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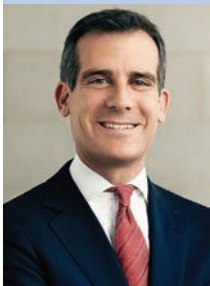
The INDIAN PANORAMA

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Key Congressional panel clears nomination of LA mayor as US envoy to India



WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) A key Congressional panel has voted in favor of the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric M Garcetti to serve as the US Ambassador to India.

Eric M Garcetti US President Joe Biden nominated Garcetti as his ambassador to India in July last year. If confirmed by the Senate, Garcetti, 50, would replace Kenneth Juster, who served as the US Ambassador to India during the Trump administration. Juster was appointed as a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in July.

Besides Garcetti, the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday endorsed 11 other ambassadorial nominations, including Amy Gutmann to be the US Ambassador to Germany, Donald Armin Blome to be the Ambassador to Pakistan and Joe Donnelly to be the envoy to the Holy See.

The nominations now move to the Senate floor for a final confirmation vote. "It is bipartisan that these vacancies be filled whichever party is in control of the White House," Ranking Member Jim Risch said.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Centers For Disease Control (CDC) urges citizens to wear 'most protective mask'

ADMINISTRATION TO SHIP 500 MILLION COVID-19 TESTS FOR FREE



President Biden has said that the federal government plans to make "high-quality masks" available to Americans for free. - CNN Screenshot

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday, January 14, revised its guidance for Americans on wearing masks to protect against COVID-19, recommending donning "the most protective mask you can" while stopping short of advocating nationwide usage of N95 respirators.

The CDC, an agency, critics have accused of offering shifting and confusing guidance amid the pandemic, clarified on its website "that people can choose respirators such as N95s and KN95s, including removing concerns related to supply shortages for N95s."

Americans should "wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently," the CDC added.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Virat Kohli quits Test captaincy, a day after series-defeat against South Africa



"Everything has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test captain of India, it's now," Kohli Tweeted

CAPE TOWN / NEW YORK (TIP): Virat Kohli on Saturday, January 15, dropped a bombshell by quitting Test captaincy, a day after India suffered an unexpected series-defeat against a second-string South Africa.

Kohli signed off as India's most successful captain 40 wins in 68 Tests after being given the reins of the side back in 2014 when M S Dhoni stepped down in the middle of the series against Australia.

Arguably the biggest ambassador of the five-day game, Kohli took India to new heights in his tenure which saw the team become a force to reckon with in all conditions.

Kohli made the announcement in the backdrop of his tense relations with the BCCI which removed him as ODI captain after the star batter himself decided to leave T20 captaincy.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Republican senator supports waiving CAATSA sanctions against India



Senator Todd Young has said that the Biden Administration should resist from any action that might drive New Delhi away from Quad

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Arguing that the Biden Administration should resist from any action that might drive New Delhi away from Quad, a top Republican senator supported waiving of CAATSA sanctions against India for

purchase of S-400 missile systems from Russia. India, Senator Todd Young said, is currently taking delivery of the Russian S-400 system. The country is also in the process of acquiring new frigate ships from Russia.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

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GUEST COMMENT

A welcome probe: On PM security breach and propaganda

SC SHOULD RESTRAIN POLITICAL PARTIES FROM USING ANY LAPSE IN PM'S SECURITY FOR POLL PROPAGANDA

An impartial inquiry into a politically contested incident is always welcome. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover near Ferozepur in Punjab for about 20 minutes. Treating this as a serious security lapse, and taking note of the potential for partisan inquiries, the Supreme Court has appointed its former judge, Justice Indu Malhotra, to lead an inquiry. Other members of the probe committee comprise the DGP of Chandigarh, a senior officer of the National Investigation Agency, the additional DGP (security) of Punjab, and the Registrar-General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The court official has already secured the records related to the Prime Minister's tour programme on that day. One hopes the probe, which has been constituted only to avoid one-sided inquiries at the instance of either the Union government or the State government, will give a quietus to the raging political controversy. None will

disagree that once the matter was taken to the apex court, only an inquiry of this nature will steer clear of partisan politics, especially in the backdrop of the incident emerging as an exploitable issue in the elections to five State Assemblies. The Union government's show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary and DGP of Punjab, demanding a response within 24 hours, evoked some resentment from the Bench.

Initial inquiries ordered by both governments have been put on hold. However, there is something disquieting about the way an isolated lapse in the Prime Minister's security is being used to raise the political temperature and garner electoral dividends. It is unfortunate that the attempt on the part of the ruling BJP to fix the blame on the Punjab government, and the Congress which helms it, is continuing even after the Supreme Court appointed an independent committee to probe the incident. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has made some

crude and unwarranted remarks on his Punjab counterpart, Charanjit Singh Channi, demanding Mr. Channi's arrest and alleging a conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister. It is clear that a divisive narrative is sought to be built by key functionaries of the BJP, as though they have been asked to milk the issue as much as possible in the run-up to the Assembly elections. The petition, which the Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, agreed to hear early, seemed to be an exercise to put the Punjab government in the dock. However, the Supreme Court has managed to emancipate the litigation from its political overtones and preserve the scope for a dispassionate inquiry. It would be in the fitness of things if the Court took note of the attempts to use the incident for electoral propaganda and restrained political parties from the resort to needless rhetoric.

(The Hindu)

Hate speeches: Onus on Supreme Court, ECI to stem the rot

Hate speeches have come under judicial scrutiny, with the Supreme Court agreeing to hear a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking an 'independent, credible and impartial' investigation by an SIT into the inflammatory remarks made by speakers at last month's Dharma Sansad in Harwar and an event in New Delhi. The petitioners have claimed that no effective steps have been taken by the Uttarakhand and Delhi police to arrest those who targeted the Muslim community in their speeches. Another petition, filed by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in the apex court, has sought a ban on anti-Muslim speeches and programs, saying that 'it is not just a matter of religion but of the Constitution, law, unity and integrity of the country.'

Uttarakhand is among the five states going to the polls next month. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already cautioned political parties over hate speeches and said that it is keeping tabs on social media posts. Even as a SIT formed by the BJP government in the hill state is probing the Harwar case, the ruling party is being accused of dragging its feet on the sensitive issue due to electoral considerations. What seems to have emboldened the hate-mongers is the silence of the Central and state governments on the 'genocidal' speeches, which were also delivered at a recent conclave in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

'Practise your religion but don't abuse and indulge in hate speech and writings' - that's what Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said at an event held in Kerala last

week to mark the 150th death anniversary of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a 19th-century Catholic priest and social reformer. His strong disapproval of attempts to ridicule other religions and create dissensions in society ought to spur politicians of all hues to call out the black sheep. However, most of them are preferring to remain mute spectators with an eye on their vote banks. With the political class generally reluctant to condemn bigotry and intolerance, the courts and the ECI would have to go the extra mile to ensure exemplary action against those spreading hatred and inciting violence in the name of religion.

(Tribune, India)

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Krish Sengupta's solo art exhibition in New York City thrills art lovers



Krish Sengupta (right) with his mentor Raul Sebasco in the backdrop of charcoal graphics - TIP Photo



Krish gifting a painting to a model - Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Art lovers went ga ga over the paintings of Krish Sengupta who organized his first solo art exhibition in New York City. The inauguration of the exhibition on Thursday, January 13 at On The Fringe, aka 72 Warren at Tribeca attracted a number of painters, art lovers, friends, and above all, the mentor of Krish, as he said, RaulSebasco.

About 30 creations, which included graphics and charcoal and oil on canvas were exhibited.

Commenting on the artist and his work, Sebasco said: "It's the classical theme with the human figure which is actually one of the most difficult subjects to draw into

paint. And so, it's very classic in the Western tradition. So, he handles it very well and this is why I am looking at these pieces, and I would like him then to develop these into his next show,into maybe 15 or 20 pieces. Same format. And that would be I think, something spectacular to present. And, in a sense, you know, following the Western tradition, which is the figurative tradition."

Asked if he found any pronounced influences on Krish, Santiago quipped: "You can almost say Michelangelo and Raphael, as well, especially in the female figures. So, there are so many of these painters

that have continued the Western tradition that have fostered the Western tradition. And so, I would like him then to take this and explore it in a uniform way with just charcoal. There's a beauty to charcoal. Charcoal is one of the oldest mediums actually. When early humans burnt wood for the first timethen there were ashes. They then actually probably started painting themselves with the charcoal. So, it's one of the oldest art mediums."

Krish is an India born artist, now based in Jersey City, NJ. Since arriving in the USA in the summer of 2009, he has actively cultivated his art in Chicago, New York and New Jersey. Largely self-taught, he has honed his skills at eminent artist workshops in these cities, namely those of Layne Jackson, Tom Robinson, Raul Sebasco and Joe Velez.

Among others at the opening of the exhibition was a gentleman very well known in the Indian American community, in particular for his films. Mr. Tirlok Malik who, besides being a film actor, director and producer, is a motivational speaker and Yoga and Ayurveda expert. He introduced a new dimension to the exhibition by initiating the gathering into a laughter yoga session, of course, to the delight of everyone.

HERE ARE SOME PICTURES OF EXHIBITED WORK OF THE ARTIST AT THE ART GALLERY AND VISITORS ON THE OPENING DAY.

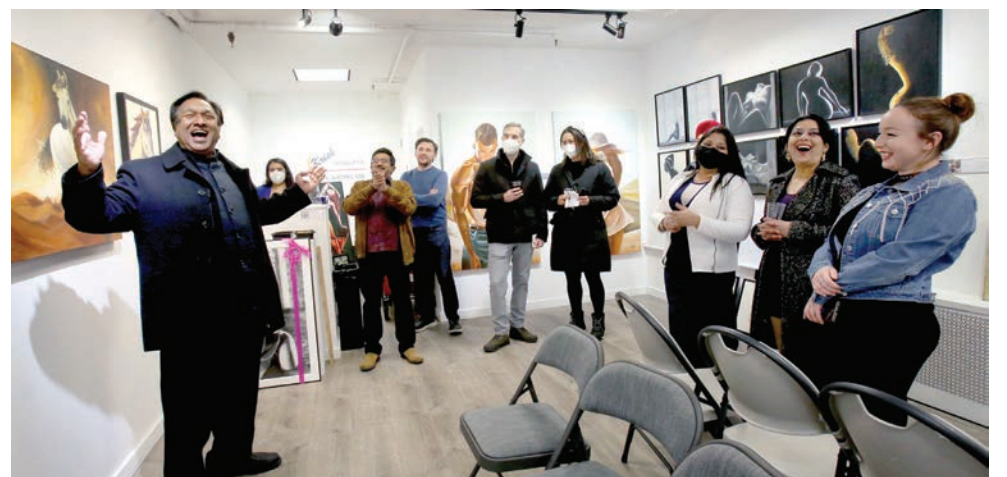
OILS ON CANVAS



Photo / Jay Mandal- On assignment



WORK IN CHARCOAL



Mr. Tirlok Malik (extreme left) initiates a laughter Yoga session - Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

Remembering the Indian American Nobel Prize winner scientist Har Gobind Khorana who cracked the genetic code



Indian American Nobel Prize winner scientist Har Gobind Khorana who cracked the genetic code

NEW YORK (TIP): It's hundred years since Indian American scientist Har Gobind Khorana, a Nobel prize winner, was born, and it's our duty to remember this great man of science.

Indian peninsula has produced several scientists over the years though their recognition may have come from foreign shores. One of the notables among them was Khorana.

Born on Jan. 9, 1922, in Raipur part of

British India which would become part of Pakistan after partition in August 1947, he became an American citizen in 1966.

A Punjabi Hindu, Khorana was youngest of five children. His father was keen on educating them all though just a clerk in British India.

Har Gobind had his early classes under a tree in school. Later he got a scholarship for under- and post-graduation at Lahore University in Chemistry, which he completed in 1945. He then got a scholarship to do a fellowship and got his PhD from Cambridge University.

His thesis was a study on chemistry of Melanin's with Roger Beer. Later he went on to do his post-doctoral study in Switzerland, where he also worked. He met Esther whom he would marry in Switzerland. Later he moved to Canada and from there to US.

He was at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was a biochemistry professor and had started research on nucleotides and RNA codes for protein synthesis. He and Esther by then had three children.

Before going to Canada, he had tried to

settle down in Punjab, but the scientist did not find suitable placement and support for research.

He shared the Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1968 with Robert Holley and Marshal Nirenberg synthesizing oligonucleotides as building blocks of amino acids, precursor of polymerase chain reaction and discovering set of three nucleotides called codons as basic building blocks.

Though it was known by then that human cells were made of genes which made proteins, the actual process was unknown. In short, he discovered the essential function of human gene. He also constructed the first synthetic gene, he deciphered our DNA and wrote the dictionary for our genetic language.

In fact he not only made a synthetic DNA, but even put it in a live bacterium, an early start to promising biotechnology. He also built RNA chains and later used them to produce protein molecules.

He would often say if you want to travel far, you need to travel alone. He was helpful to his compatriots, inspiring to his students, and polite to society. He loved long hikes, music and swimming.

He was the last to learn of the

announcement of his Nobel prize as he had gone for one of his lonely walks along lake Madison, where he camped in a tent, with no telephone or radio, but pen and paper to write on his work, and his wife had to reach him by driving to him after hearing the news.

He was given the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, in 1969 by the Indian government. Strangely the Pakistan government never claimed him or gave him any honors ignoring him as a Hindu Indian.

Khorana would work on Rhodopsin the protein in our retinas post his Nobel prize and would become a foreign member of Royal society in 1978. He joined MIT in 1970 and was there till he retired in 2007.

In 2007, University of Wisconsin, India' Department of Technology and Indo-US Science and Technology Forum would form the Khorana program for scholars to create scientists, industrialists and social entrepreneurs in USA and India.

He passed away on Nov 9, 2011, at the age of 89.

This is the remarkable story of a brilliant scientist born in a remote village.

American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) organizes "Aerospace symposium for Everyone" on Jan 15



WASHINGTON (TIP): Fasten your seatbelts for a high-speed flight into the future at an "Aerospace symposium for Everyone", being organized by the American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) on Jan 15. To be keynoted by Dr. Michael Griffin, former Administrator of NASA and former Undersecretary of Defense, the symposium at 8 am PT/11 am ET, will also have NASA's current Indian American Associate Administrator for Technology, Policy and Strategy, Dr. Bhavya Lal.

Other prominent Indian American speakers from aero and space fields include Vik Kachoria, CEO Spike Aerospace, Dr. Ajay Kothari, President Astrox Corp, Dr. Naveed Hussain, CTO Boeing and Dr. Anita Sengupta CEO founder, Hydroplane.

Four panels on High-Speed Air Travel, Living on the Moon, Space Access & Tourism, and Flying Air Taxis promise to be equally interesting to both the scientific community and the general public.

For registration and sponsorship:

www.aseiusa.org . The first session on 'High-Speed Air Travel' moderated by Dr. Bala Bharadvaj will discuss the prospect of flying across the Pacific in only four hours or cross the Atlantic in half the time the modern subsonic jets take!

Over six decades of research on supersonic commercial aircraft design have paved the way for a new era in high-speed travel that is not too far from becoming a reality.

The grounding of the Anglo-French Concorde has perhaps spurred even more of an urgency to bring the next supersonic aircraft to the market. Several aerospace companies have been at the forefront in the design and development of supersonic transport and business jet aircraft that will fly above the speed of sound and carry as many as 90 passengers.

This panel will discuss technology advancements in materials, manufacturing, engines, design methods for efficient aerodynamics, reduced sonic boom, affordability, and the business potential, made possible by extensive research & development by NASA over last several decades.

Dr. Bhavya Lal and Dr. Ajay Kothari, President Astrox Corp will be among the speakers discussing how it would be like 'Living on the Moon'.

This panel will explore getting most efficiently and cheaply to the Moon and

also establishing settlements on Moon, this time not just to visit and plant a flag, but also to live and work there.

It will also explore how to mine for the most important, life sustaining water-ice on Moon, as well as exploring the lava tubes for habitats.

In just a few decades, a thousand or more people are expected to live on the Moon at a time, with many hundreds rotating every few months, so as to avoid long-term impact of smaller gravity.

With the advent of reusable rockets, the paradigm has shifted to be able to do this much cheaper than earlier. The panel will discuss how to give a third dimension to a continued evolution, which is an expanding presence in Space.

The panel on 'Space Access & Tourism' moderated by Dr. Kavya Manyapu will discuss space tourism encompassing the sub-orbital tourism as well as orbital tourism. Cheaper and more frequent Space access as offered by Rocket Lab and Astra have helped humanity benefit from Space by their launches of smaller satellites to near Earth orbits, thus helping improve life on Earth.

For sub-orbital tourism, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic have recently taken passengers to Space and back. SpaceX of Elon Musk have also inspired us all with its orbital flight for passengers using Falcon 9 and Crew Dragon capsule in Flight

Inspiration-4.

The orbital tourism will also be extended to tourism on Moon in coming years. All of them promise to be multi tens of billion dollars business over next two decades.

All these developments of late are what dreams can be made of now. With the advent and successful deployment of reusable rockets, these dreams will be in the grasp of many in the coming decade.

Dr. Naveed Hussain, CTO Boeing and Dr. Anita Sengupta CEO founder, Hydroplane among others will discuss the modalities of 'Flying Air Taxis' as this dream is very close to being a reality.

In a matter of only a few years from now, a large number of aviation and auto companies are expected to launch their air taxi operations in major metropolitan cities around the world to connect urban centers to bypass the high traffic congestion.

The business potential for air taxis is expected to grow to \$1.5 trillion by 2040. All of this is possible now because of new and emerging technologies, including new batteries, autonomous operations, and advanced manufacturing.

This also provides exciting opportunities for future generation engineers and scientists. In this panel, experts and corporate executives will discuss how flying air taxis are expected to revolutionize urban air transportation.

British Indian author reinvents Princess Sophia Duleep Singh as a role model for children

NIRPAL S SHERGILL

LONDON (TIP): Princess Sophia Duleep Singh deserves more attention as a role model for young girls in Britain, says British Indian author Suifya Ahmed about her new children's book on the grand daughter of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and god daughter of Queen Victoria.

'My Story: Princess Sophia Duleep Singh', released this month, is intended to complement Britain's school curriculum for nine to 13-year-olds around the country's suffragette movement as it celebrates the royal's tireless campaign for women's right to vote.

Ahmed felt a gap in the knowledge about this inspiring historical figure during school workshops, where she encountered very little awareness about Sophia Duleep Singh among not only pupils but also teachers.

"I wanted to change that and so I wrote her story for children. Sophia's story is inspirational because she puts the cause she believes in ahead of herself," Ahmed told media

"Sophia believed in a woman's right to vote. She stood up for what she believed in

and played a role in a defining historical event of the 20th century," she said.

Sophia Duleep Singh was the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh - the last maharaja of the Sikh Empire and the youngest son of Ranjit Singh. He was famously exiled to England as a little boy during colonial rule and grew up in the midst of the British royal family, based at Elveden Hall in Norfolk, eastern England.

As a young woman in the early 1900s, Sophia was introduced to the Women's Social and Political Union and threw herself into efforts to campaign for women's right to vote, using her position as a princess to bring publicity to the movement.

From selling newspapers to protesting outside Parliament, Sophia was actively engaged in the suffragette cause. Her activism extended to the First World War, during which she tended to wounded Indian soldiers.

"When I first heard about Princess Sophia, I was sad for that younger me who was always interested in women's rights and who always felt like I was looking into someone else's history. When really, it was my history too," said Ahmed, whose

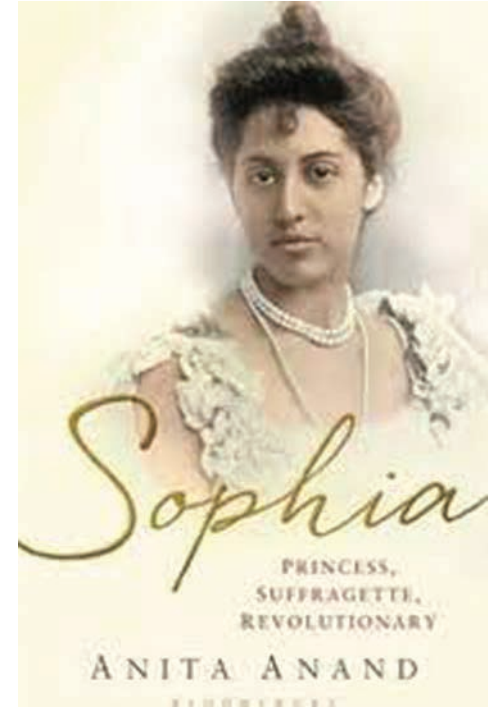
familial roots are in Surat, Gujarat.

"Sophia was a woman who looked like me in the suffragette movement and knowing about her when I was a schoolgirl would have made a huge difference to my sense of belonging in this country. These are role models who contributed to Britain," she said.

The London-based author has also written a similar children's story about Noor Inayat Khan, a descendant of Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan who lost her life behind Nazi enemy lines in France during World War II as a British spy.

"There are so many women from Indian history that we need to celebrate. I would love to write a book on Queen Laxmi of Jhansi, Razia Sultan, Nur Jahan... All wonderfully empowered women whose stories should be more widely known," said Ahmed. For the moment, however, the author's focus is on a fictional tale entitled 'Rosie Raja - Churchill's Spy'.

"It is a thrilling and empowering World War II adventure about the French Resistance and their British allies, with a determined, mixed-race heroine," the author said, of her next book to be published soon.



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh has been portrayed as a role model for children by British Indian author Suifya Ahmed in her book 'My Story: Princess Sophia Duleep Singh'

Indian American entrepreneur Pooja Ika's eternalHealth raises \$10 million

BOSTON (TIP): eternalHealth, a Medicare Advantage health plan, founded and run by Indian American entrepreneur Pooja Ika, has raised another \$10 million in Series A funding to build a sustainable business doing things the right way.

This additional financing follows an initial \$10 million in seed and pre-Series A investment by successful healthcare and tech entrepreneurs last summer in the first new health plan to be approved in Massachusetts since 2013, the company announced Tuesday.

Ika, the first woman at the age of 24 to launch a new Medicare Advantage Health Plan in the US, said the Series A funding, which includes seed investors and additional successful technology and healthcare entrepreneurs, will be used to support the day-to-day operations.

It will also help attract and retain membership, while most of the capital will be used as risk-based capital to support the company's membership growth, she said.

Typically, the launch of a new health plan takes two to three years and costs tens of millions of dollars, said Ika. "At eternalHealth, we accomplished this historic goal within a year."

"The initial seed round helped us build



Pooja Ika

a technology-powered infrastructure, optimize our operations, and hire a skilled team of 20 professionals," added Ika.

"Now, that we are operationally sound, we are actively trying to grow and increase our membership base," she said. "The goal has always been to build a sustainable business model, that is committed to doing things the right way."

New insurers have raised hundreds of millions of dollars at the same stage eternalHealth is at now, but Ika is very mindful about raising capital, according to the release.

"It is not because we cannot raise the capital, it is because we are being intentional with our use of capital," she said. "I strive to achieve the same results of some of my mentors who have started successful health plans across the country."

"Their advice to me was to get all of our regulatory approvals with as little capital as possible, and that is exactly what we did."

Ika said that this is the first time ever that a health plan has been launched in the United States by a woman at 24 and not only that, but by a woman of color.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American entrepreneur Cherian Thomas owned Octopus Interactive acquired by T Mobile

PARMINDER S AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP) : Octopus Interactive, the largest national network of interactive video screens inside Uber and Lyft vehicles, co-founded and run by Indian American entrepreneur Cherian Thomas has been acquired by T-Mobile.

This move marks the next step for Marketing Solutions, T-Mobile's fast-growing advertising technology business, in expanding its advertising offerings for marketers, the telecom company announced Monday.

Octopus Interactive helps brands reach audiences through video ads presented on screens inside rideshare vehicles, providing marketers a new way to reach consumers, and its impact is growing rapidly.

Octopus's rideshare network enables brands to execute comprehensive geotargeted campaigns across a range of highly engaged consumers.

And beyond the rideshare network, this acquisition will connect T-Mobile's Marketing Solutions group with big brands, like current Octopus clients



Cherian Thomas

Audible, Fox Entertainment, Philo and many more, according to a T-Mobile press release.

"We're thrilled to join the T-Mobile team on their mission to provide better results for marketers and better experiences for consumers," said Cherian Thomas, co-founder and CEO of Octopus Interactive.

"Our rideshare technology will unlock massive opportunities for brands working with Marketing Solutions."

"Octopus allows us to highlight our library of rich media content and drive awareness amongst a younger and tech savvy demographic. We've seen engagement rates over 3.5% and QR codes convert extremely well given the captive rideshare environment" said Matt Stein, Head of Brand & Creative Strategy at Philo.

Moving forward, devices used by drivers in the rideshare network will be powered by T-Mobile's network, connecting thousands of drivers across the US to the Un-carrier experience.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Republican politician Rik Mehta to challenge Frank Pallone in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Indian American Republican politician Rik Mehta, who made an unsuccessful bid for US Senate against Democrat Cory Booker in 2020, now plans to challenge Democrat incumbent Frank Pallone in New Jersey's 6th Congressional District.

Mehta, 43, who then made history as the first Indian American candidate to win a statewide nomination for either party, previously planned to run against Democrat Tom Malinowski in District 7.

Mehta who has been living in Chester, Morris County announced Monday he is relocating to Iselin in Middlesex County, according to insidernj.com. Mehta's decision to switch districts follows publication of new congressional map last month.

"Out of touch politicians who think the Bill of Rights is above their pay grade don't understand what it's like to lose a business," Mehta, a pharmaceutical entrepreneur, stated.

"My father came to this country with only \$100 in his pocket. We didn't have much, but we found the American Dream," he said. "It's time that our communities and small businesses, from Oak Tree Road to Ocean Avenue, get the right representation in Washington."

"I'm ready to be the voice for the people and work to create economic freedom, make effective testing and treatment options to Covid available, bring medical innovation and manufacturing back to New Jersey, stand up for small business owners and protect our beautiful shores and beaches," Mehta said.



Republican Rik Mehta plans to challenge Democrat incumbent Frank Pallone (inset) in New Jersey's 6th Congressional District.

"For over 30 years, Rep. Pallone built his career off the backs of our proud immigrant communities while turning his back on our small businesses when they needed him the most. He's not one of us and I plan to retire him in November".

A former US Food and Drug Administration official, Mehta lost to Booker by 724,126 votes, 57%-41%, according to New Jersey Globe. Record voter turnout in the 2020 general election caused Booker to become the highest vote-getter for statewide office in New Jersey history.

At the same time, Mehta received more votes than any other Republican statewide candidate in history after breaking a record set by US Senator Clifford P. Case in 1972.

He received 1,817,052 in his race against Booker, a vote

total that outperformed Republican statewide victors like former governors Chris Christie, Christine Todd Whitman, and Thomas H. Kean.

Mehta is seeking to become the first South Asian American to win a House seat in New Jersey, in a district that has the state's largest percentage of Asian American voters, the media noted.

In the peak of the pandemic, Mehta championed his slogan "Save Small Business" which became a rallying cry across the state and the nation in 2020 amidst the lockdowns pushed by Democrat Governor Phil Murphy, media reported.

Murphy and Mehta traded jabs after Mehta opened his campaign headquarters at the Atilis gym, creating a Constitutional checkmate against Murphy, forcing him to reopen all gyms across the state, the media said.

Mehta said, "I spent much of my FDA career fighting to remove dangerous, unapproved drugs from the market while we were left alone by Pallone," who served as the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee.

"There is no coincidence here - 30 years sitting in Congress as the ranking member of the Health Committee, Pallone never put forward a winning legislative agenda to END the opioid epidemic, hold opioid manufacturers accountable, and save American lives," he said.

"So today, we're left with over one million Americans dead under his watch and with countless numbers of families destroyed. Enough is enough. We deserve better," Mehta said.

New Jersey Police arrests Mohamed Hassanain in hate crime against Sikh taxi driver; Sikh Coalition thanks police for swift action

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department has arrested one Mohamed Hassanain in the hate crime case where he had assaulted an Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver at John F. Kennedy International Airport on January 3. According to Sikh Coalition, the accused is also a taxi driver, media reports said.

A video of the incident had gone viral where accused Hassanain is seen shouting at the victim "go back to

your country," and "turbaned people" in a derogatory manner. Hassanain had further punched and shoved the Sikh driver and ripped off his turban.

Hassanain has been charged with assault in the third degree as a hate crime, assault in the third degree, and aggravated harassment in the second degree. Accused Hassanain is set to be arraigned on January 15 by the competent court.

Sikh Coalition, a community-based civil and human rights organization thanked police for the quick action.

"We are grateful to the Port Authority Police Department and Queens District Attorney's Office for their prompt action on this case, and for recognizing that the attack on Mr. Singh included clear anti-Sikh bias," said Amrit Kaur Aakre, the Legal Director of the Sikh Coalition.

"This case underscores the importance of sharing all of the details of these kinds of attacks with law enforcement. Holding perpetrators accountable for both their actions and their hateful motivations is the clearest way to show that bigotry, and the violence that it fuels, have no place in our communities," she said further.

She said that taxi and rideshare drivers from the Sikh community are at a heightened risk of hateful assault. In recent years, the Sikh Coalition has provided free legal aid to many Sikh drivers who were attacked in various places across the USA.

The incident left people shocked and angered as the Sikh driver was assaulted and abused without any provocation.

The victim had parked his taxi at the Terminal 4 taxi stand and, in the meantime, accused blocked his



An Indian origin Sikh taxi driver was physically attacked and berated near his cab at JFK International Airport

vehicle. When he picked up a customer, he stepped out of his car and asked Hassanain to move. On this Hassanain attempted to hit him with his own car door and later on started punching the victim in the head, chest, and arms, knocking off his turban.

The victim said that he was shocked and angered when he was assaulted for doing nothing. "I am thankful for law enforcement, the Sikh Coalition, and all those in the community who have offered their strength in this difficult time. No one should experience what I did-but if they do, I hope they receive the same overwhelming amount of support and quick, professional action by the authorities in response," the driver said.

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Khorana & Indian Science

REAL TRIBUTE TO THE NOBEL LAUREATE WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCH

BY DINESH C.
SHARMA



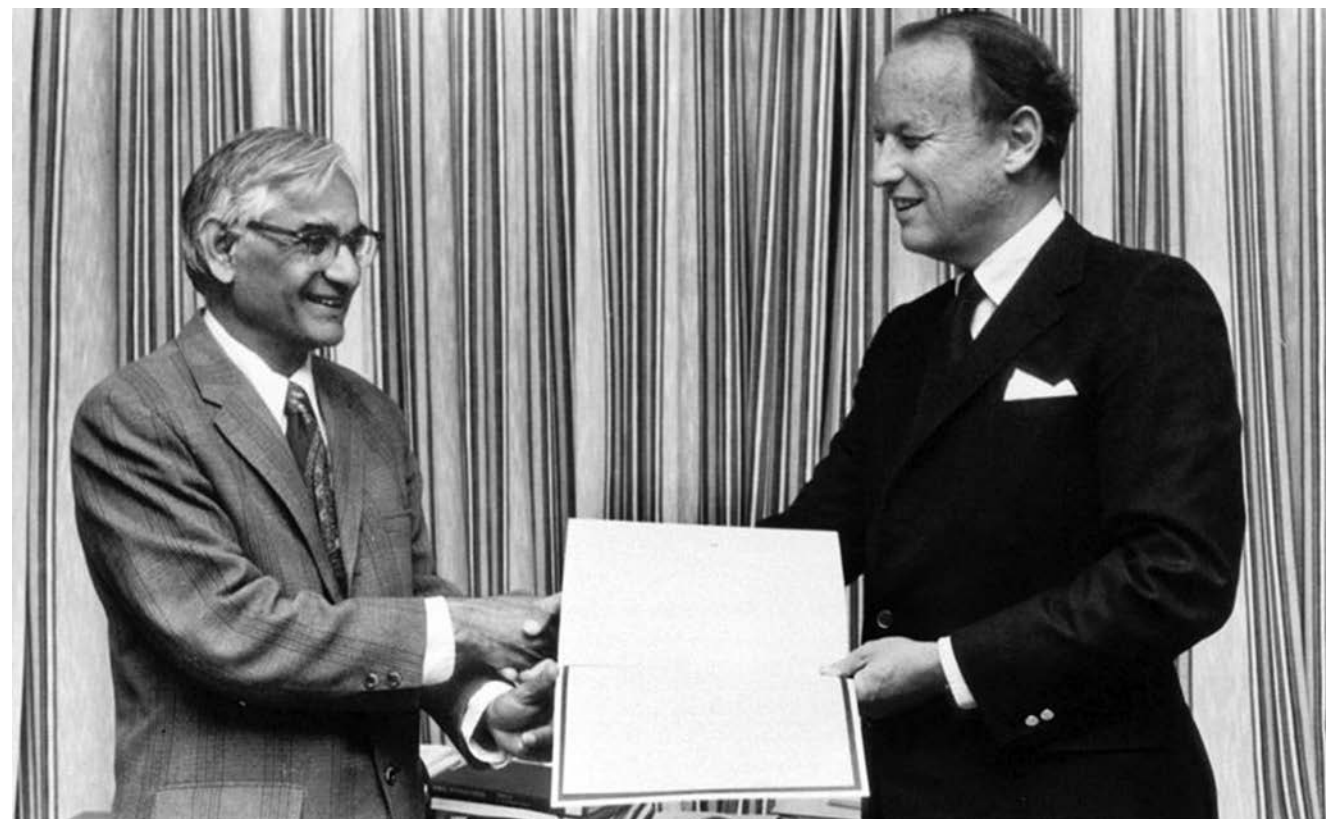
THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF NOBEL LAUREATE HAR GOBIND KHORANA IS AN OCCASION TO RECALL THE PIONEERING CONTRIBUTIONS HE MADE TO THE FIELDS OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS AND THEIR CONTINUING RELEVANCE. THE CENTENARY HAS BROUGHT INTO FOCUS THE LESSER-KNOWN SCIENTIFIC LEGACY OF UNDIVIDED PUNJAB WHICH WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THREE NOBEL LAUREATES - SUBRAHMANYAN CHANDRASEKHAR, ABDUS SALAM AND KHORANA. THE STATE ALSO PRODUCED SEVERAL OTHER SCIENTISTS LIKE SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR, RUCHI RAM SAHNI AND YASH PAL. IT IS A SHARED LEGACY OF THE SUBCONTINENT THAT NEEDS TO BE CELEBRATED.

The New Year has begun with a significant event on India's science calendar - the birth centenary of Nobel laureate Har Gobind Khorana. It is an occasion to recall the pioneering contributions he made to the fields of chemical biology and genetics and their continuing relevance. The centenary has brought into focus the lesser-known scientific legacy of undivided Punjab which was the birthplace of three Nobel laureates - Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Abdus Salam and Khorana. The state also produced several other scientists like Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Ruchi Ram Sahni and Yash Pal. It is a shared legacy of the subcontinent that needs to be celebrated.

Larger issues relating to hierarchy, academic freedom, inadequate thrust on research and research-industry collaboration need to be addressed.

Amidst the celebrations have surfaced stories about how Khorana failed to get a job after he returned to India in 1949 with a doctorate from the University of Liverpool and post-doctoral research experience at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and that he was forced to return to Europe. Though the phrase 'brain drain' was not in vogue then, Khorana's could be the most celebrated case of the phenomenon, in retrospect.

Khorana was among the earliest products of the exercise to boost modern higher education in India, initiated by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, head of Planning and Development in the Viceroy's Executive Council appointed in 1944. Dalal found that existing educational institutions were not capable of producing manpower necessary for developing an industrial base in India. It was his idea that India needed MIT-like technology universities. For the short term, he drew up a scheme, Government of India Fellowship Programme, to sponsor higher education of Indian students in Europe and America. Among the first set of students to benefit from this scheme was Khorana who had just finished post-graduation in chemistry from Punjab University in Lahore. Several generations of Indian students got this scholarship which was continued after



The birth centenary of Har Gobind Khorana (left) has brought into focus the lesser-known scientific heritage of undivided Punjab
NIH File photo

Independence as well, and upon return to India they were deployed to work in scientific institutions and industry.

At the time Khorana was beginning a career in science in the post-war world, scientific research in the newly Independent India was just getting organized. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute - where he was seeking an appointment - was far from being a vibrant research outfit. The facilities for basic research were lacking, as pointed out by several visiting scientists. For example, Kenneth V Thimann of Harvard University, who was in India to address the Indian Science Congress in 1957, wrote to PM Nehru: 'Numerous young PhDs have gone abroad to receive some training in some aspect of modern plant physiology, but too often they return to a heavy schedule of teaching and a laboratory whose equipment can only be described as medieval.'

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - founded to meet the war exigencies in the 1940s - was being shaped to serve the needs of an aspiring nation. The overhaul of other colonial-era research councils such as agriculture and medical research councils was yet to begin. The work on a spate of new educational and research institutions meant there was a clamor for resources. The scientific community and the government were still debating the division of resources for utilitarian research meant for nation-building and basic research. Foreign exchange crunch meant scientists either had to fabricate instrumentation on their own or look for aid from UN agencies or foreign governments. Dollars needed for subscriptions to scientific journals had to be justified to the Reserve Bank of India.

This answers if Khorana could have achieved in India what he did in universities in Europe and North America had he been employed in any Indian laboratory in the 1940s.

In the early 1960s, Khorana moved from Vancouver to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to become co-director of the Institute for Enzyme Research where he did his path-breaking work on the synthesis of proteins. In India, biochemistry research then was just taking shape and the discourse centered on establishing a National Biological Laboratory on the lines of the

National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) under the CSIR. The UGC was trying to figure out ways to promote biochemistry education and research in universities. Dr Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, then a young biochemist at the Regional Research Laboratory at Hyderabad, was prodded by his mentor Dr Syed Husain Zaheer to organize a group of biochemists to chalk out research agenda in this new field. The group met informally in January 1960 in Khandala - at a villa owned by writer Mulk Raj Anand who happened to be a close friend of Zaheer. Independent of this initiative, Dr Obaid Siddiqi networked with international groups to shape the Molecular Biology Group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). Siddiqi's brainstorming sessions became famous as the Mahabaleshwar Seminars in modern biology, while Bhargava's initiative continued as 'Guha Research Conference'.

Khorana was not directly involved in such efforts to promote biochemistry research and education in India but he was in touch with members of these groups, such as Dr GP Talwar at the AIIMS and Zaheer at the CSIR. Bhargava also interacted with Khorana at the famous Gordon Research Conference on Nucleic Acids in 1964, in which the who's who of modern biology were present. Khorana was the vice-chairman of this landmark meeting where several past and future Nobel laureates were present.

Scientific research in India has come a long way from the time of Khorana not finding suitable research opening in Indian laboratories in the late 1940s. The research infrastructure in Indian laboratories is no more 'medieval' as described by visiting scientists in the 1950s. Access to scientific knowledge is just a click away. Research funding is growing and multiple channels of funding are available. But larger issues relating to hierarchy, academic freedom, inadequate thrust on research in universities, research-industry collaboration etc., remain not fully addressed. A real tribute to Khorana would be to correct some of these imbalances to encourage fundamental research and provide opportunities to young scientists in emerging areas of new biology.

(The author is a Science Commentator with The Tribune, India)

The sail that Indian diplomacy, statecraft need

BY D.B. VENKATESH
VARMA



STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN CONTINENTAL AND MARITIME SECURITY WILL ENABLE INDIA'S LONG-TERM SECURITY INTERESTS.



When Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosts the five Central Asia leaders at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, it will send a strong signal - of the new prominence of the Central Asian region in India's security calculations. In 2015, Mr. Modi visited all the five Central Asian states. Recently, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also hosted their Central Asian counterparts in Delhi. The collapse of American military power in Afghanistan, the subsequent takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and the consequent rise in the influence of Pakistan and China are developments of high concern for India's continental security

interests.

While the Republic Day invitation is significant symbolically, in substance, however, hard work lies ahead. India's continental strategy, in which the Central Asian region is an indispensable link, has progressed intermittently over the past two decades - promoting connectivity, incipient defense and security cooperation, enhancing India's soft power and boosting trade and investment. It is laudable, but as is now apparent, it is insufficient to address the broader geopolitical challenges engulfing the region.

Focus on Eurasia

China's assertive rise, the precipitous withdrawal of forces of the United States/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from Afghanistan, the rise of Islamic fundamentalist forces, the changing dynamics of the historic stabilizing role of Russia (most recently in Kazakhstan) and related multilateral mechanisms - the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Union - have all set the stage for a sharpening of the geopolitical competition on the Eurasian landmass. This competition is marked by a weaponization of resource and geographical access as a form of domination, practiced by China and other big powers. To meet this challenge, evolving an effective continental strategy for India will be a complex and long-term exercise.

Some course correction

India's maritime vision and ambitions have grown dramatically during the past decade, symbolized by its National Maritime Strategy, the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative for the Indian Ocean Region and major initiatives relating to the Indo-Pacific and the Quad, in which maritime security figures prominently. This was perhaps an overdue correction to the historic neglect of India's maritime power. It was also a response to the dramatic rise of China as a military power. It may also be a by-product of the oversized influence over our think-tank community of Anglo-Saxon strategic thinking, which has tended to emphasize the maritime dimensions of China's military rise more

than others.

The U.S. is a pre-eminent naval power, even more so in the Indo-Pacific region, and defines its strategic preferences in the light of its own strengths. That said, maritime security is important to keeping sea lanes open for trade, commerce and freedom of navigation, resisting Chinese territorial aggrandizement in the South China Sea and elsewhere, and helping littoral states resist Chinese bullying tactics in interstate relations. However, maritime security and associated dimensions of naval power are not sufficient instruments of statecraft as India seeks diplomatic and security constructs to strengthen deterrence against Chinese unilateral actions and the emergence of a unipolar Asia.

The Chinese willingness and capacity for military intervention and power projection are growing far beyond its immediate region. Its rise is not merely in the maritime domain. It is expanding on the Eurasian continent - its Belt and Road Initiative projects in Central Asia up to Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, undercutting traditional Russian influence, its gaining access to energy and other natural resources, and its dependency-creating investments, cyber and digital penetration and expanding influence among political and economic elites across the continent. The American military footprint has shrunk dramatically on the core Eurasian landmass, though it has a substantial military presence on the continental peripheries. Bulwarks against Chinese maritime expansionist gains are relatively easier to build and its gains easier to reverse than the long-term strategic gains that China hopes to secure on continental Eurasia. Like Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) centrality is key to the Indo-Pacific, centrality of the Central Asian states should be key for Eurasia.

Border, connectivity issues

India's partition and the emergence over the past six decades of a persistent two-front threat from Pakistan and China set the stage for a tough continental dimension of our security. There is increased militarization of the borders with Pakistan and China, with the Ladakh sector now increasingly looking like it will see permanent deployment on the Siachen Glacier. India has been subject for over five decades to a land embargo by Pakistan that has few parallels in relations between two states that are technically not at war. Connectivity means nothing when access is denied through persistent neighboring state hostility contrary to the canons of international law.

Difficulties have arisen in operationalizing an alternative route - the International North-South Transport Corridor on account of the U.S.'s hostile attitude towards Iran. It may appear strange that while we join the U.S. and others in supporting the right of freedom of navigation in the maritime domain, we do not demand with the same force the right of India to conduct interstate trade, commerce, and transit along continental routes - be it through the lifting of Pakistan's blockade on transit or the lifting of U.S. sanctions against transit through Iran into Eurasia. With the recent Afghan developments, India's physical connectivity challenges with Eurasia have only become starker. The marginalization of India on the Eurasian continent in terms of connectivity must be reversed.

Where the U.S. stands

The ongoing U.S.-Russia confrontation relating to Ukraine, Russian opposition to future NATO expansion

and the broader questions of European security including on the issue of new deployment of intermediate-range missiles, following the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty will have profound consequences for Eurasian security. This comes against the background of an ongoing U.S. review of its global military commitments. While the U.S. had over 2,65,000 troops under its European command in 1992, it now has about 65,000. Even with the rise of China's military power, over the past decade, the U.S. which had about 1,00,000 troops in the early 1990s under what is now called the Indo-Pacific Command, currently has about 90,000 troops mostly committed to the territorial defense of Japan and South Korea. The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) has undergone a major transformation during the last decade; it had about 1,70,000 troops a decade ago (related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), but has less than 10,000 personnel now.

The bottom line is clear - the U.S. would be severely stretched if it wanted to simultaneously increase its force levels in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Successive waves of post-Cold War NATO expansion only increased overall insecurity, with the potential to create for the U.S. the mother of all quagmires. A major conflict - if it erupts in Central Europe, pitting Russia, Ukraine and some European states - will stall any hopes of a substantial U.S. military pivot to the Indo-Pacific. Geopolitics may be fractured but always add up globally. Russia and China do not need to be alliance partners to allow for coordinated actions relating to Taiwan or Donbas, as such coordination would flow from the very logic of the strategic conundrum that the U.S. now finds itself in. In the same vein, European NATO powers dependent on the U.S. can do only so much for strengthening security in the Indo-Pacific. Their engagement with the Indo-Pacific is welcome but we should not only be cognizant of the limitations of geography, obvious gaps between strategic ambition and capacity but also the inherently different standpoints of how major maritime powers view critical questions of continental security. India is unique as no other peer country has the same severity of challenges on both the continental and maritime dimensions.

Be assertive about rights

Going forward, it is clear India will not have the luxury of choosing one over the other; we would need to acquire strategic vision and deploy the necessary resources to pursue our continental interests without ignoring our interests in the maritime domain. This will require a more assertive push for our continental rights - namely that of transit and access, working with our partners in Central Asia, with Iran and Russia (not that we have many other options), and a more proactive engagement with economic and security agendas ranging from the SCO, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Stabilizing Afghanistan is a necessary but not a sufficient condition.

Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security would be the best guarantor of our long-term security interests. But this will not be easy as we would need to work with different partners on different agendas even while their geopolitical contradictions play out in the open. India will need to define its own parameters of continental and maritime security consistent with its own interests. In doing so, at a time of major geopolitical change, maintaining our capacity for independent thought and action (namely strategic autonomy) will help our diplomacy and statecraft navigate the difficult landscape and the choppy waters that lie ahead.

(Author is a former Ambassador to Russia)

Punjab Government tripped, and how

BY JULIO RIBEIRO



FAILED TO FULFIL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION TO ENSURE SAFE PASSAGE TO PM

"I DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE BJP'S CHARGE THAT THE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT WILLFULLY EXPOSED THE PM TO DANGER IN THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE HARMED. THAT IS A MISSTATEMENT OF FACTS MEANT TO GAIN POLITICAL MILEAGE. THE PEOPLE ARE NOT SO DUMB. BUT WHAT THE PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW IS THAT UNWITTINGLY THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS THROWN ITSELF OPEN TO THE CHARGE THAT THE PM'S PERSONAL SECURITY COULD HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY THE SUDDEN HOLD UP ON THE BRIDGE NEAR HIS DESTINATION. ANY UNHINGED PERSON COULD HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE. THAT LAPSE CANNOT BE EXCUSED AND IT WILL NOT BE, THOUGH HERE AGAIN THE CHARGE THAT THE PUNJAB POLICE PURPOSELY LEAKED THE DETAILS OF THE ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE PM TO THE FARMER PROTESTERS CAN BE DISCARDED AS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF POLITICAL GRANDSTANDING. A ROUTE PRESCRIBED FOR THE TRAVEL HAS TO BE SECURED WELL IN ADVANCE. MOVEMENT OF POLICEMEN DETAILED FOR SUCH WORK WILL BE KNOWN TO EVERYONE, FRIEND OR FOE, BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE EXERCISE."



In the case of Modi, the threat perception must be considerably higher than what it was for Dr Manmohan Singh or Atal Bihari Vajpayee. - Photo / PTI

The PM's inability to reach his destination in Punjab on January 5 showed the state government and its police force in a very bad light. It failed to fulfil its constitutional obligation to ensure safe passage to the nation's Chief Executive! This has not happened before, as far as my memory goes. There is an elaborate drill that precedes the PM's visit to a state. State governments ruled by Opposition parties, as in the case of Punjab, have an added responsibility in this matter as they have to keep their own followers in check.

If the newly installed CM thought he was teaching his rivals a lesson in political jugglery, I reckon he has picked on the wrong horse.

Before a PM crosses into a state, the SPG, which is in charge of the PM's personal safety, sends an advance party of senior officers to thrash out every detail of his or her itinerary with the DGP and his Intelligence wing. Visits are paid to the spots where the PM is scheduled to visit. The law and order machinery of the police, as represented by the DSP and his juniors, is associated in the planning of the entire event.

The Intelligence Bureau (IB), which monitors the political pulse of the parties and people involved in the event, is associated with the security arrangements. The final call on every detail is with the SPG, which has been especially raised for securing the life of the country's PM. In the case of Modi, the threat perception must be considerably higher than what it was for Dr Manmohan Singh or Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

I presume these drills, which cover all the special precautions to be taken in case of eventualities like a change in route, were discussed and finalized by the state's police leadership with the

SPG and the IB team. The PM was to use a helicopter to travel from Bathinda to Hussainiwala in Ferozepur district, where he was to honor the martyrs who laid down their lives to free the country from colonial rule. That the helicopter may have to be abandoned was always on the cards. Winter mist and rain that hampers visibility is a regular feature in Punjab at this time of the year. It must have been factored in during the course of the preparations for the visit.

I am afraid that the Congress government has messed up badly. No excuses can soften the blow, since no excuses will be accepted. The security of the PM is the topmost concern of every citizen of this country and not merely the agencies constituted to ensure that his life is safe. It is a matter of national honor.

While the SPG guards his proximity and his person, it is the responsibility of the state's police to ensure that the PM moves about without any hindrance. Malcontents and sundry political opponents who wish to demonstrate against him have to be called and told what will be permitted and what will not be allowed. Uniformed police officers are adept in this particular police duty.

I do not subscribe to the BJP's charge that the Congress government willfully exposed the PM to danger in the hope that he would be harmed. That is a misstatement of facts meant to gain political mileage. The people are not so dumb. But what the people do not know is that unwittingly the state government has thrown itself open to the charge that the PM's personal security could have been compromised by the sudden hold up on the bridge near his destination. Any unhinged person could have caused damage. That lapse cannot be excused and it will not be, though here again the charge that

the Punjab Police purposely leaked the details of the route to be followed by the PM to the farmer protesters can be discarded as another instance of political grandstanding. A route prescribed for the travel has to be secured well in advance. Movement of policemen detailed for such work will be known to everyone, friend or foe, by the very nature of the exercise.

But the act of the protesters in blocking the road had to be prevented at all cost. I cannot believe that the police had no inkling of the farmers' moves. This was a group that was attempting to establish its individual identity on the political landscape. This was an added reason for the Intelligence wing to keep them under strict surveillance. The wing has obviously failed.

The normal drill is for the police to summon the leader of the demonstrators and tell them how far they could go in their constitutional right to protest. Simultaneously, the protesters needed to be told that the higher constitutional right of the nation's top leader to go where he legitimately wished to go would be safeguarded by the state's police, under any circumstance.

If the protesters were determined to block the PM's journey, they should have been temporarily detained till the PM had completed his meeting and departed. If they went further and resorted to violence, the police should have used force to disperse them. But in that case, the police would need enough men to chase, arrest and restrain, and a fleet of Black Marias or hired buses to whisk away those detained. All this needed to have been planned in advance.

This drill has been practiced by the police in all parts of the country over the years. Why was it not planned on this occasion? If the newly installed CM thought he was teaching his political rivals a lesson in political jugglery, I reckon he has picked on the wrong horse! It is a foolhardy venture that is bound to boomerang.

CM Channi's taunt that the PM had to cancel his meeting in Ferozepur because only 700 of the 70,000 chairs were actually occupied is ridiculous. If you allow the roads to be blocked to ensure that those who were on their way to the venue could not get there in the first place, the taunt is not a taunt anymore. It is an outright lie which will diminish his credibility.

The BJP is convinced that unless its writ runs in the states, like it runs at the Centre, no real progress is possible. In short, it envisages an Opposition-free government in the country, which translates into one-party rule. This concept spells disaster for Indian democracy.

(The author is a former Director General of Punjab Police)

Defections- A Bane of Punjab Politics

BY PRABHJOT
SINGH



The story of defections has continued since the early 60s.

Defections have become an integral part of politics. Essentially, they lure the defector with power while overlooking the political ideology, discipline and respect for constitutionalism. Though legislation was brought in 1985 to check this political menace, the 1985 Anti-Defection Law has failed in many ways as it has its own limitations. The outgoing Punjab Assembly is an example. Many legislators announced leaving their parties and joining others but none was unseated.

Defections are primarily of two types. In the first group come those who have enjoyed perks and privileges as a legislator of one party or the other and at the end of their terms, they look for a change. The other group comprises those who want to change their ship or the boat midstream. They generally try to indulge in anti-party activities as they want their parties to expel them so that they could stay as Independent or unaffiliated legislators.

Whatever be the situation, defection is something that will continue to be politically detestable though mostly rewarding for the beneficiary. There are instances when established leaders after quitting their prime parties failed to win the mandate in their subsequent electoral battles. In recent times, many political turncoats got the rejection slip of the electors.

If there is a growing list of leaders, including legislators, defecting to one party or the other on the eve of the coming Assembly elections, it is primarily for a ticket or a coveted Constitutional appointment. Laws or no laws, defections are a reality and cannot be just wished away.

If Punjab pioneered coalition politics in India, Haryana wrested the initiative with the concept of political defections. The adage Aaya Ram Gaya Ram owes its origin to Haryana.

It was coined as an expression in politics meaning frequent floor-crossing, turn coating, switching parties and political horse trading in the legislature by the

elected politicians and political parties.

Former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal was credited to engineer the concept in 1967. After reorganization, he did it in Haryana where excessive political horse trading, counter horse trading and counter-counter horse trading took place; triggering several rounds of frequent political defections by the serial-turncoat politicians within a span of few weeks; resulting in the dissolution of the Haryana Legislative Assembly and consequently the fresh elections were held in 1968.

The concept was virtually reduced to a joke as its frequency picked pace. Between 1967 and 1973 some 45 State Governments were toppled with as many as 2700 cases of defections. Nearly 60 per cent of the legislature during that period were involved in the game of defections. Ultimately, an attempt was made to check it as the anti-defection law was made in 1985. The trend, however, has continued unabated.

The outgoing Punjab Assembly witnessed frequent instances of legislators resigning from their parties to join others. Intriguingly, in most of the cases, their resignations were not ratified and status quo continued.

Defections are nothing new to Punjab. Haryana may have fueled mass or collective defections, Punjab had been experiencing this bane since early 60s. Looking back, Congress played the lead role in defections in Punjab between 1962 and 1966 as it engineered 23 defections. These were mostly from Akali Dal and Independents.

After reorganization, the first United Front Government in Punjab led by Justice Gurnam Singh, faced several rounds of defections, starting with an Independent Bhajan Lal, withdrawing support from the government at the instance of the Congress. The Chief Minister retaliated and got three Congress legislators - Satnam Singh Bajwa, Jagtar Singh and Amar Singh Dosanjh - into the United Front to ensure the election of Joginder Singh Mann as Speaker.

Before the election of the Speaker could be held, Congress managed to win over an Independent Bakhtawar Singh. Later, four Congress MLAs - Balwant Singh, Baloo Ram, Shiv Chand and Gurmeet Singh - besides an Independent - Raja Narinder Singh - defected to the United Front. It did not end there. The process of defections continued as Congress persuaded Baldev Singh to leave the United Front. However, the United Front continued its political poaching and got Shangara Singh and Bakhtawar Singh in its fold.

The defection story peaked in November 1967, when Congress managed to get Lachman Singh Gill and 16 of his supporters to topple the United Front Government. Lachman Singh Gill was accompanied by Piara Ram (Republican), Faqir Chand, B.N. Makkar, Shangara Singh and Bakhtawar Singh (all Independents), Dr Gurcharan Singh and Dr Jagjit Singh (Republican), Mahant Ram Parkash (Independent), Karnail Singh, Parkash Singh Majithia, Harbhajan Singh,

Jasdev Singh, Hardit Singh and Natha Singh (all from Akali Dal - Sant), Sardara Singh Kohli (Akali Dal Master) and Raja Narinder Singh (Independent).

This was the first joint defection that led to the fall of the Justice Gurnam Singh Government. Lachman Singh Gill became the new Chief Minister.

The story of defections has continued since then.



In Punjab politics, Congress was the mastermind behind the concept of defections. After reorganization of the State on November 1, 1966, it went out of power for the first time. Stung by the electoral reverses, both in 1967 and 1969, it unleashed a concerted campaign to engineer defections in the ruling coalitions. The Congress itself could not escape the wrath of defections.

In four years - from 1967 to 1971 - as many as 124 defections took place in the State that led to the collapse of four governments, including those of Justice Gurnam Singh (twice), Lachman Singh Gill and Parkash Singh Badal. The impact of defections was so much that none of these four governments could spend more than 10 months in office.

In the subsequent 1972-1981 period, there was a significant change. Defections were getting noticed with contempt. The rate of change of political loyalties fell considerably and only 11 defections were reported in the intervening period.

Analysis of defections during its worst period - 1967-1971 - makes interesting reading. Akali Dal (Sant) suffered 57 losses while it gained 56 in the process. Akali Dal (Gurnam Singh) was the major beneficiary as it had 45 gains against 29 losses. Congress was a sufferer as it lost 19 and gained only 6 from defections. Also, a major gainer was Punjab Janata Party, which emerged in the political scenario. It lost one and gained 17 from defections.

While initially Congress got the blame for introducing the concept of defections in Punjab politics, the role was gradually taken over by the Akalis. In fact, Punjab happenings could not be studied in isolation.

The menace of defections that spread across the country was mainly a brainchild of Congress as it wanted to stay in power. State Governments of the opposition parties were toppled and the States, especially Punjab, were frequently brought under President's rule. This is perhaps one reason that no non-Congress government in Punjab could complete a full five-year term in office till 1997 when the SAD-BJP government scripted this historic success.

What Congress did to wreak havoc with the elected governments at that time is now being replicated by the ruling Bharatiya

Janata Party. What happened in West Bengal is an example. Defections were engineered from the ruling Trinamool Congress as the BJP had an ambitious plan to come to power. But the plan flopped. TMC emerged both victorious and stronger and many of its senior leaders, who had left the party, returned to its fold shortly after the people of West Bengal reimposed their trust in the leadership of Mamata Banerjee.

Similar attempts were made in other States.

Now is the turn of Punjab where the BJP has shed its "junior alliance partner" status to play a more aggressive role. Its alliance partners - Punjab Lok Congress and Sanyukt Akali Dal of Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa - still do not have enough winnable political manpower to contest all 119 seats. It has now gone about its task of scouting Sikh faces to make a dent in the territory ruled till now by both the Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress.

There are two key players in the entire game of defections - the Speaker of the Assembly and the Governor of the State. Though they do not have any direct role in engineering defections, they can play the "Master" in nipping the evil in the bud.

Since the concept of Minority government failed to catch on in India, proving majority on the floor of the House is the only alternative to find legitimacy of those heading or seeking to head an elected government. Conventions are that leader of the single largest party should be invited to form a government by seeking help or support of like-minded parties or legislators. Here comes the discretion. Balance of power in such situations is held by either Independents or parties with a small number of legislators.

The institution of the Speaker, like that of the Governor, is Constitutional. Besides conducting the business of the Assembly, the Speaker is vested with powers that can decide the status of a legislator, especially in cases where there is a dispute between the party high command and the legislator, or the legislator has decided to defect.

Ironically, while Speakers remain glued to their political affiliations, the Governors often play to the diktats of the Union Government. The system needs to be more transparent and democratic. Inordinate delays in taking decisions should be dispensed with. Instead, time limits need to be set up for taking decisions on issues that scuttle democratic processes.

If Congress lost its rule and popularity not only at the Centre but also in many States, it must blame itself for it. The BJP should have drawn lessons from the experiences of Congress. Instead, it is more aggressive than its predecessor, in its political intolerance.

Elections are still some weeks away. Defections have picked up pace putting political opportunism above the sworn ideal of serving people. The ball is in the court of the electors. They will decide.

(Author, a former Tribune editor and a senior journalist, is a regular contributor to The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

AAPI Organizes Cervical Cancer Vaccine Camp in Hyderabad

Awareness Campaign on Cervical Cancer Prevention with HPV Vaccination for Children" During AAPI's 15th Global Healthcare Summit in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD / CHICAGO (TIP): "We at AAPI, in keeping with our efforts and initiatives to educate, create awareness and provide support on disease prevention, I am pleased to announce that AAPI organized a Cervical Cancer Vaccine Camp On January 9th at Tanvir Hospital in Hyderabad as part of the ongoing AAPI's 15th annual Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) 2022 being held at the Hotel Avasa in Hyderabad, India," Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) said here today. "I am grateful to Dr. Meeta Singh and Dr. Naunihal Singh, who led the Vaccination camp in Hyderabad," she added.

The Global Healthcare Summit 2022 was inaugurated on Jan 5th at Hotel Avasa in Hyderabad by Honorable Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. In his address, delivered virtually he said, ""With numerous initiatives, AAPI has come a long way since its inception and has proved to be beneficial not only to Indian-origin American Physicians, but to Indian healthcare as well," Mr. Naidu observed. He urged the medical fraternity and told them: "As you seek excellence in human health and well-being, do not forget the power of a kind human touch when treating your patients." The Vice President complimented AAPI for its services in India - for raising \$5 million during the second wave of the pandemic, for its 'Adopt a Village' program among its other initiatives.

The Vice President of India noted that "AAPI, founded in 1982, is one of the largest groups that represent the interests of more than 80,000 practicing Indian-origin physicians in the United States and 40,000 medical students, residents and fellows of Indian origin." Usually, cervical cancer develops slowly over time, and another powerful preventive measure is Pap test screening, a procedure during which cells are collected from the surface of the cervix and examined. The Pap test can both detect cancer at an early stage, when treatment outcomes tend to be better, and detect

precancerous abnormalities, which can then be treated to prevent them from developing into cancers.

"January is #CervicalCancer Awareness Month! In coordination with the local organizers of the GHS, AAPI donated the funds for the HPV Vaccination, a total of 200 doses of the vaccine for 100 children from the state of Telangana on January 9th," said Dr. Meher Medavaram, an organizer of the program. "AAPI's this new initiative through education and awareness programs, is aimed at helping save millions of lives in India," she added.

"GHS 2022, which has initiated several new programs benefitting India, has become an effective forum to educate and create awareness about these deadly diseases that are preventable," Dr. Udhaya Shivangi, Chair of AAPI GHS 2022 said. "If vaccination programs are effectively implemented, approximately 90 percent

According to The American Cancer Society, Cervical Cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women. The cervical cancer death rate dropped significantly with the increased use of the Pap test for screening. Cervical cancer is among a number of cancers that can be caused by infections with pathogens - bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Cervical cancer could be the first cancer EVER in the world to be eliminated, if: 90 % of girls are vaccinated; 70% of women are screened; and, 90% of women with cervical disease receive treatment.

Once a leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. Today, screening and prevention have greatly reduced the impact of this form of cancer. Increasing screening and prevention are key components of the effort to eradicate cervical cancer. Since almost all cases of the disease are caused by



Patients being examined at the camp

of invasive cervical cancer cases worldwide could be prevented, in addition to the majority of precancerous lesions."

Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-Elect of AAPI, said, "Our theme for GHS 2022 is: 'Prevention Better than Cure.' Cervical Cancer is preventable through Vaccination and Early Pap smears and cervical examinations. Justifiably so, one of our preventive campaign goals this year is to provide education and prevention of Cervical Cancer in India."

While elaborating the objectives of the Summit, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Secretary of AAPI, said, "In addition to Cervical cancer, GHS 2022 has provided education on: Chronic diseases which can be prevented- notably diabetes, cardiovascular, hypertension, COPD, oncology, maternal and infant mortality, lifestyle changes, geriatrics, management of neurological emergencies, ENLS, a certification course".

Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer of AAPI said, "Through Continuing Medical Education and non-CME seminars by experts in their fields, AAPI provides comprehensive and current reviews and guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of various disease states to reduce morbidity and mortality and achieve cost effective quality care outcomes."

human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, vaccines that protect against the virus could prevent the vast majority of cases. Moreover, regular Pap tests can catch - and lead to treatment of - the disease at the precancerous stage.

There are several AAPI leaders who have worked hard to make the GHS a memorable event, said Dr. Gotimukula. "Among them, I want to recognize Dr. Sujeeth Punnam, US Coordinator; Dr. Dwarkananda Reddy, GHS Indian Coordinator; Dr. Lokesh Edara, Chair Global Medical Education; Dr. Prabhakar Sharma, CME Chair; Dr. Prabhat Sinha, Chair Sponsorships and Exhibits, Dr. Seema Arora, Chair of Women's Forum; Dr. Joseph M. Chalil, Chair of CEO Forum; Dr. Belani Kumar, Chair of the Medical Students Research Poster presentations; Dr. Lakshmi Thirunagari and Coordinators of Medical Jeopardy.

Expressing confidence, Dr. Gotimukula, the 4th ever Woman President in the four decades long history of AAPI, the largest ethnic medical organization in the United States, said, "Together we can all bring the awareness in the community to prevent Cervical Cancer in India which is 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in women!" For more information, please visit www.aapiusa.org/ <https://summit.aapiusa.org>

International Indian Icon (3iii) A global platform for Indian talent across the globe



Asian Media USA

Lamp lighting ceremony with Sharan Walia, all judges and participants, including legendary music director and Grandmaster Jatin Pandit (DDLJ, KKG, KKHH, Fanah etc.), lyricist and music director Arko Mukherjee, Slumdog Millionaire Jai Ho Choreographer Longinus Fernandes and Ms. India 2013, International celebrity anchor and 3iii Fashion Ambassador Simran Ahuja

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Grand Finale of 3iii (Three Eye) 2021 International Indian Icon (3iii) Season-V resulted in successful completion of 1st Phase of 5 seasons. The awards ceremony of the Grand Finale was hosted by Sharan Walia, CEO of Gee Vision Inc. All judges and participants, including legendary music director and Grandmaster Jatin Pandit (DDLJ, KKG, KKHH, Fanah etc), lyricist and music director Arko Mukherjee, Slumdog Millionaire Jai Ho Choreographer Longinus Fernandes and Ms. India 2013, International celebrity anchor and 3iii Fashion Ambassador Simran Ahuja were present here, along with 148 participants along with their families from all over the world approximately 24 countries.

Winners were picked after 3 days of rigorous semi-final and finale competitions (28th to 30th December 2021) 1st and 2nd runner-ups, along with judges' choices in different categories for Juniors and Seniors were also declared here. The winners are as follows:

- Abnash Kaur from San Francisco, California USA was declared 5th INTERNATIONAL INDIAN ICON of 3iii 2021 Season-V in singing Senior category.
- Uttara Vaidya from Miami, Florida USA got the title for Dancing senior and tied with Ankur Sharma for Fashion Senior
- Hasini Namala grabbed the Fashion

Junior title

- Mrunal Behere-Langote from India got the title in IGT (Whistling) Senior Shrusti Gubbi became the International Indian Icon in Junior category for singing
- For dancing, there was a tie between groups The Dynamites and Season-II winner Mirava Vekaria
- Ryana Rajesh won the title in IGT category for Instruments.

3iii Multiple episodes are planned to be aired globally on some National/International TV Channel, OTT Platform and/or Streaming Platform (TBD) globally in 2nd quarter of 2022.

Other participants who were recognized as 1st & 2nd Runner-ups, along with judges' choices in different talent categories under Junior and Senior age categories are:

- Singing: Sunidhi Chiplunkar, Sanika Pandey, Tulip Ghosh, Mahimn Dave, Aupsara Banik, Akshitha jagadeesan, Sohana Mansur, Chirag Chaya, Pranav Shil, Sushmit Das Rahul, Prabodh Chiplunkar
- Dance: Arnav Amit, Mannat Bhagel (India), Rahul Kathak (India), Nayan Nampally, Aruna Ramamurthy, Sanika Lingayat & Ghazal Seth,
- Fashion: Vama Shah, Arnav Amit Mehta, Nayan Nampally, Kashish Joshi (India), Pranjali Sharma & Yatin Kumar (London, UK), Elena Y Elsoukov, Lori Neena

- Instruments, Acing & IGT: Skipper Crew (IGT, India), Hasini Namala (Instruments, USA), Karthikk Voruganti (Instruments, India), Kaira Gard (Acting, India), Surjit Singh (Instruments, India), Mamta Garg (Poetry, USA), Deepak Krishan Kant (Acting, India)

During 3iii 2021 Season-V, 6951 participants from 24 countries of 7 continents registered for on-line audition (Video up-load), online live audition (Zoom) and on-site audition in all 7 talent categories under two age groups of junior and senior.

In India, Gee Vision Inc., with the help of India Partners Ajit Bains & Arun Thakran (Cosmic Energy), Deepak Walia (AGE Group) planned multiple auditions in multiple cities. In Delhi, 3iii audition was held on 12th Nov, Semi-final on 13th Nov and 3iii Indian Icon 2021 finale (Semi-final of 3iii 2021 Season-V) and Awards ceremony on 14th Nov 2021 in Godavari Auditorium (Andhra Association), 24-25 Lodhi Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 10003.

format, can play any instrument, can showcase any Indian or non-Indian talent. Only restrictions for non-Indian participants are to sing on one of Indian languages, perform in one of Indian Dance format, play any Indian instrument, wear Indian dresses and jewelry for Fashion or show any Indian art and culture.

After huge success of 1st four seasons of 3iii International Indian Icon with 1000s of participants from 24+ countries of 7 continents and with multiple Bollywood legendary celebrity judges like Bappi Lahiri, Jatin Pandit, Meenakshi Seshadri, and others, Gee Vision India Pvt. Ltd. launched 3iii 2021 Season-V in 7th continent Asia and hosted semi-final 3iii Indian Icon 2021 (Semi-final of 3iii 2021 Season-V) in Delhi NCR, India on Nov. 12th to 14th 2021 and Grand-finale International Indian Icon - 3iii 2021 Season-V in Chicago, USA. To give Indian talent international exposure and experience, starting from 3iii 2022 Season-VI, Gee is planning 3iii Episode Production &



Asian Media USA

3iii Team - Judges and Participants

Gee Vision Inc's Vision and Mission of building 3iii is to give opportunities to Indian talent of all age groups across the globe to perform and showcase their talent at international level in all types of talent categories, including Singing, Dancing, Instruments, Acting, Fashion, Comedy & I Got Talent (Any Talent) in all three participation categories of Solo, Duet & Group without any restrictions. The aim is to keep the talent close to Indian Art & Culture and make them proud of Indian Art & Culture

3iii is a unique 5 level on-line, on-line LIVE & on-site platform with no restrictions where any talent of any age group of any culture, any gender, any region, any religion and any color can showcase his/her talent and can compete at City, State, Country level to win title of State Indian Icon (California Indian Icon, Delhi Indian Icon) and Country Indian Icon (Indian American Icon, Indian Icon) in their respective category and age group and proceeds to win prestigious title of International Indian Icon (3iii) in their respective category. Any Indian talent can sing in any language, can perform in any dance

Grand-finale in different countries.

Sharan Walia, CEO. Gee Vision Inc. / Gee Vision Pvt. Ltd., with the help of partners, is in the process of requesting Indian Govt. to recognize 3iii International Indian Icon as Indian Art & Cultural Program and seeking support from Indian business community and Global Indian community to help 3iii in reaching each and every Indian on this earth to give opportunity to deserving Indian talent.

World-wide 3iii Season-6 audition registration on-line (Video Upload), on-line Live (through Zoom) and on-site will open on Apr 1st, 2022 on 3iii websites and 3iii Apps (iOS & Android). State level competition (Level-3, State Indian Icon) will be completed by end of July 2022 while Country level competitions (Level-4, Country Indian Icon) are planned to finish by end of Sep 2022 so that participants can get sufficient time to get visa to come to USA for 3iii S-6-episode production & Grand-finale in USA.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)



Asian Media USA

Abnash Kaur from San Francisco, California USA was declared 5th INTERNATIONAL INDIAN ICON of 3iii 2021 Season-V in singing Senior category



Bengal train accident toll touches 9, some critical among 36 hurt

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Death toll in the Bikaner-Guwahati Express train mishap in West Bengal Jalpaiguri district rose to nine, while 36 others remained injured with some of them being in critical condition.

Twelve coaches of the Assam-bound train derailed and some overturned near Domohani under the Alipurduar division of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) around 5pm on Thursday, Jan 13, a Railway spokesperson said in Guwahati.

Union minister John Barla said rescue operation was over and the injured persons were undergoing treatment at different hospitals. "Passengers were sent to Guwahati by a special train," Barla was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

Earlier, Jalpaiguri district magistrate Moumita Godara Basu four bodies were found at the accident site and three others died at the hospital.

"Since some of the injured are in a critical condition, the toll may go up. We are now using cranes for removing the damaged compartments," she said, adding rescuers thoroughly searched each coach for survivors and bodies through darkness and thick fog.

2021 was the fifth warmest year for India since 1901

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Last year was the fifth warmest for India in the last 121 years - after 2016, 2009, 2017 and 2010 - according to the Annual Climate Statement 2021 released by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday. The revelation comes in the backdrop of an intensifying global fight against the ongoing climate crisis.

The mean air temperature in 2021 was 0.44 degrees Celsius above normal, says the IMD report. In 2016, the mean air temperature was 0.71°C higher than normal; 0.55°C in 2009; 0.54°C in 2017 and 0.53°C in 2010.

In the 121 years between 1901 and last year, the mean temperature rose by 0.63°C above normal.

IMD scientists said a particularly warm winter and the post-monsoon season in 2021 led to the increase in mean temperature last year.

India's single-day Covid tally at 2,64,202, positivity rate touches 14.78%

The number of confirmed cases of the Omicron variant that is driving the latest surge of the coronavirus pandemic currently stood at 5,753

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India on Friday, Jan 14, recorded 2,64,202 fresh cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pushing the active caseload to 12,72,073.

The latest figures, as available from the Union ministry of health and family welfare, are 6.7 per cent higher than Thursday's single-day count of 2,47,417. The daily positivity rate now stood at 14.78 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was at 11.83 per cent.

The number of confirmed cases of the Omicron variant that is driving the latest surge of the pandemic currently stood at 5,753.

As many as 1,09,345 patients recovered from the viral disease in the last 24 hours taking the total number of recoveries to 3,48,24,706.

The country recorded 315 deaths due to related complications pushing the cumulative toll to 4,85,350.

India has so far administered 155.39 crore doses of vaccines against the viral disease under the nationwide programme, the ministry said.

A total of 69.90 crore samples have so far been tested for the viral, of which 17,87,457 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a virtual meeting with chief ministers wherein he urged them to be alert and careful, but also stressed the need to not panic. The meeting is the first time Modi met the chief ministers to discuss Covid-19 since the third wave began.

Restrict use of Molnupiravir pill, ICMR warns again

In its second warning against the use of Molnupiravir, the world's first anti-

Covid oral pill developed by Merck, the Indian Council of Medical Research today said the harms of the anti-viral pill far outweigh its benefits.

The ICMR noted irrational use of the pill which the Drug Controller General of India approved on December 28 last year and said while the pill had been approved in the UK and Denmark, it has not made to the Covid treatment guidelines there also.

In India, national task force experts have for the third time unanimously rejected the inclusion of the drug in Covid-19 treatment guidelines.

Balram Bhargava, ICMR chief, said currently available synthesised evidence was reviewed and members unanimously agreed that the medicine did not merit inclusion in the national Covid treatment guidelines. The emerging evidence would be constantly reviewed, he added.

He added that the current window of application appeared extremely narrow for Molnupiravir with relevance only to the elderly and the unvaccinated with other co-morbidities except diabetes.

The Health Ministry said the medicine was to be administered conditionally and was not to be given to people under 18 years.

India-China 14th round military dialogue fails to move forward

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The 14th round of India-China military dialogue on Wednesday failed to yield any positive outcomes but both countries decide to work towards mutually acceptable solutions to resolving the Ladakh LAC stand-off. The next round is expected to be held soon to continue the momentum of discussions.

While both sides are scheduled to come out with press statements today, the Indian side clearly failed to persuade the PLA towards disengagement from Gogra-Hot Springs near Kongka La as well as resolving patrolling rights issues in Depsang Bulge in Daulet Beg Oldi sector and Charding Nullah Junction in Demchok sector.

In pure diplomatic language, the talks were constructive without any positive outcome and reaching mutually acceptable solutions is work in progress. This means both the Indian Army and the PLA commanders will continue to engage in future but there is no guarantee on whether the PLA will restore April 2020 status quo ante in Gogra-Hot Springs or resolve the Depsang Bulge or CNJ issue.

The Indian Army apparently raised the issue of PLA building a bridge over Pangong Tso, east of Sriyap Complex, for faster troop deployment and rapid militarisation of the occupied Aksai Chin area by the Chinese Army all along the 597-km Ladakh LAC.

Fact is that the PLA with new border law and rapid military and technological upgradation on their side of the unresolved LAC is converting the 3,488 km line into Line of Control.

Both the Indian and PLA armies are locked in a stand-off all



along Ladakh LAC since the Chinese Army under instructions from the Central Military Commission under President Xi Jinping decided to unilaterally change the LAC and impose the rejected 1959 cartographical line on the Ladakh LAC in May 2020. Since then the two sides are fully deployed with more than three divisions of troops on each side with missile, rocket, artillery and tank regiments apart from the Air Force being on standby in the hinterland. The PLA by transgressing in Pangong Tso, Galwan, Gogra-Hot Springs area in May 2020 broke the bilateral 1993 and 1996 peace and tranquility agreements signed at the level of heads of states.

While for China's wolf warrior diplomats this is the new normal, the Modi government has rejected these aggressions and decided to bilateral relations in a cold storage till such time Beijing does not resolve the Ladakh LAC. *Source: HT*

Budget session of Parliament to be held from January 31

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The government has decided to hold the budget session of Parliament from January 31 to April 8 subject to exigencies of business.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has recommended the session schedule with the first half of the session proposed from January 31 to February 11. The session will resume from March 14 to April 8.

A government communication to the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats said President Ram Nath Kovind would address the two houses on January 31, followed by the presentation of the union budget on February 1 at 11 am.

The house will adjourn on February 11 to meet again on March 14 to enable the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to consider the 'Demands for Grants' relating to Ministries and Departments and prepare their reports.

Militants using civilians as human shield is new Pak strategy

JAMMU (TIP)

Militants taking civilians as human shield during encounters is the new strategy adopted by Pakistani agencies to defame the security forces, J&K Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said here on Thursday, Jan 13.

"Taking civilians as human shield and then fighting the security forces to inflict collateral damage is the new conspiracy by Pakistan agencies. Like Hyderpora encounter showed... Such conspiracies will be foiled," he said, referring to the November 15 encounter in which at least two civilians were killed.

"While our effort in every operation is to save the civilians, taking civilians as human shield and then attacking the security forces to cause damage to them is the new strategy of Pakistan. They open fire from behind them (civilians) so as to defame security forces like in the Hyderpora encounter," Singh told reporters after paying tributes to selection grade police constable Rohit Chib.

Chib was killed during an encounter in



Kulgam on Wednesday night in which two civilians and three Army men sustained injuries. A Pakistani militant,

Babar, owing allegiance to Jaish-e-Mohammad, was also killed in the operation.

"In this operation too, the two civilians who were injured were taken as human shield by the militant to make good his escape, but our brave jawans did not allow his plan to succeed," the DGP said.

Singh said the police and security forces have killed 14 militants, including seven Pakistan nationals, in eight successful operations this year.

"As the general public is with us, we feel that like in 2021, when a large number of militants were killed and people heaved a sigh of relief, our forces and jawans will continue fighting them in 2022 also and we will further wipe out terror so that the people can live in peace," the DGP said.

Constable Chib had joined the police force in 2011 and had volunteered to work with the special team of J&K Police to fight against militants, Singh said, adding that for his commendable work, he was given special promotion three years ago.

Uttar Pradesh MLA quits BJP alliance, 11th resignation in 3 Days

LUCKNOW (TIP)

Uttar Pradesh MLA Chaudhary Amar Singh of the Apna Dal on Jan 13 quit the BJP-led alliance just weeks ahead of polls - this is the eleventh resignation for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in three days. Akhilesh Yadav, who has emerged as the key challenger in UP, has yet again benefitted.

"This government is a liar... no development has been done. I met Akhilesh Yadav today, will join him. Soon more people will join us," Mr Singh was quoted as saying by news agency ANI - the statement was both a warning and an attack on the ruling BJP that wants to retain the state for a second consecutive term in the crucial seven-phased February-March elections.

Ten BJP MLAs - including three ministers - have quit the BJP since Tuesday. It started with the exit of top minister SP Maurya, followed by three MLAs close to him on the same day - Bhagwati Sagar, Raushan Lal Verma, and Brijesh Prajapati.

Yesterday, another state minister Dara Singh Chauhan and MLA Awtar Singh Bhadana quit. Mr Bhadana is headed to the RLD, an ally of Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party.

UP Minister Dharam Singh Saini, and three other BJP MLAs - Vinay Shukya, Mukesh Verma and Bala Avasthi - also left the party. All three UP ministers who have quit are key OBC (Other Backward Class) leaders, claiming that the interests of the community are being neglected.

Saini told NDTV that a mass exodus had been in the works for nearly 1.5 years.

"It was decided 1.5 years ago that we all will resign. When almost 140 MLAs had



UP Elections: Amar Singh of the Apna Dal talks to reporters after quitting the BJP alliance.

launched a dharna against the government because of how the downtrodden were being treated. But their voice was suppressed. That was when everyone decided, we will give an answer to this. We were waiting for the right moment. And that is why one minister is resigning every day. This will go on till the 20th," he said.

Swami Prasad Maurya, who has also joined forces with Akhilesh Yadav, has claimed the party he sides with always wins - first Mayawati's party, then the BJP, and now Samajwadi Party (may follow the trend).

But there was a pushback from the BJP as expected. "I don't know why Swami Prasad Maurya quit but I appeal to him, don't quit but let us talk. Decisions taken in haste can backfire," Deputy Chief Minister

Keshav Prasad Maurya said in a tweet that did not impress the defectors.

11 skulls, 54 bones of fetuses recovered from hospital premises in Maharashtra

NAGPUR (TIP)

At least 11 skulls and 54 bones of fetuses were found in the premises of a private hospital in Maharashtra's Wardha district, a recovery which came to light when the police were investigating a separate case of illegal abortion, an official said on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a biogas plant located in the premises of Kadam Hospital in Arvi tehsil on Wednesday and found 11 skulls and 54 bones of fetuses, which have been sent for laboratory examination, the official said.

A probe was underway to ascertain if the recovered bones and skulls were disposed of legally or illegally, he said.

The police had earlier arrested a doctor, Rekha Kadam, and a nurse of the hospital for allegedly performing an illegal abortion on a 13-year-old girl, inspector Bhanudas Pidurkar of the Arvi police station said.

Based on a complaint, the police arrested the doctor and the nurse on January 9 and also nabbed the parents of a minor boy who allegedly impregnated the girl with whom he was in a relationship, he said.

The boy's parents had threatened the victim's parents that they would defame the girl if she did not undergo an abortion, and they paid for the procedure last week, the official said.

A complaint of illegal abortion was lodged, following which the accused were arrested under relevant sections of the IPC and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said.

According to the police, the doctor had failed to inform the authorities about performing an abortion on a girl under the age of 18.

Wardha Superintendent of Police Prashant Holkar told PTI that the accused doctor's parents-in-law, who are also physicians, have a license to perform abortions.

A probe is underway to ascertain if the bones and skulls recovered from the biogas plant were disposed of legally or illegally, he said, adding Dr Kadam has not produced any documents in this regard.

Source: PTI

A doctor and a nurse were earlier arrested for performing an illegal abortion on a 13-year-old girl

India in history this Week

JANUARY 14, 2022, TO JANUARY 20, 2022

14 JANUARY

1741: Third war of Panipat started between Marathas and Afghans.

1964 Test bowler Rameshchandra Gangaram Nadkarni set a record for throwing 21 maiden overs.



1977 Narayan Karthikeyan, the first Indian to fill the Formula One race, was born on this day.

2016 Social activist and famous litterateur Mahashweta Devi was born.

15 JANUARY

1784 Establishment of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

1934 An earthquake measuring 8.7 struck India and Nepal. About 11,000 lives were lost in this earthquake.



1988 Former India bowler Narendra Hirwani, taking historic feat, took 16 wickets in his debut Test match against West Indies.

2012 India's first female photo journalist Homi Vairala died.

16 JANUARY

2009 On this day, Kalpana Chawla filled the space shuttle Columbia, spent 372 hours in space



1769 Pondicherry was annexed by the British from the French.

1681 The grand coronation of Sambhaji, son of Kshatrapati Shivaji, took place at Raigad Fort in Maharashtra.

1938 Death of noted Bengali litterateur Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay.

17 JANUARY

2008 The Central Government approved a scheme of Rs 1800 crore for providing jobs to the disabled.



2009 Randhir Singh, the general secretary of the Indian Olympic Association, resigned from his post.

2010 The Supreme Court of India has given a proactive definition of the right to self-defense in the event of unlawful assault, saying that people who follow the law do not have to be cowardly. Its two-member bench set a 10-point directive on the right to self-defense, stating that a person cannot be criminalized under these circumstances, even if he had caused the attacker's death.

18 JANUARY

1996 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao died on 18 January 1996.



1955 On this day in 1955, the famous Urdu writer and poet Sadat Hasan Manto said goodbye to this world.

1991 After 62 years of business, in 1991, today the Eastern airline was closed for economic reasons.

2003 Famous Hindi writer and poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan died in 2003.



1930 In 1930 Rabindranath Tagore visited the

Sabarmati Ashram.



1997 In 1997, Nafisa Joseph became Miss India.

20 JANUARY



1988 Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the greatest activist of Pashtun independence and called Frontier Gandhi, was born.



1817 Hindu college was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1945 National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is considered the master mind of surgical strike, was born.



Pakistan to give permanent residency for wealthy Afghans, Chinese

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan government has decided to offer permanent residency to foreign investors, especially to fetch heavy investments from wealthy Afghans, Chinese and American Sikhs, Dawn reported.

In a tweet late Friday night, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said: "In line with new National Security Policy, through which Pakistan declared geo-economics as core of its national security doctrine, the government has decided to allow permanent residency scheme for foreign nationals, new policy allows foreigners to get permanent resident status in lieu of investment." The government believes it will fetch billions of dollars of foreign investment by giving Pakistani nationality and proprietary rights to the foreign investors, the Dawn news report said.

An informed source told Dawn that the government wanted to attract heavy investments from the wealthy Afghan nationals who were presently investing in countries such as Iran, Turkey and Malaysia.



They said the government also hoped that US-based Sikh nationals would be happy to make investment in different sectors in Pakistan due to their affection with Sikh religious sites in the country, the report added.

Also, Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent statements hinted that he

wanted to attract top Chinese investors who relocated their industries to other countries in the region.

The government also hoped that the rich Arab rulers, who used to visit Pakistan every year for hunting purpose, would like to have Pakistani citizenship. IANS

Ousted Myanmar leader Suu Kyi faces 5 new corruption charges

BANGKOK (TIP): Myanmar's military-installed government has filed five new corruption charges against ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi in connection with granting permits to rent and buy a helicopter, a legal official said January 14.

Suu Kyi, who has been detained since last February's military takeover, is already being tried on five other corruption charges. Each is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

She has also been charged with other offenses, and has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and violating coronavirus restrictions.

Her supporters and rights groups say the cases against her were contrived by the military to justify its takeover and prevent her from returning to politics.

The government has rejected the criticism.

"No one is above the law. I just want to say that she would be judged according to the law," government spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said when asked about the matter at a news conference on Friday.

The military's seizure of power prevented Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party from beginning a second five-year term in power. The army said it acted because of widespread fraud in the November 2020 general election, but independent poll watching groups there is little proof of that.

The takeover was met with widespread popular protests, and Myanmar is now roiled by armed resistance to army rule.

The five new charges involve the hire, purchase and maintenance of a helicopter, said a legal official familiar with the case who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to release information.

State media had announced in December that Suu Kyi and Win Myint, who was president in her government, would be prosecuted under the Anti-Corruption Law in connection with hiring a helicopter.

The official Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said the Anti-Corruption Commission found that they abused their power and caused a loss of state funds by neglecting to follow financial regulations in granting permission to then-Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister Win Myat Aye to rent and buy a helicopter.

Win Myat Aye is now minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in the National Unity Government established as a parallel administration by opponents of army rule. (AP)

Elephants dying from eating plastic waste in Sri Lankan dump

PALLAKKADU (TIP): Conservationists and veterinarians are warning that plastic waste in an open landfill in eastern Sri Lanka is killing elephants in the region, after two more were found dead over the weekend.

Around 20 elephants have died over the last eight years after consuming plastic trash in the dump in Pallakkadu village in Ampara district, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

Examinations of the dead animals showed they had swallowed large amounts of nondegradable plastic that is found in the garbage dump, wildlife veterinarian Nihal Pushpakumara said.

"Polythene, food wrappers, plastic, other non-digestibles and water were the only things we could see in the post mortems. The normal food that elephants eat and digest was not evident," he said.

Elephants are revered in Sri Lanka but are also endangered. Their numbers have dwindled from about 14,000 in the 19th century to 6,000 in 2011, according to the country's first elephant census.

They are increasingly vulnerable because of the loss and degradation of their natural habitat.

Many venture closer to human settlements in search of food, and some are killed by poachers or farmers angry



over damage to their crops.

Hungry elephants seek out the waste in the landfill, consuming plastic as well as sharp objects that damage their digestive systems, Pushpakumara said.

"The elephants then stop eating and become too weak to keep their heavy frames upright. When that happens, they can't consume food or water, which quickens their death," he said.

In 2017, the government announced that it will recycle the garbage in dumps near wildlife zones to prevent elephants from consuming plastic waste. It also

said electric fences would be erected around the sites to keep the animals away. But neither has been fully implemented.

There are 54 waste dumps in wildlife zones around the country, with around 300 elephants roaming near them, according to officials.

The waste management site in Pallakkadu village was set up in 2008 with aid from the European Union. Garbage collected from nine nearby villages is being dumped there but is not being recycled. (AP)

Martin Luther King Jr. - Mahatma Gandhi of America

Martin Luther King, Jr., original name Michael King, Jr., (born January 15, 1929, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.—died April 4, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee), Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington (1963), to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Early years

King came from a comfortable middle-class family steeped in the tradition of the Southern Black ministry: both his father and maternal grandfather were Baptist preachers. His parents were college-educated, and King's father had succeeded his father-in-law as pastor of the prestigious Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. The family lived on Auburn Avenue, otherwise known as "Sweet Auburn," the bustling "Black Wall Street," home to some of the country's largest and most prosperous Black businesses and Black churches in the years before the civil rights movement. Young Martin received a solid education and grew up in a loving extended family.

This secure upbringing, however, did not prevent King from experiencing the prejudices then common in the South. He never forgot the time when, at about age six, one of his white playmates announced that his parents would no longer allow him to play with King, because the children were now attending segregated schools. Dearest to King in these early years was his maternal grandmother, whose death in 1941 left him shaken and unstable. Upset because he had learned of her fatal heart attack while attending a parade without his parents' permission, the 12-year-old King attempted suicide by jumping from a second-story window.

In 1944, at age 15, King entered Morehouse College in Atlanta under a special wartime program intended to boost enrollment by admitting promising high-school students like King. Before beginning college, however, King spent the summer on a tobacco farm in Connecticut; it was his first extended stay away from home and his first substantial experience of race relations outside the segregated South. He was shocked by how peacefully the races mixed in the North. "Negroes and whites go [to] the same church," he noted in a letter to his parents. "I never [thought] that a person of my race could eat anywhere." This summer experience in the North only deepened King's growing hatred of racial segregation.

The national holiday, which takes place on the third Monday of January each year, serves as a day of remembrance for Martin Luther King, who was killed in Memphis in 1968. This year, it will be celebrated on Monday, January 17



Martin Luther King, Jr., delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.

AP/REX/Shutterstock.com



U.S. Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson talking with Martin Luther King, Jr., in the Oval Office at the White House, Washington, D.C., 1963.

Yoichi Okamoto/Lyndon B. Johnson Library Photo

At Morehouse, King favoured studies in medicine and law, but these were eclipsed in his senior year by a decision to enter the ministry, as his father had urged. King's mentor at Morehouse was the college president, Benjamin Mays, a social gospel activist whose rich oratory and progressive ideas had left an indelible imprint on King's father. Committed to fighting racial inequality, Mays accused the African American

community of complacency in the face of oppression, and he prodded the Black church into social action by criticizing its emphasis on the hereafter instead of the here and now; it was a call to service that was not lost on the teenage King. He graduated from Morehouse in 1948.

King spent the next three years at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he became acquainted with Mohandas

Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence as well as with the thought of contemporary Protestant theologians. He earned a bachelor of divinity degree in 1951. Renowned for his oratorical skills, King was elected president of Crozer's student body, which was composed almost exclusively of white students. As a professor at Crozer wrote in a letter of recommendation for King, "The fact that with our student body largely Southern in constitution a colored man should be elected to and be popular [in] such a position is in itself no mean recommendation." From Crozer, King went to Boston University, where, in seeking a firm foundation for his own theological and ethical inclinations, he studied man's relationship to God and received a doctorate (1955) for a dissertation titled "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman."

The Montgomery bus boycott of Martin Luther King, Jr.

While in Boston, King met Coretta Scott, a native Alabamian who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. They were married in 1953 and had four children. King had been pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, slightly more than a year when the city's small group of civil rights advocates decided to contest racial segregation on that city's public bus system following the incident on December 1, 1955, in which Rosa Parks, an African American woman, had refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger and as a consequence was arrested for violating the city's segregation law. Activists formed the Montgomery Improvement Association to boycott the transit system and chose King as their leader. He had the advantage of being a young, well-trained man who was too new in town to have made enemies; he was generally respected, and it was thought that his family connections and professional standing would enable him to find another pastorate should the boycott fail.

In his first speech to the group as its president, King declared:

We have no alternative but to protest. For many years we have shown an amazing patience. We have sometimes given our white brothers the feeling that we liked the way we were being treated. But we come here tonight to be saved from that patience that makes us patient with anything less than freedom and justice.

These words introduced to the country a fresh voice, a skillful rhetoric, an inspiring personality, and in time a dynamic new doctrine of civil struggle. Although King's home was dynamited and his family's safety threatened, he continued to lead the boycott until, one year and a few weeks later, the city's

From page 18

buses were desegregated.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Recognizing the need for a mass movement to capitalize on the successful Montgomery action, King set about organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which gave him a base of operation throughout the South, as well as a national platform from which to speak. King lectured in all parts of the country and discussed race-related issues with religious and civil rights leaders at home and abroad. In February 1959 he and his party were warmly received by India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and others; as the result of a brief discussion with followers of Gandhi about the Gandhian concepts of peaceful noncompliance (satyagraha), King became increasingly convinced that nonviolent resistance was the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom. King also looked to Africa for inspiration. "The liberation struggle in Africa has been the greatest single international influence on American Negro students," he wrote. "Frequently I hear them say that if their African brothers can break the bonds of colonialism, surely the American Negro can break Jim Crow."

In 1960 King and his family moved to his native city of Atlanta, where he became co-pastor with his father of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. At this post he devoted most of his time to the SCLC and the civil rights movement, declaring that the "psychological moment has come when a concentrated drive against injustice can bring great, tangible gains." His thesis was soon tested as he agreed to support the sit-in demonstrations undertaken by local Black college students. In late October he was arrested with 33 young people protesting segregation at the lunch counter in an Atlanta department store. Charges were dropped, but King was sentenced to Reidsville State Prison Farm on the pretext that he had violated his probation on a minor traffic offense committed several months earlier. The case assumed national proportions, with widespread concern over his safety, outrage at Georgia's flouting of legal forms, and the failure of Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower to intervene. King was released only upon the intercession of Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy—an action so widely publicized that it was felt to have contributed substantially to Kennedy's slender election victory eight days later.

In the years from 1960 to 1965, King's influence reached its zenith. Handsome, eloquent, and doggedly determined, King quickly caught the attention of the news media, particularly of the producers of that budding medium of social change—television. He understood the power of television to nationalize and internationalize the struggle for civil rights, and his well-publicized tactics of active nonviolence (sit-ins, protest marches) aroused the devoted allegiance of many African Americans and liberal whites in all parts of the country, as well as support from the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. But there were also notable failures, as in Albany, Georgia (1961–62), when King and his colleagues failed to



African American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963, as part of the March on Washington.

achieve their desegregation goals for public parks and other facilities.

The letter from the Birmingham jail of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Birmingham, Alabama, in the spring of 1963, King's campaign to end segregation at lunch counters and in hiring practices drew nationwide attention when police turned dogs and fire hoses on the demonstrators. King was jailed along with large numbers of his supporters, including hundreds of schoolchildren. His supporters did not, however, include all the Black clergy of Birmingham, and he was strongly opposed by some of the white clergy who had issued a statement urging African Americans not to support the demonstrations. From the Birmingham jail, King wrote a letter of great eloquence in which he spelled out his philosophy of nonviolence:

You may well ask: "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.

Near the end of the Birmingham campaign, in an effort to draw together the multiple forces for peaceful change and to dramatize to the country and to the world the importance of solving the U.S. racial problem, King joined other civil rights leaders in organizing the historic March on Washington. On August 28, 1963, an interracial assembly of more than 200,000 gathered peaceably in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial to demand equal justice for all citizens under the law. Here the crowds were uplifted by the emotional strength and prophetic quality of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, in which he emphasized his faith that all men, someday, would be brothers.

The rising tide of civil rights agitation produced, as King had hoped, a strong effect on national opinion and resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, authorizing the federal government to enforce desegregation of public accommodations and outlawing discrimination in publicly owned facilities, as well as in employment. That eventful year was climaxed by the award to King of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in December. "I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of

mankind," said King in his acceptance speech. "I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts him."

Challenges of the final years of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The first signs of opposition to King's tactics from within the civil rights movement surfaced during the March 1965 demonstrations in Selma, Alabama, which were aimed at dramatizing the need for a federal voting-rights law that would provide legal support for the enfranchisement of African Americans in the South. King organized an initial march from Selma to the state capitol building in Montgomery but did not lead it himself. The marchers were turned back by state troopers with nightsticks and tear gas. He was determined to lead a second march, despite an injunction by a federal court and efforts from Washington to persuade him to cancel it. Heading a procession of 1,500 marchers, Black and white, he set out across Pettus Bridge outside Selma until the group came to a barricade of state troopers. But, instead of going on and forcing a confrontation, he led his followers to kneel in prayer and then unexpectedly turned back. This decision cost King the support of many young radicals who were already faulting him for being too cautious. The suspicion of an "arrangement" with federal and local authorities—vigorously but not entirely convincingly denied—clung to the Selma affair. The country was nevertheless aroused, resulting in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Throughout the nation, impatience with the lack of greater substantive progress encouraged the growth of Black militancy. Especially in the slums of the large Northern cities, King's religious philosophy of nonviolence was increasingly questioned. The rioting in the Watts district of Los Angeles in August 1965 demonstrated the depth of unrest among urban African Americans. In an effort to meet the challenge of the ghetto, King and his forces initiated a drive against racial discrimination in Chicago at the beginning of the following year. The chief target was to be segregation in housing. After a spring and summer of rallies, marches, and demonstrations, an agreement was signed between the city and a coalition of African Americans, liberals, and labour organizations, calling for various measures to enforce the existing laws and regulations with respect to housing. But

this agreement was to have little effect; the impression remained that King's Chicago campaign was nullified partly because of the opposition of that city's powerful mayor, Richard J. Daley, and partly because of the unexpected complexities of Northern racism.

In Illinois and Mississippi alike, King was now being challenged and even publicly derided by young Black-power enthusiasts. Whereas King stood for patience, middle-class respectability, and a measured approach to social change, the sharp-tongued, blue jean-clad young urban radicals stood for confrontation and immediate change. In the latter's eyes, the suit-wearing, calm-spoken civil rights leader was irresponsibly passive and old beyond his years (King was in his 30s)—more a member of the other side of the generation gap than their revolutionary leader. Malcolm X went so far as to call King's tactics "criminal": "Concerning nonviolence, it is criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks."

In the face of mounting criticism, King broadened his approach to include concerns other than racism. On April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City and again on the 15th at a mammoth peace rally in that city, he committed himself irrevocably to opposing U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Once before, in early January 1966, he had condemned the war, but official outrage from Washington and strenuous opposition within the Black community itself had caused him to relent. He next sought to widen his base by forming a coalition of the poor of all races that would address itself to economic problems such as poverty and unemployment. It was a version of populism—seeking to enroll janitors, hospital workers, seasonal labourers, and the destitute of Appalachia, along with the student militants and pacifist intellectuals. His endeavours along these lines, however, did not engender much support in any segment of the population.

Meanwhile, the strain and changing dynamics of the civil rights movement had taken a toll on King, especially in the final months of his life. "I'm frankly tired of marching. I'm tired of going to jail," he admitted in 1968. "Living every day under the threat of death, I feel discouraged every now and then and feel my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again."

King's plans for a Poor People's March to Washington were interrupted in the spring of 1968 by a trip to Memphis, Tennessee, in support of a strike by that city's sanitation workers. In the opinion of many of his followers and biographers, King seemed to sense his end was near. As King prophetically told a crowd at the Mason Temple Church in Memphis on April 3, the night before he died, "I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land." The next day, while standing on the second-story balcony of the Lorraine Motel, where he and his associates were staying, King was killed by a sniper's bullet. The killing sparked riots and disturbances in over 100 cities across the country. On March 10, 1969, the accused assassin, a white man, James Earl Ray, pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Source: Britannica.com

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib ji sayeth 'Acknowledge Entire Humanity as One Race'

AMARJIT SINGH
ANAND



Guru Gobind Singh On Horse Wearing the Royal Turban - Hand miniature

Commemorating the 356th Sacred Anniversary of his Blessed Advent in the city of Patna, State of Bihar in India, the disciples of Guru Gobind Singh Sahibji offer homage to the multi-dimensional Prophet, the Beacon-of-Light, who strictly proclaimed an injunction upon his followers thus: "I am an insignificant slave of the Primordial-Being. Those who worship me as GOD shall have to endure hell".

He was a Visionary, Saint, Scholar, Poet, Philosopher, Warrior, Connoisseur & Patron of artistes and skilled warriors. Guru Gobind Singh Ji sacrificed his parents, spouse and 4 minor sons, at the altar of upholding human dignity and Freedom of Faith/Religion & Right to Expression. Guru Gobind Singh Ji mastered many languages including Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi, Braj, Gurmukhi and Persian. He also learned martial arts to become adept in combat. In his 42-year sojourn on this planet, he authored several poetic compositions like 'Akaal-Ustat' (Pristine-Praise of the Timeless One). The Great Guru accomplished all of this while remaining mindful of his Divine Assignment of steadfastly being the Defender of Human Rights of the populace. Hence, he did not shirk his duty, when he was pulled into fighting 16 battles against the overpowering might of the Mughal Emperor of India, who was equipped with a massive army and large arsenals. Although he braved several acts of betrayal, treachery, deception, jealousy from various quarters, yet his utmost trust in ONENESS of humanity brought him loyalty from both sides, all of the Divine-conscious and conscientious Muslims and Hindus, when they sacrificed their

life, fighting against tyrannical oppressive forces of darkness.

in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji formalized the martial institution of

numbers, Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world, with some 28 million adherents.

The Sacred Utterances of the Tenth-Divine-Sovereign included the poetic Zafar-Nama (The Epistle of Victory) as a voluminous letter to the tyrant Aurangzeb, who felt such immense remorse upon reading it, that he died, soon thereafter. This communication clearly said that the Mughal Emperor did not behave as behoves a Sovereign ruler.

The Guru wrote: "The Lord is One and His Word is True. The Victory is of the Lord. Aurangzeb, you've been pretending to be a devout and pious Muslim, whilst in reality, you are a liar who committed a blasphemous act by swearing on the Oath of Holy Quraan, which oath was falsified by your treacherous and devious actions like attacking my forces, who were promised safe passage, if we vacated the Fort of Anandpur Sahib. Furthermore, you ought to be castigated for the execution of my two minor sons, who were bricked alive in Sirhind".

Guru Gobind Singh Sahibji authored the 'Resplendent-Drama' or Play (Bachitar or Vichitra Naatak) a poetic-autobiography about the time on the Hemkunt range of mountains, where he was immersed in meditation, merged in Communion with The Divine. Thence, he was Commanded by The Almighty Majesty to assume the human-frame, in the form of the 10th Embodiment on The Spiritual Throne of The Divine Preceptor, Guru Nanak Sahibji, in order



Takht Shri Patna Sahib. Guru Gobind Singh ji was born here on December 22, 1666.

He was anointed Guru, when he was merely 9, by his predecessor and father, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, when the latter marched towards Delhi, to voluntarily court arrest, in support of the Kashmiri Pundits who were being forced by the Mughal emperor, to give up their religion or to face death. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was, then, martyred by being beheaded, after witnessing the torturous martyrdom of his three disciples, Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai Sati Das Ji and Bhai Dayal Das Ji. This was a turning point in Indian history, which led to another historic event. On the day of Vaisaakhi

'The Order of The Khalsa', the valiant force, making it mandatory for all Sikhs to wear a turban and to retain unshorn hair and beard.

In our contemporary world, the Khalsa-panth (Pathway) or 'The Way of Life' is what The Guru gave to the Sikh community, which constitutes a large part of the global diaspora where several Sikhs are the influencers, being in positions of authority, as Parliamentarians and officials in government, in U.S.A., Canada, U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore amongst other nations. In



The creation of Khalsa on the day of Vaisaakhi in 1699 proved to be a turning point in the history of Hindustan (India).

CONTD ON PAGE 21

CONTD FROM PAGE 20

to thwart the nefarious designs of tyrannical forces. Bachitar-Natak is part of the 'Dasam Granth', the Sacred Texts written by the 10th Guru. One stanza reads thus: "I have come into this mortal-world for this purpose. The Supreme Lord has sent me for the propagation of Righteousness, everywhere, and to seize and destroy the sinful and the wicked. I have taken birth for this purpose, let all holy men understand this. I have come to disseminate Divine Religion. I am committed towards the protection of saints; and for annihilating all the tyrants".

Shri Daulat Rai Ji, a prominent figure in the Arya-Samaj sect of Hinduism, wrote a book 'Sahib-E-Kamaal' Guru Gobind Singh, the Spiritual-Master par excellence. It is dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh's life, his noble thought and his mission so that the populace at large could have a just view of the Guru's greatness."

At the battle of Muktsar Sahib, he was rejoined by his 40 Sikhs, who had earlier deserted him. They were inspired by a brave lady Mai Bhaago Ji to return to the battlefield. Travelling through Gwalior, The Guru was headed towards The Deccan area, at the invitation of Aurangzeb who wanted to apologize. The Guru was forgiving and went ahead, considering that the Mughal Emperor was almost double his age. En-route, The Guru got news that Aurangzeb had died.



Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Abchal Nagar Sahib, Nanded, India- the final resting place of Guru Gobind Singh who left for heavenly abode on October 7,

The five virtues recognised in Sikhism are Sat (Truth), Santokh (Contentment), Daya (Compassion), Nimrata (Humility) and Pyaar (Love). For the Sikhs, the final goal of life is to reunite or merge with God (Mukti). The Sikh Gurus taught that to achieve this goal it was important to work hard at developing positive human qualities which lead the soul closer to

Hindus and Muslims are respected by all Sikhs.

Bhai Nand Lal Ji (c. 1633-1713), was an eminent poet laureate in the Guru's Darbaar. He fled from Aurangzeb's persecution. Hakim Allah Yaar Khan Jogi, an unbiased Muslim poet/writer wrote two poems almost a century ago, one on Chamkaur, under the title Ganj-a-Shaheedan and the other on Sirhind, entitled Shaheedan -a-Wafa, in homage to the 4 minor sons of The Guru. Pir Bhikan Shah saw the Divine Light emanating from the birthplace of The Guru and started bowing in Islamic Prayer, towards the East instead of towards Mecca in the West. He visited the newly born Guru, tested him by presenting two bowls (representing Muslims & Hindus). The Guru placed his hands on both. The Pir further said that he was immensely impressed and pleased with this act of the Holy child. The Pir, his disciples and servants then returned to his home and remained a steadfast supporter of the Guru for his entire life. Pir Buddhu Shah was a Muslim-Divine whose real name was Badr ud Din, who was an admirer and ally of Guru Gobind Singh. He brought many hundreds of his followers and his family members to assist the Guru's force. However, the Mughals executed him, after the battle, for supporting the Guru. Diwan Todar Mal Ji was a wealthy Hindu merchant of Sirhind, performed the cremation of the three martyrs: the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh, Gujri aged 9, Fateh Singh aged 6 and their grandmother, Mata Gujari Ji. The two children were bricked alive, for refusing to renounce their faith. Their grandmother at the news of the sudden and despicable execution of the innocent youngsters. This wealthy merchant had to cover the required ground for cremation with an estimated 7,800 gold coins. Baba Moti Ram Mehra Ji served edibles and milk

to the two little Sahibzadas and Mata Gujri Ji. He did not conceal his act and boldly told the Nawab that it was his pious duty to serve edibles to the imprisoned innocent children and their grandmother. Hence, Baba Moti Ram Mehra, along with his family, were sentenced to death by being squeezed in a Kohlu (oil press). The Guru blessed the brother-duo, Ghani Khan and Nabi Khan with a 'Hukamnama': a letter of commendation stating that both of them were the "Sons of Guru Gobind Singh". Guru Gobind Singh Ji blessed Nawab Sher Khan, Ruler of Malerkotla, for vociferously protesting against the inhuman act of bricking-alive two minor sons of The Guru. Muslim-dominated Malerkotla is the only Muslim majority city in Punjab with 68.5% residents being Muslim and the rest being Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Buddhists. Not a single one was harmed here, during the riots erupted during the partition of India. All these noble ones have gained immortality and have become a part of Sikh history.

The Guru was an empathetic humanist to the core, a brave commanding general as well as a soldier, leading from the front. The Divine Guru Gobind Singh Ji gifted his disciples, a practical 'Way of Life', after sacrificing his entire family for Human-Rights. His unflinching resolve to stand up and to fight for Equality, Justice, Liberty, Peace and Harmonious Co-Existence which are as relevant, today, as they were over three centuries ago.

"For this purpose was I born, let all virtuous people understand. I was born to advance righteousness, to emancipate the good, and to destroy all evil-doers root and branch." --Guru Gobind Singh.

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Mai Bhaago, the brave soldier who inspired the 40 deserters to return to the Guru and fight alongside of him against the Mughal forces

Finally, Guru Gobind Singh Ji decided to terminate human-Guruship and so he passed on the mantle to The Scripture, at Nanded, where Gurdwara Takht Hazoor Sahib attracts devotees and pilgrims, from all over the world. Now, The Scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib was anointed as the Eternal-Guru in 1708, when Guru Gobind Singh Ji realized his mission was accomplished and it was time to shed the mortal-frame. As a mark of humility, he did not include his Sacred Verses in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, as he opined, he was not evolved up to the level of 6 Gurus and 35 Hindu & Sufi Muslim Saints, whose compositions are enshrined therein.

God. The Gurus taught that all human beings have the qualities they need to reunite with God but they must train their minds to make the most of these qualities. In order to reach the final goal of life, Sikhs believe that they must constantly develop their love for God by developing compassion for all God's creation. The mind of someone who is gurmukh (literally, 'Guru facing'), is constantly focused on God at all times; while the mind of Manmukh (literally, 'mind facing' or "mind centred") is full of desire, attractions, doubts, greed, etc and he or she will be full of sorrow and pain.

Amongst the faithful devotees of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, several notable loyal

Tonga issues tsunami warning after undersea volcano erupts

WELLINGTON (TIP): The Pacific nation of Tonga issued a tsunami warning January 15 after an undersea volcano erupted.

Video posted to social media showed large waves washing ashore in coastal areas.

The Tonga Meteorological Services said a tsunami warning had been put in force for all of Tonga.

The eruption Saturday was the latest in a series of spectacular eruptions from the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano.

A Twitter user identified as Dr. Faka'iloatonga Taumofolau posted video showing waves crashing ashore.

"Can literally hear the volcano eruption, sounds pretty violent," he wrote, adding in a later post, "Raining ash and tiny pebbles, darkness blanketing the sky." Earlier, the Matangi Tonga news site reported that scientists had observed massive explosions, thunder and lightning near the volcano after it started erupting early Friday.

The site said satellite images showed a 5-kilometer (3 mile) -wide plume of ash, steam and gas rising up into the air to about 20 kilometers (12 miles).

More than 2,300 kilometers (1,400 miles) away in New Zealand, officials were warning of storm surges from the eruption.

The National Emergency Management Agency said some parts of New Zealand could expect "strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges at the shore following a large volcanic eruption." (AP)

Massive cyberattack hits 70 Ukrainian websites, Russia moves more troops

KYIV/MOSCOW (TIP): Ukraine was hit by a massive cyberattack warning its citizens to "be afraid and expect the worst", and Russia, which has massed more than 1,00,000 troops on its neighbour's frontier, released TV pictures on January 14 of more forces deploying in a drill. The developments unfolded hours after talks wrapped up with no breakthrough between Russia and Western states, which fear Moscow could attack Ukraine.

"The drumbeat of war is sounding loud," Michael Carpenter, US Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said at the close of talks on Thursday.

Ukrainian officials were investigating the huge cyberattack, which they said hit around 70 internet sites of government bodies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet of Ministers, and Security and Defence Council. — Reuters

'Partygate' pressure builds on UK PM Boris Johnson's leadership

LONDON (TIP): The UK Opposition is leading the charge to pile pressure on British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday as a picture of a boozy culture at the heart of Downing Street emerges, with new reports of so-called "wine-time January 14" by staff during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Opposition Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer, used a major speech to say the so-called "partygate" scandal shows that Johnson is guilty of "deceit and deception" and unable to lead the country.

Starmer's latest salvo comes as a poll for the 'The Times' found that seven out of 10 British voters think Johnson has not been honest about his account of attending a lockdown breaking party in Downing Street.

The YouGov survey found that 70 per cent of voters, including over half of those who voted for Conservative in the 2019 election, did not believe Johnson's account to the Commons. Eight out of 10 said they did not think the gathering, as described by the prime minister in Parliament earlier this week as a work event, was acceptable under lockdown rules. "We are witnessing the broken spectacle of a Prime minister mired in deceit and deception, unable to lead," Starmer said in an address to the Fabian Society conference.

Besides the Opposition raising the pitch of its attacks on the UK PM, Johnson is said to have gone into hiding this weekend amid a near-mutiny from many of his own members of Parliament and activists. 'Sky News' says there are reports that he is plotting a fightback to save his premiership, which he is calling "Operation Save Big Dog".

Meanwhile, the 'Daily Mirror' claims Johnson encouraged his aides to "let off steam" despite being banned from socialising in big groups under his own



lockdown rules at the peak of the pandemic. It is even claimed that the regular events were so popular that staff invested in a GBP 142 drinks fridge to keep their bottles of white wine, prosecco, and beer cool for so-called "wine-time Fridays".

It is alleged that Downing Street aides took turns on Fridays to visit a local supermarket with a wheelie suitcase to fill up the 34-bottle fridge. It was this suitcase that was used on the night before Prince Philip's funeral on April 16 last year, the latest "partygate" allegation that led to Downing Street apologising to Queen Elizabeth II.

It was followed by another damaging revelation, with the former head of the government's Covid Taskforce apologising for having farewell drinks in the UK Cabinet Office when she left the civil service on December 17, 2020, when strict restrictions were in place in England.

Kate Josephs, who is now the chief executive of Sheffield City Council, said

she was "truly sorry" for "the anger that people will feel" and said the gathering was now part of the ongoing internal investigation by senior civil servant Sure Gray.

Andrew Bridgen, Conservative MP for North West Leicestershire, said: "I don't need to see what Sue Gray says to know that for me Boris Johnson has lost the moral authority to lead the country.

"If there's another emergency where he has to call on the public to make sacrifices, he doesn't have that authority. That makes his position in my book, as Prime Minister, completely untenable." Bridgen is among a growing number of Tory MPs speaking out against their leader. Many say their email inboxes have filled up after No. 10 apologised to the Queen for staff parties the night before the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral.

Johnson was not at this gathering last April, but he is now battling against a growing tide of alleged Covid rule-breaking at the very place where these rules were being made. (PTI)

Australia records highest temperature in 62 years

MELBOURNE (TIP): Australian authorities warned people to stay indoors on January 14 as a severe heatwave along the northwestern coast pushed temperatures to a blistering 50.7 degrees Celsius (123 degrees Fahrenheit), hitting a high last seen 62 years ago.

Climate scientists and activists have raised alarm bells that global warming due to human-driven greenhouse gas emissions, especially from fossil fuels, is close to spiralling out of control.

The planet's hottest years on record have all been within the last decade, with 2021 being the sixth-hottest, data from the

US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showed this week.

An iron ore mining region in the northwest, Australia's Pilbara, where temperatures hit the record high on Thursday, is known for its hot and dry conditions, with temperatures usually hovering in the upper thirties this time of year.

Australia is one of the world's biggest carbon emitters per capita, but the government has refused to back down from its reliance on coal and other fossil fuel industries, saying to do so would cost jobs. Scientists have found that rising

temperatures can hit public health and outdoor labour productivity, resulting in billions of dollars in economic losses. Australia lost an average of A\$10.3 billion (\$7.48 billion) and 218 productive hours every year in the last two decades because of heat, according to a global study published this week by researchers at Duke University. These losses will only deepen in the coming decades as the world heads toward global warming of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial times, they warned.

"These results imply that we don't have to wait for 1.5°C of global warming to experience impacts of climate change on labour and the economy ... Additional future warming magnifies these impacts," said lead author Luke Parsons. (Reuters)

Female Chinese agent active in UK Parliament, MI5 warns

LONDON (TIP): The UK's secret service MI5 has warned members of Parliament that a female Chinese agent has been active in Parliament, it emerged in the House of Commons on January 13.

Senior Conservative Party MP and outspoken China critic Iain Duncan Smith brought up the issue with reference to a letter sent to Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle by MI5.

China has placed sanctions on Duncan Smith for speaking up against its treatment of the Uyghur minority in the country's restive Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

"I understand that Mr Speaker has been contacted by MI5 and is now warning members of Parliament that there has been an agent of the Chinese government active here in Parliament working with a member of Parliament, obviously to subvert the processes here," said Smith.

"I say, as a member of Parliament who has been sanctioned by the Chinese government, that this is a matter of grave



concern," he said.

In a letter sent to MPs by Hoyle, he reportedly said that MI5 had warned him a woman called Christine Lee has been "engaged in political interference activities on behalf of the Chinese Community Party, engaging with members here at Parliament".

MI5 sent out the so-called "interference alert" warning Lee has "facilitated financial donations to serving and aspiring parliamentarians on behalf of foreign nationals based in Hong Kong and China... done covertly to mask the

origins of the payments".

MI5, which stands for Military Intelligence Section 5, said the Chinese lawyer has been involved with MPs and hopeful MPs as well as members of the now-disbanded All-Party Parliamentary Group, Chinese in Britain.

According to 'Sky News', the alert says that "Lee has acted covertly in coordination with the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party (UFDW) and is judged to be involved in political interference activities in the UK." Hoyle told MPs if they have been approached by Lee, they should contact the director of security for Parliament.

Opposition Labour Party MP Barry Gardiner was named as an MP who accepted donations from the Chinese woman, and he confirmed her son was working for him but has now resigned. The MPs' register of interests shows Lee has made about 500,000 pounds in donations to British parliamentarians. (PTI)

Canada drops vaccine mandate for its truckers after pressure from industry

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada will allow unvaccinated Canadian truckers to cross in from the United States, reversing a decision requiring all truckers to be inoculated against the coronavirus, Canada's border agency said on January 12.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had faced pressure from the main opposition party and trucking lobby to drop the vaccine mandate for truckers, due to come into force on Saturday, saying it could result in driver shortages, disrupt trade and drive up inflation. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) said that unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated Canadian truck drivers arriving at the US-Canada border will remain exempt from pre-arrival, arrival and post-arrival testing and quarantine requirements.

However, truckers from the United States will still need to be vaccinated or they will be turned back at the border from Jan. 15, a CBSA spokesperson said.

A Canadian government source said the decision was taken to ensure smooth supply chains.

Trudeau's Liberal government had set the Saturday deadline requiring all truckers entering from the United States to show proof of vaccination as part of its fight against COVID-19.

With more than two-thirds of the C\$650 billion (\$511 billion) in goods traded annually between Canada and the United States travelling on roads, the



trucking industry is key.

The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) had estimated the government mandate could force some 16,000 cross-border drivers - 10 % of them - off the roads. The mandate was the first policy measure taken since the pandemic began that could limit cross-border trucking traffic. Trucks crossed the border freely when the border was closed for 20 months because they were considered essential to keep supply chains open.

Supply chain disruptions drove Canada's headline to an 18-year high in November, and the Bank of Canada has signalled that it could raise interest rates

as soon as April. The cost of bringing a truckload of fruit and vegetables from California and Arizona to Canada doubled during the pandemic due to a driver shortage, Steve Bamford, chief executive of Bamford Produce, an importer and exporter of fresh fruit and vegetables based in Ontario told Reuters last week. Fresh foods are sensitive to freight problems because they expire rapidly. The Biden administration wants truck drivers at companies with 100 or more employees to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing, a policy that has been challenged to the Supreme Court. Reuters

China touts support from Gulf for Uighur treatment

BEIJING (TIP): China said on January 14 it gained support on issues, including the treatment of Uighur Muslims, from a number of Persian Gulf states following talks between their foreign ministers at which they agreed to upgrade relations. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the ministers and Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf expressed firm support for China's "legitimate positions on issues related to Taiwan, Xinjiang and human rights". He said they "expressed opposition to interference in China's internal affairs and politicisation of human rights issues". They also rejected the "politicisation of sports and reaffirmed their support" for China's hosting of the Beijing Winter Olympics that open on February 4, he said. — AP

Avatar robot goes to school for ill German boy

BERLIN (TIP): Joshua Martinangeli, 7, is too ill to go to school. But the German student can still interact with his teacher and classmates through an avatar robot, Joshi, that sits in the class in his place and sends a blinking signal when he has something to say. Reuters

Microsoft to make sexual abuse probes public

SEATTLE (TIP): Microsoft says it will review its policies regarding sexual harassment and gender discrimination and publicly release the results of investigations into allegations involving members of the board of directors and senior leadership, including Bill Gates. AP

Author of 'My Uncle Napoleon' dies at 94

TEHRAN (TIP): Iraj Pezeshkzad, an Iranian author whose bestselling comic novel "My Uncle Napoleon" lampooned Persian culture's self-aggrandising and paranoid behaviour as the country entered the modern era, has died. He was 94. AP

Two Israeli officers killed by friendly fire in West Bank

JERUSALEM (TIP): Two Israeli officers were killed by one of their own troops who mistook them in the dark for Palestinian gunmen near an army base in the West Bank, the military said on January 13. A spokesman said the officers, both majors in a commando unit, were killed after firing warning shots towards a suspicious figure in the Jordan Valley following a night-time exercise on Wednesday. Reuters



Emraan Hashmi, Akshay Kumar announce Driving License remake

Akshay Kumar on Wednesday took to his social media platforms to share a few selfies and announce their new project, Selfiee, together. Initially teasing his fans and followers, Akshay shared a solo selfie followed by one with Emraan Hashmi. Akshay and Emraan are seen riding their bikes in a scenic mountain background.

Akshay wrote, "Found myself the perfect #Selfiee partner! Hey @karanjohar, have we slayed this selfie game or what??? @therealemraan."

Emraan shared the same picture on his Instagram handle and wrote, "Joining the #Selfiee club with @akshaykumar!."

Karan Johar also shared a teaser of Selfiee that has Akshay and Emraan dancing together, and wrote, "Presenting #Selfiee starring two absolutely smashing actors - Akshay Kumar & Emraan Hashmi and directed by Raj Mehta. Hop into the frame and pose because shooting begins soon!"

Amid break-up reports, Arjun Kapoor posts photo with Malaika Arora

The day started on a gloomy note for Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora fans with news about their break-up doing the rounds. Addressing the buzz, Arjun posted a photo with his lady love saying that there's no place for 'shady rumours'.

The black and white mirror selfie has Malaika leaning on Arjun who is capturing the moment. Putting to rest all speculations about their relationship, Arjun captioned the photo, "Ain't no place for shady rumours. Stay safe. Stay blessed. Wish well for people. Love y'all." Malaika replied to the post with a heart emoji.

As per reports, Arjun and Malaika parted ways last week. It also stated that given Malaika was very hurt, she hasn't left her house for six days. As for Arjun, reports said that he was spending time with family to get over the heartbreak.

While Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor celebrated Christmas together, with the latter testing positive for Covid-19, they had to celebrate New Year separately.

"As the dust settles on 2021 (clearly the virus refuses to so something must) We just wanna wish all of you a happy & very pouty 2022 ahead," Arjun wished fans on New Year. His note was posted along with a picture of himself and Malaika pouting. He also shared a picture of Malaika on his Instagram story and wrote, "I miss you." In response, Malaika took to Instagram to post the selfie of them pouting and wrote she misses him. "I miss you mr pouty @arjunkapoor (ps. My pout is better than urs) ... happy new year," she wrote.

Recently, given her ill health, Malaika Arora had to miss the finale of her show India's Best Dancer 2.



Govinda releases new music video, people call it 'embarrassing to watch'

Govinda has added one more song to his credit as a singer with his new release Hello. On Wednesday, Govinda shared the new song and made the announcement on social media, writing: "Hi guys, my third song Hello is out on my YouTube channel Govinda Royalles. Link in bio. I hope you all will love it!"



In Hello, Govinda features with Nisha Sharma, who describes herself as an artist on her Instagram. The song starts with Govinda grooving to the opening beats in his trademark style, dressed in a quirky white suit. He then ropes in Nisha to match steps with him. The duo can be seen dancing around in a colourful garden and around brightly lit up streets as Govinda sings: "Hello!" The song's lyrics are also composed by Govinda in collaboration with Rohit Raj Sinha.

Govinda also plays the piano and twirls Nisha Sharma around in the song. On Instagram, the comments section of Govinda's post filled up with mixed reactions. While some were overtly excited to see Govinda in a new video, several others criticised it, with one comment summing up the general emotion on Instagram-- 'he's lost insight'.

"It's embarrassing to watch you do all this. Partner was an amazing movie. After that you should have hung your cape and felt good about the amazing work you've done... not make a joke of yourself," read a comment while another added: "Going from bad to worse. ith so much of acting talent, this guy has lost insight." Some also asked Govinda to shed his 90s dance style: "Please come out of the 90s. We are in 2022 not 90s," wrote one while another added: "Govinda forgot it's 2022."

Ranveer wants to get lost in Deepika's hair, fans drop hilarious comments

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh often indulge in some social media PDA and fans got a glimpse of just that on Wednesday. Deepika shared a glimpse of her 'failed' attempt at a hair flip on Instagram and Ranveer reacted to the post.

Deepika, who laughed out loud at the outcome of her own attempt, made a confession in her new post: "Tried doing 'that hair thing' people do and failed miserably! #hairflip #epicfail." She added a bunch of ROFL emojis to her post along with a photo of herself posing with unkempt hair that covered half her face.

Ranveer slid into the comments section and posted a filmy remark: "Teri zulfon mein khoja rahoon (Wish to be lost in your hair)." Ranveer also added the kiss patch icons to his comment, along with a bunch of red hearts. Fans, who spotted Ranveer's comment, posted hilarious reactions. "Chheenk ajaegi bhai (It'll make you sneeze)," wrote a fan while another jokingly added: "Sir fas jaage, you'll get stuck)." One more fan wrote: "Kyun bhai dandruff ho kya (Are you dandruff)?"



Deepika's hairstylist Gabriel Georgiou had a funny reaction to her post. Deepika's fans also complimented her on her messy hair look, showering her feed with the heart-eyes and fire emojis.

On December 31, Deepika collated an album of all the things she loves and shared it on Instagram. Left out from the post, Ranveer reacted with the shrug emoji in the comments.



Emma Watson addresses fan frenzy over her relationship with Tom Felton

Emma Watson's childhood crush on her co-star, Tom Felton, was one of the most stunning revelations from the recent HBO Max reunion special, Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts. The two British actors discussed their strong friendship, saying that despite their bond, nothing romantic ever occurred between them.

Emma, on the other hand, addressed the internet reaction and put any prospective relationship rumours to rest in an interview with British Vogue, as per E! News. "We speak most weeks," she said, "and we just think it's sweet." Emma, who is in a relationship with Leo Robinton, reminisced on her childhood romance and the close connection they maintain to this day in the special reunion. "I used to come in every day and look for his number on the call sheet, it was No. 7, and if his name was on the call sheet, it was an extra exciting day," she said during the reunion. "He was three years above me and so for him he was like, 'You're like my little sister.'"

Machine Gun Kelly goes down on one knee to propose to Megan Fox

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly are engaged. The actor and rapper have decided to legalize their dramatically eccentric coupling, according to Instagram videos that each posted Wednesday.

Fox shared video of Kelly taking a knee at the top of a flight of outdoor stairs under the Banyan tree where the two say they fell in love in July of 2020.

"Somehow a year and a half later, having walked through hell together, and having laughed more than I ever imagined possible, he asked me to marry him," Fox wrote in the post. "And just as in every lifetime before this one, and in every lifetime that will follow it, I said yes."

An Instagram video from Kelly shows Fox wearing the two merged rings he had made for the occasion, with a diamond and an emerald that form "the obscure heart that is our love."

Fox ended her post with, "and then we drank each other's blood," a moment not shown in the video.

It's the second marriage for Fox, the 35-year-old star of the "Transformers" films. She was married to actor Brian Austin Green from 2010 to 2021. The two have three sons together.

It's the first marriage for the 31-year-old Kelly, who has a daughter from a previous relationship.



Gal Gadot to topline remake of 'To Catch A Thief'

Paramount Pictures is planning a remake of the classic 1955 thriller 'To Catch A Thief' with Gal Gadot attached to the star. According to the reports, the studio has hired Eileen Jones, best known for her work on the series 'Prodigal Son', to write the remake.

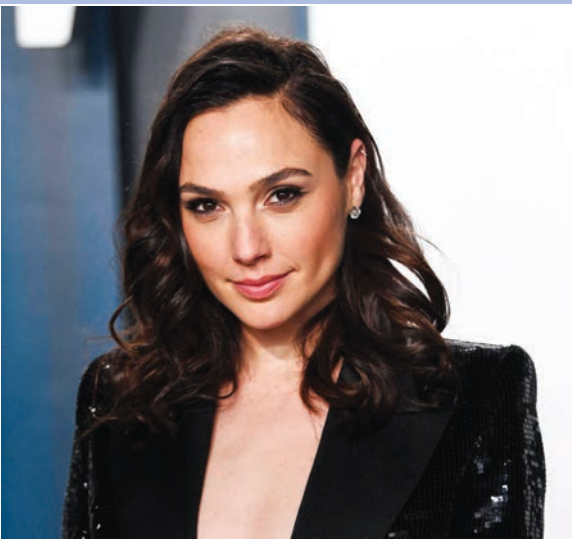
The original movie, considered a masterpiece by legendary filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock, was about a former thief who must prove his innocence after being suspected of returning to his former occupation.

The film, which was based on a 1952 novel of the same name by David Dodge, featured actors Cary Grant and Grace Kelly.

Gadot will produce the project with her partner Jaron Varsano through their company Pilot Wave. Neal Moritz will also produce through his Original Film banner.

Gadot most recently starred in the blockbuster 'Red Notice', opposite Dwayne Johnson and Ryan Reynolds.

She will next be seen as the Evil Queen in Disney's live-action remake of 'Snow White' and Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of Agatha Christie's 'Death on the Nile'.



Game Of Thrones actor Jason Momoa calls it quits with wife Lisa Bonet

Game Of Thrones actor Jason Momoa has won our hearts with his impeccable acting skills. But fans also were in awe of his relationship with actress Lisa Bonet. Post a togetherness of 16 years, the married couple has called it quits. Scroll below for all the details on the heart-breaking news.

It was back in 2005 when Jason began his relationship with Lisa. The duo dated for quite a long while before finally tying the knot in 2017. They're also blessed with 2 children - Lola and Nakoa-Wolf.

But they're now looking towards 'evolving' as they announce their split. Jason Momoa wrote a lengthy note on his Instagram. He began, "We have all felt the squeeze and changes of these transformational times... A revolution is unfolding ~and our family is of no exception... feeling and growing from the seismic shifts occurring. And so~ We share our Family news~That we are parting ways in marriage." The statement issued by Jason Momoa and Lisa Bonet continued, "We share this not because we think it's newsworthy ~ But so that~ as we go about our lives we may do so with dignity and honesty. The love between us carries on, evolving in ways it wishes to be known and lived. We free each other ~to be who we are learning to become... Our devotion unwavering to this sacred life & our Children."





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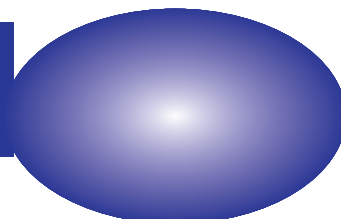


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



DR. VK RAJU IS A
CLINICAL
PROFESSOR OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY
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DR. LEELA RAJU IS
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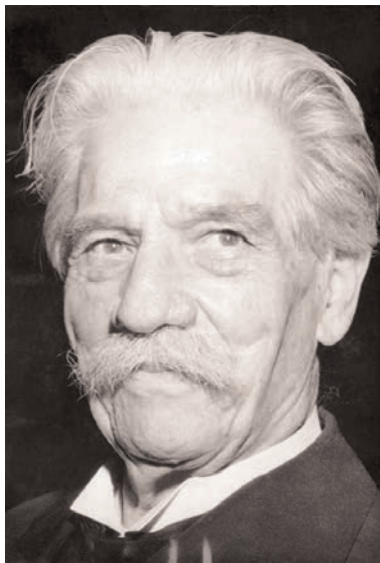
History This Week Jan 14 to Jan 20, 2022

"WE LEARN FROM HISTORY THAT WE DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY"- DESMOND TUTU

January 14

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II. At the conclusion of the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill held a joint news conference at which Roosevelt surprisingly announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

Birthdays - Benedict Arnold (1741-1801) was born in Norwich, Connecticut. He was the American Revolutionary War hero who turned traitor, sending information to the British in exchange for money. After obtaining command of West Point in 1780, he conspired to turn over the garrison to the British. However, his plans were discovered and he fled to British headquarters in New York. After the war, he lived in England.



Albert Schweitzer

Birthdays - Philosopher-physician Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was born in Upper Alsace, Germany. He served as a medical missionary in Africa and received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of the brotherhood of all nations.

Birthdays - American film pioneer Hal Roach (1892-1992) was born in Elmira, New York. His output included nearly 1,000 movies of all lengths, including the classic Laurel and Hardy comedies.

January 15

January 15, 69 A.D. - Roman Emperor Servius Sulpicius Galba was assassinated by the

Praetorian guard in the Roman Forum. He had succeeded Emperor Nero.

January 15, 1535 - Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church in England as a result of the Act of Supremacy following his break with Rome.

January 15, 1559 - Elizabeth Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was crowned as Elizabeth I in Westminster Abbey.

January 15, 1870 - The first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democratic Party in America appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly, criticizing former secretary of war Edwin Stanton with the caption, "A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion."

January 15, 1973 - Golda Meir became the first Israeli Prime Minister to visit the Pope.



Martin Luther King

Birthdays - Martin Luther King (1929-1968) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. As an African American civil rights leader, he spoke eloquently and stressed nonviolent methods to achieve equality. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. In 1983, the third Monday in January was designated a legal holiday in the U.S. to celebrate his birthday.

January 16

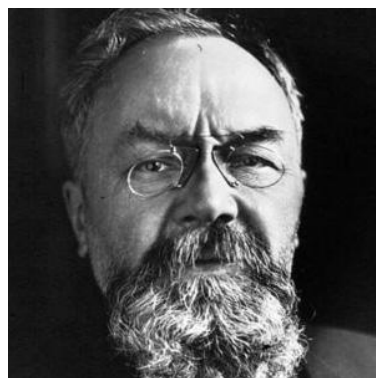
January 16, 1547 - Ivan the Terrible had himself officially crowned as the first Russian Czar (Caesar) although he had already ruled Russia since 1533. His reign lasted until 1584 and brought much needed reforms including a new legal code and cultural development. However, during his reign he instituted a campaign of terror against the Russian nobility and had over 3,000 persons put to death. He also killed his own son during a fit of rage.

January 16, 1979 - The Shah of Iran departed his country amid mass demonstrations and the revolt of Islamic fundamentalists led by

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Shah had ruled Iran since 1941 and had unsuccessfully attempted to westernize its culture.

January 16, 1991 - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

January 16, 1992 - The twelve-year civil war in El Salvador ended with the signing of a peace treaty in Mexico City. The conflict had claimed over 75,000 lives.



Andre Michelin

Birthdays - French industrialist Andre Michelin (1853-1931) was born in Paris. He started the Michelin Tire Company in 1888, pioneering the use of pneumatic tires on autos.

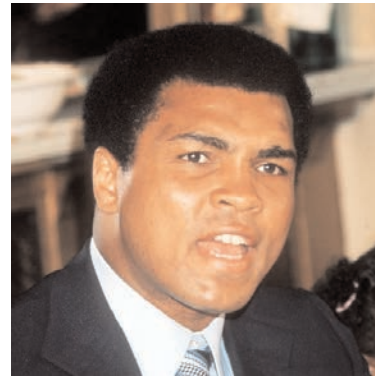
January 17

January 17, 1773 - The ship Resolution, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 17, 1945 - During World War II, Warsaw, Poland, was liberated by Soviet Russian troops.

January 17, 1966 - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its H-bomb into the Atlantic.

Birthdays - Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Considered the Elder Statesman of the American Revolution, he displayed multiple talents as a printer, author, publisher, philosopher, scientist, diplomat and philanthropist. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the new U.S. Constitution.



Muhammad Ali

Birthdays - Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, Kentucky, January 17, 1942 (as Cassius Clay). At age 22 in 1964, he knocked out Sonny Liston to win the world heavyweight boxing championship, shouting out "I shook up the world!" After converting to the Muslim religion, the boxing superstar became an outspoken conscientious objector (on religious grounds) to America's escalating involvement in the Vietnam War and refused military duty upon being drafted. As a result, he was stripped of his boxing title, banned from boxing, and subsequently jailed. After a long legal battle, his conviction was reversed and he regained the championship in 1974 by defeating George Foreman. In the early 1980s, after retiring from boxing, Ali revealed his new struggle with Parkinson's disease. However, he has remained active, devoting himself to various philanthropic and humanitarian causes.

January 18

Birthdays - American orator and politician Daniel Webster (1782-1852) was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire. "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!" he stated in the U.S. Senate in 1830 in response to Southern Senators who contended that individual states had the right to refuse to obey Congress.

January 19



Indira Gandhi

January 19, 1966 - Indira Gandhi was elected prime

minister of India in succession to Lal Shastri who had died eight days earlier. She served until 1975 and later from 1980 to 1984, when she was assassinated by her own bodyguards as she walked to her office. Her only surviving son, Rajiv, became the next prime minister. In 1991, he was assassinated while campaigning for reelection.

January 19, 1983 - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was arrested in Bolivia, South America. He was responsible for deporting Jewish children from Lyon to Auschwitz where they were gassed. He also murdered French Resistance leader Jean Moulin and tortured others. He was exposed by Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, extradited in 1987, then convicted by the French and died while in prison.

Birthdays - Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) military leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of a Revolutionary War hero, a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years preceding the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was offered command of the Union Army, but declined and instead accepted command of the military and naval forces of Virginia.

Birthdays - Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) poet and writer of mystery and suspense tales, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include The Fall of the House of Usher, Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque, The Murders in the Rue Morgue and his famous poem The Raven.

January 20

January 20, 1649 - At the conclusion of the English Civil War, King Charles I was brought before a high court of justice at Westminster Hall on charges of treason. The Civil War had been fought over whether the King's power was absolute or was limited by the powers of Parliament. Oliver Cromwell had led the Parliamentary forces to victory over the Royals. In the trial that followed, Charles was found guilty and condemned as "a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy" and was beheaded several days later in front of Whitehall Palace in London.

(Read more at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Essential oils that can double up as aromatic perfumes

We know WFH has become a trend now and that we've accepted it because home is currently the safest spot given the ongoing pandemic. With this comes hours of you sitting hooked in front of your laptop and there's almost no exercise your body gets in this process. Limited trips to groceries, cancels even that out. So, all you get is pre or post-work hours to get your body to stretch and stay fit. Does this have you sweating it out? Let's turn to essential oils to play perfumes.

Did your eyes read this right? Shocking? Your grandmother or your parents won't find this concept new. Unlike your modern-day perfumes that are crammed with synthetic ingredients, a swipe of essential oil can make your day as pure and as fresh as it can get. It's widely adored in aromatherapy that combats stress and it often plays a saviour for skin and hair woes, it's the kind of perfume we all need today. These may not give you a long-stay benefit, so you'll have to keep more quantity inside a roll-on bottle. Also, do not use them without blending them with carrier oils. Shall we look at the ones that can be fit to be added to your beauty kit?

Jasmine

These white little flowers are the ultimate mood-boosters that can calm your senses bountifully, thanks to the freshness these beauties hold.

Sandalwood

It's the woody wonder that incredibly lowers one's stress levels. This also has anti-inflammatory properties and is supremely calming which lends warmth and a soothing aroma.

Rose

Symbolic of love, roses hold a special place in the



hearts of many. It switches up a flirty cute moment thanks to the notes it's packed with. People often count upon this oil to calm their anxiety levels.

Lavender

Revered for combating acne, fungal infections, allergies, and relieving menstrual cramps, this pretty-purple plant does well. It has a soothing note that can uplift your mood and spread a tantalizing scent.

Neroli

For a citrusy punch, go for neroli essential oil. Often used in store-bought perfumes, skincare, this oil can downright spice up your day and calm you all-out with its alluring scent.

Source: Pinkvilla

Egg Fried Rice



Ingredients

Basmati Rice - 2 cups, Eggs - 10, Onions - 2 Spring, Onions - 1 bunch, Beans - 10, Carrot - 2, Capsicum - 2, Cabbage - 100 gms

Pepper Powder - 1/2 tbsp, Green Chillies - 2, Tomato Puree - 2 to 3 tbsp (or as required), Ajinomoto - 3 tsp (optional), Soy Sauce - 4 tbsp, Salt as per taste, Oil - 3 tbsp, Coriander Leaves - few, chopped

Method

- Pressure cook the rice until 1 whistle and remove.
- Chop all the vegetables finely and keep aside.
- Grind together the green chillies and mix well 2 tbsp water.
- Heat oil in a pan.
- Saute the onions for a minute.
- Add the chopped vegetables one by one and cook for a minute or two.
- Add the green chilli paste and tomato puree.
- Add salt and ajinomoto.
- Mix well and add soy sauce.
- Break the eggs into the pan and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes.
- Add the cooked rice and mix until all ingredients are combined.
- Garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve.

Home remedies to advance menstruation

From the beneficial parsley to the healing vitamin C-rich fruits, nature has provided us a basket-full of home remedies to treat irregular and late monthly cycle. Here's a list of some of the most effective natural ways you can induce your periods (when it's irregular).

Parsley

Parsley has been traditionally used for inducing menstruation for centuries. "Apiol and myristicin, two substances contained in parsley, stimulate contractions of the uterus," notes Dr. Lovneet Batra, Clinical Nutritionist Fortis La Famme, which results in the inducing effect of your monthly cycle.

Cumin

Cumin seeds, also known as jeera in Hindi, belong to the same family as parsley and also have a similar effect.

Carom seeds (Ajwain)

A concoction of carom seeds and jaggery will help in inducing periods besides relieving menstrual cramps. You can boil 1 tsp carom seeds with 1 tsp jaggery in 1 glass of water and consume it empty stomach in the morning.

Papayas

It's the most effective home remedy available to prepone periods. As noted by Dr Batra, raw papaya stimulates contractions in the uterus and can help in



inducing periods. The carotene present in papaya stimulates the estrogen hormone thereby inducing early period.

Ginger

Ginger tea is one of the most powerful emmenagogue

(herbs with magical properties that stimulates menstrual flow, resulting in promotion of menstruation), but unlike parsley it can have some side effects, like acidity. For extremely delayed periods, a combination of parsley and ginger tea is recommended. Ginger is thought to increase the heat around the uterus, thus promoting contraction.

Coriander seeds

Coriander seeds are said to be the most effective home remedy for irregular periods because of its emmenagogue properties. You can boil 1 tsp. of coriander with 2 cups of water and wait until the water reduces to just one cup. Use a strainer to remove the seeds and drink the concoction thrice a day for a couple of days before your monthly period.

Fennel seeds (Saunf)

Fennel seeds, also known as saunf in Hindi, can be boiled in water to make a fragrant tea that should be consumed every morning on an empty stomach in order to regulate your period and have a healthy flow. You can mix 2 tsp of fennel seeds in a glass of water and leave it overnight. Strain the water and drink it in the morning.

Aloe vera

Aloe vera juice is normally used to soothe an upset stomach, but it can be used to emmenagogue as well. You can mix aloe vera gel with 1 tbsp of honey and consume it before breakfast. Carry on the process for months to have good results.

Omicron 105% more transmissible than Delta, say French scientists

The Omicron Covid-19 variant may be 105 per cent more transmissible than Delta, according to a research by French scientists.

The study, published on the medRxiv site and yet to be peer-reviewed, analysed 131,478 tests in France from October 25 to December 18, 2021.

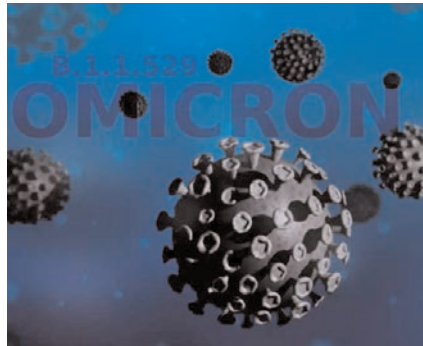
The team applied statistical models to variant-specific screening tests and full genome sequencing.

They compared the number of infections with the Omicron, Alpha and the Delta variants over a 21-day period.

The difference in rate of transmissibility in people with the Delta and Omicron was approximately 105 per cent.

"We estimate that the transmission advantage of the Omicron variant over the Delta variant is more than 105 per cent," said Samuel Alizon, from Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Biology (CIRB) France.

Further, the results showed that tests consistent with the presence of the Omicron variant exhibit significantly higher cycle threshold Ct values, which could indicate



lower amounts of virus genetic material.

"Epidemiological modelling indicates that even if the virulence of the Omicron variant is reduced compared to that of the Delta variant, the increase in reproduction number we estimate from the data can have the potential to maintain critical Covid-19 activity at a high level in French hospitals, if not overloading them," Alizon said adding that "swift mitigation of the epidemic wave" is essential.

The results also showed that in young people, the prevalence of infection with the Omicron variant or the Alpha variant was higher than that of the Delta variant.

Omicron was designated a variant "of concern" by the World Health Organization (WHO) in November. Since then it has been detected in more than 100 countries.

Studies have suggested that compared to previous variants, Omicron is less likely to make people seriously ill. Evidence also shows that Omicron is able to invade the upper respiratory tract easier than the Delta variant, but is less effective at infecting the lungs - a reason why it is more contagious and its mortality lower compared to Delta.

However, earlier this week, the WHO warned against describing the Omicron variant as "mild" amid a "tsunami of cases" overwhelming health systems across the world.

"Just like previous variants; Omicron is hospitalising people and killing people," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, said last week.

"Hospitals are becoming overcrowded and understaffed, which further results in preventable deaths from not only Covid-19 but other diseases and injuries where patients cannot receive timely care". Source: IANS



T-cells from common colds can provide protection against Covid

High levels of T-cells from common cold coronaviruses can provide protection against COVID-19, an Imperial College London study published on Monday has found, which could inform approaches for second-generation vaccines.

Immunity against COVID-19 is a complex picture, and while there is evidence of waning antibody levels six months after vaccination, T-cells are also believed to play a vital role in providing protection.

The study, which began in September 2020, looked at levels of cross-reactive T-cells generated by previous common colds in 52 household contacts of positive COVID-19 cases shortly after exposure, to see if they went on to develop infection.

It found that the 26 who did not develop infection had significantly higher levels of those T-cells than people who did get infected. Imperial did not say how long protection from the T-cells would last.

"We found that high levels of pre-existing T cells, created by the body when infected with other human coronaviruses like the common cold, can protect against COVID-19 infection," study author Dr Rhia Kundu said.

The authors of the study, published in Nature Communications, said that the internal proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which are targeted by the T-cells could offer an alternative target for vaccine makers.

Current COVID-19 vaccines target the spike protein, which mutates regularly, creating variants such as Omicron which lessen the efficacy of vaccines against symptomatic infection.

"In contrast, the internal proteins targeted by the protective T-cells we identified mutate much less," Professor Ajit Lalvani, co-author of the study, said.

"Consequently, they are highly conserved between the various SARS-CoV-2 variants, including Omicron. New vaccines that include these conserved, internal proteins would therefore induce broadly protective T cell responses that should protect against current and future SARS-CoV-2 variants." Source: Reuters

Man gets genetically-modified pig heart in world-first transplant

A US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.

David Bennett, 57, is doing well three days after the experimental seven-hour procedure in Baltimore, doctors say.

The transplant was considered the last hope of saving Mr Bennett's life, though it is not yet clear what his long-term chances of survival are.

"It was either die or do this transplant," Mr Bennett explained a day before the surgery.

"I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," he said.

Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center were granted a special dispensation by the US medical regulator to carry out the procedure, on the basis that Mr Bennett - who has terminal heart disease - would otherwise have died.

He had been deemed ineligible for a human transplant, a decision that is often taken by doctors when the patient is in very poor health.

The pig used in the transplant had been genetically modified to knock out several genes that would have led to the organ being rejected by Mr Bennett's body, the AFP news agency reports.

For the medical team who carried out the transplant, it marks the culmination of years of research and could change lives around the world.

Surgeon Bartley Griffith said the surgery would bring the world "one step closer to solving the organ shortage crisis". Currently 17 people die every day in the US waiting for a transplant, with more than 100,000 reportedly on the waiting list.

Dr Christine Lau, chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, was in



Surgeon Bartley P Griffith pictured with David Bennett earlier this month.

the operating theatre during the surgery.

"He's at more of a risk because we require more immunosuppression, slightly different than we would normally do in a human-to-human transplant. How well the patient does from now is, you know, it's never been done before so we really don't know," she told the BBC.

"People die all the time on the waiting list, waiting for organs. If we could use genetically engineered pig organs they'd never have to wait, they could basically get an organ as they needed it. "Plus, we wouldn't have to fly all over the country at night-time to recover organs to put them into recipients," she added.

The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common. Source: BBC

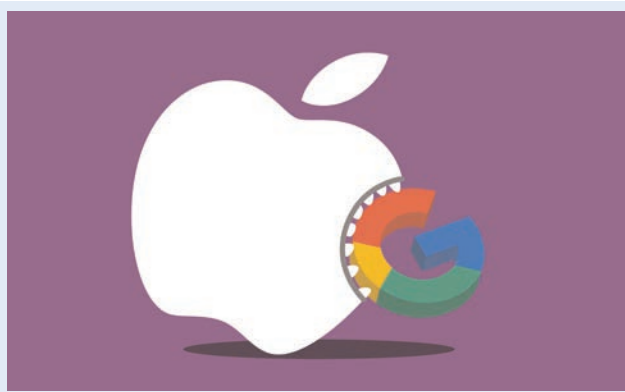
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Google takes on Apple over iMessage 'lock-in'

Google is slamming Apple over the locked-in world of 'iMessage'. Hiroshi Lockheimer, Senior Vice President of Android at Google, put out a series of tweets calling out Apple over strategy with iMessage. His comments came after a Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report highlighting how in the US, teens are firmly in team iMessage. More importantly, those who leave the Apple iMessage 'blue text' world for Android are often ostracised and shamed by their peers, according to the report. And Google has decided to take the moment to call out Apple's 'walled-garden' approach to messaging.

Further, Google's own approach towards messaging has been in sharp contrast as it tries to push Rich Communication Services (RCS) with its own Messages app for Android. RCS for those who are unaware is the next generation of messaging standards and protocols, designed to replace SMS and MMS. Here's a look at what the controversy is about.

The report highlights how teens, college students in the US are firmly hooked to their iPhones. Also, anyone who steps outside of the hallowed 'blue bubbles' gets ostracised or looked down upon. On Apple's Messages app, when someone is messaging another iPhone user, all those messages appear in blue. But if someone chats with Android users, which is via regular SMS, then the messages appear in green.

China's Chang'e 5 lunar probe finds first on-site evidence of water on moon surface

China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon, lending new evidence to the dryness of the satellite.

The study published on Saturday in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 gram water per ton, and a light, vesicular rock carries 180 ppm, which are much drier than that on Earth.

The presence of water had been confirmed by remote observation but the lander has now detected signs of water in rocks and soil.

A device on-board the lunar lander measured the spectral reflectance of the regolith and the rock and detected water on the spot for the first time.

The water content can be estimated since the water molecule or hydroxyl absorbs at a frequency of about three micrometre, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

It was the solar wind that contributed to the most humidity of lunar soil as it brought hydrogen that makes up the water, the



researchers said.

The additional 60 ppm water in the rock may originate from the lunar interior, according to the researchers.

Therefore, the rock is estimated to hail from an older, more humid basaltic unit before being ejected onto the landing site to be picked up by the lunar lander.

The study revealed that the moon had turned drier within a certain period, owing probably to the degassing of its mantle reservoir.

The Chang'e-5 spacecraft landed on one of the youngest mare basalts located at a mid-high latitude on the

moon. It measured water on the spot and retrieved samples weighing 1,731 gram.

"The returned samples are a mixture of granules both on the surface and beneath. But an in-situ probe can measure the outermost layer of the lunar surface," Lin Honglei, a researcher with the Institute of Geology and Geophysics under CAS, told Xinhua.

Lin also said to simulate authentic lunar surface conditions on Earth is challenging, thus making the in-situ measurement so essential. *Source: PTI*

Hackers exploiting Google Docs, Outlook users at most risk

Hackers are sending malicious links through comments in Google apps like Docs and Slides primarily to Outlook users—a known vulnerability that has not been fully closed or mitigated by Google since last year, cyber-security researchers have warned.

According to US-based enterprise cybersecurity company Avanan, hackers are increasingly using Google Docs' productivity features to slip malicious links past spam filters and cyber security tools.

In June last year, Avanan reported on an exploit in Google Docs that allowed hackers to easily deliver malicious phishing websites to end-users. Now, hackers have found a new way to do the same thing.

"Starting in December 2021, Avanan observed a new, massive wave of hackers leveraging the comment feature in Google Docs, targeting primarily Outlook users," said researcher Jeremy Fuchs.

The comment feature across the Google suite has become an attack vector for hackers, he claimed in a report.

Avanan said it notified Google of this flaw on January 3, via the report phish through email button within Gmail.

Google was yet to react to the report.

In one such attack, hackers add a comment to a Google Doc. The comment mentions the target with an '@'. By doing so, an email is automatically sent to that person's inbox.

"In that email, which comes from Google, the full comment, including the bad links and text, is included. Further, the email address isn't shown, just the attackers' name, making this ripe for impersonators," said the report that came out on Thursday.

"In this email attack, hackers found a way to leverage Google Docs, and other Google collaboration tools, to send malicious links. We primarily saw it target Outlook users, though not exclusively. It hit over 500 inboxes across 30 tenants, with hackers using over 100 different Gmail accounts," it elaborated. *Source: IANS*



'Cosmic caramel swirl': ESO releases new image of NGC 1300 galaxy

The European Southern Observatory's picture of this week looks like a mouthwatering caramel nest. The image is of the NGC 1300 spiral galaxy, located about 61 million light-years from Earth. It was created using data collected by the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and the Very Large Telescope (VLT) located in Chile.

The image shows a bar of stars and gas along with a central ring which shows an intense star formation.

"The image is a combination of observations conducted at different colours — or wavelengths — of light. The golden caramel glow corresponds to clouds of molecular gas, the raw material out of which stars form," said ESO in a release.

The images were taken as a part of the Physics at High Angular resolution in Nearby Galaxies (PHANGS) project. The project aims to make high-resolution observations of nearby galaxies using several telescopes, including the ALMA, VLT, Hubble and the newly-launched James Webb Space Telescope.

The different telescopes will help observe the nearby galaxies at different wavelengths. "Different wavelengths can reveal a multitude of secrets about a galaxy and by comparing them astronomers are able to study what activates, boosts, or hinders the birth of new stars," adds the release.



The NGC 1300 galaxy is located approximately 61 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Eridanus. (ESO/ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO)/PHANGS)



Government may not run Vodafone Idea, says CEO

NEW DELHI (TIP)

After Vodafone Idea's (VIL) stock crashed as alarmed investors started dumping shares on the news that the Central government could hold its equity, a senior company official said the government may not appoint anyone on the Board of directors and that the current promoters will manage and run the company.

VIL managing director and chief executive officer Ravindra Takkar said in an online briefing with investors that VIL has decided to convert interest dues of over Rs 15,000 crore to the government into equity, which would mean about 35.8% stake in the company. If the government accepts the offer in full, it will become one of the largest shareholders of VIL. The holding of the promoters, Vodafone Group, would then be around 28.5% with Aditya Birla Group holding 17.8% stake.

Yezdi makes a comeback

MUMBAI (TIP)

Classic Legends on Thursday re-launched the iconic motorcycle brand Yezdi in the country with the roll out of three models, priced between Rs 1.98 lakh and Rs 2.09 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

The company launched three distinct models—Yezdi Roadster at a starting price of Rs 1.98 lakh, Scrambler at Rs 2.04 lakh and Adventure range at Rs 2.09 lakh.

The three bikes come with the same liquid-cooled, fuel-injected 334 cc engine but are tuned to deliver different power outputs.

The new range of Yezdi motorcycles will be available across Classic Legends' dealership network, which already retails Jawa Motorcycles, in India. The company has commenced the bookings of the range with an amount of Rs 5,000 only.



Record US inflation growing concern for Fed, business

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The scourge of rising costs now ranks amongst American enterprise leaders' high considerations, in response to a survey launched Thursday, whereas Federal Reserve official indicated the central financial institution is able to transfer in opposition to inflation.

Official knowledge reveals indicators the wave of will increase could have peaked on the finish of the 12 months, however with inflation at its highest degree in almost 4 many years, extra economists and a few Fed officers say the central financial institution may need to be extra aggressive to stem the surge.

Inflation is the number-two fear amongst chief executives, behind labor shortages, and the worth pressures may persist into 2023, in response to a survey by The Convention Board launched Thursday.

"I am very involved in regards to the excessive degree of inflation," Fed Governor Lael Brainard stated at her nomination listening to earlier than the Senate Banking Committee.

Brainard, whom President Joe Biden nominated to function vice chair of the central financial institution, stated most forecasts present costs are prone to keep excessive for the primary half of the 12 months and are available down later in 2022.

However she warned to "take these projections with a good quantity of warning."

Brainard advised lawmakers the Fed



will concentrate on bringing inflation again all the way down to its two-percent goal however will accomplish that "in step with a sustained and robust restoration."

The Fed's key inflation-fighting device is the benchmark lending fee, which was slashed to zero firstly of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many economists anticipate three fee hikes this 12 months, however St Louis Federal Financial institution President James Bullard stated Wednesday policymakers may need to be extra aggressive and lift 4 instances.

One other regional Fed president, Raphael Bostic of Atlanta, stated he was open to mountain climbing as early as March.

Brainard, nevertheless, stated the strikes can be made in a "nicely communicated approach" to make sure a "measured" response by monetary markets and permit the economic system to proceed to get better jobs.

If confirmed, Brainard would exchange Richard Clarida, who in a paper launched previous to his Friday departure from the Fed argued that the worth will increase have been nearer to the Fed's goal than they seem. "The unwelcome surge in inflation in 2021, as soon as these relative worth changes are full and bottlenecks have unclogged, will in the long run show to be largely transitory below applicable financial coverage," he wrote.

Source: AFP

India, UK aim to finalise FTA agreement by year-end

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Britain has made a deal with India one of its post-Brexit priorities as, free from the European Union's common trade policy, ministers look to gear trade policy towards faster-growing economies around the Indo-Pacific region.

Meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, Indian trade minister Piyush Goyal and his British counterpart Anne-Marie Trevelyan said they would also launch an "early harvest" or a limited-scope interim trade agreement in the next few months, before finalising the free trade agreement.

"This is an opportunity that we must seize to steer our partnership along the track of mutual prosperity for the decades to come," Trevelyan said.

Britain said the deal could almost double British exports to India, and by 2035 boost total trade by 28 billion pounds (\$38.3 billion) per year. Total trade in 2019 was worth 23 billion pounds, according to British statistics.

India and former colonial power Britain already share strong trade ties, and more than a million people of Indian origin live in Britain after decades of migration.

India is seeking greater opportunities for Indians to live and work in Britain, and any trade deal could be contingent on relaxing rules and lowering fees for Indian students and professionals going to Britain.

However, Goyal said that sensitive issues will not be a roadblock as both countries will not make them a necessary condition for the trade deal.

"Nothing is necessarily a deal-breaker in this agreement," Goyal said.

WB retains India's growth forecast at 8.3%

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The World Bank has retained India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal at 8.3% as the recovery is yet to become broad-based.

As per the first advanced estimates of the national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) last week, the economy is projected to grow at 9.2% in 2021-22, surpassing pre-Covid level in actual terms, mainly on account of improved performance, especially in farm, mining and manufacturing sectors.

"India's economy is expected to expand by 8.3% in fiscal year 2021/22 (ending March 2022), unchanged from last June's forecast as the recovery is yet to become broad-based.

"The economy should benefit from the resumption of contact-intensive services, and ongoing but narrowing monetary and fiscal policy support," the World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report released on Tuesday.

Source: PTI



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JAN 17 TO JAN 23, 2022



Aries

Ganesha says this week, you will thrive harder to get things going. Your eternal faith in God will give you amazing outcomes. If you have been longing for something for a long, your wait will come to an end this week. Your business will be stable throughout the week but people having jobs will suffer a little bit due to the negative impact of Rahu over the sixth house. In the latter half of the week, Students will go through dilemmas regarding multiple choices available to them. If your relationship is not going well for long, your testing period is over as your partner and you both will come to common grounds of an understanding by the end of the week. Your health will suffer due to an old ailment. Do not worry, you will be fine before the weekend.



Taurus

Dear Taurus natives, this week, your emotions will be at peace since you will accomplish things with affection. You'll be prepared to face any obstacle. You'll be preventing yourself from doing things that make you pleased this week since you'll be preoccupied with what others believe. This week, you will be under a lot of job pressure, which will prevent you from relaxing. You must find pleasure in all of your daily activities and make yourself appreciate your work this week. This week, you'll be avoiding some unneeded expenditures. Your lover will adore you unreservedly this week. You will respect them similarly and grant all of their wishes. You will be in wonderful spirits this week since you have been following the correct workout schedule. You will stick to the timetable you've established for yourself.



Gemini

The week will start with the usual work schedule, but it might conclude with a celebration with close colleagues and family. You'll have a wonderful wit of amusement. Everyone surrounding you will admire your method of functioning, and they will eagerly adopt it. Your calm yet impatient temperament will give you problems in the second part of the week, putting you in a scenario that might put you in economic difficulties. This week, you must keep a calm demeanor. People in partnerships will take time away from their relationships to accomplish things that they normally would not be able to do. With the graces of Venus, single folks may discover their companion in the next week. In the second half of the week, you can feel fatigued. You should relax for a while every day this week.



Cancer

Dear cancer natives, this week will bring you a basket of new experiences as you will explore your untouched abilities. As suggested by the 11th House of your Zodiac, you will be blessed with a way to unveil an extra source of income for yourself. By the end of the week, we will be able to resolve the financial crunches your family has been facing. If you are working in the field of architecture or in any kind of designing or advertisement industry, this week will bring you your highest paying gigs which will help you settle minor debts. Your relationship fronts will not go so go through any issues this week. People who are already married might have to go through small setbacks this week due to the adverse position of Venus in your zodiac. Your health will be alright and there is nothing to worry about concerning your fitness this week.



Leo

Dear Leo natives, you are very good at completing things that you take responsibility for and that will help you gain a sense of dignity in this society and at the workplace this week. You will be able to take accountability for the things that others will deny for and that will take you to another level of success this week. Try to retain this attitude throughout the week. You might have to work late nights in the latter half of the week. People doing a job in the field of marketing will have to face disappointments in the first half of the week. In terms of your relationship, you will be too busy this week and will hardly pay any heed to your partner but, your honesty will save your relationship and will not let you down in front of your partner. Your affection for each other will not be affected by anything this week. You will be in very good health and will wish to look over your weight issues.



Virgo

This week, you will experience many difficulties at work challenges will come your way but you will not be ready with the courage to face them. On difficult days of this week, people you have trusted will come to your rescue and you will be able to overcome everything by the end of the week. In the latter half of the week, you will see an upsurge in the share market and this would be one of the most profitable opportunities for your share market investments. Your partner and you might go through minor issues due to work pressure and inability to spend time with each other but things will be fine by the end of the week. Falling temperature and

increasing cold will get you some breathing issues in the latter half of the week therefore keep yourself warm and stay indoors.



Libra

This week, you will get to experience so many amazing things and that will make you jovial. You will spend time experimenting over your talents and using them in a good manner. You are more likely to get a great opportunity on the 4th or 5th day of the week as Venus will transit and your 6th house. In the latter half of the week, you will have to face the reality you have been escaping since long therefore try not to be hard on yourself entire week. This week, you will forgive your partner's mistakes and will communicate effectively in order to keep your relationship issues away. As moon will have negative effect on your Zodiac, Marriages will suffer as a result of dynamic ego issues. You might have to go through certain eye related problems and this week. Do not take things lightly and consult a doctor when needed.



Scorpio

This week, you'll be humble. This week you will be unselfish and concerned about others. You may be willing to give up your time and space to make others happy. This is an act that will be much appreciated by others. At work, you will follow the rules. You'll be closing a transaction at work in the latter half of the week, and it'll be a big one. This transaction has the potential to be a fantastic lottery for every one of you. You'll feel a lot of frustration in the second part of the week, and you'll want to vent it on someone. Your relationship has gone a new direction, and you're unsure what will happen next. Prepare to confront any problems together this week and always have faith in one another. In the early portion of the day, you may experience intestinal problems. This week, drink plenty of water and avoid fatty foods.



Sagittarius

You will have extremely energetic days this week. You'll be prepared to handle anything that comes your way. You'll be in a good mood this week and capable of dealing with any challenges that arise. This week, you're in luck. In the second half of the week, consider investing in real estate. In the second part of the week, those in the business sector will have to deal with a number of

CONTD ON PAGE 33

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JAN 17 TO JAN 23, 2022

JAN 17 : Ganesha says you will receive great help and support from all of your loved ones and they will boost you with a lot of confidence. Especially your partner and your parents will be standing by your side today. Seeing the love and care that the people in your life have for you will make you happy today. Your business will make a huge profit today. That will keep you at ease for a long time in the future. You will have to work hard to make this profit today, especially towards the end. This was a tough client and work full of obstacles for you but the result is as rewarding as the work you have been doing.

JAN 18 : Ganesha says today is going to be a fabulous day for you. Positivity dominates your day today and you will be moving out of your comfort zone as well as socializing and stating your ideas more in your workplace. You will find finances in abundance today. Although there would be great earning potential, you must still be cautious about your hard-earned money. Budget and financial planning will help you not face any problems. You have always felt not good enough for the people in your life, today that feeling will change for the better as you start a journey towards self-love today. Expect positive surprises and a lot of appreciation from your partner. Just having an open conversation with your partner will make your day positive.

JAN 19 : Ganesha says new prospects in terms of sponsorship will help you move forward in your

business. Someone influential will give you the right guidance in your business today so keep your ears and mind wide open. Be extremely vigilant, with the new opportunities you receive today because if you do so the outcome will be positive for you today. Positive energies are there when you notice the little good things that keep happening throughout the day. Like your family checking up on you and your friends looking out for you. Those are the things that will make your day brighter today.

JAN 20 : Ganesha says a very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which is a good thing. Working with your team will be relatively easy today. Your work life will be the most positive part of your day. Your health is improving a lot today as well. Today you will feel more energized and healthy and ready to take on any task that comes your way. Your day will go fairly well today. Even though there are minor inconveniences that'll happen today. The sweet little gestures made by your loved one will keep you happy and satisfied throughout the day. Your health is on its way to improving as well today hence all in all you will be satisfied with how your day goes today.

JAN 21: Ganesha says you will receive a lot of compliments from your partner, friends and family because you have been the best working employee at work. You will be able to celebrate to the fullest today because your health will be amazing today, you will feel

like you're extremely energized and ready to dance the day away today. All of your hard work is acknowledged by your colleagues today because you will lead a very important meeting today and save your colleagues from getting into trouble hence everyone at work will be highly appreciative of you today. They will also help you out with your other projects today. Try spending as much time as you can build new connections and networking at your workplace as it will help you grow more professionally.

JAN 22 : Ganesha says today brings you adventure and a lot of travel in form of serendipity which is a positive thing. Taking time to explore new places will prove beneficial for your business as well as for your soul searching. If you do not get the stress and anxiety of the busy life get to you, you have improved a lot in life. Your life will just get a whole lot better today because of a new prospect and all of your colleagues will be jealous of you today. The stars are making you be the best you can be today. You'll be really happy today, thinking about the deal you closed today.

JAN 23 : Ganesha says you will have a good day today. Except for some minor issues nothing will bother you. You will make a lot of profit in your business today which is the positive aspect of your day for you. Your flexible nature will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. Use the tremendous energy you have today to focus entirely on yourself: your health, spirituality, goals and aspirations. Although you will be loved by your partner, you won't have time for anything and today you should focus on yourself.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JAN 17 TO JAN 23, 2022

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

competitors and their tactics. You've been daydreaming about a variety of dreams that you can make a reality this week. You're on the verge of meeting the proper person. You will be alright, although you may become fatigued this week. You need to look for yourself.



Capricorn

You've always been a man of your words, claiming to be capable of performing any task assigned to you. If you are provided the proper instruction in the first part of the week, you will have a major hit. Your versatility will aid you in accomplishing tasks and maintaining excellent health. Your ideas will not be beneficial at first, but they will ultimately assist you in taking a step into the corporate sector. Your financial situation will be unstable at first, and you will have to save money until then. You'll have a wonderful week with your loved ones, spending as much time as possible with them. This week, fresh doors to a new chapter of your partnership will open. You've been working on your physique but haven't seen any improvement. Never quit up and keep striving to achieve your goals.



Aquarius

This week is ideal for making great personal improvements. You'll need to strengthen your willpower by being more disciplined and focused on accomplishing your current duties. You will keep your promises and focus your efforts on your work. You will be having a better time with your family. This week, you must be cautious with

your spending. You must include in any tiny costs that might add up to significant sums. If you want to prevent financial difficulties in the coming week, you must exercise spending restraint. In the second part of the week, you'll come up with more tactics to boost your earnings. You'll keep your attention on your spouse and be aware of what they're going through at all times. This week, you'll keep the lines of communication open between the two of you. You will

spend some time with your companion. Your health is in excellent shape, and all you need to do now is rest. Yoga is something you should try.



Pisces

This week, you will be completely satisfied. You'll be satisfied with what you're doing. You may feel confident in attempting the new method, and you will be able to discover

a fresh aspect to everything. You will be recognized by higher-ups at the workplace, and you will be rewarded handsomely. Your previous troubles will come to an end this week, and you will be recognized for your efforts. When it comes to dealing with problems, you will be quite consistent.

Your connection will blossom this week as a result of your mutual trust. To feel more love, continue to establish more trust between you two. This week, you'll begin to care about yourself and seek for better ways to maintain your body in shape.

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Paush Purnima

The full moon day of Paush month is an important day in Hindu religion. The holy bath of Magh month begins with the full moon of Paush month. This day is considered auspicious in North India. On this day thousands of people take holy bath in the Ganges and Yamuna rivers.

On the full moon day of Paush month, thousands of people come to Haridwar and Prayagraj to take a holy bath in the river Ganges. Despite it being winter, people have to take a bath in the holy water of Maa Ganga. It is believed that by taking a bath in the Ganges on this day one gets rid of all sins and even attains 'Moksha'. Haridwar and Prayagraj have other major pilgrimage sites like Nashik, Ujjain and Varanasi.

Important information

Paush Purnima 2022

Monday, 17 January 2022

Purnima Tithi starts : 17 January 2022 at 03:18 AM

Purnima Tithi ends : 18 January 2022 at 05:17 AM

On the day of Paush Purnima, holy bath at 'Dashashwamedh Ghat' in Varanasi, 'Triveni Sangam' in Prayag, 'Har Ki Pauni' in Haridwar and 'Ram Ghat' in Ujjain is considered highly auspicious and important. It is believed that the holy dip on the auspicious day of Paush Purnima liberates the soul from the constant cycle of birth and death.

If a person cannot go to these pilgrimage places, then he can take a bath on this day before sunrise with the water of a river, pond, well, etc. could. After this Lord Vasudeva is worshipped. After the worship is over, after feeding the Brahmins, they send them away by giving donations. Lord Vasudeva is pleased with this.

Worship

Lord 'Satyanarayana' fast is also observed on the day of Paush Purnima and Lord Vishnu is worshiped with full devotion. After fasting for the whole day, the story of 'Satyanarayana' should be recited. Special prasad is prepared to offer to the deity. Finally an 'Aarti' is performed after which the Prasad is distributed among all. On the day of Paush Purnima, special 'Pushyabhishek Yatra' is celebrated in the temples of Lord Krishna all over India. Lectures on Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita are also organized on this day.

Fruit of Worship

Donating on the day of Paush Purnima is also very auspicious. It is believed that donations made on this day easily bear fruit. Under 'Anna Daan' free food is served to the needy in temples and ashrams.

Taking a bath in the Ganges on this day gets rid of all sins and even attains 'Moksha'.

Shakambhari Jayanti is also celebrated during Paush Purnima. The followers of ISKCON and Vaishnava sect begin the Pushyabhishek Yatra on this day.



The tribes living in rural areas of Chhattisgarh celebrate Charta Parv (Chhirta Parv) on Paush Purnima.

Paush Purnima Rituals

The first and the most significant ritual to be performed on the day of Paush Purnima is to wake up early and observe holy bath in a sacred river during sunrise. The religious practice of offering 'Arghya' to Lord Sun is performed as a part of the ritual.

After observing the holy dip, the observers are required to worship and offer prayers to 'Shiva lingam'. Devotees worship Lord Vishnu and keep a 'Satyanarayana fast'. They are required to recite the 'Satyanarayana Katha' and make sacred food which is offered to the deity.

To conclude the rituals, Aarti is performed and Prasad (sacred food) is distributed among the invitees.

Reading sessions for Bhagwad Gita and Ramayana is considered a significant ritual during this day.

Across India, 'Pushya Abhishek Yatra' is performed

in various temples of Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna.

People also perform several donations and charity work on this particular day of Paush Purnima where food, clothes, money and other essential things are provided to the needy people as a significant part of 'Anna Daan'.

Paush Purnima Vrat Vidhi

On this day, people take an early morning holy bath on the banks of sacred rivers

After this, they observe a Paush Purnima Vrat by abstaining themselves from eating food and drinking water

Then they perform Vishnu Puja either in temples or at their homes/workplace.

Once the Vishnu Puja is completed, devotees recite Satyanarayan Katha.

They chant 'Gayatri Mantra' or the 'Om Namoh Narayana' mantra for 108 times in a row.

The individuals then offer food and clothes to the needy.



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Madhya Pradesh: The heart of Incredible India

Madhya Pradesh got its name because of its geographical position, being located in the centre of India. However, its tagline 'The Heart of Incredible India' has more to do with the fact that it houses facets of the whole of India into this state. From the historical monuments to modern amenities, culture, food and people- this state gives a taste of entire India packed within its geographical boundaries.

Madhya Pradesh is one of the few states that is surrounded by other states on all its sides. It lies in the plain regions of the country and occupies one of the oldest parts of the Indian Subcontinent which was once the land of the Gondas called the Gondwana. Every twelve years the grand fair of Kumbh Mela is organised here. Madhya Pradesh has some spectacular historical places in its region, of which a temple made of glass in Indore is quite famous. Ujjain, a sacred city for the Hindus, is a renowned place in the world as it is one of 12 Jyotirlingas in India. Madhya Pradesh is particularly famous for its Khajuraho temples which exhibit the erotic sculptures depicting the ancient India Kama Sutra text. The great Sanchi Stupa constructed during King Ashoka's reign is situated here in Bhopal. The Bandhavgarh National Park which houses the Barasingha and the Tigers reserve is also located here.

Khajuraho

Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Madhya Pradesh, is known around the world for its stunning temples adorned by erotic and sensuous carvings. A small town located in the Bundelkhand region, Khajuraho is a brilliant example of Indian architecture and its culture back in the medieval period. The architecture of these Hindu and Jain temples depict the erotic forms of love, the carvings on the walls display passion in the most sensuous yet aesthetic ways. Built between 950 to 1050 AD the sheer confrontational nature of these carvings shows a stark paradox with the conventional Indian ideals about eroticism, leaving everybody spellbound.

Art in this small town is engrained in all of its structures and are a classic example of the finesse of India's cultural and artistic heritage. The best part about Khajuraho is that although scores of plunderers tried to destroy the whole complex, they could never succeed, even though they managed to reduce the number of temples and caves to 25 from a staggering 85 at the time it was created.

Pachmarhi

Pachmarhi is the only hill station and is the highest point in Madhya Pradesh. Pachmarhi is also often known as "Satpura ki Rani" or the "Queen of the Satpura Range". Situated at an altitude of 1,067 metres, the picturesque town is a part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home to leopards and bison.

Five sandstone cut caves on the hilltop are believed to be the spot where Pandavas stayed in Pachmarhi during their exile, making it a popular spot among religious tourists. Being at an



elevated height and surrounded by bewitching forests of the Satpuras with the streams and waterfalls, Pachmarhi is a perfect weekend getaway from the nearby cities of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Since the town was discovered and developed in modern times by Captain James Forsyth of the British Army, it houses charming churches built in colonial style

architecture.

Gwalior

Gwalior is a historic city located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Popular because of the hilltop fort, Gwalior is full of palaces and glorious temples giving this city a majestic charm which speaks volumes of its glorious past.

A historic city founded by king

Surajesan, Gwalior is a city where India's most eminent royalty once resided. Jai Vilas Pala has the largest carpet in the world which took almost 12 years to weave and two most massive chandeliers in the world that weight close to 3.5 tonnes.

The great Indian musician Tansen was born in Gwalior, and the tomb of Tansen is also an important place here. Every year, in November/December, a four-day Tansen Music festival is celebrated in the city where various classical musicians from all over the country perform on the stage near the tomb itself.

Visit the various monuments and museums, eat the local delicacies like namkeen and go boating in Tighra Dam while you are in the city.

Bandhavgarh National Park

Formerly a hunting ground for the Maharajas of Rewa, the Bandhavgarh National Park is world-renowned as a tiger reserve and it is known to have the highest density of Bengal tigers in the world. The frequent sightings of royal tigers make this national park a must-visit for all wildlife enthusiasts. In 2012, around 44-49 tigers were living in the park. There are more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of avifauna.

The park got its name from the Bandhavgarh fort situated at the height of 800 m high cliffs nearby. The fort is in ruins now, but an hour trek to the fort is worth it as it provides ample views of the surroundings. The jeep safaris are amongst the most popular activities taken by visitors.

Kanha National Park

Located in a central region of Madhya Pradesh, Kanha National Park is the largest National Park in central India and has been ranked as one of the best parks in Asia. Among the 22 species of large mammals, the royal Bengal tigers are one of the major attractions. One of the best tiger reserves in India, the present-day area stretches over the 940-kilometre square which is divided into two sanctuaries: Hallon and Banjar.

The park was established in the year 1955 and has since actively contributed to the preservation of many endangered species. The National Park was taken under the Project Tiger Reserve in 1974. Abundant in flora and fauna, the Kanha National Park houses one of the rarest species of deer- the Barasingha. It is known for the unique Barasingha conversation to save the species that were once on the verge of extinction. One of the most scenic wildlife reserves in Asia today, this National Park came to be known the world over through Rudyard Kipling's book- The Jungle Book.

Kanha National Park is famous for its wildlife safaris and attracts tourists from all over the world. Other important animals in this park are leopards, wild dogs, wild cats, foxes, sloth bears, hyenas, langurs, wild boars and jackals. Reptiles including pythons, cobras, krait and other varieties of snakes are also found in this National Park.

contd from page 1

Centers For Disease Control (CDC) urges citizens to wear 'most protective mask'

The United States leads the world in COVID-19 deaths - roughly 850,000 - even as it battles a surge of cases involving the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant. Complicating matters is the refusal of some Americans to get vaccinated.

President Joe Biden said on Thursday, January 13, that the federal government plans to make "high-quality masks" available to Americans for free. In another step, the White House on Friday said the government will begin shipping 500 million COVID-19 tests to Americans later this month without charge.

The CDC said it wants to encourage Americans to wear masks rather than push them to wear the highest-grade face protection. It said that "loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection."

"Masking is a critical public health tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and it is important to remember that any mask is better than no mask," the CDC added.

Virat Kohli quits Test captaincy, a day after series-defeat against South Africa

A massive controversy erupted when BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and chief selector contradicted Kohli's claims that that he was not asked to stay back as T20 captain.

"Everything has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test captain of India, it's now," Kohli wrote in a statement which he posted on Twitter, taking everyone by surprise.

"There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey but there has never been lack of effort or lack of belief." Interestingly, when Kohli had quit T20 captaincy, he had also posted his message on social media.

"It's been seven years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance every day to take the team in the right direction. I have done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there," he wrote in his statement.

Kohli led India to the top of the world rankings and during his tenure, the team recorded memorable series wins in England and Australia.

He is the fourth most successful captain in history of Test cricket (who have led in at least 20 Tests) in terms of wins behind Graeme Smith (53 wins in 109 matches) Steve Waugh (41 wins in 57 games) and Ricky Ponting (48 in 77 games).

In what turned out to be his last series as captain, Kohli was at the center of controversy during the third Test in South Africa as he vented his anger into the stump mic after a close DRS call for LBW went in favor of opposition skipper Dean Elgar.

"I have always believed in giving my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team," he said.

He hasn't had the best of relationship with the BCCI of late but took the opportunity to thank the establishment in his statement.

"I want to thank the BCCI for giving me the opportunity to lead my country for such a long period of time and more importantly to all the teammates who bought into the vision, I had for the team from day one and never gave up in any situation," he said.

He didn't forget to thank former coach Ravi Shastri with whom he made a very successful combination and the legendary Dhoni for their contribution.

"You guys have made this journey so memorable and beautiful. To Ravi bhai and the support group who were the engine behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test cricket consistently, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life."

"Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as a captain and found me to be an able individual who could take Indian cricket forward," he signed off.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Dhumal acknowledged Kohli's massive contribution to India's stellar run in the five-day format.

"Congratulations to @imVkohli on a tremendous tenure as #TeamIndia captain. Virat turned the team into a ruthless fit unit that performed admirably both in India and away. The Test wins in Australia & England have been special," wrote Shah.

"Congrats @imVkohli for a great tenure as captain. You have been a phenomenal leader and beyond doubt the most successful Indian captain be it home or overseas. I wish u great success in future and I'm sure you'll keep contributing with your top class batting for team India," wrote Dhumal. (Source: PTI)

Key Congressional panel clears nomination of LA mayor as US envoy to India

Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ruled that over 55 nominees were still pending before the committee and many challenges around the world are awaiting them.

"As I have said many times before this committee and on the Senate floor, prolonged vacancies are not in our interests. They undermine our national security, hinder our leadership role abroad and benefit only our adversaries," he said.

"Turning to the nominees we are considering today, I won't speak about each of them, but I do want to say that I believe they are all well qualified and deserving of their nominations. I will be voting for them and look forward to their swift confirmation," Menendez said.

Risch voted 'No' against the German ambassadorial nominee.

"I'm going to record a 'no' vote against Dr Guttman, but it is not personal. I stand ready to work with her and to strengthen our alliance with Germany. I also expect her to engage in efforts to stop the construction of the Nord Stream two pipeline. I am a no, not because of her qualifications," he said.

"Certainly, she's qualified, she's had a long and successful career, but I think that probably as with her position with the University of Pennsylvania, it really is a poster child for the ongoing and growing malign influence of China and at our institutions of higher learning, the University of Pennsylvania has accepted millions and millions of dollars in donations in contracts from China," Risch said.

"The issue of foreign influence, particularly that of the Chinese, in US higher education institutions is very important to this committee and we have made efforts and we continue, and I have worked with the chairman on this to pursue efforts to put a stop to this. And it is important. We do so the University of Pennsylvania is a large organization, but I remain troubled," he said.

After Biden's nomination, Garcetti had said he was honored to accept the nomination and will bring the same energy, commitment and love with which he served the sprawling city to his new role in the world's largest democracy.

"Today, the President announced that I am his nominee to serve as US Ambassador to India. I am honored to accept his nomination to serve in this role," Garcetti, a Democrat, had said in a statement soon after Biden announced his nomination.

He has travelled several times to India, most recently as a councilman. In college, he spent a year studying Hindi and Urdu.

"It's the largest democracy in the world, soon to be the most populous country in the world, one of the top handful of superpowers in the world," Garcetti said.

"We can't get our climate goals without India hitting its climate goals. We can't see the economy truly reopened to international commerce and tourism until COVID is under control. We're all very closely connected," he told the Los Angeles Times in an interview.

During 12 years as an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve Component, Garcetti served under the Commander, US Pacific Fleet and the Defense

WOMAN PUSHED ONTO SUBWAY TRACKS DIES; ELECTED OFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN AND INDIGNATION

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A woman was killed on Saturday, January 15 morning after she was pushed in front of an oncoming subway train at the Times Square station, the police said. The woman was standing on the platform around 9:30 a.m. waiting for the train to arrive at the station at 42nd Street in Manhattan, the police said. As a Brooklyn-bound R train pulled into the station, she was pushed onto the tracks and struck by it.

She died at the scene, the police said. Her name was not immediately released. Officers took a man who they said may be homeless into custody shortly afterward, and he was still being questioned at around 11 a.m., the police said. A second man was also being interviewed, the police said.

The woman who was killed was Asian, though it was unclear whether she was targeted because of her race or ethnicity. Unprovoked attacks on Asian Americans during the pandemic, including several in the subway system, have stoked fear and anger in New York and elsewhere, with activists and elected officials pointing both to mental illness and the impact of rhetoric blaming the coronavirus on China.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Intelligence Agency, retiring in 2017 as a Lieutenant.

Garcetti has also served as a national co-chair of Biden's presidential campaign.

Commenting on his nomination, the Los Angeles Times wrote that the ambassadorship in President Biden's administration gives Garcetti a new career path, away from electoral politics.

(Source: PTI)

Republican senator supports waiving CAATSA sanctions against India

"Both are important systems for the Indians," he said on Wednesday, January 12, during a confirmation hearing for James O'Brien for the position of the State Department coordinator for Sanctions Policy.

"India is a vital ally in our competition against China, and thus, I believe we should resist taking any actions that might drive them away from us and the Quad. I am therefore strongly supportive of waiving CAATSA sanctions against India, given our shared foreign policy interests," Senator Young said.

"As most here know, the Indians have a lot of legacy systems from previous decades, and they are interoperable with the Russians' systems. And the Indians seek to defend their land border from Chinese incursions and defend the Indian Ocean from an increasingly adventurous and lawless blue ocean navy in the People's Liberation Army," he said.

The Indiana senator asked O'Brien if the US experience with Turkey provided any warning or lessons on how to proceed with India.

"I believe they are very different circumstances, and, of course, different security partnerships -- but how do you believe we should think about the possibility of sanctioning our friends and not just threats," he asked.

In response, O'Brien said it is difficult to compare the two situations, with a NATO ally that is breaking with legacy defense procurement systems, and then with India, a partner of growing importance, but that has legacy relationships with Russia.

"The administration has made clear that it is discouraging India from proceeding with the acquisitions of Russian equipment, and there are important geostrategic considerations, particularly with (unintelligible) relationship to China. So, I think we have to look at what the balance is. And, of course, India's got some decisions in front of it, so it would be premature to say more. But this is something I look forward to working with you and other interested members," O'Brien said. (Source: PTI)



India Open: Malvika Bansod beats her idol Saina Nehwal to enter quarters

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Malvika Bansod was so overawed on Thursday that she made it a point to not look at the face of her opponent, get distracted and lose. On the other side of the net was her idol Saina Nehwal, whose career the 20-year-old has religiously followed ever since she saw posters of the former world No.1 at a state-level tournament nine years back.

But that didn't stop Bansod from becoming only the second Indian after PV Sindhu to defeat Nehwal in an international tournament. In the domestic circuit, Aparna Popat was the last to beat the two-time World Championship medallist 16 years ago at the senior national championships in Bengaluru.

"It has not sunk in yet," said Bansod, sounding ecstatic. "It was a dream come true to play against her in such a big event. Saina has been my idol because she has been the flag-bearer of women's badminton in India for more than a decade. That's the reason why I took up badminton. When I started out, I used to get overawed by her game, style of play and power."

Chelsea ease past Tottenham Hotspur into League Cup final

Chelsea beat London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 thanks to Antonio Rudiger's first-half goal to complete an emphatic 3-0 aggregate triumph in the League Cup semi-final on Jan 12. Leading 2-0 from last week's one-sided first leg at Stamford Bridge, defender Rudiger gave Tottenham a mountain to climb when he bundled home from Mason Mount's corner in the 18th minute.

Tottenham battled hard in search of a route back into the tie but it was not to be their night as two penalties awarded either side of halftime by Andre Marriner were both overturned after VAR interventions. To rub salt into their wounds Harry Kane also had a goal ruled out for offside after yet another VAR check. Chelsea, who face Manchester City in the Premier League on Saturday, eased off in the second half but were comfortable enough in the end and will try to claim the League Cup for a sixth time in the final against Liverpool or Arsenal.

Young Petersen comes of age as SA beat India by 7 wickets to win Test series

CAPE TOWN (TIP)

A South African team going through one of its toughest transition phases embarrassed a star-studded Indian team with a clinical seven-wicket victory in the third Test to clinch a memorable 2-1 series triumph here on Friday, Jan 14.

The target of 212 wasn't a tough ask and starting the day at 101 for two, young pretender Keegan Petersen (82, 113 balls) along with Rassie van Der Dussen (41 not out) added 54 runs for the third wicket to seal the match before Temba Bavuma (32 not out) helped in putting the final touches.

Sunil Gavaskar termed it as a "Nightmare for India" as they were not even close to competing in the last two Tests and Dean Elgar's ear to ear grin and the bear hugs that he shared with his teammates said it all.

It was especially sweet for the hosts who lost premier pacer Anrich Nortje to injury before the series and were then hit by Quinton de Kock's sudden mid-series retirement.

The Indian team, meanwhile, lost it in their mind after the contentious DRS review of Elgar that went wrong on Thursday and their focus on using stump microphone more to take digs at broadcaster Supersport instead of than focussing on getting Petersen out spelt their doom.

With this series defeat, India's record of never having won a Test series in the Rainbow Nation for three decades, remained intact.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the only India captain to have managed a drawn series back in 2010.



South Africa's Dean Elgar with Keegan Petersen. REUTERS

It was one of the strongest Indian teams on paper against one of the weakest South African teams on paper.

However, the operative word here was "on paper" as Elgar's unheralded bunch showed a lot of character in punching above their weight and also getting heavily rewarded for their relentless efforts.

The mindless chatter and incessant sledging didn't bother the likes of Petersen and Van der Dussen as they went about their job in a thoroughly

professional manner. India's batters were far too dependant on bowlers to bail them out for the past few years but this series showed that this attack is human too even though they put their best foot forward, which wasn't complemented at all by the willow wielders. The only hope for India was the first spell from Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami in sultry conditions with the semi-new ball and they did their bit with all sincerity.

Source: PTI

Aus Open: Australia cancels Novak Djokovic's visa again

MELBOURNE (TIP)

Novak Djokovic's visa was once again cancelled by Australia on Friday. He still has the option of a legal challenge to avoid deportation and defend his title at Australian Open.

The Australian government cancelled Djokovic's visa saying that the World No. 1 is unvaccinated for COVID-19 and may pose a risk to the community.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke used discretionary powers to again cancel Djokovic's visa, after a court quashed an earlier revocation and released him from immigration detention on Monday. "Today I exercised my power under section 133C(3) of the Migration Act to cancel the visa held by Mr Novak Djokovic on health and good order grounds, on the



Djokovic was included in the Australian Open draw on Jan 13, though uncertainty hangs over his participation

basis that it was in the public interest to do so," Hawke said in a statement.

Djokovic's lawyers are expected to appeal the cancellation in the Federal Circuit and Family Court as they successfully did after the first cancellation. It is the second time Djokovic's visa has been canceled since he arrived in Melbourne a week ago to defend his Australian Open title.

His exemption from a COVID-19 vaccination requirement to compete was approved by the Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, the tournament organizer. That allowed him to receive a visa to travel.

But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa upon arrival in Melbourne. He spent four nights in hotel detention before a judge on Monday overturned that decision.

Army hoists world's biggest national tricolor hoisted in Jaisalmer



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR (TIP): The world's biggest national tricolor, 225 long, 150 feet wide and weighs about 1000 kg, was on Saturday hoisted on the Jodhpur National Highway in the Jaisalmer Military area to mark the 75th year of Indian Independence.

On the occasion of Army Day, on 15

January 22, the Southern Command unveiled a Monumental National Flag at Jaisalmer Military Station.

The Flag has been manufactured by M/s Khadi Dyers and Printers, a befitting tribute to the Indian heritage as the flag is made of hundred percent Khadi material. The hoisting of flag also commemorates the 75th year of India's Independence



being celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, according to a defense spokesman here.

GOC 12 RAPID unveiled the national flag amidst select dignitaries who were amongst those present. The monumental national flag has been prominently displayed and is clearly visible from a distance of several kilometers.

This monumental flag showcases the pride and aspiration of people of our country with an aim to knit all citizens in support of glory and spirit of nationalism. The flag hoisting was followed by national anthem and military band display. This initiative of Army to inculcate patriotic fervor amongst citizens in the border region is being widely appreciated.

Gurmat Sangeet legend Prof Kartar Singh passes away



Prof Kartar Singh
WhatsApp Image

LUDHIANA / NEW YORK TIP: Padma Shri awardee Gurmat Sangeet legend Prof Kartar Singh (94) passed away in Ludhiana on January 2, 2022, according to a belated report.

Prof Kartar Singh won several prestigious honors for his contribution to Gurbani, which he had been practicing since the age of 13 and was specialized in the popular classical music form of 'tanti saaz'. He was one of the few 'Gurmat Sangeet' legends, who pursued music teaching.

He was a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the highest Indian recognition given to practicing artists, and the Tagore Ratna Award. He also won the Punjab government's Shiromani Ragi Award and the Punjabi University's Gurmat Sangeet Senior fellowship.

Kartar Singh was given the Sikh Lifetime Achievement Award in London in 2011 and nominated to the Top 100 Global Sikhs by the Sikh Directory in the United Kingdom.

He wrote five books on Gurmat music, with a total of over 40,000 copies, published by the SGPC. Two of his books are under publication.

Born at Ghummanke village in Lahore on April 3, 1928, Kartar Singh completed graduation and post-graduation in music (vocal and instrumental) from Panjab University, Chandigarh.

On December 20, Ludhiana deputy commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma handed over the Padma Shri award to Kartar Singh at the Dayanand Medical College & Hospital (DMCH), Ludhiana, as health issues had prevented him from attending the function in Delhi.

Kartar Singh is survived by his daughters Manjit Kaur and Sukhbir Kaur, sons Amarjit Singh and Amritpal Singh, daughter-in-law Amarjit Kaur, and grandchildren.

The staff at The Indian Panorama condole Major Ahluwalia's demise and pray for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Mountaineer Major HPS Ahluwalia dies at 85



Major HPS Ahluwalia



NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Indian mountaineer and Padma Shri Awardee Major HPS Ahluwalia has died at the age of 85. The Indian Spinal Injuries Centre founder breathed his last on Friday, January 14, 2022, according to a statement released by the Center. The statement said that Ahluwalia was a trained mountaineer, a retired army officer, a social worker, and an author who gave his contribution in several fields that include disability and social work, sports, adventure, and environment.

Born on November 6, 1934, in Punjab, HPS Ahluwalia's full name was Hari Pal Ahluwalia. HPS was among one of the six men in India who climbed Mount Everest. He was the world's twenty-first man to do so. Along with Phu Dorjee Sherpa and HCS Rawat, he made the fourth and final attempt of the 1965 Indian Everest Expedition. This also became the first time when a total of three climbers stood together on the summit. After his advanced training which he took at Himalayan

Mountaineering Institute, the author climbed extensively in Nepal. Hari Pal was brought up with his two younger brothers and sisters in Shimla.

HPS Ahluwalia is survived by wife Bholi Ahluwalia and their daughter Sugandh Ahluwalia.

Condoling Ahluwalia's death, New Jersey based lobbyist Harry Singh Panaser said, it is "sad that Chairman ISIC, Maj HPS Ahluwalia, passed away on 14 Jan 2022 due to cardiac arrest. An avid mountaineer and a keen adventure enthusiast, Maj Ahluwalia left an indelible mark in many fields including adventure, sports, environmental, disability and social work. He was awarded Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri & Arjuna Award for his contributions.

I convey my heartfelt condolences to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

May the departed soul rest in peace."

The staff at The Indian Panorama condole Major Ahluwalia's demise and pray for eternal peace to the departed soul.

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