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UNITED STATES SENATE CONFIRMS DR. RAHUL GUPTA AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY



"As Director, I will diligently work to advance high-quality, data-driven strategies to make our communities healthier and safer", Dr. Rahul Gupta said.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) the United States Senate, October 28, confirmed Dr. Rahul Gupta as Director of National Drug Control Policy on a bipartisan basis. Gupta is the first medical doctor to ever lead the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a White House press release said.

"As a practicing physician and former health official who has served in rural communities, I have seen firsthand the heartbreaking toll of addiction and overdose in our communities, but I have also seen how we can save lives if we understand the

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PM Modi holds talks with European Union leaders on trade, security, Afghanistan

ACTIVISTS WANT G20 TO END VACCINE INEQUALITY

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, October 29, held wide-ranging talks with top leaders of the European Union (EU), marking a high point in India's efforts to cultivate the 27-member nation bloc to forge closer ties in security, trade, connectivity and education.

PM Modi, who arrived in Rome earlier in the day to participate in the G20 Summit beginning from Saturday, had a "productive interaction" with president of the European Council Charles Michel and president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

India has more issues of convergence with the EU ever since China began flexing its muscles in South China Sea. Also, during the Covid period, both EU and India were impacted by overdependence on supply chains originating from China.

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PM Narendra Modi with European Council president Charles Michel and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen in Rome. - Photo / PTI

J&K Statehood to be Restored, says Amit Shah: Farooq Abdullah is surprised



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inspects a bunker during his visit to Maqwal, the last village on the border, in Jammu, on Sunday, October 24. - Photo / PTI

JAMMU (TIP): National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Sunday, October 24, expressed surprise over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would be restored after assembly elections.

The Home Minister said "urges and aspirations of people have to be satiated for lasting peace" in the Union Territory.

Mr. Abdullah expressed surprise over the logic being advanced by the Central leadership that the statehood will be restored after completion of the delimitation of constituencies and holding of elections.

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Indian American lawmakers & top Biden admin members celebrate 'Diwali' at US Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Led by Indian American lawmakers, top members serving in the Biden administration and a select group of community members from across the country gathered to celebrate the festival of lights, 'Diwali', at the US Congress, the temple of democracy.

Reflecting on the emergence of this small but influential community in the American socio-political spectrum, lawmakers praised the contribution of Indian Americans in the development of the US and highlighted the significance of Diwali in a post-COVID-19 world.

"We, for the last almost two years, have been in the midst of a pandemic that has turned our lives upside down. Many of us, myself included, have sustained losses of family and friends.



Dr Vivek Murthy lighting a diya Photo / courtesy Twitter account of Vivek Murthy

MAJOR VICTORY FOR H-1B EMPLOYERS AS USCIS QUALIFIES MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST AS SPECIALTY OCCUPATION



For representation only

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): In a major victory for H-1B employers, a federal court has approved a settlement under which the US Citizenship and Immigration Services has agreed to

qualify market research analyst as a specialty occupation for the purposes of determining H-1B visa application of a foreign professional.

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**-: COMMENT :-**

# Playing Politics Against the Interests of the Nation is Seditious

**PROF. I.S. SALUJA**

The denial of entry into India to Darshan Singh Dhaliwal - a well-known Sikh from USA for his support to Farmers' protest in India, and similar denial to other Sikhs from abroad in recent times for the same reason has infuriated the Sikh community worldwide. The Sikhs who have been subjected to this treatment are neither separatists nor terrorists. They are not supporting a mutiny, an uprising, an insurrection against India. What they are doing is supporting their families and friends who are agitating against laws which hurt them. Imagine the panic of government of India which is so unnerved by a few NRI's running langar (free kitchen) for the protesting farmers that it decided to revoke the OCI cards of a dozen of them. It is unimaginable that a sane government

will take such cowardly action against the people who have impeccable credentials of being the best sons and daughters of India.

The protesters are expressing their unhappiness with the farm laws in a way permitted by democratic norms and the constitution of India. Any support to them by Indians abroad is permissible under international law and does not transgress the Indian laws. Unfortunately, it has become a fashion with government of India to term any opposition to their whims as an anti-national act. Seditious law has never been used so unsparingly as under the Modi government. India that opposed the British rule for imposing harsh and restrictive laws that impinged on their liberty under which there was no scope for a lawyer, or an appeal, or an argument ("na vakil, na appeal, na daleel") is now witnessing the return of those laws under this dictatorial regime.

Maybe, the government wants to provoke the Sikh community with a

view to creating an atmosphere of violence, particularly in Punjab. A few incidents of violence will give GOI the grounds to impose restrictive laws in Punjab. BSF presence and powers it has been armed with is an indication. Captain Amarinder Singh who has been alleging arrival of drugs and weapons into Punjab from across the border is likely to be an important player in the GOI game plan. Both the BJP and Captain will be happy to create a situation wherein emergency laws are put into effect serving two vital ends: crushing the farmers protest and preventing a State government in which they are not the partners. Both the BJP and Captain Amarinder Singh know well they will be rejected by people of Punjab and have no chance to form a government in Punjab. Playing politics is the business of politicians, no doubt, but playing politics to harm the nation is seditious.

All this goes against the long-term interests of the nation as diverse and populated as India is.

**-: GUEST COMMENT :-**

## Silly point: On linking cricket to patriotism

**SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM OR ITS PLAYERS IS NO LITMUS TEST FOR PATRIOTISM**

People who allegedly celebrated the victory of Pakistan against India in a T20 cricket World Cup match on October 24 are facing the brunt of the state. All of them are Muslims. In Rajasthan, a young schoolteacher has been terminated by a private school and the police have charged her under IPC Section 153B for 'imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration'. In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have registered two cases against unknown persons under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other sections. In Uttar Pradesh, three students from J&K have been charged under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 505 (creating or publishing content to promote enmity) and, later, Section 124A, sedition.

The wisdom, propriety or acceptability of celebrating Pakistan's victory is beside the point. From moral, tactical, and practical perspectives, this sweeping policing is unwise. No democracy, least of all a country of

India's size and diversity, can demand unyielding uniformity and conformity from its population, on all questions and at all times. It is unlikely that any of these charges will stand judicial scrutiny, but that only makes this spectacle a ridiculous distraction for the stretched law enforcement system. Far from enforcing national integration as the purported aim of this heavy-handed police action is, it will only brew more resentment and social disharmony apart from derailing young lives.

An unremitting loyalty test of citizens can be a self-defeating pursuit for a country like India that has global ambitions. People of Indian origin live around the world, with split loyalties. There are U.S. citizens who chant victory for India at gatherings in their home countries addressed by the Indian Prime Minister, and there are British and Australian citizens who boo their own country in favor of India during sporting events. Sports teams around the world have members of foreign origin.

Infusion of toxic hyper-nationalism in sports is bad in such a world; more so for India. While the BJP has been championing this link between cricket and nationalism, other parties are not far behind as the incident in Rajasthan, a Congress-ruled State, shows. AAP in Delhi was one step ahead and questioning the Narendra Modi government for allowing the cricket match with Pakistan. Had all this been on account of an unspoken link between cheering for the national cricket team and support for a united India, the police would have also charged those who mercilessly trolled Mohammed Shami, a Muslim in the Indian cricket team. True, it would have been wonderful for the Indian cricket team to enjoy the unqualified support of the entire nation, but, surely, there is no reason to charge those who support another team with sedition. The Indian state looks silly now, and the whole episode bodes ill for cricket, and the country.

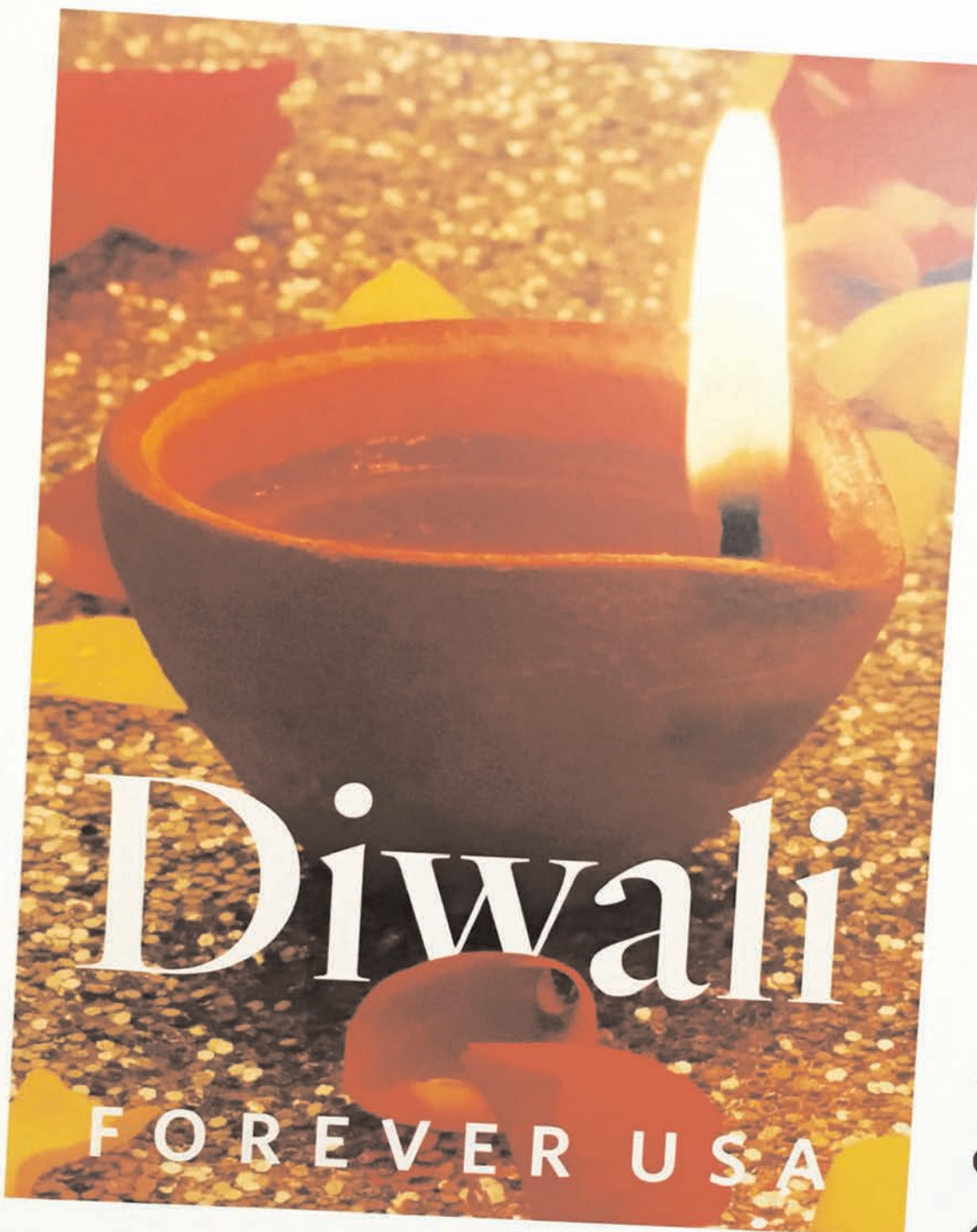
*(The Hindu)*

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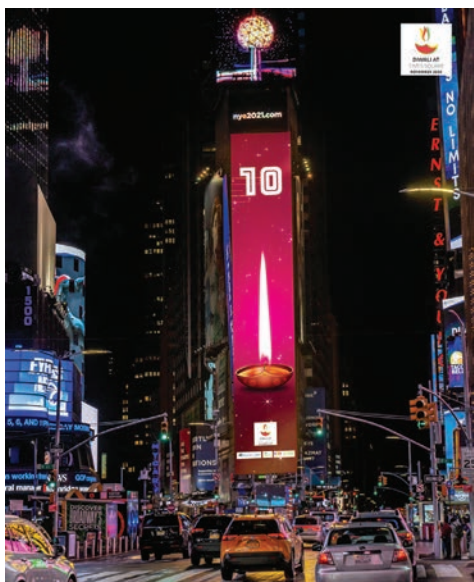
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# Press Conference held to Commemorate the festival of Diwali at Times Square on 30 October 2021



**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The most awaited and widely celebrated Festival of Lights, Diwali is back once again at the biggest crossroads of the world, Times Square, NY. Diwali marks the victory of good over evil, light over dark.

Samman for All and advisory board members of 'ShopRite Diwali at Times Square in association with Samman for all' held the Press conference at the Consulate of India NY to commemorate the beginning of the Diwali at Times Square on October 30th at Times Square. It was attended by Media Houses, Performers, and the Sponsors of Diwali at Times Square.

The program started with Ganesh Pooja followed by Diya Lighting Ceremony and Presentation by Neeta Bhasin, Founder of Diwali at Times Square where she shared the details of the upcoming festival. Sponsors like Shoprite and American Airlines spoke of the significance and importance of cultural event as big as Diwali at Times Square and its impact on the community. Mr. Vipul Dev, Consul of Politics and PIC congratulated Neeta Bhasin for promoting the art and culture of India from Times Square.



Founder of Diwali at Times Square, Neeta Bhasin welcomed and shared the birth and growth of the event. "Understanding different cultures makes us realize that the basic tenets of all cultures are the same. However, the difference in expression is what enriches the tapestry of our lives.", she said



Mr. Vipul Dev, Consul, Political and PIC deputized for the Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal who was caught up in travel

Our objective this year is to bring the light of positivity in the lives of people especially since the dark gloom of the pandemic has engulfed us. Through this event, we want to uplift the spirit of the community and share the message of love, togetherness, inclusion, and diversity.

"ShopRite Diwali at Times Square" in association with the non-profit "Samman for All" is displaying the rich 'Colors of India' via its art and culture right in the heart of Times Square on October 30, 2021, starting at 1:00pm EST.

According to the founder of Diwali at

Times Square, Neeta Bhasin, "Understanding different cultures makes us realize that the basic tenets of all cultures are the same. However, the difference in expression is what enriches the tapestry of our lives."

The celebration continues throughout the day into the evening with the traditional Diwali custom of 'Diya (Lamp) Lighting' ceremony on stage which will also be projected on the tallest billboard in Times Square followed by a rousing musical extravaganza - 'The Light Up Times Square' concert with international singer Jay Sean and other performers will be entertaining people with their superhit songs.

Due to its resounding success in the past years, the festival has also garnered praise and recognition by various media outlets as well as the US Government as being one of the largest Indian festivals outside of India.

This year, Diwali at Times Square has an association with 'Samman for all' not-for-profit organization. Director of 'Samman for All' said 'Our goal is to help people achieve a dignified living - a life that they can call their own. We wish this Diwali brighten the lives of people'.

"Diwali is an integral part of our cultural heritage. It represents our values, traditions, diversity and thought. Diwali at Times Square brings people from all walks of life together to celebrate the festival of Diwali. We would like to congratulate the Producer, Mrs. Neeta Bhasin, for meaningfully promoting Indian culture and our universal ideas in the US." Said Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India NY,

The ShopRite stated 'South Asian community is a very important part of our community, and we want everyone to taste the Diwali Celebration with Shoprite. We look forward to celebrating the festival of Delight at Times Square this year!!

Harry Singh Bolla, President & C.E.O, Bolla Oil Corp "I know how Diwali is a cheerful and nostalgic festival! It reminds me of happy times from my childhood. "Let's come together and celebrate Diwali at Times Square on October 30 and cherish all the good times"

Special thanks to our Title Sponsor ShopRite, Airline Partner American Airline, Diya (Lamp) Lighting with the countdown partner Bolla Market and our sponsors Northwell Health, Northlandz, State bank of India and Nazranaa.

Samman for All. mission is to facilitate people from the lower-economic strata to achieve their dreams by providing them with tools for sustainable living.

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(Based on a Press Release issued by Harsh Sinha)



Media persons, Performers, and Sponsors of Diwali at Times Square with Consul Vipul Dev and DATS organizers led by Neeta Bhasin



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## AS I SEE IT

## The hunter gets captured by the game: Aryan Khan, Sameer Wankhede and a political slugfest



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan. Criticism grows after Narcotics Control Bureau arrests Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan during a raid on a cruise ship.

Following the arrest of superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son in a drugs-related case, allegations of professional and personal impropriety have been made against Sameer Wankhede, the officer heading the investigation. Alok Deshpande reports on the events of the last three weeks which have grown into a political slugfest.

In the wee hours of October 3, a crowd gathered outside the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) office in south Mumbai. When an officer stepped out of the building and under the glare of television cameras, reporters, hungry for bites, pounced on him, many almost pushing their mikes into his mouth. "Yes, we have taken eight to 10 people in our custody," said the officer; Sameer Wankhede, Mumbai Zonal Director of the NCB. "Investigation is in progress."

"Eight or 10?" a reporter demanded to know, but this voice got lost in the volley of questions that were being thrown at the officer. Little did anyone in that crowd know that this question would haunt the NCB in general and Wankhede in particular in the coming days. But that is for later.

On that day, the famed NCB officer had everything under control. Aryan Khan, the 23-year-old son of Shah Rukh Khan, who is one of the biggest film stars in the world, was sitting inside the NCB office. He and his friends Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha were being probed by the agency for alleged drug abuse on board the Cordelia cruise ship the day before, at a party organized by Fashion TV. Of the 1,300 guests at the party, the NCB had picked up a few youngsters, later alleging that they were part of an international drug racket. The arrests of the three accused immediately caught the country's attention. But no one would have expected it to spiral into what it has become today - a bewildering story of accusations and counteraccusations involving politicians, government servants and Bollywood stars.

### In the limelight

Wankhede's brush with fame, glamour and controversy is neither new nor surprising. The 2008-batch Indian Revenue Service officer from the Customs and Central Excise branch was posted at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai from 2010 to 2013. In

2011, he made headlines when, as Assistant Commissioner of Customs, he imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on none other than Shah Rukh Khan, who had returned from a family holiday in Holland and London, for excess luggage.

Besides Shah Rukh Khan, Minissha Lamba and Anushka Sharma and team members of Katrina Kaif, Bipasha Basu, Ranbir Kapoor, Vivek Oberoi, Anurag Kashyap and Mika Singh have come under Wankhede's radar during his stint at the airport and then at the Service Tax department for reportedly not declaring imported valuables such as watches, perfumes and footwear.

Many say they were surprised when Wankhede went to the National Investigation Agency on deputation in 2013. In 2017, he was assigned to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. "What attracted the attention of many and resulted in him being deputed to the NCB was that he had a wide network of informants," an official with the NCB says on the condition of anonymity.

In 2020, Wankhede began to probe the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. It all began on June 14 when Rajput, 34, was found dead at his Bandra home. The Mumbai Police began an investigation stating that the death was being treated as a suicide. The autopsy report confirmed that the actor had died by suicide. Nevertheless, an unprecedented political storm occurred in the wake of his death, with the Bihar Assembly elections scheduled to take place a few months later. Rajput was a native of Bihar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saw an opportunity to denounce the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, especially the Shiv Sena. Senior BJP leaders alleged that Rajput had been murdered and that the incident was being covered up to protect an influential, young leader of the Sena. An FIR was registered in Bihar. The allegations, all made without any evidence, received extraordinary media coverage. Rajput's girlfriend and actor Rhea Chakraborty was blamed for his death and was then accused of killing him. Following the BJP's claims, which were aided by Rajput's family members, central investigating agencies were brought in to probe the case. A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation questioned all those related to Rajput, including Chakraborty. In July 2020, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a money laundering case based on the FIR registered in Bihar and the allegations made by Rajput's father against Chakraborty. According to sources, the ED's audit showed references to drugs in Chakraborty's WhatsApp chats. And so, the NCB was brought in.

On August 31, 2020, Wankhede, who was in the DRI, was inducted into the NCB for six months. The NCB categorically denies that he was brought in especially for the Rajput case. A statement issued by Mutha Ashok Jain, Deputy Director General,

South West region, NCB, read, "The vacancy circular for filling the post of ZD/DD was initiated in the year 2019. Sh. Sameer Wankhede applied for the post of ZD in NCB on deputation on 28.11.2019 through DG, DRI. The application was forwarded to NCB on 27.08.2020 by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. Sh. Sameer Wankhede, IRS was inducted as Zonal Director, Mumbai on 31.08.2020 on loan basis for the period of six months."

Within a week of taking charge, Wankhede arrested Chakraborty, despite finding no drugs on her, purely on the basis of her WhatsApp chats which the agency then claimed were related to procuring narcotics for Rajput. The NCB's investigations based on WhatsApp chats didn't end there. Actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh were also questioned in connection with an alleged drug racket in Bollywood. Kshitij Prasad, former employee at Dharmatic Entertainment, the digital arm of Dharma Productions, was arrested by the NCB. When he was later granted bail, Prasad claimed that the NCB led by Wankhede had harassed him and coerced him to falsely implicate actors Ranbir Kapoor, Dino Morea and Arjun Rampal. The NCB denied the claim.

With Wankhede's arrival, the NCB's drive to 'clean up' Bollywood seemed to gain momentum. "Messages used to go to certain reporters well before the NCB would go to interrogate a celebrity," a journalist working with a leading private television channel says. WhatsApp chats were leaked to sections of the media, which helped create a narrative against the accused. An agency which was earlier investigating and probing drug cartels and suppliers started making headlines for probing alleged drug users, most of them celebrities, who were found in possession of small quantities of drugs or none at all. Reacting to the criticism that was being directed against him, Wankhede simply said he was following the law.

The officer who had come to the NCB on "loan basis" for six months has till now received two extensions. Since Wankhede's induction, the NCB has set a record by arresting over 300 people. The agency claims it has dismantled around 12 drug gangs in Mumbai and Goa. But sources point out that none of the high-profile cases have stood scrutiny in court; in many cases, even the charge-sheets have not been filed. That WhatsApp chats alone are being used as evidence against celebrities has come under the scanner too.

Wankhede has said in interviews that his mother worked for street children and his father, who is from the uniformed services, always wanted to see him work for the nation. All these personal details have added to his image as a daredevil officer.

### Nawab Malik's salvos

Wankhede's actions were countered for the first time when the NCB arrested comedian Bharti Singh and her husband



BY ALOK DESHPANDE

**The Aryan Khan case has created ripples everywhere and brought many under the scanner. The son of the famous actor may be out on bail, but with Malik continuing to make allegations against Wankhede and the officer now running to court for protection, the show is yet to get over.**

Haarsh Limbachiya in November 2020 and allegedly seized 86.5 grams of ganja from their home and office. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Minister for Minority Affairs and Skills Development Nawab Malik said then that drug addicts should be sent to rehabilitation centers and not jail. "The NCB's duty is to track down drug traffickers but no action is being taken against them," said Malik, a five-time MLA who is close to NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Two months later, on January 13, 2021, messages were sent to reporters about a "high-profile" interrogation at the NCB office. The accused, the reporters found out on rushing there, was Sameer Khan, Malik's son-in-law. On January 9, the NCB had seized 200 kilograms of marijuana and arrested British national Karan Sejnani and two sisters - Rahila and Shaista Furniturewala - from Bandra. Sameer was summoned by the NCB after an alleged online transaction of ₹20,000 between him and Sejnani was found. Asked for his reaction then, Malik had said, "Law will take its due course and justice will prevail. I respect and have immense faith in our judiciary." Sameer remained in jail for nearly eight months.

Months later, Malik paid keen attention to the visuals that were flashing on television screens of some men with Aryan Khan inside the NCB office. Malik decided to hear what Wankhede was saying in front of the camera. "He said 'eight to 10 are in our custody'. What is this? A joke? It is either eight or 10. An officer always knows how many are in custody," Malik said.

Malik's eyes were also drawn to the footage of a bearded man on the cruise ship where Aryan Khan was also present. "An officer with a styled beard?" he wondered. Around the same time when Malik's suspicions rose, a bald and hefty man's selfie with Aryan Khan went viral on social media. Wankhede, who was now unknowingly being sucked into a whirlpool, quickly responded that the person in the photo was not an NCB officer. The media ran the clarification. But Malik decided to dig deeper. A photo search on Google led him to K.P. Gosavi, an accused in a cheating case in Pune. Through Gosavi, and using his own network of contacts in the Gujarati trading

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community, Malik also identified the bearded man on the ship as Manish Bhanushali, a BJP worker. Malik knew he had got hold of something.

Malik, who Wankhede says harbors a personal grudge against him, does not deny his past altercations with team Wankhede. He says he was quiet when his son-in-law was arrested as he believed that the law would take its course. But when the judiciary found no evidence against Sameer Khan and the court order stated that what was seized was herbal tobacco, he decided to speak out, he said. He alleged that the NCB had framed his son-in-law.

Following these revelations, the NCB aggressively defended the use of Gosavi and Bhanushali as independent witnesses on the first day of allegations and even hinted that Malik's outburst was due to personal reasons.

Undeterred, Malik then addressed Wankhede's vague statement that "eight to 10 people" had been detained. He said that 11 people, in fact, had been detained by the NCB during the October 2 raid but three of them - BJP leader Mohit Kamboj's brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdev, Pratik Gabha and Amir Furniturewala - were let off.

Malik kept the heat up on Wankhede. Two days later, he raised questions about the involvement of a man cited by the NCB as an independent witness in as many as three cases. The NCP leader also took to Twitter to post a screenshot of an Instagram picture of Fletcher Patel with a woman described as "lady don". The woman in the picture is Yasmeen Wankhede, Sameer Wankhede's sister. A few days later, Malik claimed that Wankhede was extorting money from Bollywood celebrities by threatening them and released photos of the NCB official's trip to the Maldives.

Malik also alleged that Wankhede is originally Muslim and used a fake caste certificate to get his government job. On

the same day, another independent witness, Prabhakar Sail, who was a bodyguard of K.P. Gosavi, filed an affidavit claiming that the NCB had demanded ₹25 crore from Shah Rukh Khan of which ₹8 crore was to go to Wankhede. Sail also said that Wankhede asked him to sign on blank papers. The next day, Malik released the 'nikahnama' of Wankhede's first marriage with Shabana Qureishi where the officer's father's name is mentioned as Dawood instead of Dnyandev as per his caste certificate. The Qazi who officiated the marriage in question said that both families involved in the wedding were



NCB officer Sameer Wankhede - File photo

Muslims.

The NCB has been on a defensive mode. For the first time, it has been forced to issue a string of clarifications. Things came to a head with Sail's affidavit which left the NCB with no option but to form a five-member vigilance team to probe the allegations against Wankhede. The NCB's Deputy Director General (Northern Region), Gyaneshwar Singh, appealed to Sail to come and depose in front of the agency, but Sail has gone underground.

**Facing the heat**

Meanwhile, the NCB officer's family says they are being harassed and have been receiving threats ever since Malik claimed that Wankhede's caste certificate is fraudulent. Wankhede says he is Hindu by birth and was married to Qureishi under the Special Marriage Act. "The nikahnama

was done as my late mother, who was a Muslim, wanted Islamic rituals," he said. His father claims that he never converted to Islam and was lovingly called Dawood by his wife.

Wankhede's wife Kranti Redkar-Wankhede, an actor, has also denied all the allegations. She says Wankhede is a Hindu and an honest officer. She has written to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray demanding "justice" while invoking her Marathi roots.

"I do not have a problem with him being a Muslim or a person from any other religion. We have the freedom to practice the religion of our choice. However, Wankhede, by faking his caste certificate, has denied the right of a hard-working child from the Scheduled Caste community by usurping a seat," Malik said.

Malik's tweets every morning have kept the pot boiling for the NCB. The BJP has targeted Malik, claiming that the MVA government has been working hard to save Shah Rukh Khan's son. BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar complained to the Kurla Police station alleging that Malik, by claiming that Wankhede was a Muslim, was creating communal disharmony. Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale held a press conference where he termed Malik's allegations baseless. "Wankhede is a Dalit officer, who is doing good work... and it is not right to target him," he said.

**A political slugfest**

Following Rajput's death as well as the bomb scare in Antilia in February this year, where a car laden with explosives was found parked near the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, the BJP strongly advocated the use of central agencies for investigations claiming that the Maharashtra Police were being misused by the MVA government. The Union government ensured that central probe agencies took control of the

investigations in these cases. All three parties in the MVA government have alleged several times that the BJP is using central agencies to tarnish the State's image and destabilize the government.

The BJP's outburst against Malik came after he exposed the party's direct connection with the Aryan Khan case. The party could not deny Bhanushali's presence during the raid. BJP leader Mohit Kamboj, whose brother-in-law was let off by the NCB, has threatened to file a defamation suit against Malik.

After spending more than three weeks in jail, Aryan Khan was granted bail on October 28. Gosavi, who was on the run after his identity was revealed, has now been arrested by the Pune Police in a 2018 cheating case. Bhanushali is nowhere to be found. Wankhede has approached the Bombay High Court seeking protection from possible arrest by the Mumbai Police on the charge of extortion. A departmental inquiry has been initiated against him too.

In the midst of the political slugfest, social media has flared up with one section supporting Shah Rukh Khan and the other, Wankhede. Several social media accounts have been running hashtags personally targeting Shah Rukh Khan, demanding rejection of bail to his son and calling for a boycott of all the products he endorses. Attacks were also mounted against Malik using hashtags such as #SendNawabMalikToJail.

In the blockbuster film Om Shanti Om, Shah Rukh Khan's character famously says, 'Picture abhi baaki hai, mere dost (The show is yet to get over, my friend)'. The Aryan Khan case has created ripples everywhere and brought many under the scanner. The son of the famous actor may be out on bail, but with Malik continuing to make allegations against Wankhede and the officer now running to court for protection, the show is yet to get over.

**SATYAMEVA JAYATE - LET THE TRUTH PREVAIL**

BY RAJENDER  
DICHPALLY

Just consider this scenario. A 23-year-old man is being shifted from court to court and incarcerated for a crime which has not even been proved. He has been treated like a hard-core criminal, a history sheeter, confined to custody and denied bail for 25 days. Yes, I am talking about the young lad Aryan Khan whose only crime (not proved conclusively) was that he had consumed a minuscule quantity of a particular drug.

If this logic was applied then probably scores of youngsters residing in our campuses and children of businessmen, politicians and other celebrities should also be put behind bars.

**In Aryan's defense the following unassailable arguments emerge:**

1. No drugs were recovered from him
2. Alleged WhatsApp chats unconnected to the current case are being used as

evidence. This logic is absurd and a clear case of subversion of facts.

3. Even if true, allegations pertain to 'small quantity' and 'consumption' only. And these 'offences' no way calls for this kind of harsh punishment.
4. Aryan has no criminal antecedents - his record is absolutely clean.
5. There is no likelihood of Aryan fleeing.

As per the above logic there is absolutely no valid reason to deny the youngster bail. Can the dispensers of justice pause to think what kind of an impact this torture will have on the young man's psyche. It will leave him scarred for life and make people doubt the efficacy and neutrality of the judicial system in our country.

Indian law believes in the dictum that a person is innocent till proven guilty. In Aryan's case he is being treated as guilty till proven innocent. Why this gross travesty of justice? Contrast Aryan's case with that of Ashish Sharma. Ashish, the Minister of State for Home Ajay Sharma's son mowed down 8 innocent farmers who were protesting peacefully in broad daylight and bolted. He has not been brought to justice despite a nationwide furor and clinching evidence.

In our country it is always a case of different strokes for different folks!

I would also like to point out the reaction of Aryan's family. They have behaved with such dignity. Shah Rukh Khan could have created a media frenzy using his super star status. But he has set an example of grace even in the face of the toughest crisis impacting his family. Aryan himself has behaved in an impeccable manner.

Often, as per our judicial system, people in custody are 'given' some kind of a benefit for good behavior. Shouldn't Aryan at least be given bail on the condition he will report regularly to the authorities? Shouldn't a youngster be united with his family after undergoing torture for so long. Or should he be punished because his father is a superstar with a mind of his own?

Our country has always believed in the dictum 'Satyameva Jayate'. Should this glorious ethos be allowed to be further sullied by the powers that be whose hands are tainted by the blood of the innocents in their quest for votes and their lust for power?

I am amazed at the circus that this issue has created diverting the nation's attention from more pressing issues that need to be



Aryan Khan in NCB custody

addressed. The economy is in doldrums, the unemployment rate is the highest since data has been collected. There are serious issues of National Security due to the confrontation with China but the media and this circus has diverted the nation away from serious issues that need to be discussed and addressed immediately. This has been the modus operandi of the Government/ Modi Media for last couple of years. Whenever there is a serious issue facing the nation, the issue is diverted to other news that is given high media visibility and main issues sidetracked and diverted. This is very sorry state of affairs and people should realize that they are being taken for a ride by the Government and the media that is supporting this government in this endeavor.

(The author is National General Secretary-Indian Overseas Congress USA. He can be reached at dichpally@aol.com)



# VIRGINIA WILL GO RED ON NOV 3, 2021...!!



BY DAVE MAKKAR

Unlike other state governors, Virginia governors are not allowed to serve consecutive terms. They have been barred from immediate re-election since the adoption of Virginia's second constitution, in 1830. However, a former governor is permitted to run for a second term in a future election.

Since 1830, only Mills Godwin, was elected to additional term. Godwin also became the first ever governor in American history to be elected by both major parties when the former Democrat Governor (1966-70) was re-elected in 1973 as a Republican.

Virginia has another tradition, for nearly 50 years, with two exceptions; in 1973 when Governor House & White House was with Republicans and in 2013 McAuliffe (D) got elected when Obama (D) was in White House. Virginians have elected governors from the opposite party of the one that controlled the White House. They seem to favor a balance between state and national politics.

The state population has boomed, it is up by 38 percent since 1990. One in 10 people eligible to vote in the state were born outside the United States, up from 01 in 28 in 1990.

For years, Virginia has shifted more Democratic and since after the election of (D) Gov. Ralph Northam in 2018, it has become a solid blue state. According to Amy Walter, national editor of The Cook Political Report, which provides analysis of elections and races; in 2018 Democrats succeeded in places where they didn't in 2006, but also they did well in places that 10 years ago we never would have considered competitive." It has not voted Republican in a presidential election since 2004 and it has not elected a Republican to any statewide office since 2009.

Large swaths of Virginia are still very conservative and Trump is popular in those places. In 2016, he won 93 of Virginia's 133 counties, but it wasn't enough to take the state & lost to Clinton by 5.4%. In 2020 election, Biden won Virginia with 54.11% of the vote, and by a margin of 10.11%, the best performance for a Democratic presidential candidate since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

This year the contest for Governorship is between a political newcomer and a businessman Glenn Allen Youngkin on the Republican side and former Democrat Gov. Terrence Richard McAuliffe.

Terry McAuliffe is a lifelong carrier American politician and better known as consigliere to the Clinton family, few people epitomize establishment socialism better than Terry McAuliffe. He was the 72nd Gov. of VA from 2014 to 2018, chairman of Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and Chair of DNC from 2001 to 2005. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination

## VIRGINIA WILL TURN RED ON NOV. 3, 2021



## BY ELECTING GLENN YOUNGKIN AS GOVERNOR WINSOME SEARS AS Lt GOVERNOR

in the 2009 VA Gov. elections. If he wins the 2021 election, he would become the first VAGov. since Mills Godwin in 1973 to serve two non-consecutive terms.

McAuliffe had his bachelor's degree from the Catholic University of America. After graduating worked for President Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign, becoming the national finance director at age 22. Following the campaign, he attended Georgetown University Law Center, where he obtained his Juris Doctor degree. He is married to his wife, Dorothy (American attorney), for 33 years and the couple has five children.

Glenn Youngkin is an American businessman, prior to entering politics, he has spent 25 years at the private-equity firm The Carlyle Group, rising to become its Co-CEO. He is an alumnus of Rice University, Harvard University & Harvard Business School. He is married to his wife, Suzanne, for 27 years and the couple has four children. Suzanne is the founder of Normandy Farms and the President of the Phos Foundation. She is a member of the Meadowlark Retreat Center's Board of Directors and the Shakespeare Theatre Company. She is also a member of the Equine Medical Center's Advisory Council at Virginia Tech. She not only supports her husband's policies, also handles issues in the campaign.

Youngkin, who retired from Carlyle in September 2020, described leaving because he felt "called into public service." His friends say Youngkin's rise up the professional ladder hasn't changed him and he remains down to earth, hardworking and humble.

Right from the beginning McAuliffe has made tying Youngkin to Trump the central attack of his campaign, hoping to link the Republican to a former President who lost VA in both 2016 and 2020. He was banking on that voters' distaste for Trump will be enough to weigh Youngkin down. Other than that McAuliffe has focused on his record from his previous term, but he never offered much of an argument as to why he deserves a second term. He attacks Trump with a passion but avoids talking about his friend for 4 decades President Biden, whom he helped carry Virginia by 10 points just a year ago.

In his effort to tie Youngkin with Trump, he was supported by President Biden on July 28, 2021. Biden said in the rally that, "Terry and I share a lot in common. I ran against Donald Trump and so is Terry. And I whipped Donald Trump

in Virginia and so will Terry," McAuliffe said in Arlington. "I tell you what, the guy Terry is running against is an acolyte of Donald Trump -- for real." McAuliffe, also calls Youngkin a "Trump wannabe."

By August, McAuliffe had a 12 points (46-38) lead over Republican Youngkin in VA Gov. race, according to a Roanoke College poll. On SEP 17, 2021 during the first election debate, McAuliffe made it clear that Virginia has rejected Donald Trump and his right-wing agenda and will reject Glenn Youngkin this November.

On the other hand, Youngkin's campaign had a sluggish start but later on moved into high gear. With no experience as a candidate, and few insider connections or public political views. Youngkin started proving to be a natural campaigner, both connecting with voters and deftly seizing on dissatisfaction with Richmond and Washington. Even GOP lawmaker who were not too supportive, started coming around on Youngkin, after seeing his ability to connect with people as his best attribute. Eventually he got the support of 94% of Republicans in the state.

He started targeting concerns among moderate and swing voters in Northern Virginia about crime, taxes and spending. His support for the police, pledge to protect police officers against individual lawsuits, and effort to paint Democrats as anti-law enforcement were among the issues that forced the voters to take him as a serious challenger.

The voters started responding to his pitch, that I'll be honest, I'm not a politician. I am a businessman who's spent the last 30 years raising my family in Virginia, I firmly believe Virginia should be the best and I'm ready to join together with hard working Virginians to make it happen.

He wants to divide parents from their kids' classrooms

He wants to remove law enforcement from our communities

He wants to divide Virginia

I refuse to let it happen, that's why I'm reaching out to Virginians. I firmly believe conservative policies can bring us together and create a country that will thrive for generations to come.

Youngkin spokesperson Matt Wolking responded to McAuliffe's ad against Youngkin, by saying the former governor "opposes requiring a photo ID to vote, which undermines the integrity of our elections and makes it easier to cheat."

"Glenn Youngkin will restore Virginia's photo ID law and make sure it is easy for every eligible person to vote and harder to cheat," Wolking said. "As an American, Glenn Youngkin is absolutely right that in order for Virginia to do well economically, the foundations of our country must be strong, including confidence in the integrity of our elections and Americans' willingness to accept the results of our democratic process."

On September 28, McAuliffe in a debate with Youngkin, was asked to address parental complaints about sexually explicit books and curricula, McAuliffe said: "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach." After the debate on Sep. 30, 2021 Roanoke College Poll was released, showing McAuliffe's lead came down to 7 points over Youngkin from 12 points in early Aug. 2021.

Within hours, Team Youngkin made McAuliffe's quote world famous, via TV ads, social media, Twitter and widespread news coverage.

A Youngkin spot soon showed McAuliffe, on video, repeatedly stating the same position:

"You don't want parents coming in, in every different school jurisdiction."

Regarding school agendas: "First of all, this is determined by the State Board of Education and local school boards. And that's where it should be."

"You do not want 25 parents picking books."

"We have a Board of Ed, and we have local school boards who make the decisions about teaching."

"I'm not going to let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decision."

This brought Youngkin and Virginia Gov. election on the Map of America. The Parental involvement is becoming a potent National Issue in the education of their children and it is gaining traction in all major cities of America.

White fathers and mothers hate Critical Race Theory teaching their sons and daughters that they are genetic racists who must apologize for being born Caucasian. Some black parents loathe CRT for deeming their children eternally oppressed by Whites and, thus, doomed to failure. These parents have packed school board meetings to excoriate CRT, counterproductive mask and vax mandates, gender studies, and more. All of this has driven parents and other voters into the streets.

McAuliffe's colossal mistake on Sep 28th, was the final nail in the coffin of his own campaign after Biden's dismal 52% disapproval at national level because of his fiasco to allow 2 mil unauthorized migrants to enter America, high energy prices and abrupt pull out from Afghanistan by leaving its own citizens & allies and making America a laughingstock of the world. After that the race became a dead-tied at 46 to 46.



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# DIWALI STAMP IS 5 YEARS OLD

## Time to Recount How the Stamp was Won



BY INDRAJIT SALUJA  
WITH BIDISHA ROY

The iconic Diwali Stamp which took years in the embryo, got delivered on October 5, 2016, thanks to the relentless efforts of Ranju Batra, assisted and supported by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney who introduced a bill in the Congress for a Diwali Stamp, and many other politicians and community leaders.

On October 5 this year, the Diwali Stamp has completed 5 years. Happy Birthday to the Diwali Stamp!

The day became very special for millions of Indians living in the USA. It was a moment of great pride for every single Indian American to stand and be counted at the Indian Consulate in New York City at the first day-of-issue dedication ceremony of the 'Diwali stamp.'

The day calls for a recall of how the daunting task was accomplished.

The commemorative stamp release was actually a 7-year "saga" of relentless journey of Diwali Stamp Project Chair Ranju Batra who had, despite all odds, persevered and won for 1.3 billion

Indians a US Diwali commemorative stamp. In her journey Ranju got overwhelming support from the community and everyone was ecstatic to be part of the history making. The 'fight' for a Diwali stamp became part of her daily life. Wherever she went, whomsoever she met - be it President Obama or Prime Minister Modi - she persuaded for the stamp as she felt though Diwali holds a great significance for many Americans and well over a billion people across the globe, the United States Postal Service has not recognized this beautiful festival of lights with a commemorative stamp, although it has done so for other major religious and cultural holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid.

How was the journey? "As many of you know, I was determined to succeed in my goal to get the USPS to issue a Diwali Stamp, knowing all others had tried and given up. I spent nearly 7 years chasing it - peacefully, and using only inclusive and respectful means. Along the way, I got a lot of help from a lot of people, regular and powerful. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney accepted my invitation to partner with me - so that there would be a stamp not only for Hanukkah, Christmas, Eid, and Kwanza, but also for Diwali. I even sought support from PM Modi and President Obama", recalls Ranju.

Ranju's strongest supporter was her husband Ravi Batra, Chair of the National Advisory Council of South Asian Affairs. But Initially Ravi was skeptical about the success of the hard task.

"From Day 1, when Ranju told me she wanted to work to get United States Postal Service to issue a Diwali Stamp, I discouraged her, as it was an insurmountable task, with no clear path for success", says Ravi. But Ranju was unstoppable. "If Ranju wants to do something, nothing is going to stop her.



Diwali Stamp is inaugurated at the Indian Consulate in New York, October 5, 2016. Seen the picture, among others are Hardip Singh Puri then India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and now Union in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet (left foreground), Consul General of India Riva Ganguly Das (first left), Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney (second left), Congresswoman Grace Meng (third right), Ranju Batra, (second right), Ravi Batra (right foreground) - Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

She told me in no uncertain terms, she was going to work for it, and not stop until she succeeded - with or without me. So, after some time, I got in line to be supportive, and when she wanted my involvement. Luckily, she did most of the heavy lifting - all be her lonesome self. Many of our dear friends helped. Key supporters among the notables were: then-Amb. Hardeep Singh Puri, Amb. Lakshmi Puri, C.G. Dnyaneshwar Mulay wrote the Official Poem for the Diwali Stamp Project, and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney accepted Ranju's invitation to partner with her to provide national political leadership."

Ranju even asked PM Modi to help and wrote to then-President Barack Obama. She designed numerous paper petitions and got all her friends to sign. She got strangers to sign. She even got diplomats of numerous countries and the families to sign. She carried Petitions with her wherever she went, by incorporating it into her daily life. She would get them signed, and then mail them to USPS. In fact, USPS acknowledged in writing that her singular campaign of constantly mailing these paper petitions finally tipped the balance - not all the other stuff that was said and done.

In her journey Ranju had another 'partner' in Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) who also relentlessly fought for this cause as she felt that 'a relatively small action would hold great meaning for millions of people.' On January 14, 2015, Congresswoman Maloney introduced H. Res. 32, urging the USPS to issue a commemorative holiday stamp for Diwali. For several years, Congresswoman Maloney has headed efforts in Congress to push the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to consider issuing a commemorative Diwali stamp. In 2013, Congresswoman Maloney introduced H.Res. 47, expressing the sense of the

U.S. House of Representatives that the CSAC should issue a Diwali stamp. The bill had 46 cosponsors. Maloney wrote letters to the CSAC in 2010 and 2012 requesting the same action.

"Until the stamp was issued, Diwali was the only major holiday for which there was no stamp. There are stamps issued for Christmas, Hannukah, Eid and Kwanzaa, but for some incomprehensible reason, Diwali was never honored. I knew that needed to change. Over the years that we worked for the stamp, we held countless meetings and public events to raise awareness about effort. I introduced three Congressional resolutions in support of a Diwali stamp. We had letter writing campaigns and meetings with postal officials including Postmaster General Brennan. Finally, with the help of the PMG we were successful", Maloney told The Indian Panorama.

And finally, the day came. United States Postal Service released the Diwali Forever stamp at the Indian consulate on Oct 5, 2016. The Consulate probably has never seen before such huge crowd, as on this very special and historic day. The rooms were packed to capacity, with many people standing to watch the proceedings. There were endless lines of people eager to buy Diwali Stamps. USPS ran short of the stamps. Some of those who had already paid also were disappointed, as they could not get the stamps.

Incidentally, Congresswoman Maloney at a Diwali celebration in Washington, D.C. to honor the lawmakers of Indian origin, October 26, said she would move to have the Diwali day as a federal holiday. Thank you, Maloney for your love of Diwali, the Indian American community and India.

The stamp design is a photograph featuring a traditional diya oil lamp



Diwali Stamp made its way to the United Nations. Ranju Batra is seen addressing the gathering of diplomats and community leaders at the UN, December 11, 2017. - Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia



CONTD FROM PAGE 12



beautifully lit, sitting on a sparkling gold background. Diya lamps are usually made from clay with cotton wicks dipped in a clarified butter known as "ghee" or in vegetable oils.

Sally Andersen-Bruce of New Milford, CT, photographed the diya. Greg Breeding of Charlottesville, VA, designed the stamp and William J. Gicker of Washington, DC, served as the project's art director. The Diwali stamp was issued as a Forever stamp. This Forever stamp is always equal to the value of the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.



Ambassadors, including India's Ambassador to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin, light the lamp at the United Nations, December 11, 2017 - Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Ranju did another miracle. "In 10 days between being informed that the Diwali Stamp would issue and its dedication, she was granted an exclusive status to pre-sell the Stamp on USPS behalf. And in 10 short days, she personally sold over 170,000 Diwali Stamps! She beat USPS' top seller -Batman stamp, to make our Diwali Stamp the #1 best seller in USPS history of over 200 years!", says proud Ravi.

On December 5, 2016, Ranju was honored and the Diwali Stamp was

recognized by 24 nations led by Belarus' now-Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Dapkiunas, along with Georgia and India as Co-Organizers, and with Co-Sponsors - Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cyprus, France, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malta, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Permanent Observer State of Palestine, and International Atomic Energy Agency-NY.

## Now that the Diwali Stamp is five years old, how does it feel?

For Ranju, Diwali Stamp's celebration is not of a religion, not of a nation, but it is of the spirit of harmonious inclusiveness and cultural understanding that all religions deserve. "While my journey took 7 years, Diwali Stamp is here FOREVER, and it will be a matter of pride for generations to come, not only because it is a Forever Stamp, but because we did it together - with the support of every faith - because all of us are entitled to a better and peaceful tomorrow, no matter where we were born, and no matter how we pray. In this digital age a small piece of paper called - Diwali Stamp - celebrates the living heritage of over 1 billion people - actually, has brought together all 7 billion of us as one human family! "

Ravi salutes Ranju's unbeatable quest to get an American Holiday for generations yet unborn. "As many have noted, and I wholeheartedly agree: generations yet unborn will celebrate Diwali as an American Holiday, thanks to Ranju's unbeatable quest to get it. Not bad for a gentle soul that Ranju is. This Stamp makes every Diwali-celebrant "at home" in America; we belong - more than just due to our passport - as we embroider America to be even more beautiful and help Good beat Evil. If I may, I am proud of Ranju, as she has not only enhanced our family, but has enhanced each one of us. That 24 nations came together, led by Belarus' now-DFM Andrei Dapkiunas - as an outgrowth from a dinner hosted by Georgia's PR Kaha Innadze. in 2016 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations to honor Ranju's amazing quest - using the highest ideals of the UN - was an honor I will never forget. Both Belarus and Georgia exhibited the finest principle - of respect of a good person and a different faith - and they did it selflessly and with warmest affection. Humanity, as its best."

For Maloney, this effort was about far more than just the issuance of a postage stamp though. "It is a celebration of the triumph of good over evil, lightness of over dark, and knowledge over ignorance. These virtues are more relevant than ever, and we can all become better people by embracing these values with one another. I could not be more proud to have played a role in this achievement and am grateful that the Hindu and Sikh communities have finally received the recognition and honor they deserve."

The Diwali stamp will be a matter of pride for generations to come!!

Happy Diwali!

(With inputs from a story published in The Indian Panorama in 2019, commemorating 3 years of the Diwali Stamp)



A celebration at City Hall, New York - Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia





# Indian American astronaut Raja Chari all set to lead NASA's next mission



Astronaut Raja Chari is all set to lead NASA's next mission to the International Space Station on Sunday, October 31, the Halloween Day, on his very first space flight.

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American Astronaut Raja Chari is all set to lead NASA's next mission to the International Space Station on Sunday, October 31, the Halloween Day, on his very first space flight.

The third operational crewed flight of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, called Crew-3, is slated to lift off before dawn on Oct. 31 from Pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 2:21 a.m. EDT.

If all goes as planned, after a 22-hour journey, Crew Dragon will be in position

to rendezvous and dock with the space station at 12:10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 1.

Strapped inside the gumball-shaped SpaceX capsule will be NASA astronauts Raja Chari, Tom Marshburn, and Kayla Barron, along with German astronaut Matthias Maurer from the European Space Agency (ESA).

As commander of the Crew Dragon spacecraft and the Crew-3 mission, Chari, 44, is responsible for all phases of flight, from launch to re-entry, according to a NASA press release. He also will serve as an Expedition 66 flight engineer aboard the station.

This will be the first spaceflight for Chari, who was selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in 2017. It's also the first time a rookie commercial crew astronaut has been named mission commander.

A colonel in the US Air Force, Chari joins the mission with extensive experience as a test pilot. He has accumulated more than 2,500 hours of flight time in his career.

Chari was the commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base in California when he was selected as an astronaut. After two years of astronaut training, he went on to become the Director of the Joint Test Team for NASA's commercial crew program.

Chari was also one of the 18 astronauts selected for NASA's Artemis Team and is now eligible for assignment to a future

lunar mission. He was born in Milwaukee, but considers Cedar Falls, Iowa, his hometown.

The four astronauts are scheduled for a long duration stay aboard the orbiting laboratory, spending several months conducting science and maintenance before they return to Earth in spring 2022, according to NASA.

The Crew-3 mission will fly a new Crew Dragon spacecraft and will be the first mission to fly a previously used nosecone.

Lifting off from Launch Pad 39A on a Falcon 9 rocket, Crew Dragon will accelerate its four passengers to approximately 17,500 mph and put it on an intercept course with the International Space Station.

The Falcon 9 first stage that will be used to launch this mission flew previously on SpaceX's 22nd commercial resupply mission to the station in June 2021.

Once in orbit, the crew and SpaceX mission control will monitor a series of automatic maneuvers that will guide the Crew-3 astronauts to their new home in orbit at the forward end of the station's Harmony module.

The spacecraft is designed to dock autonomously with the ability for astronauts aboard the spacecraft to take control and pilot manually, if necessary, NASA said.

The Crew-3 astronauts will spend approximately six months aboard the

International Space Station conducting new and exciting scientific research in areas such as materials science, health technologies, and plant science to prepare for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and benefit life on Earth, NASA said.

During their stay aboard the orbiting laboratory, astronauts of Crew-3 will see cargo spacecraft including the SpaceX cargo Dragon in December and the Northrop Grumman Cygnus in early 2022.

They will also welcome two different private crews to the station, including Japanese tourists aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft at the end of 2021, and the Axiom Mission 1 crew, the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station, scheduled to launch no earlier than Feb. 21, 2022.

The Crew-3 astronauts are scheduled to conduct a series of spacewalks to outfit the station's power system in preparation for new solar arrays that will increase the station's total available power supply.

At the conclusion of the mission, Crew Dragon will autonomously undock with the four astronauts aboard, depart the space station and re-enter Earth's atmosphere.

After splashdown just off Florida's coast, a SpaceX recovery vessel will pick up the crew and bring them back to shore to board a plane for return to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

## Indian-origin UK based founder and CEO Vivek Chadha passes away

**Nirpal S Shergill**

**LONDON (TIP):** Nine Group Hotels and Investments, the UK-based company behind a series of hotel brands around the country, on Wednesday announced the sudden death of its Indian-origin founder and CEO Vivek Chadha.

The company, which paid tribute to Chadha as a "kind, supportive leader", expressed its shock and sadness at the passing away of the tycoon aged just 33 on Sunday. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed.

"It is with profound shock and sadness that we announce the death of CEO Vivek Chadha last Sunday, October 24, 2021, at the tender age of 33," the Nine Group said in a statement.

"Vivek was a force of nature, helping to grow the business into a national group of hotels and restaurants. A visionary leader, he was tireless in his dedication to the business and its customers. Vivek was also a kind, supportive leader and colleague, and the group's employees and partners from over the years will mourn his loss," the statement noted.

The company stressed that the hotelier leaves Nine Group as a strong business



Nine Group Hotels and Investments CEO Vivek Chadha, 33, passed away, October 24

and that succession plans are in place to take the business forward.

The statement notes: "Vivek leaves Nine Group as his legacy: a strong and resilient business that withstood the challenges of the pandemic and is set for further growth.

"While there will only ever be one Vivek, succession plans are in place and a combination of internal promotions and additional members of the family will continue to ensure business as usual until a new CEO is formally appointed in due course." *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

## UK BASED INDIAN-ORIGIN ARTIST'S CLIMATE ACTION FILM TO PREMIERE AT COP-26 SUMMIT IN GLASGOW

**Nirpal S Shergill**

**LONDON (TIP):** UK based Indian-origin artist and musician Soumik Datta will make his directorial debut at the COP-26 Summit in Glasgow next week when his climate action-focused 'Songs of the Earth' will be premiered.

The London-based multi-disciplinary artist won a British Council Climate Change creative commission in February to develop a film and music project in partnership with Earth Day Network.

The result is 'Songs of the Earth', an animation film accompanied by an eight-track album responding to climate change, weaving issues from climate migration, extreme weather to ocean pollution, deforestation and sustainable fashion through original narrative, songs and immersive visuals.

It had a preview at 10 Downing Street here this week, with the premiere scheduled for November 2.

"At the heart of the film and the album is a question - is our behavior as a people sustainable," says Datta.

"As consumers, many of us are part of a cycle of buying and discarding - and somehow the photos of polluted oceans, landfill mountains and toxic rivers don't always connect back to us. I'd love for



Soumik Datta will make his directorial debut at the COP-26 Summit in Glasgow next week when his climate action-focused 'Songs of the Earth' will be premiered.

young people to respond to 'Songs of the Earth' and think about how they could make small changes to the environment around them and start valuing this behavior as a measure of good citizenship - as a badge of humanity," he said.

The 24-minute-long film is animated by Indian illustrators Sachin Bhatt and Anjali Kamat and follows Asha, a young climate refugee from West Bengal, as she searches for her missing father through the flood banks of the Sundarbans delta, burning forests and melting polar ice caps.

Datta adds: "It will be the first short film I've written, scored and directed. It's something I've always wanted to do - use different aspects of my creativity within one project.

*(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*



# US-based Indian journalist narrates rise of 'phenomenal' Kamala Harris in his new book



: "Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman" that hits the stands later this month

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A new book narrating the rise of "phenomenal" US Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman to occupy this position, and in the process shattering several glass ceilings, by a Washington DC-based Indian journalist and author throws some previously unknown facts about her.

For instance, the middle name given to Harris, when she was born and which was mentioned in her birth certificate was "Iyer"-before it was changed to Devi, Chidanand Rajghatta writes in his book "Kamala Harris: Phenomenal Woman" that hits the stands later this month.

The drawing room friends of the parents of Harris at the University of California, Berkeley, when she was a child

were Lord Meghnad Desai, Amartya Sen and Ajit Singh, economists and contemporaries of former prime minister Manmohan Singh, writes the author.

Harris, 57, was born in Oakland, California on October 20, 1964. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, came from a traditional Tamil brahmin family. She immigrated to the US from India in 1958 at the age of 19 to study nutrition and endocrinology at the University of California. It's there she met Harris's father Donald Harris, an African-American from British Jamaica.

In the book, published by Harper Collins India, Rajghatta writes that Donald spent time at the Delhi School of Economics on a fellowship when Harris

was a toddler.

The book begins as a profile of Harris' mother, partly out of personal interest of Rajghatta, whose father came to the US around the same time as Shyamala Gopalan and studied agriculture and dairy science at Kansas State. The story was so fascinating that it expanded into a larger, longer narrative of Harris' growing up years, life, and career, he says.

"It is a biography of sorts, but wider in scope, examining the history of the Indian-American community (of which I'm one-with mixed-race children) and India's ties with Black America (under-reported and under-chronicled), including exchanges between Black activists such as George Washington Carver, Booker Washington, and W E B Dubois, and Mahatma Gandhi, whose aides Madeleine Slade (Mirabai) and Charlie Andrews visited Howard for lectures that influenced a civil rights activist generation before MLK Jr," Rajghatta says.

The book, which runs into more than 300 pages, also looks at the suffragette movement and the barriers and hurdles women face in political representation and ascendancy.

"For Kamala, cooking is both therapy and art," Rajghatta writes in the book.

## INDO- CANADIAN ANITA ANAND REPLACES HARJIT SINGH SAJJAN AS CANADA'S DEFENSE MINISTER



Anita Anand is Canada's new Defense Minister. She replaces Harjit Singh Sajjan who has been appointed Minister of International Development Agency

OTTAWA (TIP): Punjab-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand was on Tuesday, October 26, appointed country's new Defense Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, over a month after his Liberal Party returned power in the snap polls and amid calls for major military reforms.

Anand, 54, will replace long-time Defense Minister Indian-origin Harjit Singh Sajjan, whose handling of the military sexual misconduct crisis has been under criticism. Sajjan has been appointed Minister of International Development Agency, a report in a daily said. Anand is the second woman in Canada to be appointed Defense Minister. Brampton West's Kamal Khara, another Punjabi, has been named Minister of Seniors. Bardish Chaggar, another Indo-Canadian minister, has been dropped from the new Cabinet.

## Indian American Neera Tanden named White House staff secretary

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden, a close confidant of US President Joe Biden, has been named White House staff secretary, eight months after Republican lawmakers scuttled her nomination to another key post. Tanden, 51, a senior adviser to President Biden was named White House staff secretary on a morning staff call on Friday, October 22, the CNN reported. The White House staff secretary is a behind-the-scenes but critical role in the West Wing, responsible for managing paper flow to the President from other areas of the administration and federal government. The person filling the job has been viewed as one of the most powerful in the building, it said.



Neera Tanden has been named White House staff secretary

The appointment does not require Senate confirmation.

"The Staff Secretary role is the central nervous system of the White House and moves the decision-making process and manages a wide variety of issues for the President," the White House official said.

Tanden has "over two decades of experience in policy and management which are critical elements of the role. Her experience across domestic, economic and national security policy will be a key asset in this new role," the official said.

Tanden's appointment as White House staff secretary came eight months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.

In March, she faced a tough time for the confirmation of her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) over her past social media outbursts against several lawmakers, including those from her own Democratic Party.

In addition to her new duties, Tanden will keep her senior adviser title "and will continue to provide leadership on particular projects and initiatives," Politico reported, quoting a White House official.

She will report to White House chief of staff Ron Klain, it said.



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# Aryan Khan's detention outrages India

The Bombay High Court granted bail to Aryan Khan in the Mumbai cruise drugs case on October 28. 'Bollywood superstar SRK's son Aryan Khan arrested in drugs case,' screamed headlines on October 3, 2021, beginning a filmy saga that ultimately saw Aryan Khan cooling his heels at Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail.

He was arrested in connection with a drugs raid conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau. Helmed by zonal director Sameer Wankhede, the NCB's Mumbai unit raided a cruise ship off the city coast. Aryan Khan, along with several others, was arrested and accused of consumption and 'conspiracy', among other charges.

Since the arrest of Aryan, the Khan family has not said anything in public. However, reactions have come from a few Bollywood stars and politicians, who are outraged over his detention.

Actor Suniel Shetty asked the media to let Aryan Khan breathe and not jump to conclusions. "It is our responsibility to take care of the child," Shetty said.

Film director Pooja Bhatt wrote on Twitter, "I stand in solidarity with you. SRK. Not that you need it. But I do. This too, shall pass."

Actor Hrithik Roshan posted a heartfelt letter addressed to Aryan on Instagram. He wrote, "God is kind. He gives only the toughest ones the toughest balls to play."

Others, including directors Farah Khan and Karan Johar, were seen visiting Mannat, the Khan family's home in Mumbai's Bandra. Actor Salman Khan visited multiple times.

Among politicians, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said he was "repelled by the ghoulish epicaricacy displayed by those witch-hunting" Shah Rukh Khan.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti claimed that Aryan Khan was being targeted by law enforcement agencies because of his Muslim surname.

On being asked about the case, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said he would fight for "those who are voiceless and weak, not for those whose fathers are powerful"

Meanwhile, Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik alleged that the NCB's raid on the cruise was 'fake' and the BJP was using central agencies to "defame Maharashtra, the Maharashtra government and Bollywood." He questioned the presence during the raid of two people who allegedly have nothing to do with the NCB. One of them, he claimed, was associated with the BJP.

Mrs Funnybones, Twinkle Khanna commented on Aryan Khan's arrest by writing that it reminded her of an episode of 'Squid Game'. 'I need some heavy-duty psychotropic substances to make sense of this development,' she wrote. In an Instagram post, Khanna shared a portion of her blog post titled, 'Let the desi Squid Games begin'. Citing the example from one of the episodes of the popular South Korean drama, she wrote, "Each player is given ten marbles and must get their opponent's marbles by competing in any game of their choosing. In this episode, one of the strongest candidates is badgered and ultimately bamboozled into losing his marbles. I seem to have misplaced mine as well when I read the news about Shah Rukh Khan's son's arrest." Twinkle Khanna found it unfair that Aryan has been in jail for two weeks without any evidence against him, "While his friend was apparently carrying 6 gm of charas, there is reportedly no evidence of possession by Aryan Khan. Yet, the young boy has been languishing in Arthur Road jail for almost two weeks now."

Shah Rukh Khan's 'Raees' director Rahul Dholakia tweeted: 'Outrageous !!! You are saying there is a "possible" connection to his "international" racket based on "WhatsApp" chat recovered from his phone,



that you confiscated on a "bust" where he "had nothing" ?And you have been fishing for days and yet not found anything? #FreeAryanKhan'

The 'Veere Di Wedding' actress Swara Bhasker called it 'pure harassment'.

'Omerta' director Hansal Mehta wrote, "Marijuana/cannabis consumption is legal in many countries. It has been decriminalised in many. In our country its consumption is used more for harassment than for narcotics control. A movement like the one to abolish sec 377 is necessary to end this continuing travesty."

Actress Tanishaa Mukerji slammed the behaviour of officials, calling it harassment. She told 'Bombay Times', "I definitely think that in Aryan's case, this is harassment. More so by putting the child on a media trial! This is not real journalism, just sensationalism or Bollywood bashing as you would say. Unfortunately, people have become callous towards our stars saying things like, that these are the pros and cons to being a star kid! Really? Obviously they don't have any compassion. This country is for all of us and people should be more discerning when looking at the evidence and think what if this was happening to my child? What would I do? Is this justice?"

Director Prahlad Kakkar claims the reason for the hoopla is because Aryan is a star child. He pointed out that Aryan wasn't found to be carrying any narcotics and so wondered why he had been kept in remand. "He is being targeted because he is

Shah Rukh Khan's son, why else? There is no proof that he was carrying anything with him. They are looking at his phone, at one-year-old old messages, when he was in England and trying to tell people that he is involved in an international drug cartel. What rubbish!"

Raveena Tandon defended Aryan Khan and tweeted: "Shameful politics being played out.. it's a young mans life and future they toying with ... heartbreaking." Raveena and Shah Rukh have appeared in several films together.

Taking to Twitter, music composer Vishal Dadlani opined that Aryan's arrest is a smokescreen to distract the public from the 3000 kg Talibani drug procurement from Adani airport. "If Composers count, I am. SRK and his family are being used as a smokescreen, a soft target to distract from the 3000kg Talibani-drug haul at the Adani port, and to distract from the murder of farmers by the son of a BJP member/MLA. Straight-up," he wrote.

Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha claimed that Aryan is being "targeted" because he is SRK's son. While talking to ETimes, he said, "Shah Rukh is definitely the reason why the boy is being targeted. There are other names like Munmun Dhamecha and Arbaaz Merchant, but nobody is talking about them. The last time such a thing happened, the focus was on Deepika Padukone, although there were other names involved, and known names too, but the focus was on her only."





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# Diwali: The Hindu festival of lights

Diwali is India's most important festival of the year—a time to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Widely observed among more than a billion people from a variety of faiths across India and its diaspora, the five days of Diwali are marked by prayer, feasts, fireworks, family gatherings, and charitable giving. For some, Diwali is also the beginning of a new year.

But Diwali is perhaps best known as a festival of lights. Derived from the Sanskrit *dipavali*, which means “row of lights,” Diwali is known for the brightly burning clay lamps that celebrants line up outside their homes.

In some regions of the country, Diwali is marked as the day when Lord Ram, along with wife Sita and brother Lakshman, returned to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.

Diwali also coincides with Kali Pujo, celebrated across Bengal. *Deepavali* basically symbolizes the victory of “good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance”. And people celebrate this day with much fun and fervor.

Every year, Diwali falls in the month of Kartika, as per the Hindu lunisolar calendar (which is between mid-October and mid-November).

**Deepavali 2021: Date and time: This year, Diwali will be celebrated on 4th November.**

Diwali celebrations take place over 5 days with each day typically having different rituals and traditions. Below we have listed all the days of Diwali along with their calendar dates and a short description of what happens on each day:

■ Day 1 — Dhanteras: November 2, 2021 (Tuesday) Dwadashi

This is the first day of the festival when people clean their homes and prepare for the events ahead. This is also a busy shopping day, when it is considered lucky to go to markets and buy gold or new kitchen items.

■ Day 2 — Choti Diwali: November 3, 2021 (Wednesday) Trayodashi

The second day is when people start decorating their homes. Many families will put up string lights and start creating their rangoli, which are intricate designs placed on the floors of homes.

Check more details about Diwali traditional decorations here.

■ Day 3 — Diwali and Lakshmi Puja: November 4, 2021 (Thursday) Amavasya

The most important part of the celebration is the ritual that takes place on this day.

Clay oil lamps or diyas are lit and rituals worshipping the goddess Lakshmi are performed. The most auspicious time for worship (Puja) is from 6:09pm to 8:04pm. The worshipping



can be done at temples or at home by placing a red cloth on the puja chowki ('worship table'), putting the idol on it, and then offering flowers, fruits (water chestnuts, pomegranate, quince, and coconut) and sweets (notably *kesari bhaat* — semolina pudding with saffron, nuts, and sugar) to Goddess Lakshmi, then prostrating in front of the idol and joining your palms for prayers.

On the day of Diwali, families get together to exchange gifts and have a large meal. Many people wear their nicest clothes on this day and say "Happy Diwali" to each other.

■ Day 4 — Padwa: November 5, 2021 (Friday) Pratipada

The fourth day of celebrations is dedicated to the love between husband and wife, and men will often buy gifts for their wives. Many businesses open new accounts on this day as it is considered auspicious.

■ Day 5 — Bhai Duj: November 6, 2021 (Saturday) Dwitiya

Bhai Duj (Bhaubeej), the last day of celebrations is dedicated to brothers and sisters. To celebrate their bond, sisters perform a special ceremony for their brothers for their protection. Brothers give presents to their sisters.

## The Origin of Diwali

Historically, the origin of Diwali can



be traced back to ancient India, when it was probably an important harvest festival. However, there are various legends pointing to the origin of Diwali or 'Deepavali.' Some believe it to be the celebration of the marriage of Lakshmi with Lord Vishnu. Whereas in Bengal the festival is dedicated to the worship of Mother Kali, the dark goddess of

strength.

Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, the symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom, is also worshiped in most Hindu homes on this day.

In Jainism, Deepavali has an added significance to the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss of nirvana.



# Significance of Diwali

## The return of Lord Rama

Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman from his fourteen year long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the Capital of Rama, illuminated the kingdom with earthen diyas (oil lamps) and burst crackers. These Four Days Each day of Diwali has its own tale, legend and myth to tell. The first day of the festival Naraka Chaturdasi marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama. Amavasya, the second day of Deepawali, marks the worship of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees.

## The story of Lord Vishnu

Amavasya also tells the story of Lord Vishnu, who in his dwarf incarnation vanquished the tyrant Bali, and banished him to hell. Bali was allowed to return to earth once a year, to light millions of lamps to dispel the darkness and ignorance, and spread the radiance of love and wisdom. It is on the third day of Deepawali - Kartika Shuddha Padyami that Bali steps out of hell and rules the earth according to the boon given by Lord Vishnu. The fourth day is referred to as Yama Dvitiya (also called Bhai Dooj) and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes.

All the simple rituals of Diwali have a significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity.

According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state. Still another possible reason has a more scientific basis: the fumes produced by the crackers kill a lot of insects and mosquitoes, found in plenty after the rains.

The tradition of gambling on Diwali also has a legend behind it. It is believed that on this day, Goddess Parvati played dice with her husband Lord Shiva, and she decreed that whosoever gambled on Diwali night would prosper throughout the ensuing year. Diwali is associated with wealth and prosperity in many ways, and the festival of 'Dhanteras' ('dhan' = wealth; 'teras' = 13th) is celebrated two days before the festival of lights.

In each legend, myth and story of Deepawali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Deepawali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope.

From darkness unto light - the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. During Diwali, lights illuminate every corner of India and the scent of incense sticks hangs in the air, mingled with the sounds of fire-crackers, joy, togetherness and hope. Diwali is celebrated around the globe. Outside



India, it is more than a Hindu festival, it's a celebration of South-Asian identities.

If you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali, light a diya, sit quietly, shut your eyes, withdraw the senses, concentrate on this supreme light and illuminate the soul.

## Significance

With all the lights and diyas eradicating dark shadows and evil, and all the prayers and love among people create a wonderful atmosphere full of goodness and purity. The festival of Diwali fills everyone's hearts with an aura of purity and a happy, compassionate mood.

Diwali is not just the lights, gambling, and fun-filled surprises and gifts; Diwali is also a time to reflect on one's life, past deeds and making the right changes for the upcoming year.

Diwali is also a celebration to give and forgive. It is a common practice in Diwali for people to forget and forgive the injustices and grudges. People celebrate with an air of freedom, festivity, and friendliness everywhere.

Diwali marks the birth of a new and rejuvenated soul. A happy and refreshed mind during Diwali charges up a person to make changes as a healthy, ethical individual, who will be more efficient in their work, and will also be spiritually advanced.

Diwali is a celebration that unites people from every corner, religion and caste. The simple smile and a kind, accommodating heart melt even the hardest of hearts. It is a time when people mingle about in joy and embrace one another.

A celebration of prosperity, Diwali gives us the strength and the zeal to carry on with our work and goodwill for the rest of the year and thus, promising



us success and prosperity. Thus, people give gifts to employees, family, and friends.

Most importantly, Diwali illuminates our inner self. The lights of Diwali also signify a time to destroy all our dark desires, dark thoughts, and have a deeper, inner illumination and self-reflection.

The history of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it most likely began as an important harvest festival. However, there are several legends pointing to the origins of Diwali.

There are many who believe Diwali to be the celebration to mark the wedding of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, with Lord Vishnu. Diwali is probably the commemoration of their blissful marriage. Others think it to be a celebration of Lakshmi's birthday, as Lakshmi is said to have been born on the new-moon day of Kartik.

In Bengal, the Deepavali, or Deepabali, is dedicated to the worship of the powerful goddess Kali, the dark goddess of strength. The elephant god Lord Ganesha is also worshipped in some homes on Diwali, because he is a symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom. In certain Jain homes, Diwali has the added significance of marking the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss called nirvana.

Diwali is not only important to Hindus, but, has is also celebrated among Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs. For Hindus, it often signifies the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya, after his 14 years of exile and victory over Ravana.

Ram, on that special day, was welcomed to the kingdom of Ayodhya with rows of diyas, lightened throughout the kingdom. Thus, the tradition of lighting oil lamps on Diwali symbolizes the victory of good over evil and freedom from spiritual darkness.

# Dhanteras: The first day of the five-day-long Diwali festivities

**D**hanteras, also known as Dhantrayodashi, is the first day of the five-day-long Diwali festivities. Dhanteras 2021 Date: November 2 (Tuesday).

It is celebrated on the thirteenth lunar day of Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) in the Hindu calendar month of Ashvin. Dhanvantari, who is also worshipped on the occasion of Dhanteras, is considered the God of Ayurveda who imparted the wisdom of Ayurveda for the betterment of mankind, and to help rid it of the suffering of disease.

On Dhanteras, homes that have not yet been cleaned in preparation for Diwali are thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed, and Lord Dhanvantari, the god of health and Ayurveda, is worshipped in the evening.

Hindus consider this an extremely auspicious day for making new purchases, especially of gold or silver articles and new utensils. It is believed that new "Dhan" (wealth) or some item made of precious metal is a sign of good luck. In modern times, Dhanteras has come to be known as the most auspicious occasion for buying gold, silver, and other metals, especially kitchenware. The day also sees heavy purchases of appliances and automobiles.

In the villages, cattle are adorned and worshiped by farmers as their main source of income.

## How Dhanteras is celebrated?

At this great occasion people generally repair their home, white washing, thorough cleaning, decorate house interiorly and exteriorly, make Rangolis, light clay diyas and many more traditions to follow.

They stick readymade footprints of the Goddess Lakshmi to come wealth and prosperity to their home.

After sunset, people offer puja to the Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh to prosperity, wisdom and well being by offering rose or marigold garland, sweets, ghee diyas, dhoop deep, agarbatti, camphor and etc.

People chant mantras, bhakti songs and arti for Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh. People wear new clothes and jewellery and play the game of gambling.

## Legends of Dhanteras

The legend behind celebrating the Dhanteras is the story of 16 years old son of the King Hima. He was forecasted his death by the snake biting at the 4th day of his marriage. His wife was very clever and searched the way to save the life of her husband. She had not allowed his husband to sleep on that special day. She had collected lots of her own ornaments and coins of gold and silver and made a heap at the doorway of his bed room and lit lamps everywhere in the room. She recited the stories in order to keep her husband awaken.

The god of Death, Yama had arrived there in the form of Serpent. Suddenly his eyes were started dazzling because of the lighting lamps and jewellery. He was unable to enter the room that's why he



tried to go through the climbing over the heap of coins. But after listening the song of prince's wife he sat down there for whole night. And slowly it became morning and he went away without taking her husband. In this way she had saved the life of her husband, from then the day was started celebrating as Dhanteras.

Another legend behind celebrating Diwali, the ocean was churned by Gods and demons to get Amrita or nectar. Dhanvantari (known as physician of Gods and an embodiment of Lord Vishnu) had emerged out (having jar of elixir) from the ocean churning. The same day is celebrated as the Dhanteras.

## Traditions

According to the Hindu mythology there are variety of customs and traditions followed by the Hindus at this festival. People consider it is good to buy things such as gold or silver coins, jewelery articles, new utensils or other new things. People consider that bringing new things at home is the sign of Lakshmi coming home whole year. Lakshmi Puja is carried out in the evenings and people lit various diyas in order to drive out the evil spirits shadow. People sing bhakti songs, aarti and mantras as well to drive out the evil powers.

People in villages decorate their cattle and worship as they understand them their major source of income. South Indians offer decorated cows as an embodiment of the Goddess Lakshmi.

## Importance



Bringing new things at home is considered as very auspicious event at the Dhanteras. People perform Lakshmi puja during the subh muhurta according to the calendar. At some places seven cereals (wheat, gram, barley, Urad, Moong, Masoor) are worshipped while performing puja. Golden flower and sweets are offered during puja to the Mata Lakshmi. This festival plays a great role in the life of every people. It brings a

lot happiness, wealth, prosperity, wisdom and good destiny for all. People clean up everything at this day in order to remove all the bad energy and idleness from their surroundings. People take bath and wear new clothes in order to clean up their body, mind and soul before performing puja. As this day is the birth day Dev Dhanwantri, all the new innovations related to medical science are established at this day.

# Diwali celebrations across the globe

**N**ot just India, the festival of lights or Diwali is celebrated across the globe every year. From the United States to Singapore, people from all communities unite to mark the auspicious day that marks the victory of good over evil. This year, one of India's most widely celebrated festivals falls on November 14, that is the 15th day of the Kartika month. While it's all about lights, positivity, and optimistic outlook for life, traditional Diwali celebrations involve the lighting of Diyas, making Rangolis, and praying to Goddess Laxmi in traditional attire. This time, every year, the atmosphere filled with festivals calls for gratitude and gaiety even if it falls amid COVID-19 pandemic.

**How is Diwali celebrated across the globe?**

**Singapore**



Diwali or Deepawali is a public holiday in Singapore that houses a significant population of Indians. The streets of Singapore are transformed with colourful flowers, buntings and lights. Similar to India, even the storefronts are decorated with flowers and people dawn their traditional style in an area called 'Little India'.

**Mauritius**



Similar to other nations, Mauritius also has a large number of Indians and other communities that also celebrate the festival of lights. The festivities are mostly panned out for an entire week and Diwali is a public holiday on the multi-cultural island. Firecrackers, Diyas, Rangolis, and other traditions are overwhelmingly followed in the nation that has more than 50% population of Hindus. There are competitions also organised in educational institutes.

**Malaysia**



Islam is the official religion of Malaysia, the multi-religious society marks the festival as a public holiday. Similar to Singapore, there is a 'Little India' area in the capital city Kuala Lumpur where most of the celebrations take place outside the homes of Hindus. Friends and families also get together to pray and offer special menus having Indian snacks and sweets.

**Nepal**



In this neighboring nation, the festival is celebrated as 'Tihar' which is also the second-most celebrated festival in the country after Dusshera or 'Dashain' as called in Nepal. On one of the days of the five-day-long festival is 'Kukur Tihar' when the relationship between dogs and humans is worshipped. Stray, as well as pet dogs, are offered garlands and other delicious foods.

**USA**



Asians make a significant amount of US population and thus the Indian diaspora along with other communities celebrate the day with unphased enthusiasm. Celebrations are marked in almost all US states including Illinois, Texas or California, with temples across the cities decorated and the Diwali night that witnesses priests performing the customary prayers.



**Australia**

Once again, with a large number of Indians, over the years, Diwali at Federation Square in Melbourne has now become one of the largest celebrations in the island nation. The festival is marked with a grand display of fireworks, live entertainment including dances, art and cultural shows.



# How Diwali celebrations have changed over the years

Diwali is undoubtedly the favorite time of the year for most of us. Diwali traditions such as annual cleaning of the house, bursting of crackers and exchanging gifts make the festival special. In this ever-changing world, Diwali celebrations have also changed and have become modernized. While all of us respect the festival with the same feelings, here some ways celebrating Diwali has changed in past few years:

## Updating everything on social media

No matter what people do, they want everything to be documented on social media. From eating, shopping, bursting crackers to doing Diwali Pooja, everything gets uploaded with proper hashtags now.

## Shopping stores have changed

Earlier, people used to spend hours in markets trying to find the best gifts for their special ones and now, most of us just go online, type the keywords and order the gifts for our loved ones.

## Eco-Conscious Diwali

Bursting crackers has become less popular. Today's generation has become more aware of the harm that firecrackers cause. Things such as 'green crackers' are gaining popularity now.

## Celebrating together

With busy lifestyles, people have found alternatives to coming home on Diwali as video calls have become easier to join in on the family in prayers and all the rituals.

## Changing countdown

Remember the time when you started counting down the days to Diwali at the end of Dussehra – 20 days away from Vijaya Dashmi was the easy way to remember. Now, we don't bother with all that, as Diwali countdown begins from the day Flipkart, Amazon or Snapdeal take over your newspaper's front pages in screaming fonts. Each year, the big billion day online festive sale seems to start earlier than usual. The way things are going, don't be too surprised if one day Diwali sales start smack in the middle of summer.



## Shrinking bonuses, bloating baksheesh

Wherever did that big fat bonus that took care of one EMI or helped you plan an extravagant purchase vanish? "Honey, I shrank the bonus," is the tune corporates sing today, while others do away with cash and give you coupons (which are bound to be lost), or offer to pick up house painting tabs (in a year when you wanted to skip the whitewashing ritual!). Meanwhile, the tribe of 'baksheesh' seekers bloats as even random temping helps turn up with bright smiles. The one face you miss, however, is the postman.

## WhatsApp wellwishers

As telcos smartly hike SMS tariffs on festival days, India seems to en masse move to WhatsApp. On Diwali morning you wake up with 104 alerts – many from unknown souls who blithely assume you know who they are - wishing you Diwali in myriad ways, mainly unoriginal and forwarded. From animated videos,



memes, selfies, to inspiring quotes, it's a day's job and more to get through the messages, which now start before Dhanteras and drag on through Govardhan Pooja and Bhai Dhoj. Your office gives you one measly day off for the festival, but the well wishers - who more often than not marketers - stalk you all five days, laying out an array of tempting suggestions to part with your money.

## The detox bug

In the old days you spent hours scrubbing your home and ridding it of junk. Today, you get cleaning services to do that job for you. But wait, it's not that easy. Once your house is sparkling, you need to detox your mind, body and soul, of course. From spas to spiritual

retreats, the SMS offers chase you. But, hello, there is still the online clutter to be attacked – be it on your phone, your laptop, or your social media network (deweeding friends list is an annual Diwali ritual now).

## All wired up

In the age of convenience, it's the electric bulb, fairy lights and paper chandeliers that light up Diwali rather than the mud shaped bulbs with oil and wicks. From heart shaped bulbs to fruity illuminations, the lights strung over walls balconies make a flashy statement even as flowers vanish from Rangolis replaced by gaudy baubles and stars. Good may still triumph over evil, but good taste too has been vanquished.



# Bandi Chhor Divas

The day marks the release of Guru Hargobind Singh, the sixth Sikh Guru, who was held captive by the Mughals

As the country celebrates Diwali, for the Sikhs, the day holds significance for another reason.

It marks the release of the sixth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Hargobind Singh, from incarceration by the Mughals in the 17th century — and is celebrated as “Bandi Chhor” Divas across Punjab.

This coincidence has resulted in similarity of celebration amongst Sikhs and Hindus. The Sikhs celebrate this day as Bandi Chhor Divas i.e., “the day of release of detainees”, because the sixth Nanak had agreed to his release on the condition that the other fifty-two detainees would also be released. These other fifty-two detainees were the vassal kings who had done something to annoy the emperor.

Emperor Jahangir had imprisoned the sixth Nanak because he was afraid of the Guru's growing following and power. The Sikhs on this day, which generally falls in October-November, hold a one-day celebrations in the Gurdwaras. So in the evening, illuminations are done with Deewé (earthen oil lamps) or candles and fireworks. The celebrations are held both in the Gurdwaras and in homes.

The story of Diwali for the Sikhs is a story of the Sikh struggle for freedom. From the time of Guru Nanak (1469 - 1539), the founder of Sikhism, popular seasonal or folk festivals like the harvest festival of Vaisakhi, or ancient mythological festivals like Holi and Diwali, or worship rituals like Aarti, began to take on a new significance for the Guru's students, the Sikhs.

The Guru used these festivals and special days e.g. first day of each lunar month, as symbols or pegs for his teaching themes. And so the Sikhs were slowly diverted from darkness of superstitious ritualism based on fear and ignorance to an enlightened ideology based on reason and belief in One Creator. The enlightened ideology of Guru Nanak gave new significance to ancient festivals like Diwali and Vaisakhi. So what about Diwali, the festival of lights when, according to Indian lore, Lord Rama returned home after destroying the demon god Ravana who had taken away Rama's wife, Sita?

The story, of course, has no significance in the Sikh tradition. However, in the Sikh struggle for freedom from the oppressive Mughal regime, the festival of Diwali did become the second most important day after the Vaisakhi festival in April. The Sixth Guru Hargobind, was freed from imprisonment in the famous fort of Gwalior by Emperor Jahangir in October, 1619.

The reason for the young Guru's imprisonment was no more than religious bigotry. The Guru's father, Guru Arjan, had been martyred for the same reason. According to Sikh tradition, the Guru agreed to be freed only if the other Indian chiefs (rajahs) imprisoned with him were freed. Jahangir was under pressure from moderate but influential Muslim religious leaders like Hajrat Mian Mir, a friend of the Guru. So he relented grudgingly and ordained, Let those rajahs be freed who can hold on to the Guru's coat tails and



walk out of prison. He had in mind no more than four or five being freed with the Guru.

However, the Guru was not to be outmanoeuvred in this way. He asked for a special coat to be made with 52 coat tails - same number as the rajahs in prison with him! And so the rajahs were freed and the Guru became known popularly as the Bandi Chhor (Deliverer from prison). He arrived at Amritsar on the Diwali day and the Har Mandar (now known as the Golden Temple) was lit with hundreds of lamps i.e. he was received in the same way as the Lord Rama and the day came to be known as the Bandi Chhor Divas (the day of freedom). Guru Hargobind reached Amritsar on the eve of Diwali, after his release from Gwalior fort, during the reign of Jahangir.

The People illuminated the Golden Temple and the city splendidly to celebrate the return of their Guru to the city.

Thereafter, Diwali is being celebrated at Amritsar with great pomp and show, and also with a lot of religious fervour. During the fair, religious congregations are held at Manji Sahib, Akal Takhat and Baba Atal which continue for three days. A large number of poets and singers also

participate. Recitation of Granth Sahib is done at Darbar Sahib, Akal Takhat and various gurudwaras in the vicinity of Golden Temple.

Early in the morning, pilgrims take a holy dip in the sacred tank, while reciting Japji Sahib and thereafter, they go to the Golden Temple for paying their obeisance. They make offerings of various kinds both in cash and kind, such as flowers, candy-drops and parched-rice grains, but mostly the offerings are of karah parshad, which is prepared and sold to the pilgrims by the management. Circumambulation of the tank is considered sacred by the pilgrims. Illuminations and pyrotechnic display are the unique features of the Diwali celebrations.

A mammoth gathering in the parikarma and on the adjoining buildings witness to their great delight the multicolored lights thrown up in the sky and their reflections in the water of the tank. Chain of the electric lights hang along the causeway and on the Darshani Deorhi.

Small earthen lamps lighted and fed with sarson oil are arranged in lines all around the tank. All buildings in the compound are bedecked with coloured lights. Candles and small earthen lamps

fed with pure ghee are floated in the tank. This fair is attended by people in the large numbers who come from far and near.

A large number of visitors take shelter in the verandahs of the various buildings in the premises. All local inns, rest houses and other common places are packed to capacity. The free mess, called Guru Ram Dass Langar, remains open for all. The whole function is organised by Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandhak Committee. During the fair, qualified doctors render free medical service to the pilgrims. Thenceforth, the Sikh struggle for freedom, which intensified in the 18th Century, came to be centred around this day. In addition to the Vaisakhi day (now in April), when Khalsa, the Sikh nation was formally established by the Tenth Guru Gobind Singh, Diwali became the second day in the years when the Khalsa met and planned their freedom strategy.

On the occasion of Bandi Chhor Divas, Sikhs observe a one-day celebrations in the Gurdwaras. In the evening, illuminations are lighted with Deewé (earthen oil lamps) or candles and fireworks are also bursted. Such celebrations are held both in the Gurdwaras and in homes.

Another important Sikh event associated with Diwali is the martyrdom in 1734 of the elderly Sikh scholar and strategist Bhai Mani Singh, the Granthi (priest) of Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple). He had refused to pay a special tax on a religious meeting of the Khalsa on the Diwali day. This and other Sikh martyrdoms gave further momentum to the Khalsa struggle for freedom and eventually success in establishing the Khalsa rule north of Delhi. Bhai Mani Singh was a great scholar and he transcribed the final version of Guru Granth Sahib upon dictation from Guru Govind Singh Ji in 1704. He took charge of Harmandir Sahib's management on 1708. Diwali was not celebrated in Golden Temple at that time.

In 1737, he received permission from Mogul emperor of Punjab, Zakaria Khan for celebrating Diwali at Golden Temple for a massive tax of Rs. 5,000 (some authors say it was Rs10,000). Invitations were sent to the Sikhs all over India to join Bandi Chhorh Divas celebrations at Harmandir Sahib. Bhai Singh thought he would collect the tax-money from the Sikhs as subscriptions who would assemble for the purpose of Diwali Celebrations.

But Bhai Mani Singh Ji later discovered the secret plan of Zakariya Khan to kill the Sikhs during the gathering. Bhai Mani Singh Ji immediately sent message to all the Sikhs not to turn up for celebrations. Bhai Mani Singh could not manage to arrange the money to be paid for tax.

Zakariya Khan was not happy about the situation and he ordered Bhai Mani Singh's assassination at Lahore by ruthlessly cutting him limb-by-limb to death. Ever since, the great sacrifice & devotion of martyr Bhai Mani Singh Ji is remembered on the Bandi Chhor Divas (Diwali) celebration.



# FDA authorizes Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11



For Representation

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization to the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech Friday for children ages 5 to 11, a significant step toward making the vaccine available to millions of school-age children.

Before the vaccine becomes widely available, it will also need to be recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The decision on that recommendation is made after a meeting of an expert committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP. The CDC director must then approve ACIP's recommendations. That committee is scheduled to meet on Nov. 2.

"As a mother and a physician, I know that parents, caregivers, school staff, and children have been waiting for today's authorization. Vaccinating younger children against COVID-19 will bring us closer to returning to a sense of normalcy," said acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, in a statement. "Our comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the data

pertaining to the vaccine's safety and effectiveness should help assure parents and guardians that this vaccine meets our high standards."

The Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine for children 5 to 11 should be given as two doses three weeks apart, just like the version for older children and adults, but uses a lower 10-microgram dose, one-third the adult dose.

The FDA's decision, which was widely expected, follows the meeting of the FDA's advisory panel earlier this week. That panel voted 17-to-0, with one abstention, that the vaccine should be authorized. The FDA and CDC are not bound by the votes of their advisory committees, but generally follow their advice.

However, when recommending the authorization, FDA panel members expressed concerns about whether all children needed the vaccine, because the risk of complications from Covid infection in children is generally lower. They also discussed how to balance the risk of a rare side effect, an inflammation of the heart called myocarditis, with the number of Covid

cases prevented. FDA modeling predicted that the number of hospitalizations from myocarditis would generally be fewer than the number of Covid hospitalizations prevented.

Still, those concerns could still prove a topic of debate for the ACIP when it meets next week.

The vaccine was not granted FDA approval, but instead an emergency use authorization.

Emergency authorizations are used when the secretary of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency to more quickly clear the use of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tests. These authorizations lapse when the state of emergency ends. Pfizer's vaccine was fully approved for those age 16 and older in August and was previously granted an emergency use authorization for use in adolescents ages 12 to 15.

"The FDA is committed to making decisions that are guided by science that the public and healthcare community can trust," Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation

and Research, said in a statement. "We are confident in the safety, effectiveness and manufacturing data behind this authorization."

The Pfizer product is currently the only Covid vaccine authorized for use in people under the age of 18 in the U.S., though that could change soon. Moderna has filed an application to have its emergency authorization expanded to include youths 12 to 17 years of age; the FDA is expected to rule on the application soon.

"This is a day so many parents, eager to protect their young children from this virus, have been waiting for," said Albert Bourla, Pfizer's chair and CEO, said in a statement. "Over 6 million children in the U.S. have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since the start of this pandemic, and a high number of young people continue to be infected every week. With this FDA authorization, we have achieved another key marker in our ongoing effort to help protect families and communities, and to get this disease under control." (Agencies)

## The 40th AAPI Convention in San Antonio, TX to Focus on "Heal the Healers" with its much needed "Wellness Package" for Physicians and Families

CHICAGO (TIP): "Physician, heal thyself," especially when there are growing signs of burn out among physicians, by offering positive remedial resources as part of a first ever Wellness Program being offered to participants at the 40th Annual Convention of AAPI to be held in San Antonio from June 23rd to 26th, 2022.

The Covid pandemic has impacted all aspects of human life as never been before. The past two years have been challenging to everyone, particularly those are assigned with the responsibility of caring for the sick, especially as hundreds of Millions were affected by the big pandemic. Over 115,000 health care workers died from Covid-19 from January 2020 to May of this year, according to a new World Health Organization estimate.

"The backbone of every health system is its workforce - the people who deliver the services on which we rely at some point in our lives," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "The pandemic is a powerful demonstration of just how much we rely on health workers and how vulnerable we all are when the people who protect our health are themselves unprotected."

Some have argued that governments have forsaken their duty to protect health care workers and warned that



pandemic would have long tail effects, with many healthcare professionals considering leaving the workforce. At this critical juncture in human history, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) the largest ethnic medical organization in the country, representing the interests of over 100,000 physicians of Indian origin, is focusing

on themes such as how to take care of self and find satisfaction and happiness in the challenging situations they are in, while serving hundreds of patients everyday of their dedicated and noble profession, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of AAPI said.

"This year AAPI Convention team from San Antonio is very much

motivated on focusing on addressing physician burnout and we have planned these wellness packages. As we are seeing in our daily lives the physician burnout has increased significantly. "We do acknowledge that these are challenging times, more than ever for us, physicians, who are on the frontline to assess, diagnose and treat people are affected by this deadly pandemic, COVID-19. Many of our colleagues have sacrificed their lives in order to save those impacted by this pandemic around the world," Dr. Gotimukula added.

Accordingly, some of the major themes at the convention include: Yoga and Meditation practices, Welcome kit with books & self-care supplies, A Personal Reflexology Session, Take home wellness routine, Ailment based yoga therapy sessions, Workshop on Spiritual well-being, Book talk with Yoga Gurus, including on the science of Yoga & Lifestyle medicine, as well as an unique opportunity to visit first of its kind in San Antonio, Aum Ashram as part of the Wellness session.

Esteemed yoga gurus and experts, who are planned to share their wisdom and leading the Wellness Sessions include: Paramguru Sharatha Jois, Sadhvi Bhagawati, Saraswati Eddie Stern, Dr. Sat Bir Khalsa, Dr. Dilip Sarkar, Dr. Pankaj Vij, and Dr. Param Dedhia.

"Our physician members have worked very hard during the Covid 19 pandemic as the 2022 convention is a perfect time to heal the healers with a special focus on wellness," said Dr. Dr. Jayesh Shah, Chair of AAPI Convention 2022.

In her welcome note, Dr. Hetal Nayak,



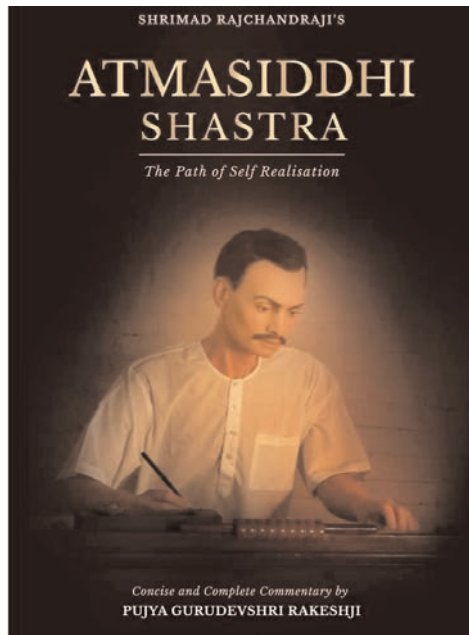
# Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care celebrates Diwali and launches the book *Atmasiddhi Shastra* at Capitol Hill

**A SPECIAL PROGRAM CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRAJI'S MAGNUS OPUS 'ATMASIDDHI SHASTRA'**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care (SRLC) hosted a special Diwali event in the presence of the Indian Ambassador to the United States, Mr Taranjit Singh Sandhu. The event acknowledged the extraordinary partnership between the governments and private sector organizations of the United States and India to support SRLC's humanitarian initiatives. The event was attended by Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthy, Illinois; Tim Ryan, Ohio; Greg Stanton, Arizona; Danny Davis, Illinois; Mike Quigley, Illinois, and Ms. Audrey Kitawaga, Ambassador of Religions for Peace.

Ambassador Sandhu emphasized critical points regarding the element of solidarity, the unity and partnership between the two nations, the importance of science and spiritual and extending happiness and kindness to all in these unprecedented times.

The highlight of the event was the launch of the book, 'Atmasiddhi Shastra - Six Spiritual Truths of the Soul', a concise and complete commentary by



*Shrimad Rajchandraji's magnum opus 'Atmasiddhi Shastra'*

Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji. This book lays a clear and cogent path to self-discovery. The book commemorates the 125th anniversary of the creation of Shrimad Rajchandraji's magnum opus,

'Atmasiddhi Shastra' - a 142-verse epic spiritual masterpiece.

According to the organizers, it was an iconic moment to be at the Capitol Hill and celebrate Diwali by launching a book which "represents the true spirit of Diwali as it removes the darkness of ignorance by the light of knowledge."

"The endeavor of Shri Rakeshji to present the essence of Atmasiddhi Shastra in a lucid manner through its commentary in English is a thoughtful gesture, aimed at the spiritual welfare of the youth" - Shri Narendra Modi, Hon. Prime Minister of India

"Atmasiddhi Shastra is a practical guide to Liberation and freedom from suffering" - Deepak Chopra, Founder - The Chopra Foundation

Learn more about Atmasiddhi Shastra: [www.atmasiddhishastra.com](http://www.atmasiddhishastra.com)

## About Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care

SRLC is a global initiative to offer service and bring joy to the lives of the underserved sections of society. SRLC is inspired by Shrimad Rajchandraji, philosopher, and the spiritual guide of Mahatma Gandhiji. SRLC is founded by Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji, a world-renowned spiritual leader. SRLC enjoys Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council since 2020. SRLC's holistic, multi-pronged community support and development programs are powered by genuine empathy, love, and care of highly motivated volunteers.

Learn more about SRLC's humanitarian work: <https://src-usa.org/>



The launch of the book 'Atmasiddhi Shastra'. Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu is 5th from the left

## US TO LIFT ALL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR INCOMING FOREIGN NATIONALS FROM NOVEMBER 8: WHITE HOUSE



The US will lift all travel restrictions for incoming non-citizen, non-immigrant travelers from November 8

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US will lift all travel restrictions for incoming non-citizen, non-immigrant travelers from November 8, with only limited exceptions, and they will be required to be fully vaccinated and produce proof of their COVID-19 vaccination prior to boarding a flight to the country, the White House announced on Monday.

The updated travel guidelines also include new protocols around testing. To further strengthen protections, unvaccinated travelers - whether US Citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), or the small number of accepted unvaccinated foreign nationals - will now need to test within one day of departure.

"Under this new international air travel system, foreign nationals will need to be fully vaccinated, in order to fly to the United States. The new system also includes enhanced testing requirements, strengthened contact tracing, as well as masking. These are strict safety protocols that follow the science and public health to enhance the safety of Americans here at home, and the safety of international air travel," a senior administration official told reporters.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

contd from page 24

## The 40th AAPI Convention in San Antonio, TX to Focus on "Heal the Healers" with its much needed "Wellness Package" for Physicians and Families

Coordinator of the Wellness Program said, "With great enthusiasm we invite you to participate in our AAPI convention wellness package themed 'Heal the Healers.' This is the first time in the AAPI convention we offer these exclusive wellness packages geared towards the well-being of Physicians and their families by bringing the essence of science and spirituality of yoga and lifestyle medicine into our selfcare routine. As we all aware, a calm mind and a refined intellect are essential for making right choices. We promise to leave you empowered with the tools required."

Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Chair of AAPI BOT said, "At

AAPI, the largest ethnic medical association in the nation, we are proud, we have been able to serve every 7th patient in the country. We serve in large cities, smaller towns and rural areas, sharing our skills, knowledge, compassion and expertise and caring millions of people."

Acknowledging the need for this much needed program as part of the convention, Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-elect of AAPI elaborated, "Healthcare today is more complex than ever. With more advancements, tools and information at our fingertips, physicians have an overwhelming job to diagnose and treat our patients every day, 24/7/365 days a year. In every city and hospital, in our military and in our rural communities, we, the doctors pave the way to provide better healthcare to our patients."

"A huge thank you to all of the doctors, physicians, and other healthcare professionals for your dedication and commitment to service during this uncertain time," Dr. Anjana Samadder, Vice President of AAPI said. "This is a unique opportunity for All of us, the front-line physicians who are putting our lives at risk to the

save the lives of others," Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Secretary of AAPI said. "Thank you for fighting selflessly against this virus and helping keep everyone healthy and safe," Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer of AAPI added.

During the annual convention, physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and internationally will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year.

Planned to have a limited number of attendance due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and the taking into account the safety of the participants, including Physicians, Healthcare Leaders, Academicians, Researchers and Medical Students, "the annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events," Dr. Gotimukula added.

For more information, please visit: [www.aapiconvention.org](http://www.aapiconvention.org) and [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org)



## SAD, BJP corner Congress over Tytler's appointment

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Friday slammed Congress president Sonia Gandhi for naming Jagdish Tytler, one of the main accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh violence, as a permanent invitee to Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

"This is a brazen display of shocking insensitivity to the Sikh wounds by Sonia Gandhi and the Congress party. They have chosen the eve of the painful anniversary of the massacre of Sikhs to announce this decision. Could there be a worse way to rub salt into the deep, festering wounds of the Khalsa Panth than this decision and its timing?" said Sukhbir in a statement.

October 31 will mark the anniversary of anti-Sikh violence that erupted following then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984.

### Decision regrettable: BJP

Punjab BJP general secretary Subhash Sharma said the Congress has reinforced that it stands behind leaders who had committed heinous crimes against Sikhs in 1984. In a statement, Sharma said it was regrettable that Channi and Sidhu have remained silent on Tytler's appointment.

Sharma said it was the BJP government that on coming to power constituted an SIT to give justice to the riot victims. "On the contrary the Congress safeguarded the guilty and is now promoting them," he said.

"Can one expect justice from a political party like the Congress on the sacrilege issue in Punjab? Unfortunately, no justice will be done under the Congress regime of Charanjit Singh Channi," he said.

Source: HT

## 178,000 women apply for NDA as forces lift gender barrier

NEW DELHI (TIP): A third of the candidates who will appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) examination on November 14 for entry into the premier joint services training institution are women, government officials familiar with the matter said on the condition of anonymity.

This will be their maiden attempt at cracking the entrance exam being conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) at centres across India, after the Supreme Court, in a landmark order on August 18, 2021, opened the doors of the academy to women.

"Nearly 570,000 applications have been received and of these 178,000 are women," said one of the officials cited above.

The apex court's order making women eligible to join NDA, which was formally inaugurated 66 years ago and was thus far a male preserve, came almost three decades after they were allowed to serve in select branches of the army, air force and navy as short-service commission (SSC) officers.

Ananyaa Madhur Sharma, a Class 12 student from DLF Public School, Ghaziabad, is among the 178,000 women applicants.

"When the Supreme Court ordered that women be allowed to join NDA, I knew the decision was for me. Before that, I was confused about my career path but clarity came with that decision. I am excited about the possibility of joining NDA and later opting for the Special Forces (SF)," said Ananyaa whose uncle Major Mohit Sharma, an SF officer, was killed in action in 2009 and awarded India's highest peacetime gallantry award, the Ashok Chakra. The army does not currently induct women in SF.

A fortnight ahead of the exam, army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Friday set the tone for welcoming female cadets into the Khadakwasla-based academy, which currently has a maximum training capacity of around 2,000 cadets every year.

"As we open the portals of NDA to women cadets, I expect you all to welcome them with the same sense of fair play and professionalism that the Indian armed forces are known for the world over," Naravane said, while addressing cadets during a passing out parade at the academy.



Naravane said the induction of women will be the "first step towards gender equality" in the armed forces, and added that women officers will be in the same position 40 years later that he is in now.

The army chief said he is confident that women cadets will perform better than their male counterparts. "Over the years, as we have grown and matured; as the curriculum has changed, training methodology has changed, the course content has improved. We have become more well-trained and better-equipped to meet whatever challenges that emerge. As we go ahead, we shall be inducting women cadets into the academy," he said.

"As a result of this, they will also get empowered. They will hold more challenging assignments."

The top court in September told the Union government that women aspiring to join the armed forces should be allowed to take the NDA entrance examination in November 2021, days after the government informed the court that the academy will be ready to welcome the first-ever batch of women cadets in January 2023, after they sit for the entrance exam in May 2022.

The court, however, stressed that it "cannot belie the aspirations of young girls" and rejected the Centre's request to delay the examination for women on the ground that much groundwork was still to be done.

Captain Shalini Singh, a retired SSC officer, welcomed the decision to make women eligible for NDA. "At the same time, it's not a very easy feat as NDA is a male-dominated academy," she said. "There will be challenges, but as the army chief has said, they should be welcomed on an equal and fair footing." Source: HT

## RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das gets 3-year extension

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has extended the term of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das by three years—a tenure that will make him the second longest serving head of the central bank.

Das was appointed as RBI's 25th governor on December 11, 2018, for a period of three years after the surprise resignation of his predecessor Urjit Patel.

An official order dated October 28 said the government has reappointed Das as the governor of the central bank for a period of three years beyond December 10, 2021, that is till December 2024. The extension is longer than the norm of a two-year term in the last two decades.

Das' re-appointment will ensure continuity at a critical juncture for the economy that is emerging out of the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He will be the fifth governor to get a tenure this long. Usually, RBI governors are given a five-year term.

If completed, he will be the longest-serving governor after Sir Benegal Rama Rau, who was in office for 7 years and 197 days between July 1, 1949, and January 14, 1957. The other four governors who had a tenure of more than 5 years were Bimal Jalan (November 1997 to September 2003), James Taylor (July 1937 to February 1943), B P Bhattacharya (March 1962 to June 1967), and C D Deshmukh (August 1943-June 1949).

# SC says indiscriminate spying on people can't be allowed, forms expert committee to probe Pegasus case

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court has formed an expert panel to probe into the Pegasus snoogate. The court on Wednesday said indiscriminate spying on individuals cannot be allowed on individuals.

The expert committee will be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice RV Raveendran.

The Chief Justice said: "We have chosen renowned experts to be a part of this committee. The experts are from cyber security and forensics backgrounds. This three-member committee will be headed by RV Raveendran, a former SC judge, and will have Alok Joshi as a member."

The Supreme Court also asked the committee to file a report within 8 weeks. The court added that information



gathered by agencies is vital to the fight against terrorism and it can interfere in right to privacy only when absolutely necessary for the protection of national interests.

"This Court is cognizant of the state's

interest to ensure life and liberty is preserved and must balance the same. For instance, in today's world, information gathered by intelligence agencies through surveillance is essential for the fight against violence and terror. To access this information, a need may arise to interfere with the right to privacy of an individual, provided it is carried out only when it is absolutely necessary for protecting national security/interest and is proportional."

The terms of reference are detailed in the order. The committee is requested to expeditiously probe this matter.

The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of petitions seeking a court-monitored probe into the Pegasus spyware controversy on Thursday, August 5.

In a hearing on July 30, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the petitioners in the case. The top court agreed that the plea needed to be heard in view of the large ramifications of the alleged snooping.

Several eminent citizens, politicians and journalists have accused the central agencies of snooping over them by using Israeli spyware Pegasus.

The petitions filed before the Supreme Court, including those by senior journalists N Ram and Sashi Kumar, claimed the alleged snooping represented an attempt by the central agencies to muzzle the exercise of free speech and expression of dissent in India. Source: India Today

## Delayed justice in 1984 Sikh riot cases: National Commission for Minorities issues notice to 9 states

Thirty-seven years after the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the National Commission for Minorities on Friday, Oct 29, issued notices to nine states over delay in grant of compensation and justice to the victims and their families.

Taking cognizance of several representations made to the Commission with respect to laxity on part of state governments to compensate victim families and bring the perpetrators of riots to justice, NCM Chairperson Iqbal Singh Lalpura today issued notices to Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh asking them to present a report providing information and details to the Commission regarding compensation provided to victim families so far and action taken against criminals in every recorded case of the riot.

"The 1984 anti Sikh riots is a dark spot in the country's history wherein thousands of innocent persons belonging to the Sikh community were brutally massacred, dislocated and harassed, physically, emotionally and also destroyed economically. Though several relief packages were announced by the Government of India and the state governments there are many instances where the relief measures announced have not reached those families. Despite the passage of 37 years since the riots that began on October 31, 1984, the cases are still lingering," the NCM said in its notice to the states.

## India sees major dip in daily Covid death toll

India saw a major dip in its daily death toll due to coronavirus disease (Covid-19) on Saturday after 549 fatalities were registered in the last 24 hours, taking the overall toll to 457,740, according to the Union ministry of health and family welfare. On Friday, 805 deaths were registered and 733 patients succumbed to Covid-19 on October 28.

The country recorded 14,313 infections and 13,543 recoveries in the last 24 hours, which pushed the cumulative count of infections and recoveries to 34,260,470 and 33,641,175 respectively. The overall recovery rate from Covid-19 is at 98.19 per cent. The daily positivity rate, meanwhile, is 1.22 per cent and has been below 2 per cent for 26 consecutive days.

However, the active cases on Saturday saw an increase of 221 and currently stand at 161,555. But they remain below the 1 per cent mark of total caseload and have been the lowest since March 2020.

## BARRICADE REMOVAL FROM TIKRI, GHAZIPUR

# Stand vindicated, but watching BJP moves closely, say farm unions

The police move comes days after a Supreme Court hearing that saw farmer unions arguing that the police were responsible for the traffic blockade

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** As the Delhi Police started removing barricades near two farmer protest sites — Tikri and Ghazipur, farm union leaders Friday said the move vindicated their stand that they had never blocked roads at the city border points. The protesting unions, however, added a note of caution, saying that they were "watching BJP's latest manoeuvres carefully".

The SKM is likely to discuss the matter at its November 2 meeting.

Farmer leaders said that any decision to entirely clear both the carriageways at the protest sites will be taken by the SKM.

The police move comes days after a Supreme Court hearing that saw farmer unions arguing that the police were responsible for the traffic blockade.

BKU president Gurnam Singh Charuni said, "Traffic movement was allowed by the protesters in the past too and will be done even now."

Senior SKM member Dr Darshan Pal, who is also president of Krantikari Kisan Union, said, "Since Thursday, Delhi Police have been making special efforts to make a show of removal of barricades and various other obstacles that they had placed on the roads against protesting farmers. This is happening at Tikri border as well as Ghazipur border. It is well known that the police had behaved like protestors were enemies of India...They had fortified the morcha sites by placing huge cement boulders, multiple layers of metal barricades, placement of sand trucks across the roads and also fixing multiple layers of nails on the road."

Sukhdarshan Natt, state executive committee member of the Punjab Kisan Union, who was near Tikri border on Friday, said, "They have removed the concrete blocks, heavy vehicles like tipper, cranes etc. The iron railings are still there, which they can be removed manually anytime. Their actions have proved that they had blocked



traffic...Now we will decide what to do next. We had wanted to move towards Delhi, but were stopped by barricading the roads. As they are being removed, we will think whether to go towards Jantar Mantar or stay here."

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said, "The future course of the ongoing farmers' protest would be decided by the SKM, which is leading the movement against the three farm laws."

Dr Darshan Pal added: "So far, there is no call to go to Delhi. Any future course of action will be decided in a meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha."

BKU spokesperson Saurabh Upadhyay too said farmers want to go to Delhi, but the SKM will take the final call.

Union leaders also hoped that the Centre would invite farmers for a dialogue to break the logjam over the farm laws.

"If the government wants the logjam to

end, it should talk to the farmers now and we are ready for it. But if it wants the farmers' movement to continue, we are determined to prolong it as it has already been 11 months since the protests began," Upadhyay said.

SKM member Sudesh Goyat said: "We are happy that roadblocks are being removed and now traffic will be able to move. It will also help in reviving economy here as petrol pumps, shops which are shut for 11 months due to road closure will now start functioning again."

Joginder Singh Ugrahan, president of BKU (Ugrahan) said, "Delhi police had put up multi-layered barricades at Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur borders to stop us moving ahead towards Delhi. However, in the Supreme Court, they have been mentioning that farmers have blocked the highway....As they are removing barricades, it is clear now that the blockade was done from their side."

## DRDO, Air Force successfully test India's first indigenously developed long-range bomb

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** An Indian Air Force (IAF) team and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday, Oct 29, successfully flight-tested the country's first indigenously developed long-range bomb (LRB) from a fighter jet over Balasore in Odisha.

The bomb is part of the class of weapons with a range of 50 to 150 km. The government did not share details about the weapons, but mentioned that the LRB was tested from an aerial

platform.

The Defence Ministry said that the bomb, "after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, was guided to a land-based target at a long-range with accuracy within specified limits". "All the mission objectives were successfully met," it added.

The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of range sensors, including Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), Telemetry and radar deployed

by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha, the statement read.

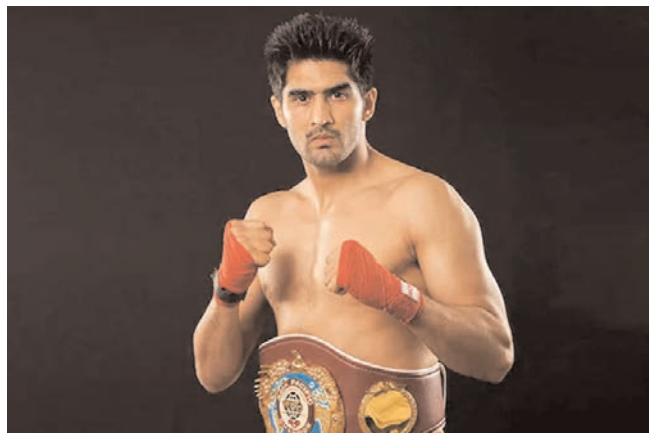
The bomb has been designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) laboratory in Hyderabad, in coordination with other DRDO laboratories. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Air Force for the successful flight trial and stated that this will prove to be a force multiplier for the armed forces.

# India in history this Week

**OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

## 29 OCTOBER

1985 Boxer Vijendra Singh, who won India's first Olympic medal in boxing, was born.



1999 About 150 people died and five lakh people were affected by the Mahatufan, which came at a speed of 250 km on the east coast of India.

2005 Two days before Deepawali in Delhi, 62 people died in the serial blasts in busy areas Paharganj and Sarojini Nagar.

1920 Jamia Millia Islamia was established by the efforts of former President Zakir Hussain.

2008 Asom bomb killed 69 people and injured 350 people.

## 30 OCTOBER

2008 Graded explosions occurred in several parts of Assam including Guwahati. More than 66 people died in it.

1945 India joined the United Nations.

1909 Famous scientist Homi Jahangir Bhabha was born.



1883 The great thinker and social reformer Swami Dayanand Saraswati died.

1956 India's first five-star hotel 'Ashoka' opened.

## 31 OCTOBER

1875 The freedom fighter of India and the first Home Minister of independent India Sardar Vallabh Patel was born.

1984 The then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was shot dead by her bodyguards.



1966 India's famous swimmer Mihir Sen floated and crossed the Panama Canal.

1943 Indian scientist and former chairman of 'ISRO' G. Madhavan Nair was born.

1960 The cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal killed about 10,000 people.

1975 Sachin Dev Burman, a famous musician and singer of Bengali and Hindi cinema, passed away.

## 01 NOVEMBER

1950 The first steam engine in India was built at the Chittaranjan Rail factory.

1984 After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, Sikh protest riots broke out in the country.



1858 The rule of India went from the East India Company to the ruler of Britain and now the Viceroy was appointed to replace the Governor General.

1956 The state of Madhya Pradesh was formed on the basis of language.

1956 The capital of the country, Delhi became a union territory.

1960 Kalyani University was established in West Bengal India.

1966 The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab.

1973 The name of Mysore was changed to Karnataka.

2000 The state of Chhattisgarh was formed.

## 02 NOVEMBER

1833 Mahendra Lal Sarkar was born to promote social reformer and homeopath.

1834 The ship named Atlas had reached Mauritius with Indian laborers. Which is celebrated as immigrant day there.

1534 The fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas was born.



2012 Indian-American mathematician Shriram Shankar Abhyankar died.

## 03 NOVEMBER

1917 Annapurna Maharana, a freedom fighter and advocate for women's rights, was born.



1933 Economist and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen was born in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

1948 The then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru gave his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

2000 Direct to home broadcasting service launched for all by the Government of India.

## 04 NOVEMBER

1936 Birth of eminent mathematician Shakuntala Devi.



1970 Famous Kathak dancer Pandit Shambhu Maharaj passed away.

1822 Formal launch of water supply scheme in Delhi.

1947 Major Somnath Sharma of Budgaon, Kashmir received the first Paramveer Chakra. However, he was given this honor posthumously.



1954 The Institute of Himalayan Mountaineering was established in Darjeeling.

1984 OB Aggarwal became world champion of amateur snooker.

1997 In Siachen base camp, the army off-signal gave the highest STD in the world. Booth set up.

1845 The famous revolutionary of India, Vasudev Balwant Phadke was born.



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# Talent galore at the South Asian Film Festival: Awards ceremony a big draw



**NEW YORK (TIP):** The 7th annual DFW South Asian Film Festival and the 3rd annual NYC South Asian Film Festival, both presented by Toyota Motor North America, hosted back-to-back, in-person film festivals these past two weekends in October. More than 2000 cinephiles watched 23 shorts, documentaries and feature films that made their world, international or Texas/NYC premieres at the curated, sister festivals, produced by JINGO Ventures, an events management and PR company with offices in Texas, New York and India.

"We are elated that people came back to the theaters, where all COVID guidelines were followed, and experienced the magic of the movies the way it was intended," said Founder and Festivals Director Jitin Hingorani. "Our eclectic and thought-provoking programming clearly resonated with our audiences, as they left feeling engaged, entertained and inspired."

## DFW South Asian Film Festival Winners:



Deepti Gupta accepts award on behalf of co-actor Sophia Ali for Best Actress from Nicole Peterson, Sponsorship Activation Manager at Toyota Motor North America



Sachin Bhatt accepts award for Best Actor from Nicole Peterson, Sponsorship Activation Manager at Toyota Motor North America



Actress Divya Datta and Director Faraz Arif Ansari accept awards for Best of Fest Actress and Director

### Best Feature

RANI by Rajaram Rajendran

### Best Actor

Sachin Bhatt for SAVING CHINTU

### Best Actress

Sophia Ali for INDIA SWEETS & SPICES

### Best Director

Gaurav Madan for BARAH BY BARAH

### Best Short

KHISA by Raj More

### Best Long Form Short

KEEP PUNCHING by Kirnay Bhatt

### Best of Fest:

#### Film

SHEER QORMA by Faraz Arif Ansari

#### Actor

Divya Datta for SHEER QORMA

#### \*Esteemed Jury:

Rupak Ginn, Mindy Raymond Benson, Arshad Khan, Mahesh Pailoor, Viveck Vaswani and Sandeep Modi

## NYC South Asian Film Festival Winners:

### Best Feature

MEHRUNISA by Sandeep Kumar

### Best Actor



CONTD FROM PAGE 30



(From L to R): Mike Esperanza (Toyota), Ritesh Rajan (DEFINITION PLEASE) and Jitin Hingorani (Festival Director)



(From L to R): Mike Esperanza (Toyota), Geeta Malik (INDIA SWEETS & SPICES) and Jitin Hingorani (Festival Director)



From L to R): Ambica Dev (Artistic Director), Apoorva Bakshi (WOMB Producer) and Jitin Hingorani (Festival Director)



(From L To R): Ambica Dev (Artistic Director), Asha Puthli (Singer/Songwriter) and Jitin Hingorani (Festival Director)



(From L to R): Mike Esperanza (Toyota), Jay Shetty (Producer), Vikas Khanna (BAFEFOOT EMPRESS Director), Sonia Pachmayer (Producer) and Jitin Hingorani (Festival Director)

Ritesh Rajan for DEFINITION PLEASE

### Best Actress

Late Farrukh Jaffar for MEHRUNISA

### Best Director

Geeta Malik for INDIA SWEETS & SPICES

### Best Short

BAREFOOT EMPRESS by Vikas Khanna

### Best Long Form Short

LAALI by Abhiroop Das

### Best of Fest:

#### Director

Faraz Arif Ansari for SHEER ORMA

#### Actor

Divya Datta for SHEER QORMA

### Social Impact Award

WOMB by Ajitesh Sharma and produced by Apoorva Bakshi & Juliet Blake

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Asha Puthli for her contributions to music & film

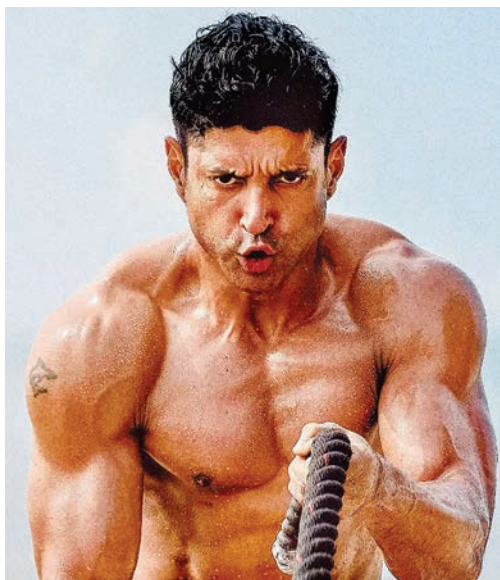
### \*Esteemed Jury:

Katy Drake Bettner, Dylan Mohan Gray, Aroon Shivdasani, Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla, Anjul Nigam and Cynthia Kane



At a Q&A after the screening of "INDIA SWEETS & SPICES" (L to R): Geeta Malik, Writer & Director of the film, Deepti Gupta, Lead Actor and Jitin Hingorani, Festival Director  
Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment  
Photo / Sachyn Mital

VIRTUAL SAFF, the online component of the sister festivals, presented by Toyota Motor North America and supported by AARP, is taking place through Sunday, November 7, 2021, for audiences all over North America on the Movie Saints platform. The digital festival showcases 10 feature films, four documentaries and 21 short films.



## Farhan Akhtar's 'Toofaan' to storm TV screens

After its OTT release, Farhan Akhtar-starrer 'Toofaan' will now reach out to an even wider base of the Indian audience with its world television premiere on Zee Cinema on October 31.

The film directed by maverick filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra portrays the journey of an extortionist who transforms into a boxer. The film marks Mehra and Akhtar's second collaboration after the National Award-winning 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag'.

Talking about his experience on working in the film, Farhan Akhtar who played the protagonist, said, "While working on 'Toofaan' I realised there are no shortcuts when you want to portray a character like Aziz. And through this experience I came to believe that there are no shortcuts in life. You have to persevere and keep challenging yourself."

## When Katrina Kaif said she would invite 'everyone in the world' to her wedding

Rumour has it that Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are planning a winter wedding. Although Katrina had a cryptic response to the rumours, Vicky is yet to react. While fans keep a close watch on the developments, we came across an interview of the Tiger 3 actor talking about inviting 'everyone in the world' to witness her wedding.

In an interview with Hindustan Times in 2015, Katrina was addressing rumours of her wedding at the time and said that the day she decides to get married, she would tell the whole world.

"When you decide to get married, and are prepared to tell the world that 'we are making a commitment', you become comfortable with people talking about it. I want everyone in the world to attend my wedding," she had said.

In the same interview, she added, "A private person [like me] doesn't like to talk about sensitive and delicate topics like relationship and love. And if that (being silent) is misconceived as arrogance, then it's the ignorance of that person [who forms such a perception about me]."

Katrina has been rumoured to be dating Vicky since 2019. A few months ago, reports claimed that Vicky and Katrina are engaged. However, Katrina's team had shot the claims down. Speaking to Zoom, Katrina's spokesperson said, "There has been no Roka ceremony. She is leaving for Tiger 3 shoot soon."

Vicky too downplayed the rumours. Speaking with radio host Siddharth



Kannan, Vicky said, "To be honest, mere paas woh mental space hi nahi tha (I didn't have the mental space), because I was right in the middle of a shoot... Funnily enough, what happens is, these

rumours start at 9 o'clock in the morning by the media and by 4.30, the media only negates the same rumours and says 'no, it's not true'. So, you don't have to do anything." *Source: HT*

## Bhumi Pednekar joins Rajkummar Rao in Bheed

Bhumi Pednekar has come on board with Rajkummar Rao for a movie titled Bheed. The film will be directed by Anubhav Sinha, and will be Bhumi and Rajkummar's second movie together. They will be seen for the first time in Badhaai Do, which is currently in the making. Bhumi and Raj will join Anubhav Sinha in Lucknow soon after Diwali to begin the shoot. The filmmaker is currently busy with the post-production work on Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Anek and pre-production of Bheed.

The film is jointly produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Anubhav Sinha, and is said to be a hard-hitting social drama. As for Badhaai Do, the movie has been directed by Harshvardhan Kulkarni. It is a sequel of Ayushmann's 2018 film Badhaai Ho.



## Shoojit Sircar terms decision to not send Sardar Udham for Oscars 'very subjective'

Fans of Vicky Kaushal's latest Sardar Udham have expressed their displeasure on the film not being selected as India's



official entry for the 94th Academy Awards. But the film's director, Shoojit Sircar feels the jury's decision to not select the film is "very subjective". Interacting with the media recently, Sircar said, "It is a personal opinion, it is very subjective, I have no comment on that. I respect the jury and their decision. The film that was finally selected, I know about it, and I am glad that it was chosen. I go by the jury's decision." Sardar Udham is based on the Indian revolutionary Sardar Udham Singh who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the lieutenant governor of Punjab at the time of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar. The film stars Vicky Kaushal in the titular role. Stating why the film was not sent for the Oscars, one of the jury members, Indraadip Dasgupta said the film "portrays our hatred towards the British". He also gave the length of the movie as one of the reasons for it losing out to Tamil drama Koozhangal (Pebbles) which has been announced as India's official entry for the Oscars this year.





### 'Rust' AD admits he didn't check rounds before handing gun to Alec Baldwin

The first assistant director on "Rust," David Halls, acknowledged to investigators that he should have checked a weapon for live rounds before giving it to Alec Baldwin, according to a search warrant affidavit filed on Wednesday.

Baldwin fired the weapon while rehearsing a scene last Thursday at the Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe, striking cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and the director, Joel Souza. Hutchins was airlifted to a hospital in Albuquerque, where she died.

Detectives had earlier disclosed that Halls declared the weapon was a "cold gun," before giving it to Baldwin, meaning it did not contain live rounds. The affidavit filed on Wednesday includes new details from Halls' interview with detectives, as well as details from an interview with Hannah Gutierrez Reed, the armorer on the film.

## Kristen says 'it was nice' that 'The Crown' existed while preparing for 'Spencer'

It is a fictional take on what happened when Diana decided during a family Christmas that she wanted out of her marriage to Prince Charles.

"We're not trying to educate anyone, we're not trying to solve anything," Kristen Stewart told Variety at the film's Los Angeles premiere.

"We're also not trying to like figure out whether or not we should have a monarchy. It's what did it feel like to be her, think about what those nights were like, think about what those meals were like.

"It's the moments in between... They could have done the dinners and opening presents and the photo ops, but they didn't. They did getting dressed, cleaning up dirty dishes, and you know, crumpled up wrapping paper; I just think that's such an interesting way to tell the story that everyone thinks they know so well."

Stewart had four months to prepare before filming began. "The script doesn't profess to know anything, it doesn't cover any black-and-white detail," Stewart said.

"But I read everything. And somehow, in a sort of abstract way, the script substantiated everything I learned in detail. So it was really nice that 'The Crown' existed. And it was really nice that we've had all these documentaries and this evolved relationship with what happened."

Writer and director Pablo Larrain said during the interview that the idea of casting Stewart came about because both women faced immense fame and unparalleled media scrutiny.

Stewart trained with dialect coach William Conacher, who also worked with Emma Corrin for 'The Crown' and with Naomi Watts when she played the titular role in 2013's 'Diana'.



## Priyanka Chopra's audio book being considered for Grammy 2022

Priyanka Chopra recently turned author as she published her book Unfinished earlier this year. The actress had also launched an audio version of the book simultaneously. Now, her audio book has been considered as the 'Best Spoken Word Album' at the Grammys 2022.

The audio book is described as a collection of personal essays, stories and observations jotted down by the global superstar. Priyanka's team took to the official Instagram account and shared the news: "The New York Times Best Seller, Unfinished by @priyankachopra is now being considered as the 'Best Spoken Word Album' at the #Grammys 2022."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka Chopra with her husband Nick Jonas has joined the production team of a Broadway Show called Chicken and Biscuits.



## Drew Barrymore and Tom Green reunite for first time in almost 20 years

Drew Barrymore has reunited in-person with her ex-husband Tom Green for the first time in almost two decades.

The former flames - who were married from July 2001 to October 2002 - came together for her daytime talk show this week after Tom previously appeared as a virtual guest in September 2020, which was the first time they'd spoken in 15 years.

Appearing on 'The Drew Barrymore Show' and reflecting on their reunion, he said: "It's sort of a little bit like an out-of-body experience.

"It's very nice to see you. It does feel weird though. Not weird in a bad way. Weird In a good way..."

"I actually think this is a nice way of reconnecting... it takes a little bit of the pressure off."

Drew replied: "Well, I respect and love you." He responded: "I love you, too." The two exes looked back on their relationship, and the 'Santa Clarita Diet' actress couldn't believe it's been two decades years since they first got together in 2000.

She said: "When you say it's 20 years, sometimes it's the blink of an eye and sometimes you're like, 'Oh my God, we've lived so much in these last 20 years'.

"You've had a whole life and I've had a whole life and it's just really nice to come together and check-in and talk about it.

"I think the world of you. I celebrate you and I always have and I always will."

The "Never Been Kissed" star later remarried as she tied the knot with Will Kopelman in 2012, and while they split four years later they co-parent their two daughters.





## UK PLEDGES RETALIATION TO FRENCH FISHING THREATS

**LONDON (TIP):** Britain's environment minister pledged on October 29 to retaliate if France carries through on threats to block UK ships from French ports, warning that "two can play at that game" in the worsening dispute rooted in Britain's departure from the European Union.

Britain summoned the French ambassador for a dressing-down after French authorities fined two British fishing vessels and kept one in port overnight Thursday.

Since the UK left the economic orbit of the EU in January, relations between London and Paris have become increasingly frayed as the nations on either side of the English Channel sort out a post-Brexit path.

France has threatened to block British boats and tighten checks on UK vessels unless French vessels get more permits to fish in UK waters.

France also suggested it might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, British Crown dependencies that lie off the coast of France.

"We will see what they do," Environment Secretary George Eustice told Sky News. "But if they do bring these into place, well, two can play at that game and we reserve the ability to respond in a proportionate way." The UK government said France's ambassador, Catherine Colonna, would be summoned to the Foreign Office on Friday, in an official sign of displeasure.

"We regret the confrontational language that has been consistently used by the French government on this issue, which makes this situation no easier to resolve," the British government said in a statement.

France vehemently protested the decision last month by the UK and the Channel Island of Jersey to refuse dozens of French fishing boats licenses to operate in their territorial waters. Dozens of other licenses were granted. France says the restrictions are contrary to the post-Brexit agreement that Britain signed when it left the EU.

Meanwhile, the European Union's executive said UK authorities withdrew the impounded vessel's license to fish off France on March 1.

But Macduff Shellfish, which operates the impounded scallop vessel Cornelis, hit back in a statement, saying it had access to French waters under the Brexit deal and that its activities were "entirely legal," and that it would defend itself against all claims. Its statement did not offer specifics on licenses.

"It appears our vessel has been caught up in the ongoing dispute between the UK and France on the implementation of the Brexit Fishing Agreement," the company statement said. "We are looking to the UK government to defend the rights of the UK fishing fleet and ensure that the fishing rights provided under the Brexit Fishing agreement are fully respected by the EU."(AP)

# North Korean leader Kim Jong Un lost 20 kg but remains healthy: Seoul

**SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA) (TIP):** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has recently lost about 20 kg (44 pounds), but remains healthy and is trying to boost public loyalty to him in the face of worsening economic problems, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on October 28.

The National Intelligence Service gave the assessment during a closed-door parliamentary briefing, saying it used artificial intelligence techniques, an analysis of super-resolution video of Kim and other methods to investigate Kim's condition, said two lawmakers who attended the session.

Kim's health has been a focus of keen outside attention in recent months because he has appeared noticeably thinner in state media photos and videos. Kim, 37, hasn't publicly anointed a successor and some experts say an abrupt incapacitation could trigger chaos in the impoverished nuclear-armed country.

Despite Kim's thinner appearance, longtime North Korea observers have said Kim has no apparent health problems and his weight loss is likely the result of his efforts to improve his physique. They noted that he has continued his regular public activities and no unusual developments have been seen in North Korean videos.

But unconfirmed rumours about him have continued to appear, with one tabloid claiming that recent public appearances used an impostor. The NIS dismissed that report as groundless, lawmaker Kim Byung-kee said.

He said the NIS told the parliamentary session that Kim's weight has fallen from about 140 kilograms (308 pounds) to 120 kilograms (264 pounds). The NIS has



previously said Kim is about 170 centimeters (5 feet, 8 inches) tall.

It said Kim has been engaged in public activities for 70 days so far this year, a 45% increase from the same period last year.

The lawmaker said the NIS found that Kim had photos of his late father and grandfather — who ruled North Korea before him — removed from a Workers' Party conference room.

Another lawmaker, Ha Tae-keung, quoted the NIS as saying North Korea has begun using the term "Kimjongunism," a political ideology named after Kim Jong Un that is independent of existing ideologies named after his father and grandfather, "KimJongilism" and "Kimilsungism."

After about 10 years in office, Kim is struggling to overcome what appears to be the toughest period of his rule due to economic hardships worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the NIS, North Korea's annual trade with China, its main ally and economic lifeline, declined by two-thirds to \$158 million through September this year compared to the previous year, Ha said.

Korean officials are struggling to deal with soaring prices of goods and shortages of medicine and other essential supplies that have accelerated the spread of water-borne diseases such as typhoid fever. The country has also been unable to import the paper and ink it uses to print banknotes, forcing North Korean officials to issue temporary currency, according to Ha's account of the NIS briefing.

While reduced trade has limited the supply of materials needed for industrial activity, North Korean officials are pushing workers hard to increase production. Excessive factory operations caused an explosion at a major fertilizer plant in August, Ha quoted the NIS as saying. AP

## France seizes British trawler in post-Brexit row over fishing rights

**PARIS (TIP):** France seized a British trawler fishing in its territorial waters without a licence on October 29 and issued a warning to a second vessel in a dispute over access to fishing grounds after Brexit.

Furious that Britain has refused to grant its fishermen the full number of licences to operate inside British waters that France says is warranted, Paris announced retaliatory measures on Wednesday if there was no progress in talks.

The French government said it would from Nov. 2 impose extra customs checks on British goods entering France, raising the prospect of more economic pain before Christmas for Britain, which faces labour shortages and rising energy prices.

It is also reviewing a second round of sanctions and does not exclude a review of its exports of electricity to Britain, which left the European Union on Jan. 31,

2020.

"It's not war, but it is a fight," France's Seas Minister Annick Girardin told RTL radio.

European Affairs Minister Clement Beaune signalled France would be forceful in the dispute.

"So now, we need to speak the language of strength since that seems to be the only thing this British government understands," Beaune told news channel CNews.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the detained trawler.

Britain has said France's planned acts of retaliation will be met with an appropriate and calibrated response.

"France's threats are disappointing and disproportionate and not what we would expect from a close ally and partner," a British government spokesperson said.

Barrie Deas, head of Britain's National

Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said Britain was issuing licences in line with the terms of the post-Brexit trade agreement and that France appeared determined to escalate the licence row.

"I suppose we have to wonder why. There is a presidential election coming up in France and I think all the signs are that the rhetoric has been ramped up ahead of that on the fishing issue," Deas told the BBC.

French President Emmanuel Macron has not yet confirmed he will seek a second term in April's election but is widely expected to run.

French maritime gendarmes made multiple checks on fishing vessels off the northern French port of Le Havre overnight, the Maritime Ministry said, as France steps up surveillance during negotiations.

The seized trawler, now under the control of French judicial authorities, had been rerouted to Le Havre under a maritime police escort and was tied up at the port's quayside.

The vessel's captain could face criminal charges, with his catch confiscated, the ministry added. (Reuters)



# Protesters target London banks ahead of climate summit

**LONDON (TIP):** Protesters started gathering on October 29 in the heart of London's historic financial district to lobby against the use of fossil fuels ahead of the start of the U.N. climate summit in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

The protests in London, which were to be joined by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, are part of a worldwide day of action before leaders head to Glasgow for the U.N. Climate Change Conference, known as COP26. Many environmentalists are calling the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 gathering the world's last chance to turn the tide in the battle against climate change.

The protest began at the Climate Justice Memorial outside the insurance marketplace of Lloyd's of London, as demonstrators called for the global financial system to stop investing in the use of fossil fuels.

They laid red flowers spelling out "Rise Remember Resist" at the site before beginning their march to several high-profile institutions in the City of London. They were being escorted by police. Protesters chanted "Ensure our future, not pollution!" as they made their way to the financial firm Macquarie Capital. Outside the firm, five women dressed as banshees and held cymbals, wailing and lying on the ground clutching white roses.

The international bank Standard Chartered will be the focus of the main action in the afternoon, followed later by a vigil at the Bank of England. There are also protests planned at British banks Lloyds and Barclays.

The protesters included people who traveled from the front line of climate change in Asia and the Pacific to call out



the banks they say are responsible for financing activities they blame for the destruction of their homes by rising seas.

Some in London protested about local issues, including the plan to build the Silvertown Tunnel under the River Thames in east London, which they say will attract more vehicle traffic into the British capital.

Across the world, demonstrators were taking to the streets to urge action now, including in coal-reliant Poland, where city sirens sounded at noon in Warsaw and other major cities. Poland's conservative government has been slow to embrace new climate goals, arguing that the country needs more time to phase out its heavy dependence on coal and pivot toward more renewable sources.

The summit in Glasgow is taking place a year late because of the coronavirus pandemic. Six years ago in Paris, nearly 200 countries agreed to individual plans to fight global warming. Under the Paris pact, nations must revisit their previous pledges to curb carbon pollution every five years and then announce plans to cut even more and do it faster.

The hope is that world leaders will cajole each other into doing more, while ensuring that poorer nations struggling to tackle climate change get the financial support they need to adapt.

The headline goal set in Paris was to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since preindustrial times, yet the world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since then. (AP)

## Rise in human bird flu cases in China shows risk of fast-changing variants: Experts

**BEIJING (TIP):** A jump in the number of people in China infected with bird flu this year is raising concern among experts, who say a previously circulating strain appears to have changed and may be more infectious to people.

China has reported 21 human infections with the H5N6 subtype of avian influenza in 2021 to the World Health Organization (WHO), compared with only five last year, it said.

Though the numbers are much lower than the hundreds infected with H7N9 in 2017, the infections are serious, leaving many critically ill, and at least six dead.

"The increase in human cases in China this year is of concern. It's a virus that causes high mortality," said Thijs Kuiken, professor of comparative pathology at Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam.

Most of the cases had come into contact with poultry, and there are no confirmed cases of human-to-human transmission, said the WHO, which highlighted the rise in cases in a statement on Oct. 4.

It said further investigation was "urgently" required to understand the risk and the increase in spill over to people.

Since then, a 60-year-old woman in Hunan province was admitted to hospital in a critical condition with H5N6 influenza on Oct. 13, according to a Hong Kong government statement.

While human H5N6 cases have been reported, no outbreaks of H5N6 have been reported in poultry in China since February 2020.

China is the world's biggest poultry producer and top producer of ducks, which act as a reservoir for flu viruses.

The Chinese Center for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) could not be reached for comment on the rise in H5N6 human cases. However, a study published on its website last month said the "increasing genetic diversity and geographical distribution of H5N6 pose a serious threat to the poultry industry and human health".

Avian influenza viruses constantly circulate in domestic and wild birds, but rarely infect people. However, the evolution of the viruses, which have increased as poultry populations grow, is a major concern because they could change into a virus that spreads easily between people and cause a pandemic.

The largest number of H5N6 infections has been in southwestern Sichuan province, though cases have also been reported in neighbouring Chongqing and Guangxi, as well as Guangdong, Anhui and Hunan provinces.

At least 10 were caused by viruses genetically very similar to the H5N8 virus that ravaged poultry farms across Europe last winter and also killed wild birds in China. That suggests the latest H5N6 infections in China may be a new variant. (Reuters)

## FRANCE FINES BRITISH BOATS AS FISHING DISPUTE ESCALATES

**LONDON (TIP):** French authorities fined two British fishing vessels and kept one in port overnight on October 28 amid a worsening dispute over fishing licenses that has stoked tensions following the UK's departure from the European Union.

Britain's government warned France that it would retaliate if French officials followed through on threats made late on Wednesday to block British boats from some French ports and tighten checks on UK vessels. France also suggested it might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, British Crown dependencies that lie off the coast of France.

"We believe these are disappointing and disproportionate, and not what we'd expect from a close ally and partner," UK Environment Secretary George Eustice told lawmakers. "The measures being threatened do not appear to be compatible with the trade and cooperation agreement or wider international law," he said. — AP

## LATEST RUSSIAN CYBERATTACK TARGETING HUNDREDS OF US NETWORKS: MICROSOFT

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Russian-based agency behind last year's massive SolarWinds cyberattack has targeted hundreds more companies and organizations in its latest wave of attacks on US-based computer systems, Microsoft said in a blog post.

Microsoft, in a blog post dated October 24, said Nobelium's latest wave targeted "resellers and other technology service providers" of cloud services. Those attacks were part of a broader campaign over the summer, Microsoft said, adding it had notified 609 customers between July 1 and Oct. 19 that they had been attacked.

Just a small percent of the latest attempts were successful, Microsoft told the New York Times, which first reported the breach, but it gave no further details.

US cybersecurity officials could not be immediately reached to confirm the report.

US officials confirmed to the Times that the operation was underway, with one unnamed senior administration official calling it "unsophisticated, run-of-the mill operations that could have been prevented if the cloud service providers had implemented baseline cybersecurity practices."

"This recent activity is another indicator that Russia is trying to gain long-term, systematic access to a variety of points in the technology supply chain and establish a mechanism for surveilling – now or in the future – targets of interest to the Russian government," Microsoft wrote. Reuters

**ISLAMIST PARTY BACKERS  
THROUGH ISLAMABAD**

**LAHORE (TIP):** Tens of thousands of supporters of a banned radical Islamist party in Pakistan took out a march towards Islamabad on October 28 to press the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to release their party chief Saad Rizvi and expel the French ambassador.

The rally by members of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), which started after the government announced it could not meet its demand for the expulsion of the French ambassador, has reached Gujranwala, some 80 km from here. Gujranwala is over 220 kms from Islamabad.

Life in the areas surrounding its route continues to remain disrupted as cellphone and Internet services have been suspended. Lahore's link to Rawalpindi and Islamabad has also been cut off from GT Road.

For the time being, the government has changed its strategy in the wake of Wednesday's bloody clashes in which four policemen and as many TLP activities were killed and over 400, including policemen, were injured, he said. — PTI

**MYANMAR MILITARY USES  
SYSTEMATIC TORTURE  
ACROSS COUNTRY**

**JAKARTA (TIP):** The soldiers in rural Myanmar twisted the young man's skin with pliers and kicked him in the chest until he couldn't breathe. Then they taunted him about his family until his heart ached, too: "Your mom," they jeered, "cannot save you anymore."

The young man and his friend, randomly arrested as they rode their bikes home, had been subjected to hours of agony inside a town hall transformed by the military into a torture center.

"I'm going to die," the young man told himself, stars exploding before his eyes. "I love you, mom." Since its takeover of the government in February, the Myanmar military has been torturing those it has detained in a methodical and systemic way across the country. The Associated Press has found in interviews with 28 people imprisoned and released in recent months. Based also on photographic evidence, sketches and letters, along with testimony from two military captains and an aide to a high-ranking commander, the AP investigation provides the most comprehensive look since the takeover into a secretive detention system that has held more than 9,000 people.

While most of the torture has occurred inside military compounds, the military, known as the Tatmadaw, has also transformed public facilities such as community halls into interrogation centers, prisoners said. The AP identified a dozen interrogation centers in use across Myanmar, in addition to prisons and police lockups. AP

# Bizenjo elected Chief Minister of Pakistan's restive region of Balochistan

**QUETTA (TIP):** Balochistan Awami Party leader, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, on October 29 was elected Chief Minister of the restive region of Balochistan, five days after his predecessor Jam Kamal Khan Alyani stepped down from the post.

Alyani submitted his resignation to the Governor of Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmad Agha on Sunday, after majority members of the provincial assembly had moved a no-confidence motion against him earlier this month on the issue of allotment and distribution of development funds.

Bizenjo, who hails from an influential political and tribal family of the province, secured 39 out of the 64 eligible votes.

This is the second stint for Bizenjo as Chief Minister, having previously served in this position from January to July 2018.

Governor Agha is scheduled to administer Bizenjo's oath at a swearing-in ceremony at Governor House, in Quetta later in the evening, a spokesperson said.



The ceremony will be attended by leaders of other political parties as well as civil and military officials.

Bizenjo takes over as CM at a time

when the province is seeing a rise in terror attacks by separatists, who are specifically targeting security officials as well as Chinese nationals working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects.

Earlier this week, Pakistan's Counter-Terrorism Department had killed 15 militants belonging to the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army, Baloch Liberation Front and United Baloch Army in the Mastung and Harnai regions during an operation in which they also seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

Despite being rich in natural resources, Balochistan remains one of the more backward provinces in Pakistan, after being hit by a wave of terror attacks by separatist groups for more than a decade.

The Pakistan government believes that foreign agencies are working in tandem with these banned outfits to spread terror, create unrest and derail the slew of CPEC projects earmarked for the region. PTI

# Woman now thought to be Afghanistan's last Jew flees country

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** For years, Zebulon Simentov branded himself as the "last Jew of Afghanistan," the sole remnant of a centuries-old community.

He charged reporters for interviews and held court in Kabul's only remaining synagogue. He left the country last month for Istanbul after the Taliban seized power.

Now, it appears he was not the last one.

Simentov's distant cousin, Tova Moradi, was born and raised in Kabul and lived there until last week, more than a month after Simentov departed in September.

Fearing for their safety, Moradi, her children and nearly two dozen grandchildren fled the country in recent weeks in an escape orchestrated by an Israeli aid group, activists and prominent Jewish philanthropists.

"I loved my country, loved it very much, but had to leave because my children were in danger," Moradi told The Associated Press from her modest quarters in the Albanian town of Golem, whose beachside resorts have been converted to makeshift homes for some 2,000 Afghan refugees.

Moradi, 83, was one of 10 children born to a Jewish family in Kabul. At age 16, she ran away from home and married a Muslim man.

She never converted to Islam, maintained some Jewish traditions, and it was no secret in her neighbourhood that she was Jewish.

"She never denied her Judaism, she



just got married in order to save her life as you cannot be safe as a young girl in Afghanistan," Moradi's daughter, Khorshid, told the AP from her home in Canada, where she and three of her siblings moved after the Taliban first seized power in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Despite friction over her decision to marry outside the faith, Moradi said she stayed in touch with some of her family over the years.

Her parents and siblings fled Afghanistan in the 1960s and 1980s. Her parents are buried at Jerusalem's Har Menuhot cemetery, and many of her surviving siblings and their descendants live in Israel.

But until this week, she had not spoken to some of her sisters in over half a century.

"Yesterday, I saw my sisters, nieces and nephews after around 60 years

through a video call. We spoke for hours," Moradi said. "I was really happy, I saw their children and they met mine."

"They said it's like she came back from the grave," Khorshid said.

During the first period of Taliban rule, from 1996 until the 2001 US-led invasion, Moradi tried to maintain a low profile.

But she risked her life by hiding Rabbi Isaak Levi, one of the few remaining Afghan Jews, from the Taliban.

Levi and Simentov lived together for years in the decrepit synagogue in Kabul but famously despised one another and fought often.

The Taliban usually left them alone, but intervened during one such dispute, arresting them, beating them and confiscating the synagogue's ancient Torah scroll, which went missing after the Taliban were driven from power. . AP



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# Food & Life are spice of life for Rajput's Paul Chhabra



Paul Chhabra with celebrated chef Harpal Sokhi (left)

Rajput Cuisine, established in 1999, is a brainchild of Yash Paul Chhabra in Hampton, Virginia. The chain of Indian cuisine restaurant today serves hundreds of customers every day at its various outlets. It's the vision of Mr. Chhabra that inspires atmosphere and authentic Indian heritage backed with home style cooking. Over the decades, Rajput Indian Cuisine has earned great reputation and recognition due to its quality food, hospitality and service.

The owner-operator hails from Nakodar (near Jalandhar), Punjab and brings with him the authenticity of Indian cuisine to America. He moved to USA to pursue his studies in Business Administration. An avid culinary enthusiast, he comes with degrees in Accounting and Business from India and a certificate in Lodging and Food Service Management from Norfolk State University.

With more than 30 years of experience in Food and Hospitality business and with his experience in the industry that he gained in Long Island, the journey started in 1992 when Mr. Chhabra moved to Virginia and started with Nawab Indian Cuisine in Norfolk.

The restaurant today caters from two locations - Norfolk and Suffolk and features the best of Indian dishes in their menu. The menu is carefully curated as per Paul's nature of attention to detail. It includes something or the other from nearly each state of India and offers the best of curry recipes on the table. The restaurant uses authentic Indian spices and that's what gives it an extra edge for Indian cuisine lovers.

Currently, Yash Paul Chhabra is the President & CEO of Rajput Group of Companies and has a varied genre of businesses the group looks into.

### Paul's Futuristic Vision

Paul has a vision to support upcoming entrepreneurs in that work towards various causes. A number of fundraising events have been supported by him over the last few decades

Since the year 2000, Paul has actively participated in more than 100 fundraising events including Peninsula Foodbank of Virginia, March Of Dimes, FoodBank of Southern Virginia, Easter Virginia Medical Centre, Virginia Zoo To Do, World Affairs Council, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Norfolk City Public Schools, Norfolk Christian Schools, Suffolk City Public Schools, Tidewater Nutrition Council, Virginia Air & Space Center, SPCA Norfolk, Elizabeth City State University, United Nations International Day of Peace (Hampton Roads), Annual Norfolk Teen Cultural Fest, Norfolk Chamber Consor, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Temple Beth El and so on.

### Charity begins from home

When Paul isn't looking after the business, he spends his time in the community to give back to it. He is an active social worker and supports a number of charities and organizations



Paul was invited as a guest of honor at Ali Baba 40 Kebab Contest in New Delhi



Paul with Virginia governor (right) and Lt governor (left)



Paul (right) is seen here with Randy Thompson, Editor Coastal Virginia Magazine which bestowed on Rajput the Best Indian, Best Buffet and Best Vegan and Vegetarian Award.



Hala Ayla, candidate for Lt governor who loves to visit Rajput is seen here with Paul Chhabra



From left Laura for Treasurer Virginia Beach, Terry McAuliffe for Governor, Ryan (Political Director of Terry), Kellam (Commissioner Virginia Beach), Charles (Deputy Commissioner Norfolk), Susan Kaufman (US Senator Tim's Regional Director) & Steve Heretick (State Delegate)

### Paul and "Paultitics"

Paul has supported a number of political fundraisings for public political figures including Honorable Mark Warner @ Philipino Community Center Virginia Beach, Honorable Tim Kaine @ Sidhu Home Richmond, VA, Honorable Dr. Ralph Northam (Governor) @ Rajput Indian Cuisine Suffolk in 2017, Honorable Stephen Heretick (Delegate) @ Rajput Indian Cuisine Suffolk in 2018, Honorable Lynwood Lewis (Senator) at Ramin Fatehi Home in 2019.

Recently, he organized fundraising event in 2021 for Hon'ble Terry McAuliffe at Rajput Indian Cuisine, September 2021, Hon'ble Hala Ayla (upcoming Lt. Governor) at Rajput Indian Cuisine, October 2021, Hon'ble Laura Wood running for Virginia Beach Treasurer, October 2021

### Organizational Recognition

- Member: FBI Norfolk CAAA
- Member: Virginia Asian Advisory Board
- Member: South Asian Women Advisory Board

### Achievements & Awards

Executive Founder & Business Secretary: NRI Sabha Punjab (NGO) 1995-1999 Invited to Prime Minister House in 1997 for helping NRIs through NRI SABHA PUNJAB by Shri I. K. Gujral, the then Prime Minister of India.

Appreciation Letter from Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Office for celebrating India's first Independence Day on August 2000 in the history of City of Hampton, VA in 2000.

Proclamation from Mamie E. Locker, Mayor of the from City of Hampton on Sunday, August 20, 2000 as INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Appreciation Letter from Mahatam Gandhi House by Dr. Gandhi on 25th October 2000

Proclamation From Paul D. Fraim, Mayor of City Of Norfolk on Sunday, November 20, 2005 as A Day of Support for The Victims of the October 8, 2005 Earthquake in Pakistan and India

Virginia Trade Delegation to India with Governor Mark Warner in 2005

Profiled for Reversing Diabetes Vegan Cooking Class demonstration along with Dr. Neal Barnard Who is Author of many books written for Good Health by Eating Vegan

Graduate of FBI Norfolk Citizen Academy in 2009

Chef Award @ Signature Chefs Auction by March Of Dimes in 2015

Demonstrated Cooking Show at WAVY TV to support March of Dimes and also got "Best Taste Award at event in 2016

Featured in Profile of The Indian Panorama Magazine in New York & Dallas Texas- "Yash Paul Chhabra -A Fascinating Journey from Punjab to Virginia" in 2017

Cooking Show with Celebrity Chef of India, Mr. Harpal Sokhi in Mumbai, India 2018

Featured in News & Views Charitable Work of VEER Magazine in Hampton Roads- "Food & Community are Spice of Life for Rajput's Paul Chhabra" in 2018

Invited as a Guest of Honor by Salam India Food Kebab Contest in Delhi in 2019.

This Punjabi middle-aged man is destined to achieve and contribute much more to his community and the country. Good luck, Mr. Chhabra.



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# Make your hair super silky

You know silky hair when you see it: shiny, healthy, and free of tangles. But if you, like me, put your hair through the ringer, styling it with hot tools, using tons of product, and coloring it regularly, silkiness seems only but a dream. Luckily, with the right products, you can improve the look and feel of our hair in just a few weeks—especially since silky hair relies on the health and condition of the cuticle (the outside layer).

The surface of your hair is kind of like shingles on a roof. When all of those shingles lay downward and smooth from roots to ends, that's when your hair looks and feels smooth and shiny—not knotty and tangled; it's also when it reflects the most light.

If you're reading this because you deal with dullness and tangles daily/weekly/whenever, follow the eight tips below to transform your strands and restore your natural shine.

## Be mindful when shampooing

When shampooing, the tendency is to pile your hair on top of your head, and wash the entire length of your strands. This technique not only creates tangles, but also dries out the ends of the hair, which already lack moisture—especially of those with curly hair.

With naturally straight hair, oil from the scalp can go from roots to ends very quickly because gravity will pull it down. But with curly hair, the oil has to travel around the coiled shaft, so the oil doesn't get there as quickly.

What this means is that people with curly hair don't need to shampoo their hair as often. And, when it is time to wash, consider swapping out your reg shampoo with a cleansing conditioner to keep from stripping your hair of its necessary natural oils.

## Comb when wet, brush when dry

Most people are not delicate enough when brushing, which can prevent your hair from looking its best. If you're raking through wet hair with a paddle brush, that detangling noise that you're used to hearing is actually the sound of your hair ripping. Instead of smoothing the cuticle, this action is causing damage to the outside layer. A gentler way to detangle hair? Using a comb when it's wet (or a brush designed for use on wet hair), and only using a brush when your hair is dry. Work through the knots and tangles by starting at the ends before moving to the middle and roots, rather than working from roots to ends, which could worsen the problem.

## Use a T-shirt to dry your hair

Somewhere along the way, we wrongly learned to "rough dry" hair by rubbing a towel back and forth against it. This action creates friction, which fluffs up the cuticle. And when the cuticles are fluffed up, they catch on one another; cause knots and breakage, and result in frizz. The number one key to having smooth



hair is no friction. When someone's hair gets super tangly, it's usually because the cuticle is open. The tighter the cuticle, the more resistant it is to opening, and the smoother the hair is overall. So, switch out your fluffy friction-causing towel for a smoother cotton T-shirt. And instead of rubbing your head, wrap the ends in the shirt and squeeze all the water out, working it down to the ends.

## Sleep on silk pillowcases

If you're currently using a cotton pillowcase, that very well might be the cause of your frizzy or tangled hair. Makes sense if you think about it: a silky smooth pillowcase leads to silky smooth strands. Cotton absorbs all the moisture from your strands, while silk or satin maintains the oils necessary for nourished hair.

## Finish blow drying with cold air

It sounds like a time-sucking extra step, but Picciano argues that finishing a blow out with cold air after the hair is dry is key for not only locking in the amount of volume, direction of your style, and movement of your hair; it also helps close the cuticle. Make sure to always use a nozzle or concentrator. It makes sure the direction of the air goes from roots to ends, closing the cuticle rather than roughing it up.

## FOOD CORNER

### Rogan Josh



Rogan josh consists of pieces of lamb or mutton braised with a gravy flavoured with garlic, ginger and aromatic spices (cloves, bay leaves, cardamom, and cinnamon), and in some versions incorporating onions or yogurt. After initial braising, the dish may be finished using the dampokhtak slow cooking technique.

## Ingredients

1 Kg Meat, 1 Cup Mustard/refined oil, 3 tsp Red chili powder, 3 tsp Fennel powder, 2 tsp Ginger powder, 2 tsp Cumin powder, 3 tsp Brown cardamom powder, 1 tsp Asafoetida, 4 Pieces Green cardamom, 2 Cinnamon sticks, 2 Bay leaves, 2 Cloves, 1/3 tsp Saffron (optional), 1 Cup Curd, A pinch of Salt.

## Method

- Wash the meat properly. Heat oil in a pressure cooker.
- Put cinnamon, bay leaves, green cardamom, cloves, a teaspoon of salt, asafoetida, and meat together.
- Fry meat till it turns brown. Once browned, pour a cup of water. Add the red chili powder and saffron into the meat. Keep stirring for about a minute.
- Mix the curd nicely in the mixer and pour it into the pressure cooker. Keep on stirring till you get a reddish tinge.
- Add 2 cups of water, fennel powder, ginger powder, and pressure cook for 2 minutes.
- Check if the meat is tender. Peel and grind green and brown cardamom and add to the meat dish.
- Finally sprinkle cumin powder and simmer for a minute and serve.



# Things you need to do for healthy skin

As you get older, your diet, lifestyle and hormones take a toll on your skin. Wrinkles, loss of elasticity, dark circles and blemishes can be a shock when you look in the mirror. Therefore, you need to give your skin a little more care in your 50s than you did in your 20s or 30s. Neeleshwari Basak, owner of WIGP and Harpreet Ahluwalia, owner of Earthly Creations, share useful tips to ensure glowing, vibrant skin after 50:

## Balance the hormones

The hormones in our body act like messengers. With ageing, these hormones become unbalanced and we can see the changes following menopause. Due to this, women experience dry skin or oily skin and even adult acne. When these hormones

are well-balanced, we feel and look energetic, healthy and vibrant.

As we age, it is important to know the interplay between hormone, health and beauty. There are superfoods like berries, walnut, avocado and turmeric when combined with proper diet and a healthy regime can give us glowing skin.

## High insulin is bad

High levels of insulin can increase wrinkling of the skin. Our body gets an excess of insulin when we indulge in sugary foods like bakery items, packed juices, and other sweet items. If you go for sugar-laden eats, it's not only bad for the waistline, you are also likely to have a dull complexion and damaged skin. The high level of insulin manifests as excess hair growth and dark patches on

the neck and body folds. Try to avoid sugar in your diet.

## Prefer more probiotics foods

Reach out for foods that are high in antioxidants as well as probiotics, which are naturally occurring and good-for-your-gut bacteria. Probiotics help in creating a healthy gut, so less toxins are absorbed into the bloodstream.

Toxins obstruct the absorption of important vitamins, minerals and nutrients in our body. Consuming probiotics will promote better moisture absorption and help in delaying the signs of aging. Lactic acid helps reduce wrinkles and tighten pores. This also helps to strengthen our immune system. A good immune system will strengthen all of your protective organs, including your skin.





A DIWALI GIFT TO THE INDIAN PANORAMA READERS

# A cure for diabetes

Pomegranates can help manage a lot of conditions that are known to be linked with diabetes too. Experts have claimed that pomegranate seeds may help improve insulin sensitivity

Are you a diabetes patient? We are sure by now you must have been flooded with advises from everybody concerning your diet. It is true that a diabetic needs to be extra cautious of what he puts on his plate, but as they say, 'too many cooks spoil the broth'. When it comes to diabetes, it seems as if everyone has a tip or tow to share. But it is upon you to distinguish which ones are actually effective and which ones are not. A diabetic should definitely cut out all sources of refined sugar and carbohydrates and fill up their kitchen pantry with more whole grains. Some spices like cinnamon, fenugreek seeds and turmeric are known to keep your blood sugar levels in check. Fibre-rich fruits and vegetables are also a must, and one fibre-rich fruit you could consider loading up on is pomegranate.



Pomegranates are packed with antioxidants. Pomegranates have almost three times the antioxidants of green tea and red wine. These antioxidants help in fighting damage caused by free radicals and chronic diseases like diabetes. Experts have claimed that pomegranate seeds may help improve insulin sensitivity, and thus, are beneficial for diabetics. Additionally, pomegranates are also low in carbs (19 grams in 100 grams). Carbohydrates get metabolised very quickly causing blood sugar spike. This is why diabetics are advised to include low carb foods in their diet. The estimated glycaemic load (GL) of

pomegranate is 18, which makes it an excellent fruit to manage blood sugar levels.

The book 'Healing Spices' by Bharat B. Aggarwal with Deborah Yost also advises having more pomegranates for its range of health benefits. "In animal studies from the US, Australia, and India, pomegranate (pomegranate flower and pomegranate seed oil) controlled and reversed diabetes itself," notes the book.

Pomegranates can help manage a lot of conditions that are known to be linked with diabetes too. According to a study published in the journal *Atherosclerosis*, researchers examined the effects of

drinking a specially prepared concentrated pomegranate juice. A group was given pomegranate juice and another was given placebo. The group that drank pomegranate juice every day for three months had reduced risk of atherosclerosis (hardening of arteries) - a condition commonly associated with diabetes. However, it must be noted that the study sample of the group was pretty small. The researchers examined only 20 people.

Go ahead, have these delicious fruit but make sure you do not go overboard. Remember moderation is the key to good health.

Source: NDTV



## Simple habits that can keep heart diseases at bay

### Healthy diet

It's time to pay attention to your mother when she asks you to eat healthy and cut on all the fried stuff or aerated drinks for better heart health. It's a myth that young people can't get heart disease. They can if there is history of heart diseases in family or if they are leading unhealthy lifestyle. It is better if you can reduce the consumption of junk food as much as possible and include more of green and colourful fruits and veggies to your diet. It is imperative to eat nutritious and exercise to keep your heart healthy and fit.

### Keeping yourself hydrated

It is essential that your body is always hydrated. Water is essential to ensure that all systems in your body work smoothly and in tandem. Dehydration affects the kidney, heart, digestive system and blood pressure gets disturbed as well. Therefore, keep a bottle of water with yourself and sip in water at regular intervals.

### Pay attention to your mental well-being

You should control your emotions and not let them sway you in any random direction. Anxiety, stress, anger and irritation are not good for health. Specifically, if you have had previous episodes of cardiac problems, make sure that you do not over think and seek medical attention whenever you feel stressed.

### Be aware of the symptoms

Learn the heart attack warning signs and listen to your body but remember this: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked. Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives. A heart burn, stomach ache, nausea, pain in the legs, breathlessness, can indicate towards a brewing problem and it is essential that people are mindful.

### Pay attention to your body signs

No matter what your age is, it is essential that you understand the signs of your body and abide by the normal physiological cycles. Late nights, binge eating on salty and oily food, over alcoholism is like a welcome bell for not just cardiac problems but many other complication that might arise as well.

Source: HT

## Lab-grown 'mini brains' to pave way for dementia treatment

**LONDON (TIP):** UK researchers have developed 'mini brains' that allow them to study a fatal and untreatable neurological disorder causing paralysis and dementia.

This is not the first time scientists have grown mini brains from patients with neurodegenerative diseases, but most efforts have only been able to grow them for a relatively short time frame.

For the first time, scientists at the University of Cambridge were able to grow these small organ-like models (organoids) of the brain for almost a year.

A common form of motor neurone disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often overlaps with frontotemporal dementia (ALS/FTD) and can affect younger people, occurring mostly after the age of 40-45. These conditions cause devastating symptoms of muscle weakness with changes in memory, behaviour, and personality.

In findings, published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, the Cambridge team reported growing these models for 240 days from stem cells harbouring the commonest genetic mutation in ALS/FTD, which was not previously possible—and in unpublished work, the team has grown them for 340 days.



"Neurodegenerative diseases are very complex disorders that can affect many different cell types and how these cells interact at different times as the diseases progress," said Dr Andras Lakatos, from the Cambridge's Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

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# NASA finds first signs of planet outside Milky Way galaxy

WASHINGTON (TIP): NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has for the first time spotted signs of a planet transiting a star outside of the Milky Way galaxy, opening up a new avenue to search for exoplanets at greater distances than ever before.

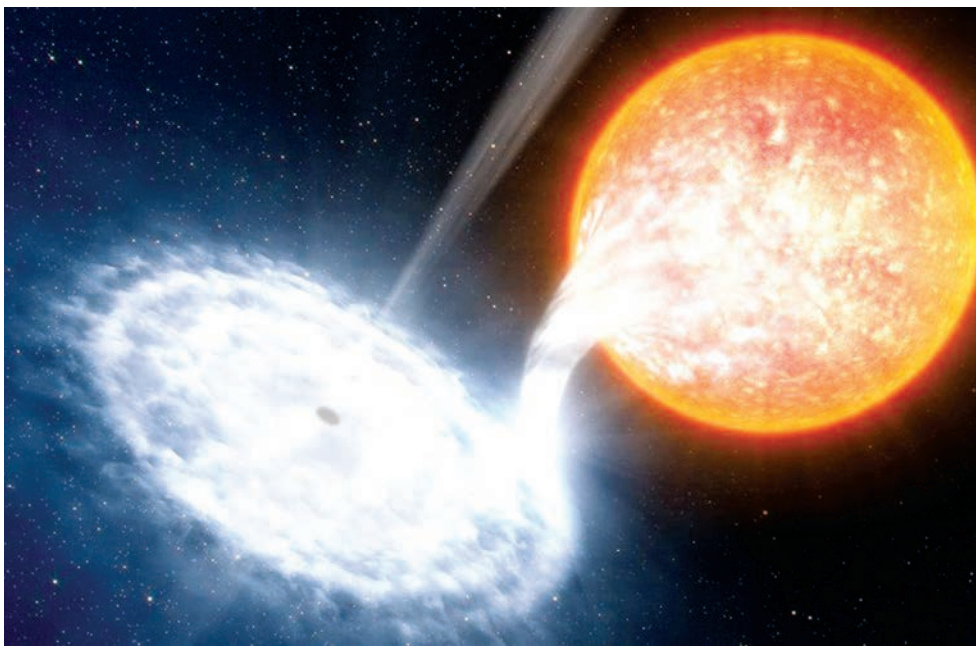
The possible exoplanet—or planets outside of our Solar System—candidate is located in the spiral galaxy Messier 51 (M51), also called the Whirlpool Galaxy because of its distinctive profile, NASA said in a statement.

Astronomers have, so far, found all other known exoplanets and exoplanet candidates in the Milky Way galaxy, almost all of them less than about 3,000 light years from Earth.

An exoplanet in M51 would be about 28 million light years away, meaning it would be thousands of times farther away than those in the Milky Way, NASA said.

"We are trying to open up a whole new arena for finding other worlds by searching for planet candidates at X-ray wavelengths, a strategy that makes it possible to discover them in other galaxies," said Rosanne Di Stefano of the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard and Smithsonian (CfA) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who led the study.

The findings are published in the



The finding comes from observation of an X-ray binary - a neutron star or black hole pulling in gas from a companion star.

journal Nature Astronomy.

The exoplanet candidate was spotted in a binary system called M51-ULS-1, located in M51. This binary system contains a black hole or neutron star orbiting a companion star with a mass about 20 times that of the Sun. The X-ray

transit they found using Chandra data lasted about three hours, during which the X-ray emission decreased to zero.

Based on this and other information, the team estimate the exoplanet candidate in M51-ULS-1 would be roughly the size of Saturn, and orbit the

neutron star or black hole at about twice the distance of Saturn from the Sun.

The team looked for X-ray transits in three galaxies beyond the Milky Way galaxy, using both Chandra and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton. Their search covered 55 systems in M51, 64 systems in Messier 101 (the "Pinwheel" galaxy), and 119 systems in Messier 104 (the "Sombrero" galaxy).

However, more data would be needed to verify the interpretation as an extragalactic exoplanet. One challenge is that the planet candidate's large orbit means it would not cross in front of its binary partner again for about 70 years, thwarting any attempts for a confirming observation for decades, NASA said.

Named in honor of the late Indian-American Nobel laureate, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, the Chandra X-ray Observatory is the world's most powerful X-ray telescope. It has eight times greater resolution and is able to detect sources more than 20-times fainter than any previous X-ray telescope.

Known to the world as Chandra (which means "moon" or "luminous" in Sanskrit), Chandrasekhar was widely regarded as one of the foremost astrophysicists of the twentieth century.

Source: IANS

## Apple iPhone SE Plus could launch next year, iPhone SE 3 postponed: Report

Apple is expected to launch its latest smartphone in the SE series next year. As per a report by analyst Ross Young, the company may launch the iPhone SE Plus with 5G connectivity support in 2022.

It was previously believed that Apple was working on releasing the successor to the iPhone SE (2020), next year with the launch of the iPhone SE 3.

Now, as per the latest report by Young, the launch of the iPhone SE 3 is pushed back to 2024 and Apple could instead launch the iPhone SE Plus in 2022. The tipster has posted the same on Twitter.

The iPhone SE 3 which is now expected to launch in 2024 will reportedly feature an LCD display between 5.7 and 6.1 inches. Another recent report has suggested that the third generation Apple iPhone SE is expected to feature a design that is similar to the iPhone XR.

This could mean that the upcoming iPhone SE 3 would be the first iPhone to feature the bezel-less, notch-bearing design with FaceID.

We do not know much more about the specifications and features of the upcoming iPhone SE Plus and iPhone SE 3. As per an earlier report by Nikkei Asia, which cited several sources, Apple is expected to launch a low-cost iPhone with an A15 Bionic SoC and Qualcomm's X60 modem.

As of now, we do not know the exact launch date of the upcoming iPhone SE Plus or the iPhone SE 3, but more details could surface in the months to come.

### These 3 Apple iPhones will lose WhatsApp support

WhatsApp is all set to wield the knife on some phones just because they are old. They may be in perfect working order, but their owners will not be able to access their WhatsApp accounts on them. The problem



is that WhatsApp is ready to roll out an update on November 1 and those phones that are not updated as per the messaging app's requirements, they are toast, for all intents and purposes. On the chopping block are a huge number of Google Android phones like Samsung, LG, Sony and others as well as certain Apple iPhones.

These are those Apple iPhones which do not have the required software that can run WhatsApp. WhatsApp list of phones that will lose support \* Apple iPhone SE

\* Apple iPhone 6S

\* Apple iPhone 6S Plus

These Apple iPhones have failed to meet the strict WhatsApp requirements, according to a list by Express.

The iPhones that are safe and which will be able to run WhatsApp are those running iOS 10 and newer OS versions. What are the options open to phone owners under WhatsApp threat There are just a few days to go till November 1 when the WhatsApp update is rolled out. So, those users who have phones which will lose WhatsApp support, have 2 choices. One is buy a new phone. This is a very expensive proposition, of course.

## 1 in 10 people clicking on phishing links on mobile devices

Phishing has infiltrated every form of communication, from work and personal e-mail to SMS, social media and even advertising and now a new study has revealed that one in 10 people click on phishing links while on their mobile devices.

This doesn't mean simply receiving messages, but actually clicking on them, according to the analysis of phishing trends within a sample of 5,00,000 protected devices across 90 countries, including India.

Among the key findings of the report by Cloud security firm Wandera (a Jamf company), the number of mobile users falling for phishing attacks has increased by 160 per cent (year-on-year).

Nearly 93 per cent of phishing domains are hosted on a "secure" website with a padlock in the URL bar.

"Today, 93 per cent of successful phishing sites are utilising HTTPS verification to conceal their deceitful nature. This number has increased dramatically from 65 per cent in 2018," according to the report.

Phishing is a type of social engineering where an attacker sends a fraudulent message designed to trick a human victim into revealing sensitive information to the attacker or to deploy malicious software on the victim's infrastructure like ransomware.

It is easier for an attacker to exploit a person and capture data via a phishing attack than it is to exploit a robust device operating system.

"In fact, user credentials are far more valuable to an attacker in this age of cloud-enabled enterprises, as they provide access to sensitive data that is stored and managed beyond the device in software-as-a-service (SaaS) applications, online file storage repositories and data centre," the report noted.



## Paytm public offer, country's biggest, to open on Nov 8

One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand name, will come out with the country's biggest initial public offer on November 8 in the price band of Rs 2,080-2,150 per share, implying a valuation of around Rs 1.48 lakh crore.

The Rs 18,300-crore offer will be the biggest in the country after Coal India's IPO in 2010 wherein it had garnered Rs 15,200 crore.

In a pre-IPO conference on Thursday, October 28, One97 Communications MD and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said he has received personal messages from investors who want to invest for the first time in the country and asserted that "this is the age of India".

The IPO — which will close for subscription on November 10 — comprises issuance of fresh equity shares worth Rs 8,300 crore and Offer for Sale (OFS) by existing shareholders to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore.

"The price band that is set at Rs 2,080 to Rs 2,150 per share implies an enterprise value of \$19.3 to \$19.9 billion," Sudarshan Ramakrishna, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs India Securities said during the IPO presentation.

## Hero, Yamaha in pact to set up e-cycle unit in Ludhiana

Automotive component manufacturer Hero Motors and Yamaha Motor Co. (Japan) today announced they have entered into an agreement to create a global e-cycle drive unit company. The joint venture will set up the manufacturing facility in Hero E-Cycle Valley at Ludhiana and expects to start production by November 2022.

It will have a capacity of 1 million drive units in future. In addition to the Hero and Yamaha branded e-cycles, the joint venture will use the OEM networks of Hero and Yamaha for the sale of drive units in global markets.



# US bans China Telecom over national security concerns

WASHINGTON (TIP): US regulators are expelling a unit of China Telecom Ltd., one of the country's three major state-owned carriers, from the American market as a national security threat amid rising tension with Beijing.

China Telecom (Americas) Corp. is required to stop providing domestic interstate and international service in the United States within 60 days, under an order approved Tuesday by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC cited the danger that Beijing might use the company eavesdrop or disrupt U.S. communications and "engage in espionage and other harmful activities against the United States."

The Biden administration has extended efforts begun under then-President Donald Trump to limit access to U.S. technology and markets for state-owned Chinese companies due to concern they were security risks or helping with military development. China Telecom is among companies that were expelled from U.S. stock exchanges under an order by Trump barring Americans from investing in them.

The FCC said in 2019 that due to security concerns it planned to revoke licenses granted nearly two decades ago to China Telecom and another state-owned carrier, China Unicom Ltd. It rejected a license application by the third carrier, China Mobile Ltd.

China Telecom Americas' ownership and control by the Chinese government raise significant national security and law



enforcement risks, said an FCC announcement.

The company's conduct and communications to U.S. government agencies demonstrate a lack of candor, trustworthiness and reliability, the FCC said, without giving details.

The Chinese government has said it would take steps to protect its companies but has yet to announce any retaliation over their status in the U.S. market.

The telecom companies are on a U.S. government blacklist of entities deemed by the Pentagon to be involved in military development. Others include state-owned oil companies, suppliers of processor chips and video technology and construction, aerospace, rocketry, shipbuilding and nuclear power equipment companies.

China condemned the US's latest overture toward Taiwan, warning that ties between the two countries faced "huge risks" just weeks after Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping agreed to hold a video summit. Source: AP

## Apple results hit by supply chain woes

Supply chain woes cost Apple \$6 billion (roughly Rs. 44,890 crore) in sales during the company's fiscal fourth quarter, which missed Wall Street expectations, and Chief Executive Tim Cook said that the impact will be even worse during the current holiday sales quarter.

Cook told Reuters on Thursday the quarter ended September 25 had "larger than expected supply constraints" as well as pandemic-related manufacturing disruptions in Southeast Asia. While Apple had seen "significant improvement" by late October in those Southeast Asian facilities, the chip shortage has persisted and is now affecting "most of our products," Cook said. "We're doing everything we can do to get more (chips) and also everything we can do operationally to make sure we're moving just as fast as possible," Cook said. Cook said the company expects year-over-growth for its quarter ending in December. Analysts expect growth of 7.4 percent to \$119.7 billion (roughly Rs. 8,95,413 crore). "We're projecting very solid demand growth year over year. But we are also predicting that we're going to be short of demand by larger than \$6 billion," Cook said.

## US economy grew just 2% in Q3 as consumer spending slowed: Govt

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US economic expansion slowed dramatically in the third quarter to an annual rate of just two percent as consumer spending moderated amid resurgent Covid-19 infections, the government said on Thursday.

The spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19 over the summer combined with renewed restrictions and global supply snags including a shortage of workers took a toll on the economy, slowing growth from the 6.7 per cent annual rate in the prior quarter.

The impact was most notable in the more than 26 per cent collapse in purchases of big-ticket manufactured goods in the latest three months, the commerce department reported.

That drop was partly offset by the 7.9 per cent increase in spending on services, though that was slower than the gain in the prior quarter, according to the data.

The report said the "resurgence of Covid-19 cases resulted in new restrictions and delays in the reopening of establishments in some parts of the country."



In addition, "Government assistance payments in the form of forgivable loans to businesses, grants to state and local governments, and social benefits to households all decreased."

But there was some good news as inflation as measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index retreated in the July-September period to show a 5.3 per cent increase compared to 6.5 per cent in the second quarter. Excluding the volatile food and energy prices that have been spiking amid surging demand and supply bottlenecks, the closely watched inflation gauge fell to 4.5 per cent.

GDP growth compared to the second quarter edged up 0.5 per cent, less than one-third the pace of the prior three months, the report said. Source: AFP

## JioPhone to drive next wave of smartphone revolution: Pichai

NEW DELHI (TIP): As Reliance Jio gets ready to launch its next handset soon in the festive season, Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai said that in three-five years, the affordable JioPhone Next device will have a lot of impact in connecting and helping millions take advantage of a smartphone.

The upcoming JioPhone Next smartphone will house Pragati OS, powered by Android, which is touted as a world-class operating system built specifically for India.

"People are looking for access and there's definitely been a wave of them who have adopted smartphones (in India)," Pichai said during the earnings call after announcing robust quarterly results late on Tuesday.

"There is still demand to shift from feature phones to smartphones. JioPhone Next is like building a phone beyond the English-speaking community and going local, doing it in a way that many more people can take advantage of a smartphone," he elaborated.

The device is built with exciting features like the Google Assistant, automatic read-aloud and language translation for any on-screen text, a smart camera with India-centric filters and much more.

Pichai said that he views JioPhone Next as laying the foundation for the next wave of digital transformation.



## Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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**The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday  
Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**MONTHLY HOROSCOPE FOR NOVEMBER 2021**

**Aries (March 21 to April 19)**

Ganesha says this month you will have all the answers to confusions and doubts you have regarding your career. This month is going to challenge you creatively and test your versatility. You will have to leave things behind and take new steps and make efforts towards enhancing your career. If you are planning to move, this month might be the good time to do it and even if you are thinking about choosing a new state you must start it this month. You are going to experience self-affirmation about you being your own boss and hence will walk forward in terms of career.

**Taurus (April 20 to May 20)**

This month may bring you a truckload of challenges. You will have a lot of confidence today that'll guide you to a lot of success and appreciation from your colleagues. Although this confidence won't be appreciated by your partner as till the end of the month your behavior might change into being quite egoistic and borderline rude. You will get what you want this month, but only if you work for it. You need to do the hard work to achieve great success in your professional life. If you chose to work hard this month, the financial profit you will make today will last you a long time. Your quality of work will significantly improve if you invest a lot of time in learning new things.

**Gemini (May 21 to June 20)**

This month will have you thinking about your priorities and how to align what you do for a living with what you're truly passionate about. You have been having this argument internally with yourself for quite a while now. You're now likely to confront your parents and let them know how you truly feel trapped in your current career and that you won't be able to sustain long enough in this field. You're most likely to find a newfound fire and confidence inside of you that you could and you should use to stand your ground. This month will put an end to your people pleasing behavior and at the end of the month you'll find yourself emotionally independent.

**Cancer (June 21 to July 22)**

You will learn a lot through your experiences and interactions with an important business prospect today. Focus on implementing those pieces of advice and working immediately in accordance with them. As this knowledge will take your business to a new steppingstone of success. Avoid overeating of junk and try to keep your surroundings clean and hygienic. It is not the right time to take a risk in any case. Therefore, even if you feel a little bit unhealthy, you are advised to consult a doctor as soon as

possible.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22)**

This is the month it all starts getting better as you will have a month full of doing things you love and spending time with your friends, family and almost everyone you admire. The transition of Saturn will provide the positive energy that you need. Spend your month being as joyful as you can and you will enjoy a lot this month. This month will be beneficial in various ways for you. You just have to be determined to forge ahead with dedication and keep your eyes on the promotion at work this month. Don't forget to continue with your hard work and efforts. This month is the best time to make investments for you.

**Virgo (August 23 to September 22)**

You will spend this month feeling content and grateful. Things, where you felt stuck before, will start clearing up. Your mental health is doing well, and you will be in a good mood throughout this month this month. You won't be very productive in a direct manner this month as you will spend your time searching and picking out loopholes in your business. If you're single no new love interests are likely to arise this month. If you're in a relationship, your love life is going at a good pace and exactly how you would like to be. You feel at ease and in a settled place with your partner this month. No need to hurry or rush up things. You will not feel insecure at all regarding your love life this month.

**Libra (September 23 to October 22)**

Your professional and personal life will all work out quite well for you this month. You will enjoy this month a lot. Make sure you take time to relax. You'll feel a vague restlessness that will move you to consider new career options. You won't be tempted to chuck it all away, but you'll definitely want to make a move of some kind in a completely different direction. In this month you will understand that you and your partner have similar likes and dislikes and you will still need to make minor compromises and mutually working things out.

**Scorpio (October 23 to November 21)**

This month is going to be full of excitement and unique experiences for you. You will go through a positive shift when it comes to your mental and physical health. This positive shift will help you to take part and indulge more in social events. Love planet Venus is determined to work some magic in your sign. But Venus could also shift your focus to love life circumstances you've deliberately ignored you will experience an abundance of love, warmth, and comfort this month. But to make the most of this,

a love connection, either existing or budding, you may need to achieve new levels of trust and openness first. You need to pay attention to your digestion this month to avoid any complications to your health. Eat only home cooked food with less oil and salt and focus on your health the most this month

**Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21)**

You will experience new feelings and emotions this month as you work on breaking down your own walls to be emotionally available for someone that you love. You might find it difficult to do so in the beginning, but you'll soon realize that this was for the best as your relationship has been stuck at the same stage for a while now and it will move forward this month.

**Capricorn (December 22 to January 19)**

Work on being disciplined and diligent this month, it will save you from a lot of losses in the future. This month can be different, do not over think and spend your time dwelling on spilt milk, instead pick yourself up and make the most of the funds and the clients you have today. Make sure you ask for help and support from trustworthy people as you will need people to help you start making profits again and keep your business alive, you will be able to achieve financial success by the end of this month only if you work hard, manage well and do not let your ego come in the way of seeking help or taking other people's advice. Make sure you have a health care routine this month as well.

**Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)**

Your business is the positive highlight of this month. You will experience a positive shift in your finances which will ease up your entire month. This success is well earned by you hence enjoy it to the fullest this month. Financial abundance is in your cards this month which will keep you satisfied and happy. You need to be more analytical about making investments now as managing the funds that you receive this month will make a significant difference in your life.

**Pisces (February 19 to March 20)**

You need to do the hard work to achieve great success in your professional life. If you chose to work hard this month, the financial profit you will make today will last you a long time. Your quality of work will significantly improve if you invest a lot of time in learning new things. Your focus towards your goal as well as your patience is very commendable. You have worked hard and done everything right for your business hence you will bear the fruit of your handwork this month. You won't have to work that hard now but you will have to find the correct people to outsource as well as hire. Your love life will flourish greatly this month as well. Taking a further step in your relationship will be highly fruitful. This is the perfect time for you to focus on your love life as your business is in a stable state.



CONTD FROM PAGE 44

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 1ST NOV TO 7TH NOV 2021

### Aries

You will have a very hectic week hence make sure you have your priorities straight this week. You will need to work on your health and your finances very diligently this week because you will have a lot of workloads as well as face some health issues. You need to stay calm and composed as you will have to face a lot of unhappy people this week. Something crucial will take place in your business this week that will keep you occupied throughout this week.

### Taurus

You will be a lot smarter and disciplined than you have been in the past few days this week. This is a tough week in a very positive way for you because learning and growth occur the most through uncomfortable times. You will experience self-doubt and the feeling that something bad will happen this week. The stars are aligned in your favor this week and nothing significant bad will happen this week. Your loved ones will be safe and sound which is the major thing you will be concerned about this week.

### Gemini

You will be able to make some huge investments this week. You're likely to rush the process and skip the analyzing and strategizing part, which can ruin all the profit you have made from the new prospect. You need to listen to your financial advisor and take your time. Your love life will be better than it's ever been this week. If you have been trying to get a specific someone's attention for a while now, luck will be your cupid this week. Live in the moment and try not to rush things. You have an ample amount of time.

### Cancer

Your health is doing so much better than in the last few days. You will feel like a new person this week as you go through the week full of energy and enthusiasm. Your health has finally healed from the consequences of all the bad habits you've had for the last few years. A lot of growth will happen this week, in your professional as well as personal life. This will take you very far in life and your career as well.

### Leo

You'll feel a vague restlessness that will move you to

consider new career options this week. You won't be tempted to chuck it all away, but you'll want to make a move of some kind in a completely different direction. Your business will work out great for you this week. You will take a lot of pride in your decisions and hard work. Your loved ones will shower you with praises and appreciation for all that you have done to get to this point.

### Virgo

You may be attracting partners this week who are more concerned with freedom than with pairing, or who seem to be quite extravagant. Make sure that these partners are useful to your company before making a decision. Your mind will be at its creative best this week. New ideas, opportunities, solutions developed by you will be appreciated at your workplace this week.

### Libra

You will look at the world with a unique new insight this week. You will notice that if you lookout for the little good things that keep happening throughout this week you won't be bothered by all the negativity you face this week. This week you have the time to improve yourself and work on the things you've been meaning to do to improve your skillset. Updating your knowledge during this time will help you a lot in the future. Trust the timing and practice patience. Do not waste this week worrying about the lack of new opportunities.

### Scorpio

Expect some arguments with colleagues who are jealous of you due to the fame you gain this week. It is because you have been over sharing in the past, you need to focus more on your work and not on the people who drag you down in life, at the same time you need to be extremely careful about the information you publicly share at your workplace as it might be used against you to pull you down from the position that you are currently at. You will need to push through these people by making a conscious effort to not let them ruin your week.

### Sagittarius

You will be annoyed with the lack of attention and support you are getting from your partner. Your love

life will feel very upset earlier this week. But as the days go by you and your partner are likely to get along much better and understand each other by the end of the week. You will be a force to reckon with this week when it comes to working. Your leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. This will be a good week to retrospect and think about your progress.

### Capricorn

Your partner may have a good attitude towards you which will lead to solutions to misunderstandings this week. You will do your best when it comes to your love life and show your patient approach to maintain a tranquil life this week. Things will be easier for you this week as your luck will be lending you strength and creating a niche of favorable opportunities for you. These opportunities will take your life far and you will realize that this week itself.

### Aquarius

You will give the expected results when it comes to speculations you made in your business this week. You just have to make sure that you are determined to tread ahead without making any impulsive decisions because it can seriously harm you this week. If you're single, you may have some profound realizations this week which will lead to you becoming more confident and outgoing. Prioritize yourself this week and try to find things that you're passionate about and people who make you happy this week. If you're looking to find a new partner, Venus is dominant in your sign this week and will help you in all matters related to love and relationships.

### Pisces

You will experience a lot of beauty in your life this week, you might get what you're trying to accomplish in this week itself. A feeling of serenity guides you throughout the week. Your health is doing great; this week is the week you should decide to make it even better. Do lots of dancing, physical activity and drink lots of water and increase your intake of fruits and vegetables. Also exercise regularly and go for a long walk this week because you require physical activity to improve your physical and mental health this week. Professionally you have a lot of work piled up this week that you need to finish and hence you need to be ready and capable of it, physically, mentally and emotionally.

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 1ST NOV TO 7TH NOV 2021

### Nov 1

You will notice that you're overly excited today if you look out for the little good things that keep happening throughout the day, it is advised to not get into heated arguments with them as it may negatively impact the relationship which in turn will negatively impact your health as well. You are the leader of today for your work project as well as in your relationships today. A fun and adventurous day has been planned out by your partner for you.

### Nov 2

You will realize how fulfilling and wholesome today was for you as the day goes on. You will soak in all the love and attention that is being thrown at you today. Your leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. You will end the day feeling content and grateful. You will have a day full of doing things you love and spending time with your favorite person.

### Nov 3

You will have a lot of work to do for a new prospect which has been pending for quite a while

now. Take each step with caution as you move forward with this huge business opportunity. Expressing your feelings will help you better your love life and help mark clear boundaries today so that you can enjoy your time with your partner as well as your alone time together.

### Nov 4

Your health will be better than it's ever been today. You will experience only positivity in your life today. There are people around you that will make you feel a lot better about yourself as everyone you love comes together to throw you a surprise party you will feel overwhelmed with love and joy. Make sure to dress to impress today.

### Nov 5

Your work life will be the most positive part of your day. A very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy. As you have been working really hard since the past few days you will see exponential growth today.

Being the down to earth person that you are, you will continue to work hard despite it being your birthday. You will like it this way as your work has always been a celebration to you.

### Nov 6

You will be showered with a lot of love and appreciation from your friends today. They have been quite distant and doing their own thing for a while now but today you will feel like they have all gathered to make you feel really great about yourself and your relationships. You will have a fun day reuniting and reminiscing the beautiful memories you have had.

### 7 Nov

Today you will realize the importance of your family as they will make sure that you have everything you have wanted and desired today. Those who are already in a relationship, you will have a fun day with your partner today. Today is a great day for you to go on an outing with your partner, child or a friend.

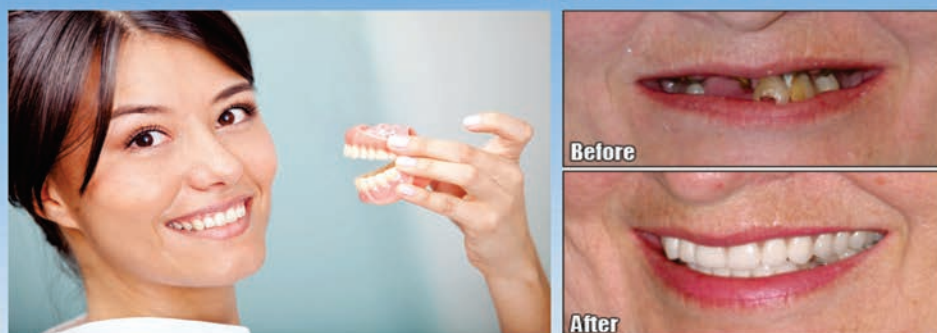


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# Madgaon: The commercial and cultural capital of Goa

Being the commercial and cultural capital of Goa, Margao, also known as Madgaon, is the largest city of Goa by population. Margao is the centre of administration for the Salcete as well as the district of South Goa. Since the construction of the Madgao Railway Station, Margao has become a focal point for travellers as everyone who wishes to arrive in Goa by train has to enter through Margao.

The origin of Madgaon's name has various stories. Some say that it is derived from Sanskrit word Mathagram which would mean village towards the east and some say that Mathagram was the name due to the Vaishnavite Matha (cloister) located in the area. But a clear picture to the former name of Matha Gram was due to the Nine Mathas in the town. Raiders, however, destroyed these Mathas along with the Damodar Temple where the Holy Spirit Church now stands. The whole of Margao is a repository for the stories and history of Goa.

With structures like the Braganza House, Fernandes House and Sat Burzam House that are nearly as old as the town itself, there is history in every old nook and corner of Margao. The Goa Chitra Museum will introduce you to the authentic traditions and culture of Goa. The Rachol Fort will transport you back in time to the battles between Vijayanagara and Bijapur Sultans. The Municipal Gardens are the pitstop for every traveller's Imagination before continuing the journey into the festivities of the Sao Joao feast of St. John the Baptist Church.

With all such heritage to keep its travellers indulged, Margao has earned its place as the Cultural capital of Goa. The shopping scene in Margao offers everything from local street markets to signature shopping malls. There are many restaurants and cafe's that satisfy your hunger pangs, such as the Cinnamon, Pepper's, Martin's, Mircho-Go that serve multiple cuisines. The nightlife in Margao, however, is dull compared to North Goa as there are no pubs or bars that stay open until late in the night.

## Places To Visit

### Colva Beach

The captivating Colva Beach, located in South Goa, is one of the most visited beach of Goa. The 2.5 km long beach is known for its powdery white sands flanked by swaying coconut trees that add to its beauty. It looks more stunning with shacks, nightclubs and souvenir stalls all around.

Colva Beach is also popular for water sports like paragliding, jet-skiing, snorkelling, speed boat ride and banana boat rides. It is visited by tourists for its stunning sunset and calming blue waves. While the Colva Beach is serene for peace-lovers, it perks up at night for party-lovers. With the nonchalant ambience, mesmerizing view of the endless beach and spirited people,



Colva Beach is one of the most loved beaches of Goa.

### Goa Chitra

Goa Chitra Museum, located in Benaulim, is an ethnography museum displaying the traditional Goan way of life and culture. The museum was established by Victor Hugel Gomez as a tribute to his Portuguese ancestors. He has collected over 4000 items such as woodwork, metalwork, weapons, furniture, religious Goa artefacts and other memorabilia. It also showcases an organic farm.

Goa Chitra actively conducts workshops and activities to share their knowledge about the traditions with the public. It has been titled by the Archaeological Survey of India as the topmost contemporary museum in India.

### Our Lady Of Mercy Church

Our Lady Of Mercy Church, located in Colva, is a colonial church founded in 1630. It was earlier known as Nossa Senhora de Mercês. The church houses a statue of infant Jesus Christ which is believed to be found on the Mozambique coast by Fr Bento Ferreira who brought it to Goa and installed it in the church in 1648.

### Church Of the Holy Spirit Goa

Church Of the Holy Spirit is a 17th century Portuguese church in Goa and one of the oldest churches in Margao. The site initially had a shrine dedicated to a Hindu deity, Lord Damodar, which was destroyed by the Portuguese before the church was erected. It was further destroyed a number of times by the Muslim Army till finally the structure that currently exists was built in 1675. The monument is famous for its splendid architecture and religious significance.

### Majorda Beach

One of the more crowded beaches of South Goa, Majorda beach is a golden sand beach located between Utorda and Betalbatim Beach. Lined with swaying palms and calm azure water, this is one of the most gorgeous beaches in South Goa. Majorda Beach is usually crowded with Russian tourists and offers a wide range of water sports activities. Dotted with sunbeds the beach is ideal for sunbathing and relaxing.

Streetside stalls can be found on Majorda Beach selling funky souvenirs that Goa is famous for. A large number of churches dot the map of Majorda, a great display of the Portuguese architecture ever-present across Goa. Paintball and Go Karting facilities can be found closer to the highway. For those looking to do something truly offbeat, the Ashvek Vintage Car Museum is definitely worth a visit, displaying cars and related paraphernalia dating back to 1886. All in all, the charming Majorda has a little something for everyone who crosses its path.



# Bhai dooj: The bond between brothers and sisters

**B**hai Dooj celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters and is a festival similar to Raksha Bandhan. It is observed on the Dwitiya Tithi, Kartik, Shukla Paksha (the second day of the waxing phase of the Moon in Kartik month as per the Purnimant calendar). In most regions, Diwali festivities conclude with Bhai Dooj and is often included as a part of the five-day-long festival of lights. On this day, siblings get together for the traditional ceremony, have a sumptuous feast and reminisce memories. Read on to know the Bhai Dooj 2021 date and other important details.

This year, Bhai Dooj will be celebrated on November 6.

The most important ritual of the celebration of Bhai Dooj is the aarti and tika ceremony. On the day of Bhai Dooj sister firstly puts does the aarti of her brother with the holy flame and does the tika on her forehead and then she prays to God for his long and healthy life. This is the way of expressing care and love to brother by a sister. In this return, sisters get a token of love from brothers. It's a Bhai Dooj gift.

Nowhere is the bond of brotherly-sisterly love glorified with such grandeur as in India. Hindus celebrate this special relationship twice every year, with the festivals of Raksha Bandhan and Bhai Dooj.

After the high voltage celebrations of Diwali, the festival of lights and fire-crackers, sisters all over India get ready for 'Bhai Dooj' - when sisters ceremonize their love by putting an auspicious tilak or a vermilion mark on the forehead of their brothers and perform an aarti of him by showing him the light of the holy flame as a mark of love and protection from evil forces. Sisters are lavished with gifts, goodies and blessings from their brothers. Bhai Dooj comes every year on the fifth and last day of Diwali, which falls on a new moon night. The name 'Dooj' means the second day after the new moon, the day of the festival, and 'Bhai' means brother.

## Legends

Bhai Dooj is also called 'Yama Dwiteeya' as it's believed that on this day, Yamaraj, the Lord of Death and the Custodian of Hell, visits his sister Yami, who puts the auspicious mark on his forehead and prays for his well being. So it's held that anyone who receives a tilak from his sister on this day would never be hurled into hell. According to one legend, on this day, Lord Krishna, after slaying the Narakasura demon, goes to his sister Subhadra who welcomes him the lamp, flowers and sweets, and puts the holy protective spot on her brother's forehead. Yet another story behind the origin of Bhai Dooj says that when Mahavir, the founder of Jainism, attained nirvana, his brother King Nandivardhan was distressed because he missed him and was comforted by his sister Sudarshana. Since then, women have been revered during Bhai Dooj.

In Bengal this event is called 'Bhai Phota', which is performed by the sister who religiously fasts until she applies a 'phota' or mark with sandal wood paste on her brother's forehead, offers him sweets and gifts and prays for his long and healthy life. Every brother eagerly awaits this occasion that reinforces the bond between brothers and sisters and their affectionate relationship. It's an opportunity for a good feast at the sister's place, coupled with an enthusiastic exchange of gifts, and merriment amid the resounding of conch shells in every Bengali household.

## Significance

Like all other Hindu festivals, Bhai Dooj too has got a lot to do with family ties and social attachments. It serves as a good time, especially for a married girl, to get together with her own family, and share the post-Diwali glee. Nowadays, sisters who are unable to meet their brothers send their tika - the spot of protection - in an envelope by post. Virtual tilaks and



Bhai Dooj e-cards have made it even easier for brothers and sisters, who're far away from each other, specially remember their siblings on this propitious occasion.

## Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, at first, sisters give a piece of cloth, knotted into a circular shape, full of batashas (sugar balls) to their brothers. This piece of cloth is called as 'aabf'. For each brother, there are two aabf. After all the rituals, sisters apply a tika of roli and rice on the forehead of the brothers and then perform aarti, praying for the long and happy life of their brothers. At last, they offer sweets to them and then the story of Bhai Dooj is narrated.

## Bengal

In Bengal this festival is called Bhai Phota. On this day, sisters observe fast till the time all the traditional customs have been performed. After this, they apply tika made of sandalwood paste, ghee and kohl (kajal) on their brothers' forehead. Then the aarti is performed and sisters give sweets to their brothers to eat. Kheer and coconut laddus are the traditional sweets which are prepared on this day.

## Bihar

In the Bihar, the festival of Bhai Dooj is celebrated in the most unique way. The sisters curse their brothers in order to keep the evil spirits and dangers away from them. At first, they say very bad things to their brothers and then prick their own tongue with a wild prickly fruit as a punishment. By doing this, they ask their brothers to forgive them for the ill behaviour and mistakes which they have done till the date. Besides this, there is a unique custom in which brothers eat grains of bajri with water, from the hands of their sisters.

## Punjab

In Punjab, the day after Diwali is celebrated as tika and on this day, sisters make a paste with saffron and rice and apply tika on their brothers' forehead to keep away all the difficulties and dangers from them. After this, they exchange gifts and sweets among each other.

## Gujarat

Bhai Dooj in Gujarat is known as Bhai Beej and on this auspicious occasion, sisters get up early in the morning and then the traditional tilak ceremony is held. After this, they perform aarti of their brothers and pray for their good fortune and life. Then they offer sweets to their brothers and in return the brothers bless them and exchange gifts.

## Maharashtra & Goa

Marathi communities call this festival as Bhav Bij. On this day, sisters draw a square on the floor in within the boundaries of which the brothers have to sit. After they are seated, it is a custom for to have a bitter fruit named Karith. After this, the rituals and applying the Tilak, traditional sweets such as Shrikhand Puri and Basundi Puri are served.

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## PM Modi holds talks with European Union leaders on trade, security, Afghanistan

On Afghanistan too, India and the EU are on the same page on vital issues such as inclusiveness in governance and not allowing the country to breed terror groups targeting other countries.

PM Modi during his talks touched on trade, commerce, culture and the environment. "The leaders discussed ways to enhance economic as well as people-to-people linkages aimed at creating a better planet," tweeted the PMO. The Prime Minister described his meeting with the EU leaders as "wonderful" during which they had wide-ranging talks on deepening the India-EU friendship.

Michel said India had a key role to play in green transition and mentioned the EU-India strategic partnership, the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific as the prominent topics of discussion.

Security-related convergence with the EU is set to grow after it unveiled an Indo-Pacific strategy which followed similar positions taken by France and Germany.

An impetus to the free trade agreement was also discussed, according to Leyen. "We agreed that our trade negotiators will start to work. We'll deepen our cooperation on climate, including on innovation and technology. Looking forward to cooperating in the Indo-Pacific," she said.

She also congratulated India for its "excellent progress" on vaccination and for resuming vaccines exports. "We need to join forces to help vaccinate the world and beat the global pandemic," Leyen said.

The 15th India-EU summit was held in virtual mode in July 2020. PM Modi later also held the first in-person meeting with his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi during which the two leaders had extensive talks on diversifying the bilateral ties.

The PM will be in Rome and the Vatican City from October 29 to 31 to participate in the G-20 Summit and meet the Pope and the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

'Maja ma chho', PM tells Indians

Covid and farmers' struggle necessitated a carefully curated crowd at Rome for an interaction with PM Modi but there was no diminishing of exuberance as he was greeted by lusty chants of "Bharat Mata ki jai" and "Modi-Modi" by local Indians.

After paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Piazza Gandhi, the PM interacted with Indians, one of whom was heard asking, "Narendra bhai, khem chho" (How are you Narendra bhai?).

"Maja ma chho" (I am fine), the PM replied, which was captured on a video put out by the PMO. The PM also spoke to a crowd largely from his home state of Gujarati.

## United States Senate Confirms Dr. Rahul Gupta as Director of National Drug Control Policy

individuals behind the statistics and meet them where they are," said Dr. Gupta. "President Biden has made clear that addressing addiction and the overdose epidemic is an urgent priority. As Director, I will diligently work to advance high-quality, data-driven strategies to make our communities healthier and safer."

### Biography of Dr. Rahul Gupta

Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, MBA, FACP, most recently served as the Chief Medical and Health Officer, Interim Chief Science Officer and Senior Vice President at March of Dimes. In his role, Dr. Gupta provided strategic oversight for March of Dimes' domestic and global medical and public health efforts. He recently served as clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine as well as adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership in the School of Public

Health at West Virginia University and visiting faculty at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

A practicing primary care physician of 25 years, Dr. Gupta began his career in private practice in an underserved community of fewer than 2,000 residents. He has since served under two Governors as the Health Commissioner of West Virginia. As the state's Chief Health Officer, he led the opioid crisis response efforts and launched a number of pioneering public health initiatives, including the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Birthscore program to identify high-risk infants. Dr. Gupta also led the development of the state's Zika action plan and its preparedness efforts during the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak.

A national and global thought leader and a driver of innovative public policies on health issues, Dr. Gupta serves as an advisor to several organizations and task forces on local, national and international public health policy. The son of an Indian diplomat, Rahul was born in India and grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. At age 21, he completed medical school at the University of Delhi. He earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and a global Master of Business Administration degree from the London School of Business and Finance. He is married to Dr. Seema Gupta, a physician in the Veterans Administration for over a decade. They are the proud parents of identical twin sons, Arka and Drew.

## J&K Statehood to be Restored, says Amit Shah: Farooq Abdulla is surprised

"It is strange," Farooq Abdullah said and recalled the all-party meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi a few months ago in which he took up these issues.

"(Mr.) Modi had at that point of time asserted that the gap between New Delhi and J&K would have to be bridged by winning over the hearts... Hearts cannot be won by undermining the status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was bifurcated and then downgraded," the NC leader said while addressing a public meeting at Mendhar in Poonch district.

Defending the BJP-led NDA government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Mr. Shah had on Saturday said August 5, 2019, was written in golden letters in the history of Kashmir.

He had reiterated that elections would be held in J&K after the delimitation exercise to be followed by restoration of statehood.

"Elections will happen. (Politicians from Kashmir want that the) Delimitation be stopped. Why? Because it hurts their politics. Now, such things will not stop in Kashmir.

"The youth of Kashmir will get opportunities, so a right delimitation will be done, which will be followed by elections and then the status of the statehood will be restored. I have said this in the country's Parliament and this is the roadmap," Mr. Shah had said.

Mr. Abdullah further said it must have happened for the first time that a State is transformed and downgraded as a Union Territory.

"The urges and aspirations of the people have to be satiated for lasting peace," he underlined.

Pitching for India-Pakistan dialogue, the NC president said peace in the region will remain elusive unless a conducive atmosphere is made for talks between the two neighboring countries.

He also decried attempts of dividing the society for political gains and said this is not good for the unity of the country and integration of people.

"The nation cannot afford to get fragmented into bits and pieces on the basis of religion. Elections were not to be fought on religion, as these provide an opportunity to put in place responsive governments which serve the people in terms of development and economic emancipation," he said.

The former Chief Minister expressed grave concern over loss of life, and damage to standing crops and orchards due to heavy downpour, hailstorm and stormy winds across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah, who is on a four-day visit to Jammu

Province, also sought an exhaustive assessment by expert panels on the damage caused, saying preliminary relief in terms of financial assistance should be provided to the affected till the assessment is completed.

He also sought immediate release of compensation to the next of kin of those killed.

## Indian American lawmakers & top Biden admin members celebrate 'Diwali' at US Congress

I know many of you have as well, whether it's family here, family back in India or in the diaspora or around the world. We have suffered heavy losses," US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy said at the event.

"But one of the things that concerns me most about the last few years is another type of pandemic, the invisible pandemic that we are in the midst of. That's a pandemic of polarization where it feels increasingly people have turned against each other, where they've demonized one another, called each other evil and treated each other as so. That's a particular kind of darkness," he said.

The Capitol Hill Diwali celebration was organized by Indiaspora in association with several community organizations.

Remembering the teachings of his mother, Dr Murthy said Diwali is supposed to be a day about light conquering darkness.

"She would always say Vivek, people you encounter in America will come from different faiths and traditions. But remember that the light of God exists within each one of them, always, regardless of where they're from," he said.

"When I think about Diwali, I think about it in that context. Can we remember the light that exists within ourselves and one another? Can we not allow it? Can we not allow that light to be expunged because we happen to be on the other side of the political spectrum as somebody else or hold different views from them. This is as much a challenge here, as it is back in India and in many countries around the world," Dr Murthy said.

Indian American Congressmen Dr Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal addressed the gathering and greeted the community on the occasion.

"I'm very proud to say that I'm the first South Asian American woman ever elected to the United States House of Representatives. Hopefully I'm not going to be the last and there are going to be many, many more of us to come," Jayapal said. The Congresswoman also said that the last three months have been rough for her and her family.

Congresswoman Judy Chu said that President Joe Biden has appointed a record number of Indian Americans in his administration.

"President Biden is ushering in a new era of Asian Americans, especially Indian American representation. For instance, he named Dr Vivek Murthy to serve on his cabinet as a Surgeon General. Just last week, he made the historic move to name Neera Tanden as a White House staff secretary, one of the highest positions in the White House," she said.

"And of course, just one year ago, we shattered one of the highest glass ceilings of all when Kamala Harris, the daughter of an Indian immigrant, was sworn in as the first woman Asian and Black vice president in history," she said. Popular African American singer Mary Milben, who especially flew in from California to attend the Diwali celebrations, mesmerized the select audience with her rendition of "Om Jai Jagdish Hare" which went viral last year. Milben announced that she would be travelling to India next January.

"India has truly become my family and my friends. So, it's a joy to be here in the nation's capital to celebrate this wonderful, spiritual and beautiful holiday that so many speakers have already talked about. It is a beautiful moment for cultures and faiths to come together and celebrate during this moment: Light over darkness the beauty of this beautiful holiday," Milben said.



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## HISTORY THIS WEEK OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 4, 2021

**"WHAT IS HISTORY? AN ECHO OF THE PAST IN THE FUTURE; A REFLEX FROM THE FUTURE ON THE PAST." - VICTOR HUGO**

### October 29



Walter Raleigh

**OCTOBER 29, 1618** - British explorer Sir Walter Raleigh was executed in London for treason on orders from King James I.

**OCTOBER 29, 1929** - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed in America, lasting until the outbreak of World War II.

**BIRTHDAY** - Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945) was born in Rheydt, near Dusseldorf, Germany. Considered a master propagandist, he controlled all Nazi newspapers, radio and film production. He was a virulent anti-Semite who advocated the extermination of the Jews. Devoted to Hitler until the end, he died at Hitler's Berlin bunker in 1945 after poisoning his six children.

### October 30

**OCTOBER 30, 1938** - The War of the Worlds radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans. Actor Orson Welles and the Mercury Players dramatized the story by H.G. Wells depicting a Martian invasion of New Jersey. Their script utilized simulated radio news bulletins which many listeners thought were real.

**OCTOBER 30, 1990** - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.



John Adams

**BIRTHDAY** - John Adams (1735-1826) the 2nd U.S. President was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. He served from March 4, 1797 to

March 3, 1801. He had been George Washington's vice president, and was the father of John Quincy Adams, the 6th President. He died on July 4, 1826, the same day as Thomas Jefferson, on the 50th anniversary of adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

**BIRTHDAY** - Emily Post (1872-1960) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She wrote influential books on etiquette and a syndicated newspaper column giving advice on manners in specific situations.

**BIRTHDAY** - Admiral William "Bull" Halsey (1882-1959) was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was the American fleet commander during World War II in the Pacific and played a leading role in the defeat of the Japanese. In 1942, he launched the Doolittle Raid, the first air raid on Japan. From 1942-44, he coordinated successful attacks on the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. In 1944, he led the U.S. fleet to victory at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history.

### October 31

**OCTOBER 31ST** - Halloween or All Hallows' Eve, an ancient celebration combining the Christian festival of All Saints with Pagan autumn festivals.

**OCTOBER 31, 1940** - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on July 10, 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities, as a prelude to a Nazi invasion of England. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1,700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



Mount Rushmore

**OCTOBER 31, 1941** - Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work. The memorial contains 60-foot-tall sculptures of the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore

Roosevelt - representing America's founding, political philosophy, preservation, and expansion and conservation.

**OCTOBER 31, 1950** - Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game when he took the floor for the Washington Capitols in Rochester, New York.

**OCTOBER 31, 1952** - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

**OCTOBER 31, 1968** - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.



Indira Gandhi

**OCTOBER 31, 1984** - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by three Sikh members of her bodyguard while walking in the garden of her New Delhi home.

**BIRTHDAY** - Chinese soldier and statesman Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) was born in Chekiang. Educated at the Wampoa Military Academy, he led the KMT (nationalist) forces in the struggle against the Communist army led by Mao Zedong.

### November 1

**NOVEMBER 1ST** - All Hallows Day, also known as All Saints Day among Roman Catholics, commemorating those who have no special feast day.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1700** - Charles II of Spain died and was succeeded by Philip V, resulting in the War of Spanish Succession.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1776** - Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded in California. Each year, the swallows of Capistrano leave their nests there around St. John's Day (October 23rd) and return the following year near St. Joseph's Day (March 19th).

**NOVEMBER 1, 1848** - The first medical school for women opened in Boston. The Boston Female Medical School was founded by Samuel Gregory with just twelve students. In 1874, the school merged with the Boston University School of Medicine, becoming one of the first co-ed medical schools.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1936** - The Rome-Berlin Axis was proclaimed by Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini following a visit to Berlin by Italian Foreign Secretary Ciano.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1950** - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

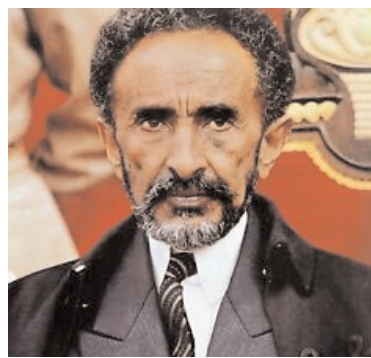
**NOVEMBER 1, 1963** - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1993** - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1995** - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

### November 2

**NOVEMBER 2, 1721** - Peter I was proclaimed Emperor of all the Russias.



Haile Selassie

**NOVEMBER 2, 1930** - Haile Selassie was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia.

**NOVEMBER 2, 1962** - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

**BIRTHDAY** - James K. Polk (1795-1849) the 11th U.S. President was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served from March 4, 1845 to March 3, 1849. He declined to be a candidate for a second term, saying he was

"exceedingly relieved" at the completion of his presidency.

### November 3

**NOVEMBER 3, 1903** - Panama declared itself independent of Colombia following a revolt engineered by the U.S.

**NOVEMBER 3, 1918** - Part of the German fleet mutinied at Kiel in the closing days of World War I.

**NOVEMBER 3, 1948** - Dewey Defeats Truman banner headline appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

**NOVEMBER 3, 1957** - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

**NOVEMBER 3, 1983** - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

### November 4

**NOVEMBER 4, 1922** - King Tut's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter after several years of searching. The child-King Tutankhamen became pharaoh at age nine and died around 1352 B.C. at age 19. The tomb was found mostly intact, containing numerous priceless items now exhibited in Egypt's National Museum in Cairo.

**NOVEMBER 4, 1942** - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle.

**NOVEMBER 4, 1956** - Soviet Russian troops moved in to crush an uprising in Hungary.



Yitzhak Rabin

**NOVEMBER 4, 1995** - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.



## Australian opener David Warner does a Ronaldo

Star Australian opener David Warner did a Cristiano Ronaldo during the ongoing T20 World Cup here as he removed Coca Cola bottles placed in front of him during a press conference for a brief while.

Just before the start of the press conference after he guided Australia to a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka here on Thursday, Warner grabbed the two soft drink bottles lying in front of him and said with a smile, "Can I remove these? Though I have to put it there."

"If it's good enough for Cristiano, it's good enough for me. That's right," he added while putting the two bottles back.

Ronaldo's act of removing the soft drink during a European Championships press conference reportedly cost the global beverage giant a whopping US\$ 4 billion.

The footage of Warner removing the bottles attracted considerable social media attention but any financial fallout is not known yet.

## Di Maria shines, Messi injured as PSG beat Lille to go 10 points clear

Angel Di Maria showed his worth as he set up the first and scored the winner to give Paris St Germain a 2-1 win against champions Lille in Ligue 1 after Lionel Messi limped off injured on Friday, Oct 29.

In the absence of Kylian Mbappe, who is suffering from an infection, Di Maria shone throughout the game, providing captain Marquinhos with the equaliser after Jonathan David's opener before finding the back of the net two minutes from time.

After Messi left the pitch with a muscle problem, the Argentine winger found his range to put leaders PSG on 31 points from 12 games, 10 ahead of second-placed RC Lens.

Lille, who deserved better after a convincing first half, are 11th with 15 points. Both teams went end-to-end in an entertaining opening half but Lille showed more poise and it took a superb save from Gianluigi Donnarumma to deny Burak Yilmaz in the first minute.

Lille, looking more like the team that dominated the league last season, were rewarded in the 31st minute when David opened his right foot to deflect Yilmaz's powerful cross into the roof of the net from point-blank range.

## ICC T20 WORLD CUP

# Pakistan beat Afghanistan by 5 wickets to close in on semis

**DUBAI (TIP):** Pakistan put one foot in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup today with a nervy five-wicket victory against Afghanistan in the Super 12 stage of the tournament.

The 2009 champions restricted Afghanistan to a modest 147-6 in a match between the top two teams in Group II at Dubai International Stadium.

When they came out to bat, skipper Babar Azam made a fluent 51 but it was Asif Ali's blistering 25 off seven balls that sealed their tense victory with six balls to spare.

Having beaten India and New Zealand in their first two matches, Pakistan are effectively in the last-four with clashes against minnows Namibia and Scotland remaining.

Earlier, Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi repeatedly hit Hazratullah Zazai's pad after Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi elected to bat.

## West Indies beat Bangladesh by 3 runs

**SHARJAH (TIP):** West Indies beat Bangladesh by three runs in a Group 1 Super 12 match of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Friday, October 29.

Sent in to bat, West Indies made 142 for seven and then restricted Bangladesh to 139 for five.

For West Indies, Nicholas Pooran top-scored with a 22-ball 40, while Roston Chase made 39.

Shoriful Islam (2/20), Mahedi Hasan (2/27) and Mustafizur Rahman (2/43) were the wicket-takers for Bangladesh.

Chasing the target, Liton Das scored 44 while skipper Mahmudullah remained unbeaten on 31.

Earlier, Bangladesh produced a disciplined bowling effort but Nicholas Pooran provided West Indies the final flourish as the defending champions posted 142 for 7.



Asked to set a target for the third consecutive time in the tournament, West Indies batters struggled to get going on a sluggish track before Pooran (40 off 22 balls) hit the much-needed runs.

The wicketkeeper batter hit four sixes and one four.

Roston Chase (39), making his T20 international debut, was the other chief contributor with the bat.

For Bangladesh, spinner Mahedi Hasan (2/27) Mustafizur Rahman (2/43) and pacers Shoriful Islam (2/20) picked two wickets apiece.

Aware of West Indies struggle against spin, Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah handed the ball to off-spinner Hasan to open the innings, putting pressure on the Caribbean team. It is a must-win game for both sides.

## Barca's 5th loss of season has club showing coach Ronald Koeman exit door

**MADRID (TIP):** Draws by Real Madrid and Sevilla left four teams tied for the lead in the Spanish league. Another Barcelona loss left coach Ronald Koeman out of a job.

The Catalan club fired Koeman shortly after the team's 1-0 loss at Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday, Oct 27, three days after a 2-1 home defeat to rivals Madrid in the El Clasico at the Camp Nou Stadium.

Barcelona's fifth league loss of the season left them winless in away matches and only ninth in the standings with 15 points from 10 games. Barcelona had not gone five consecutive away matches without a win in nearly 20 years.

Club president Joan Laporta informed Koeman of his decision after the loss, and Xavi Hernandez became the favourite to take over the club in their



Ronald Koeman

first season without Lionel Messi in nearly two decades. Madrid were held 0-0 by Osasuna at home, while Sevilla couldn't manage more than a 1-1 result at Mallorca, missing their chance to take sole possession of the lead. Real Betis joined them at the top with a 4-1 win over

Valencia.

League Cup: City's 5-year reign comes to an end

Manchester: Manchester City's four-year reign as English League Cup titleholders is over.

City lost 5-3 to West Ham in a penalty shootout in the last-16 on Wednesday after the game finished 0-0 after 90 minutes at the London Stadium.

That condemned City to their first elimination in the League Cup since losing to Manchester United at the same stage five years ago.

Meanwhile, Liverpool continued their unbeaten start to the season in all competitions by beating second-tier Preston 2-0, with Takumi Minamino and Divock Origi scoring in the second half.

In another penalty shootout, Leicester beat Brighton 4-2 in an all-Premier League encounter.



contd from page 10

### VIRGINIA WILL GO RED ON NOV 3...

To salvage his dying campaign, McAuliffe brought in DNC Chair, Jaime Harrison, Democrat activist, Stacey Abrams, VP Kamala Harris, First Lady Jill Biden, Former President Barack Obama and President Joe Biden made his 2nd visit to the state to help him take the lead back. So far, their collective efforts to prop up the candidacy of McAuliffe has failed miserably rather Obama & Biden both have hurt him by making divisive comments, rants against former President Trump, who is not the candidate and tying Youngkin to Trump.

On Oct 23, Former US president Barack Obama urged voters to back the Democrat in a neck-and-neck election touted as a test of the party's prospects in next year's midterm elections - casting the Republican as a threat to democracy.

Oct. 26, Biden's rant hit Trump on everything from his claims of election fraud, the pandemic and the Jan. 6 insurrection. Biden asked, "How well do you know Terry's opponent?" "Well, just remember this. I ran against Donald Trump. And Terry is running against an acolyte of Donald Trump." Toward the end of his speech, he said extremism could come in many forms, it could arrive in a mob-driven assault on the U.S. Capitol. Then Biden added of Youngkin, "it can come in a smile and a fleece vest." "Virginia, you can't take anything for granted," the president concluded his speech. "Show up for democracy, for Virginia, for the United States of America." Biden said next to nothing about the negotiations on his signature social welfare and infrastructure legislation happening just across the Potomac at the same time.

In the meantime, Youngkin got

elevated to the status of the new conservative face surging against the old establishment. He has succeeded in dismantling Socialism as preached by Democrats. He said, this race has never been this close, we have the chance to start a red wave across this nation. But it starts with winning this race. He told Fox News: "This is no longer a campaign. It's a movement."

During the first three weeks of October, Youngkin outraised McAuliffe, while McAuliffe outspent Youngkin, according to reports compiled by the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan tracker of money in state politics. Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute, also cited a shift in voters' top issues away from the pandemic, which tends to favor Democrats, and toward the economy and education, where the politics are murkier.

Youngkin's campaign will become a template for the Republicans in 2022 midterm elections, especially for those in blue states. Youngkin will be elected as Gov of VA on Nov. 3, 2021 to capture the governor's mansion for the Republican's to make it the first time since 2009.

The other highlight is the contest between two women of color, Republican Winsome E Sears is facing off against Democrat Hala S Ayala to be Virginia's next lieutenant governor on November 2, 2021. The Lt. Gov. is popularly elected every four years by a plurality and, unlike the governor, may run for re-election. Of the four lieutenant governors who have been elected since 2002, three were Democrats and one was a Republican. The Lt. Gov. serves as the president of the Virginia State Senate and may cast tie-breaking votes. Virginia is one of 17 states in which the Lt. Gov. is nominated in a separate primary and elected in separate general election from

the governor.

Sears was elected to a majority Black legislative district in 2001! No other Republican has done that in Virginia since 1865: She consequently also became the first (and still only) Black Republican woman elected to the House, the first female Marine veteran, and the first legal Jamaican immigrant woman. She is a mother, wife and has Master's degree and has built a successful business also. She was also a hard-charging Vice President of the Virginia State Board of Education and received presidential appointments to the US Census Bureau (where she co-chaired the African American Committee) and the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. However, she is most proud of her community work leading a men's prison ministry and as director of a women's homeless shelter for The Salvation Army.

Ayala is an American Hispanic politician representing the 51st district in the Virginia House of Delegates since 2017. She defeated four-term Republican incumbent Richard L. Anderson. Ayala and Elizabeth Guzman became the first Hispanic women elected to the House. She has an associate's degree in psychology from the University of Phoenix. Has formerly worked for the United States Department of Homeland Security as a cybersecurity specialist for 18 years. She also formerly led the Prince William County chapter of the National Organization for Women, serving as chapter president in 2014. She was a volunteer for Barack Obama's re-election campaign in 2012. She also served on the Virginia Council on Women as an appointee of Governor Terry McAuliffe for a term expiring on June 30, 2016. She is a single mother and has two children. She, claims African, Hispanic, Irish and Lebanese ancestry because of El Salvador native father and an Irish

and Lebanese mother.

**SEARS OR AYALA:** both would make history in VA election; either candidate would be the first woman as well as the first woman of color to serve in a post that serves as a launching pad to the governor's mansion. 5 of the past 10 lieutenant governors went on to become governor. In a University of Mary Washington poll conducted between September 7-13, 2021, 47% of likely voters supported Sears while 41% supported Ayala. Since then Sears has been maintaining this lead over Ayala despite being labeled as too extreme by Ayala.

Sears is voter's favorite to be elected as Lt. Gov of VA on Nov. 3, 2021.

*(Compiled from various sources on the internet by: Dave Makkar. Dave is a social activist and comments on both the American and the Indian political, social and economic issues. He can be reached at dave\_makkar@yahoo.com)*

contd from page 3

### Major victory for H-1B employers as...

Based on its prior interpretation of the Occupational Outlook Handbook - a Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics publication profiling hundreds of occupations in the US job market - the USCIS was determining that market research analysts did not qualify as a "specialty occupation".

The settlement approved by the federal district court in the Northern District of California would now let companies request that the USCIS reopen and re-adjudicate their denied H-1B petitions.

"This settlement is an important victory that will benefit hundreds of American businesses and the market research analysts they sought to employ," said Leslie K Dellon, senior attorney (business immigration) at the American Immigration Council.

"The settlement gives US businesses another chance to have their H-1B market research analyst petitions approved - this time under new guidance worked out by the parties to the lawsuit. Each H-1B petition reopened and approved will represent another opportunity for US employers and the workers they sponsored to advance their business objectives," she said.

The class action lawsuit in this regard was filed by the American Immigration Council, American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the law firms Van Der Hout LLP, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP (formerly Joseph & Hall P.C.), and Kuck Baxter Immigration LLC.

Jeff Joseph, partner at Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP, said this settlement finally resolves an issue on which immigration lawyers have been battling the government for years.

"This settlement strikes the right balance between what the regulations actually say and how employers evaluate a candidate's professional qualifications in the real world. It is our sincere hope that USCIS will now interpret other specialty occupations from a perspective that is in line with what actually happens in the free market," he said.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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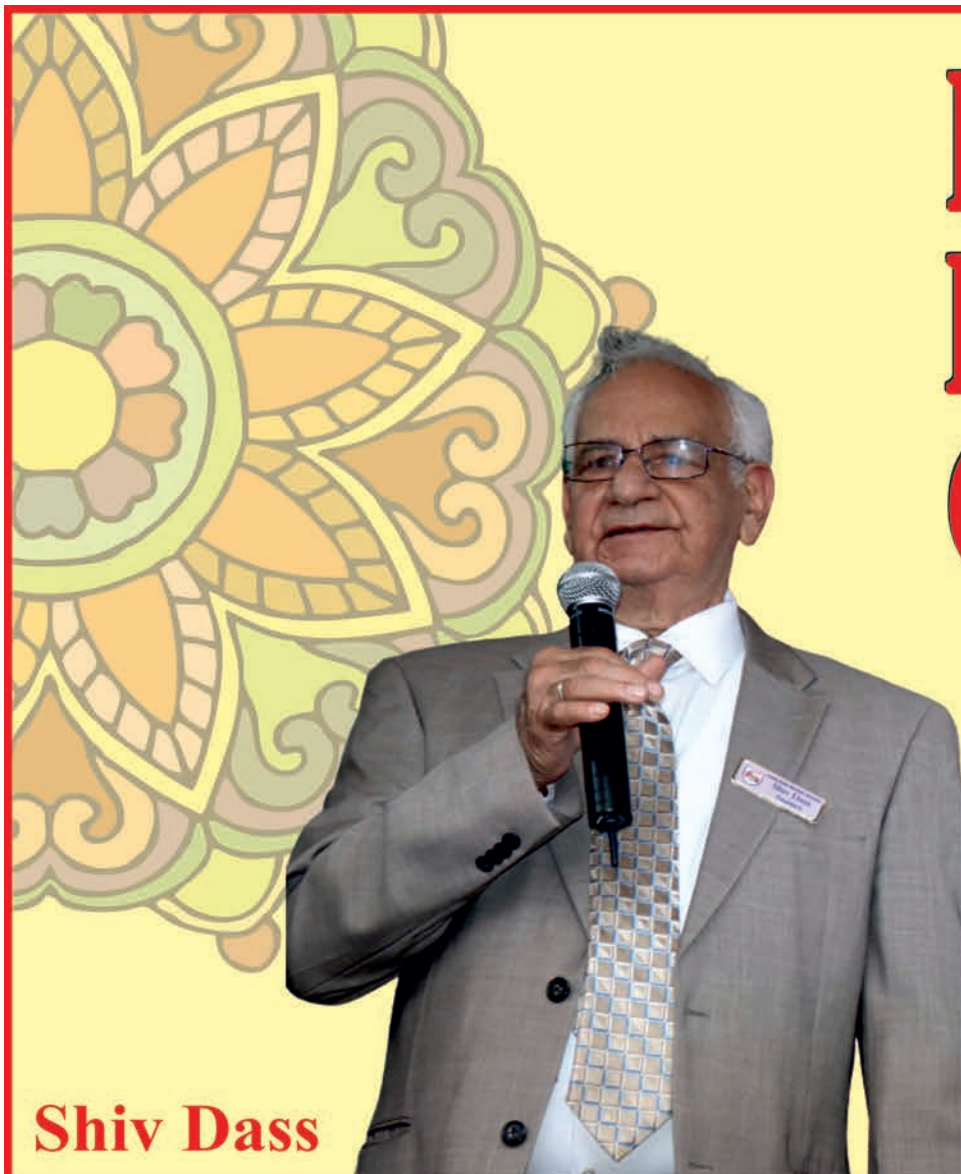
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**MALINI SHAH**  
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Liaison NYC  
(Council Member  
Paul Vallone)  
19th District Queens



**Heartiest  
Diwali  
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**Shiv Dass**



## A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children

**Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org) Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level. <https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
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