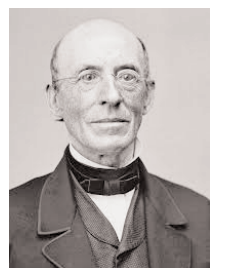
December 11, 1941 - A major turning point in World War II occurred as Japan's Axis partners, Italy and Germany, both declared war on the United States. The U.S. Congress immediately declared war on them. President Roosevelt then made the defeat of Hitler the top priority, devoting nearly 90 percent of U.S. military resources to the war in Europe.

December 11, 1994 - Russia sent tanks and troops into Chechnya to end the rebel territory's three-year drive for independence.

December 11, 1998 - The House Judiciary Committee approved three articles of impeachment charging President Bill Clinton with perjury and obstruction of justice.

DECEMBER 12

Birthdays - Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts. He founded the *Liberator* anti-slavery newspaper in 1831 and published it for the next fifty years. He also traveled throughout America delivering scathing antislavery speeches, even advocating that the North should secede from the South.





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