



## The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will publish a profusely illustrated multicolored edition to mark the birth of Khalsa and the festival of harvest- Vaisakhi on April 13, 2022.



Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by April 5, 2022. For any questions, please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or call 646-247-9458.

### FIRST WOMAN US SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT DIES AT 84

US President Joe Biden ordered flags at the White House and other federal buildings and grounds to be flown at half-staff



In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Albright the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, saying her life was an inspiration to all Americans.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Madeleine Albright, a child refugee from Nazi- and then Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe who rose to become the first female secretary of state and a mentor to many current and former American statesmen and women,

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## Ukraine and Russia Closer to Ending War as Understanding Reached in Four Areas: Erdogan

NEW YORK (TIP): A March 25 Newsweek report has quoted the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying that Ukraine and Russia have reached an understanding on four of the six main topics of disagreement, including NATO, partial disarmament, collective security and Russian language, bringing the two warring countries a step closer to resolving the conflict.

Ragip Soylu, Turkey bureau chief of Middle East Eye, reported the news in a tweet on Friday. However, there is still no agreement on Crimea and Donbas, two eastern areas of Ukraine that Russia sees as its own territory. In 2014, Russian troops annexed Crimea before claiming it as Russian land. contd on page 32



Vladimir Putin, Volodymyr Zelensky

### Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM; 52 ministers also sworn in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP leader Yogi Adityanath, during the swearing-in ceremony of the latter as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, in Lucknow on March 25, 2022. Photo / PTI

and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar were also present on the occasion. Yogi was sworn in along with 52 ministers, including Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brijesh Pathak as Deputy CMs, all hand-picked by Modi and Shah keeping in mind regional and caste equations and giving representation to all sections.

The Yogi 2.0 council has 16 Cabinet ministers, 14 ministers of state with independent charge and 20 ministers of state. There are 31 new faces in the government. Twenty-four ministers from the first term have been dropped.

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READ MORE STORIES ON PAGE 14

### Foreign Secretary Shringla calls for alignment between UN, League of Arab States

#### UNITED NATIONS

(TIP): Speaking at a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS), Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said India and the Arab world share a "civilizational relationship", as he welcomed the normalization of relations between countries in the region and reiterated India's support for a two-state (i.e., Palestine and Israel) solution. Officials said the Foreign Secretary's visit to the United Nations to attend the meeting was an indicator of the close relations India shares with the United Arab Emirates, given that the session about the U.N. cooperation with the League of Arab Nations is a "signature event" of the UAE's presidency this month at the Security Council.



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla spotlighted Middle East peace process while battling for a two-state solution in Israel-Palestine conflict during the UN Security Council meeting on Cooperation between UN and Regional Organizations (League of Arab States) on March 23, 2022. Photo / Twitter@MEAIndia

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**GUEST COMMENT**

**Birbhum killings**

**CULTURE OF VIOLENCE THE BANE OF BENGAL POLITICS**

Turf wars and bloodshed are synonymous with West Bengal politics, particularly during the election season, with successive governments often fanning the flames rather than dousing them. The killing of eight persons, including two children, in Birbhum district -apparently in retaliation for the murder of a Trinamool Congress (TMC) panchayat leader - adds another tragic chapter to this never-ending saga of violence. The Calcutta High Court has ordered a CBI investigation into the gruesome incident, even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - in the damage-control mode - got a TMC block president arrested and pulled up the local police for not acting in time. The Birbhum horror has provided the BJP, the state's main

Opposition party, ample ammunition to target the ruling TMC. Even though the TMC has promised to cooperate with the CBI, the fierce inter-party rivalry and Centre-state tussle seen in recent years do not bode well for a free and fair probe.

The Left, during its decades-long rule in Bengal, banked on violence and coercion to force its rivals into submission. It was Birbhum that had witnessed the lynching of 11 laborers in July 2000 during Jyoti Basu's tenure, while more than 20 lives were lost in clashes during the 2008 panchayat polls. The Mamata-led TMC has inherited this unenviable legacy of repression. With the BJP gaining ground in Bengal on the back of its strong performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the two parties

have frequently locked horns, right from the top brass to the grassroots-level workers. Last year's Assembly elections were also marred by bloodshed, with four voters falling to bullets fired by Central security personnel.

The onus is on all stakeholders to discourage the culture of violence that is not only a blot on Bengal but is also impeding the state's progress. It needs political will to rein in the cadres and uphold the rule of law. With warring parties relying on muscle power to silence their detractors, it would be a Herculean task to weed out the criminal elements and help Bengal turn over a new leaf.

(Tribune, India)

**GUEST COMMENT**

**India holds its own: Justified in resisting US pressure over Russia**

Singling out India among the Quad members, US President Joe Biden has said that New Delhi has been 'somewhat shaky' in acting against Russia over the invasion of Ukraine. There is nothing 'shaky' about safeguarding national interests - and that is exactly what India has been doing, holding its own amid relentless pressure from the US and its allies. The country's 'independent foreign policy' has won praise from an unexpected quarter - Pakistan - but it is obvious that America is not happy with New Delhi's assertion of strategic autonomy. India's decision to import Russian oil at discounted rates to meet its urgent needs has also riled the US, again unreasonably.

India's diplomatic tightrope walk

underlines a pragmatic response in view of its time-tested relationship with Russia. The enduring strength of the bilateral ties was witnessed during an in-person summit meeting between PM Modi and President Putin in December last year, when the two nations signed a pact on military cooperation for a 10-year period. What heightened the summit's significance was its timing: it was held in the golden jubilee year of the historic Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, which had stood India in good stead during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.

Russia continues to be the topmost arms supplier to India, even though its share in the total imports has dropped from 69 per cent to 46 per cent over the past half a decade, according to a report

released recently by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Wedged between China and Pakistan, both dodgy neighbors, India cannot afford to compromise on its defense preparedness. It's here that old ally Russia has been playing a critical role with its unstinting military-technical support. The threat of US sanctions did not stop India and Russia from going ahead with the S-400 missile deal. With America having a finger in virtually every multilateral pie - be it Quad, AUKUS or the prospective alliance with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan - New Delhi is adopting a wise course by keeping its options open and not abandoning its time-tested ally.

(Tribune, India)

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# Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons Administers Oath of Office to GOPIO-CT 2022 Team

**STAMFORD, CT (TIP):** "Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) - Connecticut Chapter is a very important service organization for Stamford," said Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons at the launch of GOPIO-CT 2022 activities on Friday, March 4 at the Stamford Hampton Inn and Suites.

The activities for 2022 was inaugurated by the chief guest for the evening Indian Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal in the presence of several organizations which provide services to the larger society such as Women's Mentoring Network, Future 5, Children's Learning Center, Building One community, Grassroots of Norwalk/Stamford and Stamford Public Library. Also present was India's Deputy Consul General in New York, Dr. Varun Jeph.

The inaugural event started with a prayer and a moment of silence for the victims of Russia's war in Ukraine. It was chaired by GOPIO-CT Vice President Prasad Chintalapudi who said in his initial remarks, "GOPIO-CT is a group of like-minded individuals with a commitment for community services."

Earlier in the day, a GOPIO delegation met Mayor Caroline Simmons and offered help to the city to attract businesses from India to start outfits in Stamford. Mayor endorsed and thanked GOPIO-CT for this effort.

GOPIO International Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, who is also an advisor and trustee of the chapter, highlighted GOPIO-CT's outstanding service activities such as replenishing and financially supporting many food pantries during the Covid period.

"Of all 100+ GOPIO chapters worldwide, GOPIO-CT is number one in organizing the largest number of activities in the last several years and complimented the chapter officials for their new initiatives every year, adding new programs in its schedule."



Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons administering Oath of Office to the new 2022 team of GOPIO-CT Officials. From l. to r.: Joe Simon, Prasad Chintalapudi, Ashok Nichani, Mahesh Jhangiani, Dr. Jaya Daptardar, Srinivas Akarapu, Anita Mathur, Pachi Narayan, Prof. Sushanth Gadkar-Wilcox, Sushanth Krishnamurthy and Vikas Mathur

The new team introduced by Dr. Abraham is headed by Ashok Nichani as President. Other officials are Prasad Chintalapudi, Executive Vice President; Dr. Jaya Daptardar, Vice President; Prachi Narayan, Secretary; Mahesh Jhangiani, Jt. Secretary; Srinivas Akarappu, Treasurer; Anita Bhat; Immediate Past President; Board Members: Meera Banta, Fr. Sudhir DeSouza, Prof. Ravi Dhingra, Prof. Sujata Gadkari-Wilcox, Santosh Gannu, Pradeep Govil, Ram Jhunja, Sushanth Krishnamurthy, Anita Mathur, Vikas Mathur and Ashvini Persaud; Trustees: Bhavna Juneja, Thomas Abraham (Secretary & Comptroller), Shailesh Naik, Totty Narang, Joe Simon and Shelly Nichani

Mayor Simmons administered the Oath of Office to the new team. Mayor Simmons said that Stamford is looking for Indian companies to set up business outfits and that her administration will look into assigning a Cricket Field in Stamford to serve new immigrant groups from cricket playing countries.



GOPIO-CT officials with India's Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal and other dignitaries. From l. to r.: Vikas Mathur, Clif McFeely, Prasad Chintalapudi, Amanda Dubois-Mwake, Don Strait, Dr. Varun Jeph, Marc Jaffe, Suresh Sharma, Dr. Jaya Daptardar, Prachi Narayan, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Ashok Nichani, Srinivas Akarapu, Consul General Jaiswal, Lana Gifas, Yelena Klompus, Betsy McNeil, Prof. Sujatha Sujata Gadkari-Wilcox and Anita Mathur

"New immigrant groups have always enriched Stamford," Simmons added.

The newly re-elected GOPIO-CT President Ashok Nichani in his formal welcome address said that last year the chapter organized some programs in person and this year most programs will be in person and hope to have the Annual Awards Banquet in June.

GOPIO-CT Treasurer Srinivas Akarappu introduced the Chief Guest Consul General Jaiswal who in his remarks complimented GOPIO-CT for its outstanding list of activities every year.

"We have met Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling and now Mayor Simmons, and the Consulate will interact with them for attracting Indian businesses to Connecticut and American businesses to India," said Consul General Jaiswal. He also said that the US-Indian relations are still going strong with cooperation in several areas.

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

## AFTER SHOOTING, COMMUNITY RALLIES AGAINST ILLEGAL AIRBNB

**BAYSIDE, NY (TIP):** After a shooting outside a Bayside house on Saturday, March 19th that left one person injured and sent stray bullets into the surrounding community, piercing cars and a nearby child's car seat, residents, community leaders and elected officials rallied to call on Airbnb to permanently ban listings at this address, and for the city to issue a vacate order on the home.

For the last two years, the property, located at 208-16 38th Avenue, Bayside, has been in the early stages of foreclosure and occupied by squatters who have illegally rented it out through Airbnb. Residents report that the illegal rentals have given rise to a constant barrage of late-night parties causing excessive noise, litter, as well as harassment and confrontations with area residents. Concerns culminated this past weekend when a partygoer was shot in the torso. The victim is in stable condition, but no arrests have been made. As the investigation continues, the community is calling for the city to finally put an end to the neighborhood nightmare. Elected officials wrote letters to the Department of Buildings calling for a vacate order, and to Airbnb calling for the company to permanently ban listings at this address.

NYS Senator John Liu said, "We are calling on the city to stop giving our community the run around and issue a vacate order on this property before anyone else gets hurt. We also call on Airbnb to stop illegally allowing this property to be listed on their website. Two years is too long for our community to have one home

hold an entire block hostage. These are not just simple quality of life issues, but serious public safety hazards that need to be addressed immediately."

Community leaders called on the city to redouble its efforts so it can gain access and properly inspect the home.

Liu said, "There are several problems at this location that are preventing a satisfying resolution for our community. From Airbnb allowing its illegal rental to the squatters taking advantage of the situation. At the end of the day, the city needs to be the one to step up and recognize the dangers here as reason enough to vacate the premises and keep our community safe."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng said, "This recent shooting in Bayside has shaken our community and has made me deeply concerned about public safety in the area. Airbnb needs to immediately step up and permanently stop this vacant property from being listed on its website. Allowing it to continuously be posted is unacceptable. Neighborhood residents must not have their safety put at risk and their quality of life disrupted. This problem must be addressed at once, and my colleagues and I stand shoulder to shoulder with the community as we push Airbnb for answers."

Assemblyman Edward Braunstein said, "The pattern of disregard and disrespect shown by the individuals squatting at the single-family residence on 38th Avenue escalated to violence last week when illegal Airbnb guests brazenly opened fire on the surrounding streets, putting neighbors in danger and their nerves on edge.

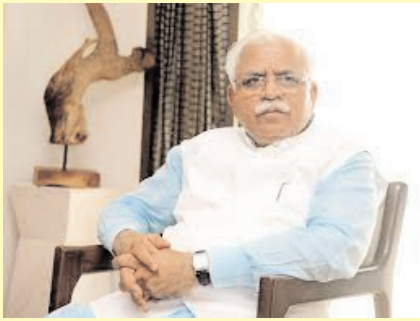


Senator John Liu said, "We are calling on the city to stop giving our community the run around and issue a vacate order on this property before anyone else gets hurt. We also call on Airbnb to stop illegally allowing this property to be listed on their website."

For the last two years, an absentee property owner has emboldened these squatters to not only illegally list this property on Airbnb, but openly advertise rooms for rent within the single-family home. Enough is enough. Several times in the past, my office has worked with residents to get Airbnb listings at the property shut down, only for it to appear again under another account. While authorities continue their investigation to apprehend the individuals responsible for the shooting, Airbnb must permanently ban listings at this location. As we plan next courses of action, I will continue close collaboration with fellow elected officials, the Mayor's Office, the 111th Precinct, City agencies and local residents. We must use every tool at our disposal to address this serious matter once and for all."

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

**INDIAN AMERICAN MAN APOLOGIZES FOR THREAT TO HARYANA CM**



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar received threats from US based Sandeep

**NEW YORK (TIP):** US-based Sandeep, alias Mipa Bangru of Narar village, apologized through a video message for using abusive language and threat to the CM and Haryana Police. Sandeep and his family was booked under sedition charges and IT Act.

In today's video, he also accused the police of harassing his family by detaining them. "I apologize to the CM and the Haryana Government for my words, which I had said under the influence of liquor," said Sandeep in the video message. "I am ready to be hanged if my family is found involved in my mistake. Their phone calls can be checked and they did not have any involvement in it. My family members have been detained by the police," he added.

Maqsood Ahmed, SP, denied the allegations of detaining any family members. "We had registered a case under Sections 124A, 294, 506, 120B of the IPC and IT Act against Sandeep and his four family members as the former's video went viral on the social media in which he was using obscene remarks against the police and the CM. Investigation is on and the police did not detain any family members," said SP Ahmed.

"We are in correspondence with the authorities concerned for the revocation of passport and to deport him from the US," he said.



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**Indian-origin student's boyfriend charged with her murder in London**

**Nirpal S Shergill**

**LONDON (TIP):** A 22-year-old Tunisian man who was arrested earlier has been charged with the murder of Indian-origin student Sabita Thanwani and appeared in custody at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court in London on Tuesday. Maher Maaroufe, who the police said had been in a relationship with the student, was hunted down by Scotland Yard after the discovery of Thanwani's body in her student accommodation in Clerkenwell area of London on Saturday.

He was arrested on suspicion of the 19-year-old psychology student's murder and assault on Sunday. A post-mortem examination carried out at Whittington Hospital in London on Monday gave the cause of Thanwani's death as sharp force trauma to the neck, the Metropolitan Police said.

"Detectives investigating the death of Sabita Thanwani in Clerkenwell have charged a man with murder. Maher Maaroufe, 22, of no fixed address, has also been charged with assaulting an emergency worker," the Met Police said in a statement.

"Detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command are investigating and



Sabita Thanwani  
Photo credit/ news.met.police.uk

continue to provide support to Sabita's family," the statement added.

Thanwani, a British national, was found with serious injuries to her neck at Arbour House student flats in Clerkenwell area of London and pronounced dead at the scene on Saturday. On Monday, her family paid tribute to their "beautiful and irreplaceable angel" whose life was cut

"tragically short".

The family said: "Sabita was the most caring and loving person we have ever known. She inspired us every day of her precious 19 years of life. Her mission was to help everyone.

"She was studying psychology at City University to make this happen. Her whole life was ahead of her, a life where her radiant smile and incredible heart could only spread warmth and kindness."

Over the weekend, the Met Police had issued an urgent manhunt for Maaroufe, who had reportedly been with Thanwani on Friday.

"Maaroufe had been in a relationship with Sabita but he was not a student. He is a Tunisian national of no fixed address," Detective Chief Inspector Linda, who is leading the investigation, had said in her appeal.

A spokesperson for City, University of London said it was working closely with Unite Students, which runs the student accommodation where the body was found. "As a university, we will do everything we can to support our students and staff and we will continue to fully support the police with their investigation," a university spokesperson said. (Source: PTI)

**INDO- CANADIAN GANGSTERS A HEADACHE FOR PUNJAB POLICE**

**AMRITSAR / TORONTO (TIP):** Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh Landa has around 20 criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, firing and NDPS Act, registered against him.

He originally hails from Harike in Tarn Taran district. Despite the fact that he was facing a number of criminal cases, he managed to escape to foreign shores a couple of years ago, thereby raising a question mark on the intelligence.

The Punjab Police have started procedure for his extradition and opening of red corner circular against him. A senior police official said gangsters, including Landa, who had escaped to foreign shores had become a headache for the Punjab Police. They have been running an extortion racket in association with their accomplices. As they contact each other through social media it is not easy to nail them.

Though Tarn Taran police had registered only one FIR, there has been several complaints against him in which he extorted huge amounts while threatening traders, colonizers, doctors, hospital owners and other rich people in the region as ransom.



Canada-based Punjabi gangsters are a headache for Punjab police.

Image for representational purpose

His name also figured during the interrogation of gangster Daya Singh, aka Preet Sekhon, who was nabbed in a joint operation by Amritsar rural police and Organized Crime Control Unit (OCCU) in July last year.

He along with his aide Jarmanjit Singh, alias Nikka Khaduria, of Chamba Khurd village in Tarn Taran, was nabbed in Chamari village of Ajnala. The police seized five country-made

pistols, double barrel rifle and three mobile phones and a car from them. They also arrested Gurlal Singh of Kamalpur village in Tarn Taran for sheltering him.

During his probe, it was found that Preet Sekhon at the behest of Landa had extorted amounts to the tune of several crores from at least 25 persons which were deposited in a foreign bank account of an international-level Hawala operator.

Ironically, victims prefer not to lodge a complaint fearing for their lives, police sources said.

Landa's name was also figured as a key conspirator in the killing of two Akali workers in Patti last year. Immediate after the incident, Tarn Taran police wrote to the Central Government for issuing red corner circular against him.

Gulneet Singh Khuranna, SSP, Tarn Taran, said they had urged our higher officials for taking up the matter with the Central Government for speeding up the process of opening red corner circular against him for his extradition. Besides Landa, the police have also received a complaint against another fugitive gangster, Arsh Dhalla, for demanding ransom, he said.

# Indian American Punjab-born Shree Saini is 1st runner-up at Miss World pageant

**SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (TIP):** Indian American Shree Saini was crowned the first runner-up at the Miss World 2021 beauty pageant held in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Thursday, March 17. The coveted Miss World title was won by Karolina Bielawska.

The Indian-American, who represented the United States, has shared a heartfelt note on overcoming facial burns and heart defect. She said that her triumph could encourage and inspire people to defeat their daily challenges.

Shree Saini, 26, added that she was representing not just herself but also "333 million Americans, billions of Indian immigrants" at the global event.

Hailing from Ludhiana in Punjab, her family moved to the US when she was just 5 years old. By 12, she had a permanent pacemaker implanted after she was diagnosed with a rare heart condition. She also had a serious accident that left her with facial burns, but Ms Saini did not allow these troubles to hold her back from realizing her potential.

"I hope my story of overcoming facial burns and



Shree Saini (third from left) said she was representing not just herself but also "333 million Americans, billions of Indian immigrants" at the global event.

heart defect, can encourage people to overcome their daily challenges," she said in an Instagram post, just before the grand finale of the Miss World pageant.

## INDIAN-AMERICAN DIPLOMAT PUNIT TALWAR APPOINTED US ENVOY TO MOROCCO



President Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian-American diplomat Punit Talwar as the country's ambassador to Morocco.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian-American diplomat Punit Talwar as the country's ambassador to Morocco.

Talwar, who is currently a senior advisor at the State Department, has held senior national security and foreign policy positions in the State Department, the White House and the Senate, the White House said as it announced several other senior administration positions.

He previously served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director at the National Security Council, and as a Senior Professional Staff Member at the Committee on Foreign Relations in the United States Senate. Talwar's public service also includes key roles in the US House of Representatives and the State Department's Policy Planning Staff.

Outside of government, he has been a Senior Fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute, a Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Penn Biden Centre, a Counsellor to the conflict resolution NGO InterMediate, and a non-resident Scholar at Georgetown University's Centre for Security Studies.

Talwar earned his BS Degree in Engineering from Cornell University and his MA in International Affairs from Columbia University. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a native of Washington, DC.

## INDIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION ECOSIKH PLANTS 400 SACRED FORESTS AS PART OF CLIMATE ACTION



EcoSikh has been planting trees in India and other parts of the world as part of its climate action.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A US-based Sikh organization has announced the planting of 400 forests in India and other parts of the world as part of its climate action. According to the announcement made on the occasion of Sikh Environment Day (SED), EcoSikh said it has planted a forest of 1150 trees in Ireland and of 500 trees in Derbyshire, the United Kingdom.

In addition, a forest of 250 trees was planted in Surrey, Canada. EcoSikh, based out of Washington DC, has collaborated with local governments and gurdwaras in its projects. This campaign started in 2019 when Sikhs celebrated his 550th birth-anniversary, EcoSikh said in a statement on Saturday. "The Sacred Forest project has become a community-based initiative and many hundreds have joined this massive grass roots campaign all across the globe.

This is a solid step to mitigate the effects of climate change and the good news is that all trees planted are surviving in these thriving forests," said Rajwant Singh, EcoSikh (USA), the founder and global president.

He said over the last 36 months, EcoSikh has planted forests in many states across India including, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and in Jammu. Each forest has 550 trees of native species.

These forests are planted following the Japanese Miyawaki methodology and are tagged on Google maps all across Punjab and India, he said. Every year hundreds of Sikh institutions and Gurdwaras all across the world celebrate SED by taking step to reduce carbon footprints and to save water and energy.

EcoSikh released a tool kit for the community to take action on SED which includes organic langar, nature walk, switching to LED bulbs and solar panels.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN ECONOMIST JAYATI GHOSH NAMED ON UN HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BOARD ON MULTILATERALISM



Jayati Ghosh has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** Indian -origin development economist Jayati Ghosh has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.

Ghosh, 66, is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.

UN chief Guterres on Friday, March 18, announced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism to be co-chaired by former Liberian president and Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish prime minister Stefan Lofven.

Ghosh has been named to the 12-member board, which will be supported in its work by the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University in close coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

In January last year, Ghosh was appointed by Guterres, along with 19 other thinkers and personalities from around the world, to a high-level advisory board to provide recommendations for the UN Secretary-General to respond to current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-Covid world.



# Indian American Forum

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# St. Patrick's Day Parade Returns to Glen Cove

**GLEN COVE, NY (TIP):** Glen Cove's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is always a great way to celebrate the holiday, but this year's parade was extra special since it has been three years since the event was able to take place due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Festive music played and performers entertained spectators along the parade route, which was marked with green shamrocks and lined with hundreds of spectators who were waving and cheering on the parade marchers. Most were wearing green beads and clothing and many adorable children and pets were on hand to enjoy the festivities.

Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton is especially proud to march in the parade since it began

in 1989 when her father Don DeRiggi was the Mayor of Glen Cove. He started the parade in part because his wife Millie (nee Murphy) has always been proud of her Irish heritage.

"This parade is such a terrific event that everyone enjoys whether they're Irish or not," Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton said. "It is wonderful to see all of the marchers, entertainers and spectators who get so excited about this great Glen Cove tradition!"

Delia also congratulates the parade's Grand Marshal Gerry Herbert and Aides to the Grand Marshal Carolyn Masterson McGillicuddy and Eric Hill and thank the parade committee who all worked so hard to make the day such a terrific success.



County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (center) with her mother Millie (Murphy) DeRiggi and father Don DeRiggi following Glen Cove's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Photo/ Peter M. Budraitis

## NYIC Applauds Council Member Hanif's Introduction of Resolution Demanding Health Insurance Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants

**THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE CHAIR BRINGS UP COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS A880A/S1572A**



Council Member Shahana Hanif (District 39)

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** On March 23, Council Member Shahana Hanif, alongside Council Members Francisco Moya, Shaun Abreu, Linda Lee, and Lynn Schulman, introduced a resolution calling on the New York State legislature to pass A880A/S1572A also known as the Coverage For All Act. If passed, this legislation would allocate \$345 million to create a quality and affordable healthcare plan for the nearly 150,000 low-income undocumented New Yorkers. Modeled off of similar plans in California, Minnesota, and Illinois, this plan would save the state \$19 million and potentially hundreds of lives every year. With dozens of cosponsors on both the Assembly and Senate versions of the legislation, the Council's resolution adds pressure on Albany to take action on the needs of working-class immigrants before the looming budget deadline.

"Council Members Shahana Hanif, Shaun Abreu, Linda Lee, Francisco Moya, and Lynn Schulman's resolution comes at a crucial moment in our coalition's battle for healthcare justice for New York's immigrant communities," said Murad Awawdeh,

Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition. "Each of these leaders embodies the incredible diversity of our city and understand the terrible costs that blocking healthcare coverage can cause. We thank the NYC Council for standing up not only for the immigrant New Yorkers in their districts but across the state. We call on Governor Kathy Hochul and the state legislature to listen to these leaders and include Coverage for All in the state budget."

"The Coverage For All plan will improve health outcomes for millions of immigrants and save our state millions every year. This is not only morally sound legislation, it's smart public policy," said Council Member Shahana Hanif. "For nearly two years during the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of low-income undocumented workers have been essential to our state without just compensation. The historic Excluded Workers Fund kept many from losing everything, but it's legislation like the Coverage For All plan that will fundamentally transform the lives of thousands of working families. I'm proud to introduce this resolution alongside my Council colleagues and make it clear that this Council knows immigrant rights are human rights."

"Two years into this pandemic, a quarter-million immigrant New Yorkers are still uninsured despite being disproportionately impacted by the pandemic's health and financial tolls," said Comptroller Brad Lander. "Our state has the opportunity to expand health care coverage for all, which will be a boon to our recovering economy and to working families. *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

## Rye Ophthalmologist Ameet Goyal Sentenced to 96 Months in Prison for Seven-Year Healthcare Fraud Scheme and Covid-19 Loan Fraud

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced March 3, 2022 that AMEET GOYAL, M.D., ("GOYAL") an ophthalmologist in Rye, New York, was sentenced to 96 months in prison for orchestrating a seven-year healthcare fraud scheme by falsely billing for millions of dollars of upcoded procedures, and also for fraudulently obtaining two



Ameet Goyal's greed has led him to prison

Government-guaranteed loans intended to help small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic while he was facing charges on pretrial release for the healthcare fraud scheme. In imposing the sentence today, U.S. District Judge Cathy Seibel noted, "Fraud doesn't fully capture how blatant this was and how unjustified this was... This was not about need, it was about greed." GOYAL previously pled guilty to all charges in a six-count superseding Indictment before Judge Seibel on September 13, 2021.

In addition to the prison term, GOYAL was sentenced on March 3, 2022 to five years of supervised release, and ordered to pay forfeiture of \$3.6 million and restitution of \$3.6 million. GOYAL has already paid approximately \$1.79 million toward these obligations.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "A prominent ophthalmologist and oculoplastic surgeon who has now surrendered his medical license, AMEET GOYAL was blinded by greed. Over a seven-year period, he preyed on the trust placed in him and cheated patients and insurance companies of \$3.6 million in false charges. To cover his tracks, he created fictitious operative reports, seeded across hundreds of patient files, violating the integrity of patients' medical records and making it more difficult for

subsequent doctors to evaluate their care. He sent patients who could not pay the upcoded bills to a collection agency, decimating their credit. He pressured other doctors to join the scheme and threatened to retaliate against their livelihood and careers. Even after being arrested for this scheme, GOYAL committed a breathtaking new fraud and stole \$637,200 from the Paycheck Protection Program in the early days of a devastating pandemic. For his crimes, GOYAL will serve a substantial sentence in prison."

**According to the allegations contained in the Indictment, court filings, and statements made during court proceedings:**

At all relevant times, GOYAL owned and operated the ophthalmology practice Ameet Goyal M.D. P.C., doing business as Rye Eye Associates, with offices in Rye, Mt. Kisco, and Wappingers Falls, New York, and Greenwich, Connecticut (the "Practice"). Between 2010 and 2017, GOYAL engaged in widespread healthcare fraud by consistently "upcoding" simpler, lower-paying surgical procedures and examinations as complex, higher-paying major operations in fraudulent billings submitted to Medicare, private insurance companies, and patients. As a result, GOYAL fraudulently obtained at least \$3.6 million in payments for procedures he did not perform. GOYAL failed to obtain proper and, at times, any consent for the uncoded procedures he falsely claimed to have performed. As part of the scheme, GOYAL routinely falsified patient medical records, authoring fictitious templated operative reports that matched the complex operation he billed rather than the different minor procedure he actually performed.

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

# Is Victory for Ukraine Worth Risking Nuclear War?

BY PATRICK J.  
BUCHANAN



**"THE UKRAINIAN WAR, NOW A MONTH OLD, HAS DEMONSTRATED THE UTILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. PUTIN'S CREDIBLE THREAT TO USE THEM HAS CAUSED THE U.S. AND NATO TO FLATLY REFUSE KYIV'S REQUEST TO PUT A NO-FLY ZONE OVER UKRAINE. AND AS RUSSIA'S THREAT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAS DETERRED NATO FROM INTERVENING ON UKRAINE'S SIDE IN THIS WAR, OTHER NATIONS WILL NOT MISS THE MESSAGE: POSSESSION OF NUKES CAN DETER EVEN THE GREATEST NUCLEAR POWERS. THE LONGER THIS WAR GOES ON, THE GREATER THE SUFFERING AND LOSSES ON ALL SIDES. THOUSANDS OF UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ARE ALREADY DEAD, WITH 10 MILLION UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMES, A THIRD OF THAT NUMBER HAVING FLED INTO NEIGHBORING STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE. THE LONGER THE WAR GOES ON, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD PUTIN RESORTS TO INDISCRIMINATE BOMBING AND SHELLING TO KILL OFF THE RESISTANCE, AND THE GREATER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WAR EXPANDS INTO NATO EUROPE."**

The question remains: "When did the relationship between Russia and Ukraine become a matter of such vital interest to the U.S. that we would risk war, possible nuclear war, with Russia over it? How did we get here?"

**During the 70 years that the Soviet Union existed, Ukraine was an integral part of the nation.**

Yet this geographic and political reality posed no threat to the United States. A Russia and a Ukraine, both inside the USSR, was an accepted reality that was seen as no threat for the seven decades that they were united. Yet, today, because of a month-old war between Russia and Ukraine, over who shall control Crimea, the Donbas and the Black and Azov Sea coasts of Ukraine, America seems closer to a nuclear war than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

**Why? Time to step back and reflect on what is at stake.**

Exactly what threat does Russia's invasion of Ukraine present to us that is so grave we would consider military action that could lead to World War III and Russia's use of battlefield nuclear weapons against us?

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly hinted at the use of such weapons, should NATO intervene in the Ukraine war and Russia face defeat, or in the event of an "existential" threat to the Russian nation.

We hear from our moral elites that morality commands us to intervene to save the Ukrainian people from the ravages of a war that has already taken thousands of Ukrainian lives.

But what would be the justification for U.S. military intervention in Ukraine, absent a congressional authorization or declaration of war? Consider: The year the Liberal Hour arrived in America with the New Deal, 1933, a newly inaugurated Franklin D. Roosevelt formally recognized Joseph Stalin's murderous regime as the legitimate government of a Russia-led USSR.

FDR met personally with Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov even as the Holodomor, the forced starvation of Ukrainian peasants and small farmers, the kulaks and their families, was far advanced.

Walter Duranty, the New York Times reporter in Moscow, won a Pulitzer for covering up that crime of the century with its estimated 4 million dead. The question remains: When did the relationship between Russia and Ukraine become a matter of such vital interest to the U.S. that we would risk war, possible nuclear war, with Russia over it?

**How did we get here?**

We got here by exploiting our Cold War victory as an opportunity to move NATO, our Cold War alliance, into a dozen countries in Central and Eastern Europe, up to the borders of Russia. Then, we started to bring Ukraine into NATO, the constituent republic of the old Soviet Union with the longest and deepest history with Mother Russia.

**Thus, while Putin started this war, the U.S. set the table for it.**

We pushed our military alliance, NATO, set up in 1949 to contain and, if necessary, fight Russia, 1,000 miles to the east, right into Russia's face.

In the 1930s, when Britain's Lady Astor was asked if she knew where Hitler was born, she answered: "Versailles." At the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which produced the Versailles Treaty, millions of Germanic peoples and the lands they had inhabited were severed from German rule and distributed to half a dozen nations across Europe.

When we get back on our feet, we will take back all that we have lost, said Gen. Hans von Seeckt of the German General Staff.

We hear warnings that if Russia uses chemical weapons in Ukraine, NATO will react militarily. But if no NATO ally is attacked, why would NATO respond to a Russian attack on Ukraine? Though outlawed today,

**YET, TODAY, BECAUSE OF A MONTH-OLD WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, OVER WHO SHALL CONTROL CRIMEA, THE DONBAS AND THE BLACK AND AZOV SEA COASTS OF UKRAINE, AMERICA SEEMS CLOSER TO A NUCLEAR WAR THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS OF 1962.**



Smoke billows from a military warehouse at Kalynivka in Vinnytsia region of Ukraine after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced 'Special Military Operation' in Ukraine.

chemical weapons were used by all the major participants in World War I, including the Americans.

**As for atomic weapons, only Americans have used them.**

And while we did not introduce the bombing of cities - the British and Germans did that - we did perfect the carpet-bombing of cities like Cologne, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden and Tokyo.

The Ukrainian war, now a month old, has demonstrated the utility of nuclear weapons. Putin's credible threat to use them has caused the U.S. and NATO to flatly refuse Kyiv's request to put a no-fly zone over Ukraine. And as Russia's threat to use nuclear weapons has deterred NATO from intervening on Ukraine's side in this war, other nations will not miss the message: Possession of nukes can deter even the greatest nuclear powers.

The longer this war goes on, the greater the suffering and losses on all sides. Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians are already dead, with 10 million uprooted from their homes, a third of that number having fled into neighboring states of Eastern Europe.

The longer the war goes on, the greater the likelihood Putin resorts to indiscriminate bombing and shelling to kill off the resistance, and the greater the possibility that the war expands into NATO Europe.

Meanwhile, in the secure American homeland, 5,000 miles from Kyiv, there is no shortage of foreign policy scholars beating the drums for a "victory" over Putin's Russia and willing to fight to achieve that victory - right down to the last Ukrainian.

(The author is an American paleoconservative political commentator, columnist, politician and broadcaster. Buchanan was an assistant and special consultant to U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan, and was an original host on CNN's Crossfire).



# Opposition, Agitation, Rebellion and Change

**AAP WOULD HAVE TO, AND MUST REMEMBER THE PEOPLE'S TEMPERAMENT PERTAINING TO 'OPPOSITION, AGITATION, REBELLION AND CHANGE'.**

There has come about an upheaval in the echelons of power, in the strategically significant border-State of Punjab, which has been relegated to a dilapidated condition. In this context, it is noteworthy that many a stalwart veteran political bigwigs have been reduced to a shambles, having tasted crushing defeat in the recent elections. Amongst those who tasted bitter fruit are Prakash Singh Badal (five-time CM) Sukhbir Singh Badal (Supremo o Akali Dal) 'Raja' Amarinder Singh (former CM) Charanjit Singh Channi (CM for a couple of months) Navjot Singh Sidhu (State-Congress Chief) and Jasvir Singh Garhi (BSP State-President) while Ashwani Sharma (BJP State-boss) has emerged victorious. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been given a resounding mandate by the populace. Leaders have lost the contest and Punjab has won the battle. Has Punjab actually won, in reality?

Polling results for 117 seats in Punjab Assembly were declared on March 10. The State has 2.14 crore voters. In 2017, 70% voters had exercised their right to political franchise. This year, 71.95% people voted. Punjab was, apparently, dejected this time, as compared to 2017. A staggering number of 1,10,308 voters opted to accept 'notes', in exchange for votes.

AAP won a thumping 92 seats, BSP got 1, BJP 2, 1 Independent candidate won, Congress 18 and SAD was saddened at having bagged just 3 seats. Others including Leftist-parties, Kisaan Morcha and sundry outfits failed miserably while not evening opening their accounts. Could it be presumed that the overwhelming success of one party is a victory for AAP and the demolition of all other parties is a vote of disappointment against Congress and SAD? There was noticeable widespread public protestation, anger and a rebellious wave to effect massive change, by bringing about the downfall of 'the establishment'. All of these sentiments assumed the form of a volcanic eruption, which outpoured rivers of lava. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Dy. CM Manish Sisodia visit Hanuman Mandir and then tell their party-cadre that "this is the biggest Inquilaab" (revolution). Is it, truly, a "revolution"?

The percentage of votes was as follows : AAP 42, SAD 18.38, BJP 1.77, CPI 0.05, CPM 0.06, CPML 0.03, Congress 22.98, NOTA votes (none of the above) totaled 0.71, RSP 0.01. The maximum % of 42.01 was claimed by AAP which had received only 23.7% in 2017. Congress got 22.98 as against 38.5 in 2017. SAD recorded a fall from 25.2 to 18.38. BJP registered 1.77 compared to 1.5 last time. Out of 69 seats



Victors Bhagwant Mann and Arvind Kejriwal

in Malwa-belt, AAP captured 66. In this region, there was a strong presence of Kisaan protestors and a huge dejection against the previous governance by various parties or alliances. The farming community became a catalyst for Punjab's empowerment and for giving power to AAP. Whether 'Dera-following' or caste-politicking or religious machinations, nothing at all could succeed obstruct the wave of massive awareness amongst the people.

AAP reaped a rich harvest, on account of strong public resentment against the traditional parties, everywhere including the latter's bastions. AAP's slogan of "One Chance" resonated extremely well with the masses and their hearts were touched. Then, there were additional enticements like the National Coordinator's poll-promises, which included Rupees 1000/-, 300 free units and 24-hour uninterrupted supply of electricity. It was an emotionally charged election.

After the victory-laps are over, AAP shall have no ordinary, common promises to keep but would have a very special agenda to adhere to, in order to retain the faith and trust of voters who installed AAP at the pinnacle of power. AAP would not benefit from breaching this faith and betraying such trust especially when the Party has promised revolutionary measures for the good of Punjab. Special emphasis would have to be given to the extinction of the era of traditional fashion or trend of lineage-nepotism, as promised by AAP. The general message is that the public wants change in various spheres and desire public-welfare schemes to be implemented. People want to visualize government as public servants and not as monarchs or dictators.

The political texture had been entangled since long, whereby one privileged and affluent and powerful

segment was ruling the roost. 'Once upon a time' there used to be governance which was respected by the nomenclature of 'Divine Kingship', which was rejected by the people. Then came the era of Principalities, which also vanished. Finally, the era of democratic rule by majority votes came into effect but which was hijacked and misused by aristocrats, affluent ones and the 'high and the mighty'. The devastatingly excruciating results of such selfish machinations, by vested interests, are verily visible.

In 4 States of India, where polls were conducted, continuity and status-quo was maintained in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The winds of change were experienced in Punjab, where people were exasperated on account of rising rate of unemployment, rampant menace of drugs-influx, unresolved cases of repeated incidents of desecration of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, prevalent massive corruption, mal-administration and mafia-rule.

People in Punjab are becoming poorer. Farmers are giving up the non-profitable occupation of agriculture and are opting for labor-oriented vocations or they are migrating to other States. The farmers are pained to see their children flying abroad, in search of earning a livelihood. They are unable to envision the fulfillment of their aspirations, in Punjab, whose total annihilation they are pained to see. They are awaiting the manifestation of a miracle-of-sorts, to uplift Punjab out of the doldrums. Their foremost hopes rest on the politicians. For this sole reason, the people used their voting-prowess to ignite the 'vacuum-cleaner', instead of merely wielding the 'broom'. This gave a clean-sweep to AAP, thereby awarding Kejriwal-Mann-combine an unimaginable mandate. Similar power

BY GURMIT  
SINGH PALAHI



ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION  
BY AMARJIT  
SINGH ANAND

had been given, earlier, to SAD-BJP-alliance, which miserably failed to deliver, despite having 93 seats, that's 1 more than the seats gained by AAP, on its own. SAD-BJP bigwigs lost their reputation and image. People's Power of Peaceful Protest was well demonstrated in the electoral arena and the betrayers were uprooted.

The public rewarded those who were part of the successful year-long strenuous Kisaan-Morcha, on the borders of Delhi, which had forced the Central government to revoke the 'Three Black-Laws'. Those who appeared to be corrupt and double gamers were rejected outright, by the people. Punjabis have always adored those who lead from the front, those who fight for the people's rights, those fearless ones who are valiant to face the onslaught of the might of oppressors. Martyr Bhagat Singh and Martyr Kartar Singh Sarabha have always been their role-models. Whenever the Punjabis see someone brave as the Martyrs, they decide to follow and support such leaders. So, AAP is everywhere, and all others have been wiped out, without a trace. However, it remains to be seen whether this trust is respected and if such faith fructifies. Only time shall tell if the victorious leaders, most of whom have been selected from amongst traditional outfits, prove to be loyal to Common-Cause of Public-Good.

Amongst the people of Punjab, there's a general air of mistrust in the politicians. Unemployment is eating at their roots. There is intense frustration, irritation and bitterness in their mind, against mal-administration and there is immense resentment against those governing the State. The farmers are increasingly concerned about the fact that agriculture and agro-businesses are running into losses and their landholdings are receding, on account of the rampant influence of corporate-culture, which controls all political parties. Generally, the image of political leaders has been linked with nepotism, corruption, bribery, police-reports, violence, litigation et al. The politicians get votes by giving wind to communalism, fanning sentiments pertaining to religious bias. Would such intentions and policies of politicians change in Punjab? The people have given their verdict by bringing forward candidates with a clean image, who are expected to work on an agenda of growth, development, progress, to uplift the masses. People have favored the Delhi-model and would like to see it replicated in Punjab.

CONTD ON PAGE 10

# After Round One, what next for Bhagwant Mann & team?

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



It has been a mixed start- more cautious and less controversial- for new Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and his AAP government. The new government has gone through the initial Constitutional and ritualistic formalities by following the parliamentary and conventional practices.

Swearing in of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at Khatkar Kalan, the native village of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, was perhaps the first and the only deviation from the existing practice of holding the solemn ceremony mostly at Raj Bhavan or rarely at a public place, like a stadium.

Rest of the Constitutional mandates, including swearing in of members of the Council of Ministers, oath taking by members of new Vidhan Sabha, election of Speaker, and subsequently the opening session of the Legislature where Vote on Account and Interim Budget for first three months of the new financial year were all gone through by the laid down procedures.

Another deviation, if at all, was to defer debate on the Governor's address till the next session of the Assembly. The reason given was shortage of time as well as to give time to nearly 80 per cent members making their debut in legislative politics to go through the address and come prepared for debate on it after a break.

The next session will, in all probability, be held in June to pass the full budget for 2022-2023. The new Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema needs to sit with the senior functionaries of his department and other heads to decide allocations in consonance with the promises the ruling party has made to the electors of Punjab.

In between, members will meet by the end of the month to complete the formality of electing five new members of Rajya Sabha. The process of nomination has already been completed.

It is the filling of Rajya Sabha seats that has evoked criticism of the Opposition parties. The criticism, unanimous and vociferous, veered around naming of "outsiders" as representatives of the State in the Upper House of Parliament. Called the House of "Elders", Rajya Sabha members from Punjab have traditionally been senior members of major political parties,



Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann was administered the oath as chief minister of Punjab by the State Governor Banwarilal Purohit

especially of Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, and Bharatiya Janata Party.

This time, AAP, with a landslide mandate, has chosen faces that are mostly new to Parliamentary politics. Two businessmen, two political strategists and a cricketer will now represent the State in the House of "Elders".

These nominations bring to focus the role representatives of Punjab had been playing in both the Houses of Parliament - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Punjab has the distinction of sending several top political leaders, including Inder Kumar Gujral (who rose to be the Prime Minister of the country), besides several Union Ministers holding important portfolios like Defense, Home and Agriculture. These personal accolades apart, the State has generally remained without Statesmen leaders like Kapur Singh who remained steady and firm on demands and issues of the State.

While Inder Kumar Gujral is credited with waiving a part of the debt the State incurred in its fight against terrorism, other major demands, including autonomy to States, for which Punjab witnessed long spells of agitations, both peaceful and armed, were generally swept under the carpet.

Over the years, or to be precise after Independence, the State has lost control not only of its new capital

Chandigarh (that it built after losing Lahore to Pakistan), but also control on its river waters, power projects like Bhakra and Beas dams and institutes like Panjab University, Punjab Engineering College and the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

Going by the record of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the pitch for these long-standing demands appears to have been lost. Compromises, generally for power, were made and to fight Centre for backing out of its commitments, including transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab in mid 80s, none of its representatives, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ever made a sincerely noticeable effort. Even the sacrifice of Darshan Singh Pheruman in support of these demands was ignored.

No doubt Punjab is an agricultural State, but it does not mean that it does not need industry for its overall economic development. When militancy was at its peak, several incentives, including industrialization, were promised. But none of these promises, including development of Sri Goindwal Sahib, as an industrial hub in the border belt were kept. Instead, the State witnessed a flight of industry to neighboring hilly States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in general. Even at that time, the pitch of the protest raised by Punjab MPs was so frivolous as to be audible elsewhere.

No one will support outsiders to represent the State in Parliament. The million-rupee question is "Are our political parties and their bigwigs acting at the behest of the State or are just appeasing a section of their loyalists at the cost of the State?"

Answers may generate an animated debate about the practices followed in the past viz a viz recent action of the first-time ruling group. Whatever be the outcome, the State needs a government that works for finding solutions to its vexed and long-standing demands besides attending to its conjugal problems.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis please visit [probingeye.com](http://probingeye.com) or follow him on Twitter.com/probingeye. He can be reached at [prabhjot416@gmail.com](mailto:prabhjot416@gmail.com))

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## Opposition, Agitation, Rebellion and Change

Aam Aadmi Party has members drawn from various spheres and there are many who give precedence to power, over and above working for public-good. They speak their own language and have their own opinions. Although the people of Punjab are not in any kind of a hurry, but they are, certainly, emotional and have the capability of analyzing those whom they have selected and elected. People shall judge the new government on the parameters of concrete policies, programs, performance, deliverance of results and they would not be content with living on mere minor concessions. The Central government is constantly maneuvering to destabilize the structure of 'State-autonomous sphere of functioning'. What would be the stance of AAP, on this point? What would be the policy of AAP, on the issue of Punjab's river-waters? What would be the approach and attitude of AAP, towards

mitigating the sufferings of the unemployed youth, thereby ameliorating their condition? What would be the views and measures of AAP, regarding the farming community?

For AAP and for CM Bhagwant Mann, the major thrust areas are : presenting a budget whereby public-welfare schemes are offered; decision-making, implementation and functioning, free from the shackles of Central domination; providing an honest and transparent governance; taking effective action on sentimental-issues; giving priority to growth and development projects; working towards having a clean Punjab. These would be some of the major and primary tasks and challenges, for CM and his cabinet and for his party-cadre. Punjab is under severely exorbitant fiscal debts. Would there be effective control exercised over the mafia, ruling the land and construction sector? Would the CM be able to break free from the 'High-Command-culture', and work independently, as per the localized needs

and requirements? Would the CM bid adieu to the party or be chucked out, just as Sukhpal Khaira, Kanwar Sandhu or Dharamveer met their fate?

AAP claims that it shall uplift Punjab economy from the throes of financial debt and red tape. Would the CM face a challenge while dealing with leaders drawn from 'traditional-culture' parties?

AAP would have to bravely face the greatest challenge of tackling major emotional issues, including farming, migration and booking the culprits who are guilty of desecration of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, with sheer grit and determination.

No doubt, AAP has been victorious in Punjab. Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann have risen in stature, nationally. Kejriwal has harbored ambitions of entering Punjab politics and his aspirations have seen fruition. Punjab is a challenge for him, now.

Then, the question also arises whether the Delhi-model, especially on health and education, could possibly be replicated successfully, in Punjab. The culture, heritage and lifestyle conditions in

Punjab are at variance with Delhi. Punjabis differ in their thought-process, from the folks in Delhi. People in Punjab have, now, started confabulating amongst themselves and have started questioning the politicians, openly and increasingly. The success of Kisan-Morcha has effectively impacted the awareness-levels of the common folks in Punjab. People have rejected the 'Supremo-culture' of high-handedness, practiced by politicians. People of Punjab are no longer ignorant, indifferent and unaware; they do not refrain from expressing dissent and disagreement, in crystal-clear terms.

AAP would have to, and must remember the People's temperament pertaining to 'Opposition, Agitation, Rebellion and Change'.

(The author is an India based retired Principal and a well-known columnist. He is President of Punjabi Columnists Patrakar Manch. He can be reached at [gurmitpalahi@yahoo.com](mailto:gurmitpalahi@yahoo.com))

(New York based Amarjit Anand is a writer, thinker and an Ambassador for Peace. He can be reached at [amar1ujagar1pritam@gmail.com](mailto:amar1ujagar1pritam@gmail.com))

# Taliban cancel girls' higher education despite assurance

**KABUL (TIP):** In a surprise decision, the hardline leadership of Afghanistan's new rulers has decided against opening educational institutions to girls beyond Grade six, a Taliban official said on March 23 on the first day of Afghanistan's new school year.

The latest setback for girls' education is certain to receive widespread condemnation from the international community that has been urging the Taliban leaders to open schools and give women their right to public space.

Words don't match actions

Taliban statements are often different from their actions. No one should believe Taliban have stopped blocking girls from secondary education until evidence shows that to be the case. —Heather Barr, Human Rights Watch

The unexpected decision came late on Tuesday as Afghanistan's education ministry prepared for the New Year opening of school, which was expected to herald the return of girls to school. A statement by the ministry earlier in the week urged "all students" to come to school.

However, the decision to postpone a return of girls going to school in higher levels appeared to be a concession to the rural and deeply tribal backbone of the hardline Taliban movement, that in many parts of the countryside are reluctant to send their daughters to school.



Girls have been banned from school beyond Grade six in most of the country since the Taliban returned to power in mid-August. In the capital, Kabul private schools and universities have operated uninterrupted.

The religiously driven Taliban administration fears going forward with enrolling girls beyond Grade 6 could erode their base, said Waheedullah Hashmi, external relations and donor representative with the Taliban-led administration. "The leadership hasn't

decided when or how they will allow girls to return to school," Hashmi said. While he accepted that urban centres are mostly supportive of girls' education, much of rural Afghanistan is opposed, particularly in tribal Pashtun regions.

In some rural areas a brother will disown a brother in the city if he finds out that he is letting his daughters go to school," said Hashimi, who said the Taliban leadership was trying to decide how to open education for girls beyond Grade 6 countrywide. — AP

## FIRE TRIGGERS BLASTS AT PAKISTAN MILITARY DEPOT

**LAHORE (TIP):** A series of powerful explosions rocked the border city of Sialkot after a fire was triggered by short circuit at a military depot on March 22. The incident created panic amongst the people, sparking rumours that the key army installation had been targeted by terrorists.

The accidental fire broke out in an ammunition shed near Sialkot garrison, about 100-km away from Punjab province's capital, Lahore.

Pakistan Army's media wing, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), in statement said, "Due to short circuiting, an accidental fire broke out in an ammunition shed near Sialkot Garrison. No loss of life. Effective and timely response contained the damages and fire has been extinguished." The Pakistan Army did not share any further details regarding the incident.

According to reports, the explosions rocked the city at 6 am. Fire brigade and Rescue 1122 reached the spot and doused the fire after several hours.

When asked about damages, a spokesperson for the Rescue 1122 said that only the military was authorised to speak on the matter. — (PTI)

## Pakistan PM Imran Khan praises India's 'independent foreign policy'

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Prime Minister Imran Khan on March 22 lauded India for following an "independent foreign policy", saying it imported crude oil from Russia despite American sanctions. Khan, a fierce critic of the ruling NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, spoke highly of the Indian foreign policy.

In his address to a public rally in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, he told his supporters that he would like to praise the neighbouring country India as it was having an "independent foreign policy". Khan said that India, which is a part of Quad, has imported oil from Russia despite American sanctions.

The prime minister said that his foreign policy would also favour the people of Pakistan.

"I haven't bowed before anyone and will not let my nation bow either," said Khan, who is rallying public support ahead of a no-confidence vote against him in Parliament.

Breaking from the tradition of not openly discussing complicated matters relating to foreign relations in public rallies, Khan mentioned that he had said "absolutely not" to the EU envoys



seeking Pakistan's support against Russia in the Russia-Ukraine conflict because "they broke protocol by making the request".

He said that Pakistan would have gained nothing by complying with the EU's request.

"We became part of America's war against terror in Afghanistan and lost 80,000 people and USD 100 billion," he said.

It is for the second time he spoke against a statement by the EU and other Western countries asking Pakistan earlier this month to condemn the Russian intervention in Ukraine.

In his previous address, Khan had also asked the EU if it would make a similar demand to India. (PTI)

## NO-TRUST MOTION AGAINST PAK PM KHAN ADJOURNED

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan National Assembly's crucial session on a no-trust motion against embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan was adjourned on March 25 without tabling of the resolution, amid vociferous protests from opposition lawmakers.

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser said that the session was adjourned till 4pm on March 28 due to the demise of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmaker Khayal Zaman on February 14.

According to Pakistan's Parliamentary conventions, the first sitting after the death of a lawmaker is limited to the prayers for the departed soul and tributes from fellow lawmakers. Several prominent opposition members, were in Parliament House on Friday to participate in the much-anticipated session. — (PTI)

## SRI LANKA DEPLOYS MILITARY AT FUEL STATIONS AMIDST SHORTAGE



**COLOMBO (TIP):** Army personnel were deployed at all fuel stations run by Sri Lanka's state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation on March 22 amidst a shortage that led to long queues of consumers.

Military spokesman Nilantha Premaratna said that military personnel were deployed to monitor the distribution of fuel at the filling stations and maintain law and order among the consumers, reports Xinhua news agency.

He said two military men were deployed at every fuel station as people had to stand in queues for as long as several hours.

Three people died with one person killed in recent days while standing in the fuel queues in different parts of the country, leading to a tense situation in several areas.

The government has assured that fuel would be distributed sufficiently and the required stocks were now arriving without disruption in the country.

Sri Lanka is facing a fuel shortage due to a foreign exchange crisis which the government says is being resolved by seeking economic relief from friendly nations. IANS

# Navy Pier, Delhi committee of Chicago Sister Cities partner for celebration of Holi



Consul General Amit Kumar, Mrs. Surbhi Kumar, Pratima Shah, Chicago Mayor Lightfoot, Indian Community Leader Niranjn S. Shah and Smita N. Shah, Chairman of the Delhi Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** First time a large metropolitan city in the United States, Chicago, celebrated the Indian festival of Holi, with over 2000 people in attendance which included live cultural program, music and dances, food and drinks, and color throwing.

"The Delhi Committee of Chicago Sister Cities is thrilled to partner with Navy Pier for this event so that Chicagoans and visitors can participate in the celebration of Holi, a holiday that marks new life and energy," said Smita N. Shah, Chairman of the Delhi Committee

of Chicago Sister Cities International, Director on the Navy Pier Board of Directors, and CEO of SPAAN Tech, Inc. "How fitting that we can celebrate this one-of-a-kind event on our beautiful lakefront, with Mayor Lightfoot, in the city blessed by Swami Vivekananda." Also in attendance were Consul General Amit Kumar, Indian Community Leader Niranjn S. Shah, Pratima Shah, and ABC 7 News Reporter, Ravi Baichwal.

Ravi Baichwal of ABC7 News, provided a welcome for attendees and served as the master of ceremonies. The



Bhangra Dance

celebration was the last of three events in the Global Connections series at Navy Pier presented by ComEd, which previously hosted events celebrating the Chinese New Year and International Carnivale.

"Chicago is a global city, and this partnership is a perfect example of that," noted Mayor Lightfoot. She also thanked Smita N. Shah for her commitment to the citizens of Chicago, leadership of the Delhi Committee, and for her appointment by President Biden to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Delhi's position as a sister city to

Chicago demonstrates the strong relationship between India and the city as well as the cultural importance of the established Indian American community to the Chicagoland community. Under Smita Shah's leadership, the Delhi Committee of Chicago founded the Annual Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi Luncheon in 2014, honoring the long-standing exchange of ideas between Mahatma Gandhi and the U.S., and the ever-important principles of truth and non-violence. Shah also helped secure the designation of October 2nd as Mahatma Gandhi Day in Chicago.

(Photographs and Press release /Asian Media USA)

## Canadian Politics: Bobby Singh in race for Conservative leadership

BY PRABHJOT SINGH IN BRAMPTON, CANADA

**BRAMPTON (TIP):** Born and brought up in Scarborough, Bobby Singh, has joined the Conservative leadership race. He comes from an immigrant Punjabi family and is one of nine candidates so far in the run.

Canada's Conservatives will have their new leader elected by Saturday, September 10. In choosing its third leader in five years, Conservative Party of Canada members have a tough decision to make as the party has not done well in the federal elections in the recent past. Though it looks a battle of wits featuring Mr Pierre Poilievre, Mr Jean Charest, Mr Patrick Brown, and Ms Leslyn Lewis, others who have entered the race so far include Mr. Roman Baber, Mr. Joseph Bourgault, Mr. Scott Aitchison, Mr. Marc Dalton, and Mr. Bobby Singh.

Prospective candidates will have until April 19 to apply to enter the leadership election. The candidates will provide a total entry fee of \$200,000, in addition to a compliance deposit of \$100,000 which is refundable after the election is concluded.

Only those members who are enrolled on or before June 3 shall be eligible to

vote. The last election in 2020 took little longer as it was conducted by postal battle because of the Corona pandemic.

Bobby Singh had unsuccessfully contested election to the House of Commons in 2019 from Scarborough Rouge Park. He was also in the run for the party leadership in 2020 before retiring from the contest in favor of another candidate Peter MacKay.

Early this week, Jagmeet Singh, who became the first non-white immigrant to head a national party - NDP - was in news after signing an agreement with the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that keeps the minority Liberal government in office till completion of its full term in 2025.

Bobby Singh jumped in the fray even before the NDP-Liberal agreement was signed. At one stage there were speculations that once the Conservatives have a new leader, it may challenge the minority Liberal government to force yet another federal election. Now after the NDP-Liberal agreement, speculations of an early federal poll have more or less disappeared.

The Conservative leadership election has been necessitated after Erin O Toole, elected in 2020, was forced to quit early

this year.

"The son of immigrants, I am a proud Canadian of the Punjabi Sikh community and have lived my entire life in the district of Scarborough, specifically 30 years as a resident in Scarborough Rouge Park. I have watched this community mature and transition, from being a predominantly English-Canadian community to now representing multiple minority groups accounting for over 56% of the population with South Asians serving as the largest visible minority," Bobby Singh had stated before contesting the 2019 federal elections.

He claims to be a successful entrepreneur - business professional with nearly two decades of experience in launching start-up businesses. He says he has also worked within financial, retail, government, and consumer packaged goods industries advising stakeholders within customer service, finance, and strategy capacities.

In 2016 he expressed interest to run as a candidate in the Ontario Scarborough Rouge River provincial by-election. Subsequently, in 2017 he sought appointment to Toronto City Council.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts and



Bobby Singh is in the race for Conservative leadership

Science degrees in Finance-Economics and Psychology from the University of Toronto, a Master of Business Administration degree from the Schulich School of Business, York University, and a Master of Public Policy Administration and Law degree and Graduate Diploma in Justice Administration from the School of Public Policy, York University.

Pierre Poilievre declared himself a candidate for Canadian Prime Ministership even before the election process for Conservative leadership was announced. He had tweeted:

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

# BOLLYWOOD NOSTALGIA OPENS 24TH NYSJ FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

"SHALOM BOLLYWOOD" opens the 24th edition of the New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF).

The Festival returns April 3-7, 2022 at the Moise Safra Center located at 130 East 82nd Street, New York City.

The NYSJFF ([nysephardicfilmfestival.org](http://nysephardicfilmfestival.org)) returns this year, celebrating its 24th anniversary, with movie premieres, award ceremonies, filmmaker Q&As, a fashion show with Elie Tahari, and live music! This special edition is presented in partnership with the prestigious Moise Safra Center, located at 130 E 82nd St, from 3-7 April 2022.

Join the Festival for films about Greater Sephardic experiences in India, Morocco, Greece, Israel, Spain, Germany, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Brooklyn!

**ASF Pomegranate Award Winners in attendance:**

André Aciman (Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature)

The Marvelous Ms. Maazel's Caroline Aaron (Lifetime Achievement for Acting)

Lainie Kazan (Lifetime Achievement Award for Acting)

The Blacklist's Amir Arison (Achievement Award for Acting)

Neta Elkayam (Achievement Award for Music)

Violetta Salama (Ronit Elkabetz, A"H Rising Star)

**The NYSJFF :** The American Sephardi Federation's NYSJ Film Fest showcases contemporary voices steeped in Greater Sephardic communities' history, traditions, and rich mosaic culture. The Pomegranate Awards Ceremony on Opening Night celebrates Sephardi excellence in the arts. Past recipients include Senior Counselor to the King of Morocco André Azoulay, French-Algerian recording legend Enrico Macias, filmmakers Lisa Azuelos and Elie Chouraqui, and Film producer Said Ben Said, fashion designer Elie Tahari, legendary actor Sasson Gabay, among others.

The Pomegranate Award, sculpted by Iraqi artist Oded Halahmy, will be awarded to essential contributors to the society with extraordinary achievements with Actors Lainie Kazan (My Big Fat Greek Wedding), Amir Arison (The Blacklist), Caroline Aaron (Mrs. Maisel), André Aciman, Violetta Salama (Rising Star).

**Artistic director Sara Nodjoui and Producer David Serero return to this exciting edition.**

"The Moise Safra Center is thrilled to be co-hosting the New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival with the ASF this year. We are opening our doors for everyone to come and enjoy a week of curated movie selections to learn about Sephardic culture through film. Hope to see you here!" - David Miller, Executive Director - Moise Safra Center

**NYSJFF FILM LINEUP: Sunday, April 3rd: Opening Day - Sepharad Series: Salonika, Sephardic Shoah**



NYSJFF 2022 Poster



Arati Devi a-k-a Rachel Sofare in "Life Devine."

Survivors

**3pm - "OTTOMAN SALONICA" and "POVERATA SALONIKA" DIR: DR. JOE HALIO I USA I 2001 I SHORT DOC I 60m :** Two 30-minute documentaries on the Jewish history of Salonika (Thessaloniki), Greece. Features rare footage of Sephardic Shoah survivors.

Q&A with Director Joe Hadio

**OPENING NIGHT / From Baghdad to Bollywood : 6pm - "SHALOM BOLLYWOOD"**

DIR: DANNY BEN-MOSHE I Australia I 2018 I Feat Doc I NY Premiere I 1h 25m

A celebration of the all-singing, all-dancing history of the world's largest film industry, "Shalom Bollywood" reveals the unlikely story of the Baghdadi and Bene Manashe Jews, especially Jewish women, who became stars and movie moguls in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s.

**AWARDS CEREMONY :** Award Ceremony with Pomegranate Awards for André Aciman (Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature), Caroline Aaron (Lifetime Achievement for Acting), Amir Arison (Achievement Award for Acting), Violetta Salama (Ronit Elkabetz, A"H, Rising Star), followed by a party.

**Monday, April 4th: Sepharad Series: Melilla Memories : 3pm - "Alegría"**

DIR: VIOLETA SALAMA I Spain I 2021 I Spanish & Chelja w/Eng Subs I FEAT NARR I NY Premiere I 1h 59m

An eye-catching directorial debut. This festival favorite explores the ever-blending identities and cultures in this Spanish enclave in Northern Morocco.

Q&A with Director Violeta Salama

**Persian-Israeli-American Fashion Night with Elie Tahari**

**7pm - "THE UNITED STATES OF FASHION DESIGNER ELIE TAHARI"**

DIR: David Serero I USA I 2022 I Doc I NY Premiere I 1h 10m

Elie Tahari is the definition of courage, determination, and...chutzpah! After fleeing Iran, his parents moved to Israel where he lived in a refugee camp before



Nadira (with cigarette in holder) in "Shree 420."



Sulochana in "Daku-ki-Ladki."

Photos / [theculturenews.com](http://theculturenews.com)

5th

**Sepharad Series: Crypto-Jews**

**5pm - "XUETA ISLAND"**

DIRS: DANI ROTSTEIN, FELIPE WOLOKITA & OFER LASZEWICKI I Spain I 2021 I Doc Feat I 1h 3m

"Xueta Island" explores the fascinating legacy of the Xuetas: a unique group of families on the Balearic Island of Majorca who are believed to be descendants of the island's Inquisition-era Jewish population. A riveting quest to unearth and document Majorca's rich and tragic Jewish history and an inspirational glimpse into attempts to revive Jewish life on the island.

**Antisemitism in Focus**

**7pm - "WET DOGS" : DIR: DAMIR LUKACEVIC I Germany I 2021 I German, Farsi & Arabic w/Eng subs I Feat Narr I NY Premiere I 1h 43m**

Based on the provocative true story of Aryeh Sharuz Shalimar was born in Germany to Persian Jewish parents stranded after the 1979's Revolution, joined an Islamist gang, and later rose to the rank of Major and ran the IDF's European Desk. "Wet Dogs" explores rising antisemitism and raises questions of cultural diversity, religious identity, and how they intersect with friendship, especially during the phase of rawness and exploration that are one's teenage years.

Followed by a panel discussion

**Wednesday, April 6th**

From Egypt to Israel : 3pm - "THREE MOTHERS" : DIR: DINA ZVI-RIKLIS I Israel I 2006 I Hebrew & Arabic w/Eng subs I

Feat Narr I 1h 46m

Nominated for nine Israeli Academy Awards, "Three Mothers" is the multigenerational saga of beautiful triplets: Flora, Yasmin, and Rose Hakim were born in 1942 in Alexandria, Egypt. Director Dina Zvi-Riklis' (Ma'abarot, 2020 NYSJFF) tale follows the family to Israel

and, over the course of 60 years, reveals the Hakim sisters coming to terms with long-buried secrets and passions.

**Brooklyn Tango Night : 7pm - "TANGO SHALOM" DIR: GABRIEL BOLOGNA I USA I 2021 I Eng I Feat Narr I NY Premiere I - 1h 55m**

A Tango dancer and a Rabbi develop a plan to enter a dance competition without sacrificing his orthodox beliefs. Family, tolerance, and community are tested one dazzling dance step at a time. Filmed on location in Crown Heights, New York City, with a star-studded cast.

In partnership with ASF Young Professionals.

Post-Screening Q&A with the whole cast.

**Pomegranate Award for Lifetime Achievement to Lainie Kazan.**

DJ with Tango Dancers

**Thursday, April 7th : Sepharad Series: The Ladino Legacy**

**3pm - "IN SEARCH OF LADINO"**

DIR: DAVID PERLOV I UK, Israel, France I 1981 I Hebrew & Ladino w/Eng subs I Feat Doc I 49m

This unique cinematic film about language, memory, and identity follows Ladino speakers-their culture, their memories, and their hopes for the future of their mother tongue. In Search of Ladino is one of the first films to show Ladino-speaking Holocaust survivors in Israel and to document their testimonies and songs.

**From Jerusalem to Tangier & Tinghir: Moroccan CLOSING NIGHT**

**7pm - "IN YOUR EYES, I SEE MY COUNTRY"**

DIR: KAMAL HACHKAR I Morocco I 2019 I Arabic & Hebrew w/Eng subs I Feat Doc I NY Premiere I 1h 15m

Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen live in Jerusalem, creating music that revisits their common Jewish-Moroccan heritage. "In Your Eyes, I See My Country" follows them as they journey for the first time to Morocco. In life, as on stage, they grapple with this dual identity and attempt to heal the wounds of exile carried by their parents. This intimate and musically rich documentary by NYSFF Rising Star Pomegranate Award Recipient, Kamal Hachkar (2015), aspires to build bridges between cultures.

Pomegranate Award to singer Neta Elkayam, followed by Moroccan Closing Night Party

**TICKETS AND MORE**

**INFORMATION**

For Tickets and more Information on the Festival, visit [nysephardicfilmfestival.org](http://nysephardicfilmfestival.org) or call 1.800.838.3006

**THE AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION:**

To learn more, visit [americansephardi.org](http://americansephardi.org)

**THE MOISE SAFRA CENTER:**

To learn more, visit [moisesafracenter.org](http://moisesafracenter.org)

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

# 9 Dalits, 20 OBCs: Yogi Cabinet caste matrix shows BJP's eyes set on 2024

The BJP, which traditionally had Brahmins and Thakurs as its core vote base, has gone to great lengths to woo the Dalits, in addition to the Bhumihars and Jats in the crucial state elections, seen by many as a semi-final before the high-stakes 2024 general election



Yogi Adityanath and 52 leaders were sworn in as ministers at a ceremony that was reportedly attended by 85,000 people.

## NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Bharatiya Janta Party has returned to power in Uttar Pradesh for a second straight term in a historic election victory. Yogi Adityanath, too, has returned to office for a second consecutive term - a first in 37 years.

The BJP, which traditionally had Brahmins and Thakurs as its core vote base, has gone to great lengths to woo the Dalits, in addition to the Bhumihars and Jats in the crucial state elections, seen by many as a semi-final before the high-stakes 2024 general election.

As Yogi Adityanath took the oath of office on March 25, 52 leaders were sworn in as ministers at a ceremony that was reportedly attended by 85,000 people, including senior politicians. Of them, 18 have been given Cabinet berths and 14 are Ministers of State with independent charges and 20 are junior ministers. The party has carefully distributed the positions among leaders who represent the backward classes, who are Muslims and who are from the Sikh community.

To break down Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet on the basis of castes, 21, including the chief minister, come from upper castes, 20 are from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and nine are Dalits, while there is one minister each from the Muslim, Sikh and Punjabi communities. In addition, Yadavs have also been given prominence in representation.

## THE UPPER CASTES

Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet 2.0 has 21 ministers from the upper castes; seven are Brahmins, three are Vaishyas and eight, including the chief minister, represent the Thakurs. The Cabinet also has one Kayastha and two Bhumihar ministers. Of the seven Brahmin ministers, three are in the Cabinet, one has independent charge and three are junior ministers. While Brajesh Pathak is one of the two deputy chief ministers of the state, Yogendra Upadhyay and Jitin Prasada, who switched over from the Congress, have been given Cabinet berths. Pratibha Shukla, Rajni Tiwari and Satish Sharma took oaths as junior ministers.

## THE THAKURS

Apart from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Jaiveer Singh has been made a Cabinet minister. JPS Rathore, Dayashankar Singh, and Dinesh Pratap Singh have been made Ministers of State with independent charges. Brijesh Singh, Mayankeshwaran Singh and Somendra Tomar are junior ministers.

## THE VAISHYAS-KAYASTHAS-BHUMIHARS

Three ministers from the Vaishya caste have been made ministers in Yogi Adityanath's second term in office. Of them, Nandgopal Nandi is a Cabinet Minister and Nitin Agarwal and Kapil Dev Agarwal are junior ministers. Suryapratap Shahi and Arvind Kumar Sharma have joined the Cabinet from the Bhumihar community. Arun Kumar Saxena from the Kayastha community has been given independent charge.

## THE OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Of the 20 ministers from the Other Backward Classes, BJP's allies Apna Dal and the Nishaad Party have been given one Cabinet berth each. BJP's prominent OBC face Keshav Prasad Maurya has been reappointed as a deputy chief minister despite his poll defeat. Swatantra Dev Singh and Rakesh Sachan, both Kurmi leaders, have been given a Cabinet post along with Ashish Patel from Apna Dal, the BJP's ally. In all, eight leaders from the OBC community have been given Cabinet seats. Jat leaders Lakshmi Narayan Chowdhury and Bhupendra Singh Chowdhury are Cabinet ministers, too. Anil Rajbhar from the Rajbhar community, Sanjay Nishad from the Nishad community and Dharampal Singh from the Lodh community are ministers. Six ministers who have been given independent charges are from Other Backward Classes: Sandip Singh from the Lodh community, Narendra Kashyap from the Nishad community, Girish Chandra Yadav from the Yadav community, Sanjay Gangwar from the Kurmi community, Dharambir Prajapati from the Prajapati caste, and Ravindra Jaiswal from the Kalwar caste. Six OBC leaders have been made junior ministers.

## THE DALITS

Nine Dalit leaders have been made ministers and only

one - Baby Rani Maurya - has been given a Cabinet position. Maurya, who represents the Jaatav community, is being projected as the BJP's counter to Mayawati in the state. Former Kanpur top cop Asim Arun, who voluntarily retired from his post to join politics, has been given independent charge. Arun, too, is from the Jaatav community.

## THE MUSLIM, THE SIKH AND THE PUNJABI

The minority communities have also found places in Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet. Danish Azad Ansari has replaced Mohsin Raza to secure a ministerial post. Baldev Singh Aulakh, representing the Sikhs, has once again been made a junior minister, while Suresh Khanna, a nine-time MLA from Shahjahanpur and representing the Punjabi community, is a Cabinet minister.

The BJP has attempted to not just strike the right caste equation in Uttar Pradesh but also send a political message to the extremely crucial vote bank ahead of the 2024 elections. The party is planning ahead, and its push to the OBC and Dalit communities points to that. Its seat distribution hints at how the party is planning to bring the OBC-Dalit and the Jaatav votes into its fold on one hand, while on the other, to sway the Muslim vote bank with a ministerial post to a leader of the community. The party also has a hack to cut into the influence of farmers' leader Rakesh Tikait and the Rashtriya Lok Dal on the Jats: leaders of the community have been assigned plum positions.

## Holds first meeting of Council of Ministers in Lucknow

After taking oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second consecutive term on Friday in Lucknow, Yogi Adityanath held the first meeting of the council of ministers in the state's capital city on the same day. The meeting was held at Lok Bhavan after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top dignitaries left after attending the grand ceremony at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

Source: India Today

## INDIA-CHINA TALKS: BORDER PEACE MUST, JAISHANKAR TO WANG YI

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and China discussed the border situation as well as Beijing's leaning towards Pakistan during three-hour talks between visiting Chinese Minister Wang Yi and EAM S Jaishankar here on March 25.

Earlier in the day, Wang met NSA Ajit Doval after arriving from Kabul last night for a visit the Chinese side did not want to announce. On being invited to China, Doval told Wang he would do so after immediate issues were resolved.

Jaishankar said progress had been made in resolving issues as regards various friction areas along the LAC and that talks today focused on taking forward the momentum in case of remaining areas. Jaishankar told Wang India found his observations on Kashmir at the OIC ministerial in Islamabad objectionable. "It was a subject discussed at some length. There was a larger context. We hope China will follow an independent foreign policy with respect to India and not allow its policy to be influenced by others," he said.

"Our effort is to sort out the issue in entirety and look at de-escalation. The challenge has been to implement the agreements on the ground. It is a work-in-progress, obviously at a slower pace than desirable. My discussions were aimed at expediting that process," he said. *Source: TNS*

## MISSILE 'MISFIRE': 14 IAF OFFICIALS UNDER LENS

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Court of Inquiry (CoI) probing the "accidental" firing of a BrahMos missile has examined the role of at least four Indian Air Force (IAF) officials — a Group Captain (Commanding Officer), his seniors and also his juniors.

The initial probe has indicated a "human error", and not a technical fault, led to the missile's launch. Though alleged lapses in handling the missile are being probed, the CoI is looking at multiple angles.

A BrahMos missile was "accidentally" fired around 7 pm on March 9 from a base near Ambala and it landed some 124 km away at Mian Channu in Pakistan's Punjab province.

All missile storage and inspecting protocols have been examined. IAF officials in the chain of command have been questioned to find out why and how the missile was fired. Each data, log and procedure followed by the officials on March 9 has been scrutinised by the CoI. The key question is how the launch codes were fed into the system that enabled the missile to fire. The protocol for firing and storage of BrahMos, a supersonic cruise missile, is such that a series of steps are needed to be completed before actual firing. The missile, which carried no warhead, travelled at Mach2 (some 3,200 km per hour) towards Pakistan. *Source: TNS*

# Calcutta HC orders CBI probe into Birbhum killings case

KOLKATA (TIP)

The Calcutta High Court on Friday, March 25, ordered a CBI investigation into Birbhum violence that claimed eight lives earlier this week.

The court directed an SIT formed by the West Bengal government to hand over case papers and accused persons arrested by it to the central probe agency.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Justice R Bharadwaj directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file a progress report by April 7, the next date of hearing of the matter.

The bench said that the CBI probe was being ordered in the interest of justice.

Eight people, including two children, were charred to death in Bogtui village of Bengal's Birbhum district in the suspected fallout of a TMC panachayat official's murder.

The bench had suo motu taken up the case of the gruesome incident.

A set of PILs seeking CBI or NIA probe into the incident were also taken up for hearing by the court along with the suo motu petition.

On Thursday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited Bogtui village, where she ensured "speedy justice" to the victims and offered monetary compensation. However, Opposition leaders have accused the Bengal government of a 'cover up' and 'fabrication'.

Congress leader Adhir Chowdhary, whose car was allegedly stopped more than once before reaching Bogtui, alleged that several bodies had disappeared from the site of violence. He said, "She (CM) alleged a big conspiracy



At least eight houses were set on fire in Birbhum on Monday, March 21, night. (Express Photo)

behind this incident and that is why she has instructed the police to take strict action. The bodies of two children have gone missing. The CM is trying to suppress the facts."

Meanwhile, after local residents complained to CM that local Trinamool Congress block president Anarul Hussain had hatched the conspiracy to set the houses ablaze, she ordered the DGP to arrest him. However, Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari tweeted, "Can someone instruct an investigating agency to fabricate a case? Rather than directing the investigating agency to conduct a fair investigation and gather

evidence that incriminates the real perpetrators, @MamataOfficial is pronouncing & dictating who are at fault. (sic)".

### 'Mamata govt fabricating case': BJP

The BJP on Thursday slammed the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal for allegedly "fabricating a case" over the Birbhum killings.

The statement came after the police arrested TMC's Rampurhat block president Anarul Hossain in connection with the case at the instruction of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.s

## Intel India VPs Receive Award on Behalf of CEO& EVP

By Brian Grim, RFBF President

**BENGALURU (TIP):** Intel Corporation's CEO Pat Gelsinger and EVP Sandra Rivera received the 2021 Global Business & Interfaith Peace Gold Medal for their work in making Intel's workplaces worldwide inclusive and welcoming for people of all faiths and beliefs. Due to covid, they were not able to receive their gold medals in person, but only in a virtual ceremony broadcasted from Tokyo, Japan, and Washington, DC, on August 24, 2021. On Monday, March 21 two vice presidents from Intel India received the medals on their behalf: Anita Vijaykrishnan, VP / GM Enterprise Operations, and Sumedha Limaye, Vice President of Engineering, Xeon & Networking. "We thank the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation and the United Nations Global Compact for recognizing Intel. It's our honor to accept this award on behalf of Pat and Sandra," said Sumedha and Anita. "Bringing our authentic self to work resonates with every Intel employee globally. There is more encouragement to realize your strengths and potential when the environment supports diversity of thought and expression." The Intel Corporation is the most religiously inclusive Fortune 100 company in America, according to the REDI Index.

I'm in the final three days of my 18-day trip to India, preparing for Dare to Overcome 2023. DTO 2023 will be held in New Delhi in tandem with the G20 meetings hosted by India. Yesterday I was in Kochi (Cochin), Kerala, on India's southwest coast, and visited the Paradesi Synagogue, which was established hundreds of years before, which now shares a wall with a Hindu temple. In fact, some Jewish communities in India trace their lineage back to the time of King Solomon. Kochi is also where the Apostle Thomas came soon after the time of Christ in outreach to these Jewish communities. Indeed, the synagogue is very close to several of the most important Catholic churches in Kerala, with communities dating back to the time of Christ.

Seeing the ancient heritage of such communities in India, helps understand the findings from a recent Pew Research Center poll, which found that a number of religious beliefs and practices are shared across religious groups in India.



Anita Vijaykrishnan, VP / GM Enterprise Operations, and Sumedha Limaye, Vice President of Engineering, Xeon & Networking received the medals on behalf of Intel Corporation's CEO Pat Gelsinger and EVP Sandra Rivera.

# India in history this Week

MARCH 25, 2022, TO MARCH 31, 2022

## 25 MARCH

1788 First advertisement of Indian language Bangla published in the newspaper 'Calcutta Gadget'.

1898 Swami Vivekananda gave initiation of celibacy to Sister Nivedita.



1954 The country's first helicopter "S-55" was launched in 1954 in Delhi.

2007 Team India out of World Cup cricket in 2007.

2017 Tanushree Pareek of Bikaner, Rajasthan, made the country and state proud by becoming the first woman officer of the country's Border Security Force (BSF) in 2017.



## 26 MARCH

1552 Guru Amardas became the third Guru of the Sikhs.

1907 Mahadevi Varma, the modern 'Meera' of Hindi literature world, was born.



1972 President of India VV Giri inaugurates the first International Sanskrit Conference.

1973 In the state of Uttarakhand, India, in 1973, farmers organized an eco-protection movement called "Chipko Movement" to oppose the cutting of trees.

## 27 MARCH

1898 Death anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan,

who introduced modern education for the Muslims of India.



2010 India successfully test-fires Dhanush and Prithvi 2 equipped with nuclear technology at Chandipur, Odisha.

## 28 MARCH

1941 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose escaped from detention and reached Berlin.

1977 Morarji Desai formed the government in India in 1977.

2000 West Indies' Courtney Walls broke Kapil Dev's record 435 wickets.

2013 The Internet's biggest attack on history.



2015 Saina Nehwal became the world's number one female badminton player.

## 29 MARCH

1857 Soldier Mangal Pandey became known as a freedom fighter in the Bengal Native Infantry revolts against the British rule in India and the long-running



1857 Sepoy Freedom Struggle.

1943 Laxman Nayak, a freedom fighter and leader, was hanged in Barhampur jail.

1954 The Indian Institute of Public Administration was inaugurated.

1982 N. of Telugu Desam Party Formed in 1982 by T. Rama Rao.

1999 Nearly 90 people died in the 1999 Himalayan earthquake in the foothills of the Himalayas.

2008 370 cities of the world started celebrating Earth Hour in 2008 for the first time to save energy.

1913 Famous Hindi poet and writer Bhavani Prasad was born on this day.

## 30 MARCH

1919 Mahatma Gandhi announced his opposition to the Rowlatt Act.

1949 The state of Rajasthan was established in 1949 and Jaipur was made its capital.

1977 Swami Agnivesh merged his Bharatiya Arya Sabha Party with the Janata Party in 1977.



1932 Regal Cinema Hall, one of the famous and old cinema halls of Delhi since 1932, was closed in 2017.

1899 In 1899, Cyril Radcliffe, who drew the line of the India-Pakistan divide, was born.

1664 Guru Har Kishan Singh, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs, died on this day in 1664.

## 31 MARCH

1959 The Buddhist Dalai Lama was granted asylum in India after his exile from Tibet.



1964 Electric tram last run in Bombay.

1774 The first post of the Postal Service opened in India in 1774.

1867 Praya Samaj was established in 1867 in Mumbai.

2011 According to census data, India's population has increased to 121 crore (1 billion 21 crore) in 2011. This is 17.64% more than what was calculated ten years ago.

1504 The second Sikh Guru Guru Angad Dev was born.

1865 India's first female doctor Anandi Gopal Joshi was born.



### AAP AGENDA AND THE AAP CABINET

# Punjab cabinet: Bhagwant Mann keeps home, Cheema gets finance

Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday, March 21, allocated portfolios to his 10 ministers, retaining home and justice, and giving the charge of finance and taxation to his seniormost cabinet colleague Harpal Singh Cheema.

The portfolios were announced by the new chief minister two days after the 10 cabinet ministers took the oath of office and secrecy here. All the ministers, except Cheema and Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, are first-time legislators.

Besides home, Mann, who was elected from Dhuri assembly segment, has kept 26 departments in his portfolio, including local government, industries and commerce, agriculture and farmers' welfare, according to an official release.

Cheema, who represents Dirba (reserved) seat, has got the portfolios of finance, excise and taxation, planning, programme implementation and cooperation. He was the leader of the opposition in the previous assembly.

Dr Baljit Kaur, MLA from Malout (reserved) who is the lone woman in the cabinet, has been made the in-charge of social justice, empowerment and minorities, and social security, women and child development. Harbhajan Singh, who represents Jandiala (reserved), has been given the charge of public works and power.

Mansa MLA Dr Vijay Singla has got the portfolios of health and family welfare, and medical education and research. A dentist, he is among 13 doctors who have made it to the state assembly this time. Lal Chand Kataruchak, who got elected from Bhoa (reserved), is the minister for food, civil supplies and consumer affairs, forests and wildlife.

Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, MLA from Barnala, has been allotted the departments of school education, sports and youth services, and higher education. The 32-year-old minister has a BTech degree.

Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, MLA from Ajnala, has been allotted the portfolios of rural development and panchayats among others. Laljit Singh Bhullar, MLA from Patti, is the new transport and hospitality minister. Bram Shanker, who got elected from Hoshiarpur, has got the charge of revenue, rehabilitation and disaster management besides water and sanitation.

Harjot Singh Bains, who got elected from Anandpur Sahib, has been allocated legal and legislative affairs, and jails among other departments. An advocate by profession, the 31-year-old first-time MLA is the youngest member of the state cabinet. The portfolio, if any, not allotted to any of the ministers will vest with the chief minister, said the official spokesperson.

### Kultar Sandhwan unanimously elected Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha

Kultar Singh Sandhwan, 46, was unanimously elected Punjab assembly Speaker in Chandigarh on Monday, March 21. Chief minister Bhagwant Mann proposed Kotkapura Aam Aadmi Party MLA Sandhwan's name for the post and he was unanimously elected. Mann and cabinet minister Harpal Singh Cheema escorted Sandhwan to the Speaker's chair.



Kultar Singh Sandhwan

Mann said that he was happy that a person from an ordinary family had made it to the Speaker's post. Incidentally, Sandhwan is the grandnephew of former president Giani Zail Singh. Kultar's grandfather Jangir Singh and Giani Zail Singh were brothers.

### FULL LIST OF PUNJAB CABINET MINISTERS AND THEIR PORTFOLIOS



**Bhagwant Mann (Chief Minister)**

Home Affairs, Justice Departments, 27 other departments including Vigilance, Personnel, Housing and Urban Development, Industries and Commerce, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Horticulture, Parliamentary Affairs, Employment Generation and Training, New and Renewable Energy Sources and Information and Public Relations



**Harpal Singh Cheema**

Finance, Planning, Programme Implementation, Excise and Taxation and Cooperation



**Dr Baljit Kaur**

Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities and Social Security, Women and Child Development



**Harbhajan Singh ETO**

Public Works and Power



**Dr Vijay Singla**

Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education and Research



**Lal Chand Kataruchak**

Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs, Forests and Wildlife



**Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer**

School Education, Sports and Youth Services and Higher Education



**Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal**

Rural Development and Panchayats, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Development and NRI Affairs



**Laljit Singh Bhullar**

Transport and Hospitality



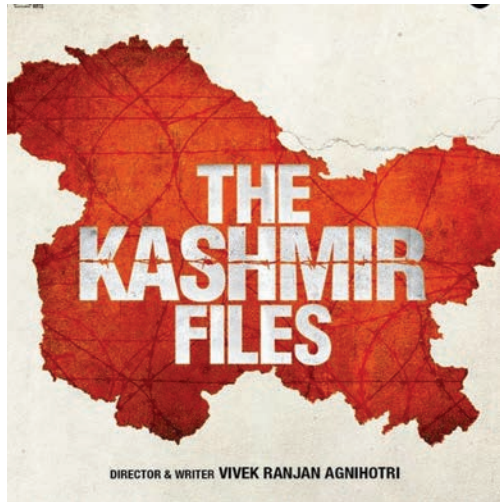
**Bram Shanker**

Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Water Resources and Water Supply and Sanitation



**Harjot Singh Bains**

Legal and Legislative Affairs, Mines and Geology, Tourism and Cultural Affairs and Jails



## *The Kashmir Files crosses Rs 200 crore, shatters records*

**T**he Kashmir Files has shattered all the records at the box office. After crossing the Rs 100-crore mark on March 18, the film has now created history by entering the Rs 200-crore club! The Kashmir Files released all over India on March 11 amid many hurdles. The film, which released on March 11, is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus during the Kashmir insurgency in 1990. The film stars Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi.

After crossing the Rs 100-crore mark in seven days, The Kashmir Files has now shattered records by hitting the Rs 200-crore mark, making it the highest grosser post the pandemic. Trade Analyst Taran Adarsh wrote on Instagram, "#TheKashmirFiles crosses 200 cr mark.. Also crosses \*lifetime biz\* of #Sooryavanshi... Becomes HIGHEST GROSSING \*HINDI\* FILM [pandemic era]... [Week 2] Fri 19.15 cr, Sat 24.80 cr, Sun 26.20 cr, Mon 12.40 cr, Tue 10.25 cr, Wed 10.03 cr. Total: 200.13 cr. #India biz (sic)."

## Vidya Balan says 'people are shameless with types of roles they offer'

**V**idya Balan is one of the most promising actresses in Bollywood. Time and again, she had proved her acting prowess in movies such as Sherni, The Dirty Picture, Kahaani, and others. She is currently basking in the success of her latest flick Jalsa. The movie also features Shefali Shah in a key role. The movie is directed by Suresh Triveni and garnered lots of appreciation for its storyline and the performance of the cast. Recently, in an interview with Indian Express, Vidya opened up on the kind of roles she has been offered even after performing as the lead lady in movies.

While talking to the news portal, Vidya said that people are shameless and they come to her with anything. She said, "Not at all. People are quite shameless and will come to you with everything. Sometimes I go, 'bhaisaab but aap mere paas kyu aaye ho (Brother, why have you come to me)? Hero ka role de rahe ho (Will you give me the hero's role)? They just have no qualms and want to take a chance." She then added that she is not saying that she will only play the most important role in a film. "I need something that I can dig my teeth into," Vidya concluded.

She also spoke about starting her career in the industry at the age of 26 and said that she feels fortunate about it and the kind of work she has gotten to do. She also added that she is proud of her work irrespective of the fact if it worked out or not.



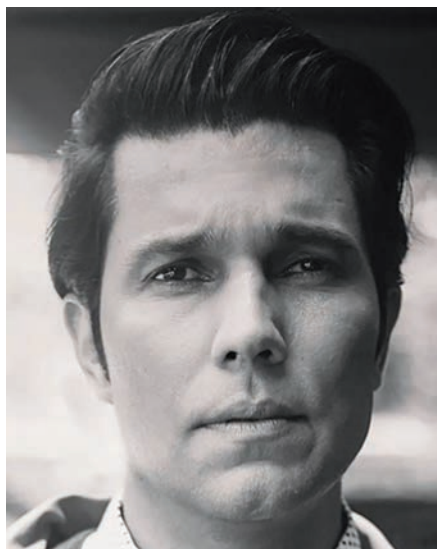
## *Randeep Hooda to play Veer Savarkar in Mahesh Manjrekar film*

**O**n Shaheed Diwas, March 23, Randeep Hooda announced his next film, a biopic on the revolutionary freedom fighter, Veer Savarkar. Helmed by Mahesh Manjrekar, the film has been titled Swatantra Veer Savarkar.

Swatantra Veer Savarkar, in which Randeep Hooda will play the titular role, will be produced by Anand Pandit and Sandeep Singh. Sharing a photo with the producers and director Mahesh Manjrekar along with a black-and-white photo of himself, Randeep announced the film.

He captioned the post, "Kuch kahaniyaan batayi jaati hai aur kuch jee jaati hain! Grateful, excited and honoured to be part of #SwatantraVeerSavarkar's biopic (sic)."

Calling it a challenging role, Randeep shared his happiness about showcasing Veer Savarkar's story on celluloid. He said, "There are many heroes that have played their part in getting us our independence. However, not everyone has got their due. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is the most misunderstood, debated and influential of these unsung heroes and his story must be told. I am delighted to collaborate with Sandeep after Sarabjit for Swatantra Veer Savarkar."



## *Parineeti Chopra to star in Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila*

**A**ctor Parineeti Chopra is all set to star in filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's upcoming movie Chamkila. The film marks the first collaboration between Parineeti and Imtiaz.

As Parineeti has to begin prep for Chamkila, the actor has, unfortunately, decided to opt out of Animal.

A trade source said, "Parineeti is going to work with Imtiaz Ali for the first time in her career as the heroine in the ace director's next, Chamkila. It is a huge moment for her because she has always wanted to creatively collaborate with the visionary director."

He added, "She has to get into prep immediately for the shoot and unfortunately due to this development, she won't be able to shoot for Animal as there is a major overlap of dates between the two films. So, RK and Pari fans will have to wait a little bit longer for a new project to bring them together on screen."

Parineeti Chopra had signed Ranbir Kapoor starrer Animal last year. The film, also starring Anil Kapoor, will be helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga of Kabir Singh fame. It is scheduled to release during Dussehra festival this year.

Chamkila marks Imtiaz Ali's return to direction after Love Aaj Kal (2020).





### Jennifer Lopez accepts Icon honour at iHeartRadio Music Awards

The iHeartRadio Music Awards 2022 were held on Tuesday in Los Angeles and one of the biggest highlights of the evening was Jennifer Lopez's stunning performance at the event as well as her big win for the evening as she was given the Icon Award. Lopez delivered an emotional speech as she accepted the award while Ben Affleck was cheering for her.

In an emotional as well as inspiring speech, JLo proved that she is truly an icon as she thanked her fans who have been supporting her all through her career. She said, "Thank you to everyone who comes to a show, streams a song, sees a movie, follows me. You guys are the ones who give me the opportunity every day to live a life I couldn't even imagine would come true when I was a little girl growing up in the Bronx."

## Men trailer: Alex Garland is back with horror mystery

English writer-director Alex Garland, behind acclaimed movies like *Ex Machina* and *Annihilation* and the sci-fi thriller TV series *Devs*, is back with an A24 horror mystery called *Men*.

A24 horror movies are known for their unique directorial voice as the studio allows its filmmakers complete freedom without any commercial constraints that come with bigger studios. *Men* appears no different.

Starring Irish actor Jessie Buckley, the series has her playing the role of a recently widowed woman called Harper who, to take her mind off a recent tragedy (her husband's death), goes on a solo vacation in the English countryside.

The place, an inn encircled by the woods, is beautiful in a primal sort of way and also something out of the Bible. Too much, in fact. And it's not subtle either.

The place is surrounded by apple trees. The owner Geoffrey, played by Rory Kinnear, warns her off eating the 'forbidden fruit' when she takes a bite, before claiming he is joking. And he is too prying.

Things get sinister as Geoffrey's face seems to be pasted on every man in the village she encounters, including the priest, who wonders aloud whether she is not to blame for her husband's death. If only she had apologised, he would still be alive. Even the cop is Kinnear, and a young boy (Garland has used deep fake to achieve that, and the effect is clearly unfinished). The idea is that the society is so skewed towards men that everybody blames her for a tragedy she



had no part in.

*Men* looks like a typical Garland film, albeit with horror elements. In other words, an utter delight. The Biblical imagery, clever use of vocals and sound design, visuals that are both pretty and

unnerving, and a small but strong cast — both Buckley and Kinnear have proven themselves to be striking performers. We cannot wait.

*Men* releases on May 20.

Source: *The Indian Express*

## Alex Wolff joins the cast of Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer

Actor Alex Wolff, whose latest film credits include *M Night* Shyamalan's *Old* and the Nicolas Cage-fronted indie hit *Pig*, has joined the cast of Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*. A biopic on J Robert Oppenheimer, one of the fathers of the atom bomb, stars Cillian Murphy as the titular famed physicist. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the details of who Wolff will play are under wraps.

*Oppenheimer* revolves around the theoretical physicist who helped develop the atomic bomb during World War II, but later found his loyalty to the USA questioned by hawkish government officials.

Robert Downey Jr, Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Rami Malek, Benny Safdie, Josh Hartnett, Dane DeHaan, Jack Quaid, Matthew Modine, Alden Ehrenreich, David Krumholtz and David Dastmalchian are also part of the cast.

Shooting on *Oppenheimer* has been underway in New Mexico for a few weeks now. Based on the book *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J Sherwin, Universal Pictures has set a July 21, 2023 release date for the film.

Source: *PTI*



## Priyanka, Sienna Miller to star in Anthony Chen's adaptation of Secret Daughter

Priyanka Chopra has bagged another major Hollywood project after recently signing *Ending Things* alongside Anthony Mackie. The actress will also star alongside Sienna Miller in Singaporean director Anthony Chen's next. The film will be based on Shilpi Somaya Gowda novel *Secret Daughter* and will be adapted by Shruti Ganguly as confirmed by *Deadline*.

For the unreversed, Gowda's novel *Secret Daughter* tells an interesting story through the eyes of two women interconnected by a child. The story revolves around parallel storylines taking place in San Francisco and India. Among the two lead characters, Kavita, a poor woman in India is faced with the tough decision of saving her newborn daughter's life by giving her away. At the same time, Somer a San Francisco based woman learns that she may never be able to have children. Eventually, the two are connected through Asha, a child who is adopted out of a Mumbai orphanage.

*Secret Daughter* is an emotional novel that is expected to be a project that could churn out some brilliant performances from both Chopra and Miller whose acting prowess remains unmatched. The project will reportedly be produced by Amazon Studios.

Source: *Pinkvilla*



**AUSTRALIA SET TO ROLL OUT FOURTH COVID SHOT AHEAD OF WINTER**

**SYDNEY (TIP):** Australia will roll out a fourth dose of Covid vaccines to its most vulnerable population starting next month, authorities said on March 25, as the country looks to limit fresh outbreaks ahead of winter.

The decision comes amid a steady rise in cases fuelled by the highly contagious BA.2 sub-variant of the Omicron strain and concerns of co-circulation of Covid and flu viruses during colder months as most social distancing restrictions end.

A second booster shot will be offered from April 4 to people who had their previous booster shot at least four months ago and are over 65 years, Indigenous Australians over 50, people with disability or severely immunocompromised, Health Minister Greg Hunt said during a media briefing. — Reuters

**BLACK BOX OF CRASHED CHINESE PLANE FOUND**



**BEIJING (TIP):** One of the two black boxes of the crashed China Eastern Airlines plane was found on March 23 in a “severely damaged” condition by rescuers combing the site in vast forest mountainous area in southern China, amid fears that none of the 132 persons on board survived.

Two days on, distressing videos have emerged showing the Boeing 737-800 on a domestic flight nose-dived into the mountains on Monday crashing with an explosion leaving its debris in a vast forested area, making rescue efforts difficult. A black box, which officials said is believed to be the cockpit recorder of the crashed passenger plane, was recovered by rescuers on Wednesday. Mao Yanfeng, head of the aviation accident investigation centre of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, told the media that the black box was “severely damaged”. — PTI

**PUTIN WANTS ‘UNFRIENDLY COUNTRIES’ TO PAY RUBLES FOR GAS**

**MOSCOW (TIP):** President Vladimir Putin announced Wednesday that Russia will demand that “unfriendly” countries pay for Russian natural gas exports only in rubles from now on. Putin told a meeting with government officials that “a number of Western countries made illegitimate decisions on the so-called freezing of the Russian assets, effectively drawing a line over reliability of their currencies, undermining the trust for those currencies.” (AP)

**North Korea fires suspected missile into sea**

**SEOUL (TIP):** North Korea fired at least one suspected ballistic missile towards the sea on March 24, its neighbours' militaries said, apparently extending its barrage of weapons tests that may culminate with a flight of its biggest-yet intercontinental ballistic missile.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately say whether the weapon involved in the launch was ballistic or how far it flew.

Japan's Prime Minister's Office Defence Ministry said the North fired a possible ballistic missile.

It was North Korea's 12th round of weapon launches this year and came after it fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday.

Experts say the North's unusually fast pace in testing activity underscore its dual goal of advancing its weaponry and applying pressure on Washington, over a deepening freeze in nuclear negotiations.

The North has also tested a variety of new missiles, including a purported hypersonic weapon and its first launch since 2017 of an intermediate range missile potentially capable of reaching Guam, a key US military hub in the Pacific.

It also conducted two medium-range tests from near its capital area in recent weeks that the US and South Korean militaries later assessed as involving



components of the North's largest ICBM, the Hwasong-17, which they said could be tested at full range soon.

North Korea's official media insisted that those two tests were aimed at developing cameras and other systems for a spy satellite.

Analysts say the North is clearly attempting to simultaneously resume ICBM testing and acquire some level of space-based reconnaissance capability under the pretence of a space launch, to reduce international backlash to those moves. The launch may possibly come

around as a major political anniversary in April, the birthday of state founder Kim II Sung, the late grandfather of current leader Kim Jong-Un.

The North's previous ICBMs demonstrated potential range to reach the American homeland during the three flight tests in 2017.

Its development of the larger Hwasong-17, which was first revealed in a military parade in October 2020, possibly indicates an aim to arm it with multiple warheads to overwhelm missile defences, experts say. (AP)

**Saudi Aramco storage facility targeted by Houthi attack causing fire**

**RIYADH (TIP):** Yemen's Houthis said they launched attacks on Saudi energy facilities on March 25 and the Saudi-led coalition said oil giant Aramco's petroleum products distribution station in Jeddah was hit, causing a fire in two tanks but no casualties.

A huge plume of black smoke could be seen rising over the Red Sea city where the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix is taking place this weekend, an eyewitness said.

Unverified videos shared on social media showed fire raging in oil tanks in an Aramco facility on the outskirts of Jeddah.

There was no immediate comment from Aramco or the energy ministry when contacted by Reuters.

The Iran-aligned Houthi movement that has been battling a coalition led by Saudi Arabia for seven years launched missiles on Aramco's facilities in Jeddah and drones at Ras Tanura and Rabigh refineries, the group's military spokesman said. He said they also targeted "vital facilities" in the capital Riyadh.

Saudi state media had earlier reported



that a string of drone and rocket attacks by the Houthis was foiled by the coalition.

Saudi air defences also intercepted and destroyed a ballistic rocket launched towards the port city of Jazan, which caused a "limited" fire to break out at an electricity distribution plant, state media reported.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, said earlier this week it would not bear responsibility for any oil supply disruptions to global markets as a result of Houthi attacks that have intensified in the past three weeks. - Reuters



**Julian Assange weds fiancée in prison ceremony**

**LONDON (TIP):** WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has wed his fiancée at a ceremony in the London prison where he is held. Supporters said Assange and Stella Moris were allowed four guests and two witnesses in attendance for March 23 ceremony. Moris posed for photos with her and Assange's two sons as they arrived outside the prison. She wore a dress and veil embroidered with messages from friends. PTI

# Zelenskyy appeals to NATO for more weapons

**LVIV (TIP):** Ukraine's president has pleaded with NATO to provide his embattled nation with military assistance.

In a video address to the NATO summit March 24, Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine needs "military assistance without limitations", as Russia is "using its entire arsenal" against the country.

Zelenskyy urged NATO to provide Ukraine with "1% of all your planes, 1% of all your tanks". "We can't just buy those," Zelenskyy said. "When we will have all this, it will give us, just like you, 100% security." Ukraine is also in dire need of multiple launch rocket systems, anti-ship weapons and air defense systems, Zelenskyy said. "Is it possible to survive in such a war without this?" he asked.

Zelenskyy said Russia used phosphorous bombs on Thursday morning, killing both adults and children. He reminded NATO leaders that thousands of Ukrainians have died in the past month, 10 million people have left their homes, and urged NATO to give "clear answers".

"It feels like we're in a gray area, between the West and Russia, defending our common values," Zelenskyy said emotionally. "This is the scariest thing during a war—not to have clear answers to requests for help." Zelenskyy did not reiterate his request for a no-fly zone or ask to join NATO, according to a



senior Biden administration official.

Germany says it has sent about 10,000 metric tons of essential aid to Ukraine using a recently created "rail bridge" of trains shuttling back and forth between the two countries.

Transport minister Volker Wissing told the Funke media group in an interview published Thursday that the rail link was established two weeks ago to bring much-needed food, drink and hygiene products from Germany to Ukraine. Speaking at a Berlin cargo terminal Thursday, Wissing said many

of the goods being sent to Ukraine by train had been donated.

"We hope this war is over soon and will do everything to ease the suffering," he said.

German rail company Deutsche Bahn has separately organised additional trains to bring refugees from the Polish-Ukrainian border to Germany.

The Czech Republic's Parliament has approved a plan to deploy up to 650 Czech service members to Slovakia as part of a multinational NATO force set up in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Parliament's lower house approved the deployment Thursday after the upper house gave the green light last week.

The United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia will also contribute troops to the unit, expected to include up to 2,100 soldiers.

The plan is part of the NATO initiative to reassure member countries on the alliance's eastern flank.

The alliance stationed troops in the Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - and Poland after the 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula by Russia. After Russia attacked Ukraine, NATO decided to boost its presence along the entire eastern flank by deploying forces in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. AP

## Ukraine president pleads for worldwide show of support

**KYIV (TIP):** Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on people worldwide to gather in public on March 24 to show support for his embattled country on the one-month anniversary of the Russian invasion that he said breaks the heart of "every free person on the planet."

Zelenskyy — whose video messages have repeatedly riveted the world's attention — also said he would speak to NATO members by video to ask the alliance to provide "effective and unrestricted" support to Ukraine, including any weapons the country needs to fend off the Russian onslaught.

"Come to your squares, your streets. Make yourselves visible and heard," Zelenskyy said in English during an emotional video address late on Wednesday that was recorded in the dark near the presidential offices in Kyiv. "Say that people matter. Freedom matters. Peace matters. Ukraine matters."

When Russia unleashed its invasion on February 24 in Europe's biggest offensive since World War II, a swift toppling of Ukraine's government seemed likely.

But with Wednesday marking four full weeks of fighting, Moscow is bogged down

in a grinding military campaign.

NATO estimated that 7,000 to 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in four weeks of war in Ukraine, where fierce resistance has denied Moscow the lightning victory it sought.

By way of comparison, Russia lost about 15,000 troops over 10 years in Afghanistan.

A senior NATO military official said the alliance's estimate was based on information from Ukrainian authorities, what Russia has released — intentionally or not — and intelligence gathered from open sources.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by NATO.

In its last update, Russia said on March 2 that nearly 500 soldiers had been killed and almost 1,600 wounded.

Ukraine has released little information about its own military losses, and the West has not given an estimate, but Zelenskyy said nearly two weeks ago that about 1,300 Ukrainian servicemen had been killed.

Ukraine also claims to have killed six Russian generals. However, Russia acknowledges just one dead general.

### UKRAINE CLAIMS RUSSIA IS PREPARING CHEMICAL ATTACKS

**KIEV (TIP):** The Centre for Counteracting Disinformation of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine has warned of possible chemical attacks being prepared by the Russian forces.

"Russian channels tell their audience daily about mythical laboratories that allegedly create chemical weapons in Ukraine." "This is how the enemy 'grooms' the population of the Russian Federation regarding the use of chemical weapons by 'nationalists against the civilian population'. We emphasise that there are no such laboratories in Ukraine," the Council said, Ukrayinska Pravda reported.

Earlier, experts from the Russian Armed Forces have revealed new evidence of the involvement of the US Department of Defense in the development of biological weapons in Ukraine.

This was stated at a briefing by the official representative of the Russian Defense Ministry Igor Konashenkov.

Experts from the Russian troops of radiation, chemical and biological protection, in the course of studying documents, revealed new facts proving the direct involvement of the US Department of Defense in the development of biological weapons components in Ukraine, he said, RT reported.

According to Konashenkov, in the near future the Ministry of Defense will publish original documents that demonstrate that the Pentagon developed and approved the U-Pi-2 biological project.

It is noted that the main goal of this project was to conduct a molecular analysis of especially dangerous infections that are endemic to Ukraine.

"This work involved sampling the pathogen in old cattle burial grounds in order to obtain new strains of anthrax," a Russian defence official said. -IANS

### 7,000 TO 15,000 RUSSIAN TROOPS DEAD IN UKRAINE: NATO

**KYIV (TIP):** NATO estimated on March 24 that 7,000 to 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in four weeks of war in Ukraine, where fierce resistance from the country's defenders has denied Moscow the lightning victory it sought.

By way of comparison, Russia lost about 15,000 troops over 10 years in Afghanistan.

A senior NATO military official said the alliance's estimate was based on information from Ukrainian authorities, what Russia has released — intentionally or not — and intelligence gathered from open sources.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by NATO. (AP)

# Deep conditioning treatment for hair at home



Healthy hair is often looked at as something you either have or you don't. Issues like dryness, frizz, and damage are considered as a disadvantage of having a certain type of hair. While it is true that some hair types are more prone to drying out and frizzing up, there isn't much that the right kind of hair care won't tackle. Deep conditioning for hair at home is one of the best ways by which you could treat your hair with natural ingredients.

There are many deep conditioning treatments you can try at home that are bound to improve the health of your hair. Regardless of your hair type, the leading cause of bad hair, more often than not, is the lack of moisture. Following is a list of 10 DIY deep conditioning treatments that are totally affordable and contain ingredients that are probably already in your kitchen.

## Shea Butter

- Apply shea butter from the roots to the tips of your hair. If you have an oily scalp and dry hair, you can apply it from the mid-lengths to the tips.
- Once all of your hair is coated with the shea butter, cover it with a hot towel. You can heat the towel by using a blow dryer on the hot setting.
- Keep the towel wrapped around your hair for an hour.
- Wash and condition your hair.

## Tea Tree Oil

- Take 3-5 drops of tea tree oil and add it to 3 tablespoons of cold-pressed coconut oil.
- Stir with a spoon to mix the two oils.
- Section your hair and start applying the oil mixture on the roots, along the length of your hair, and the tips.
- Massage the oil into your scalp for 10 minutes and then braid your hair or put it up in a bun.
- Sleep with the oil in your hair. The next morning, wash it out with shampoo and condition.

## Yogurt

- Wash your hair with shampoo; skip conditioning.
- Once your hair is almost dry, start applying yogurt along the length of your hair, from the roots to the tips.
- Let the yogurt sit in your hair for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Rinse it out with lukewarm water.

## Aloe Vera

- Cut an aloe vera leaf and extract about 1/2 a cup or

more gel (depending on the length of your hair) with a spoon.

- Blend the gel until it gets to a smooth consistency.
- Wash your hair with shampoo. Skip conditioning.
- While your hair is still damp, start applying the aloe vera gel to your hair from the roots to the tips.
- Let the gel sit in your hair for about 30 minutes.
- Rinse your hair out with lukewarm water.

## Mayonnaise And Egg

- Mix half a cup of mayonnaise with 1 egg and 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a bowl. You may double the ingredients if your hair is very long.
- Shampoo your hair and skip conditioning.
- Once your hair is almost dry, section it and start applying the mixture from the roots to the tips.
- Put your hair up in a bun and cover it with a shower cap or a moist hot towel.
- Keep the pack on for 20-30 minutes and then rinse it off with shampoo and lukewarm water. Skip conditioning if you have oily hair.

## Honey

- Honey can be used in combination with various ingredients for conditioning your hair. Below are three deep conditioning recipes that contain honey.

### Honey And Avocado

- Mash one ripe avocado and add 2 tablespoons of raw honey to it. Ensure that there are no lumps.
- Mix it until it gets to a smooth consistency.
- Wash your hair with shampoo and skip conditioning. Let your hair air dry.
- Once your hair is dry, start applying the honey-avocado mixture from the roots to the tips of your hair.
- Let it sit for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Wash it off with shampoo and condition.

### Honey And Olive Oil

- Take 2 tablespoons of raw honey and mix it with 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
- Wash your hair with shampoo and skip conditioning. Let it air dry.
- Once your hair is completely dry, start applying the honey-olive oil mixture to it from the roots to the tips.
- Put your hair up in a bun, or in braids, and wait for 30 minutes to an hour.
- Wash with shampoo and condition.

## FOOD CORNER



## Mozzarella Sticks

### INGREDIENTS

- 300 gm mozzarella
- 1/2 cup chickpeas flour
- 1 cup sunflower oil
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup crushed breadcrumbs

### Method

Cut the cheese into 1/2-1 inch sticks and keep aside.

Mix the maida and besan flour in a bowl. Add enough water and mix to a thick batter.

Spread the breadcrumbs on a plate. Dip the cheese sticks in the batter and roll them in the breadcrumbs.

Place them on a parchment paper and keep it in the fridge for 2 to 3 hours or overnight.

This is to ensure the cheese does not melt while frying and it has a crispy coating.

Heat oil in a deep frying pan. Fry the mozzarella sticks until light golden brown.

Remove and drain excess oil. Serve with a dipping sauce of choice.

## 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 tbslp, Green Chillies - 2, Tomato Puree - 2 to 3 tbslp (or as required), Ajinomoto - 3 tsp (optional), Soy Sauce - 4 tbslp, Salt as per taste, Oil - 3 tbslp, Coriander Leaves

### 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 tbslp 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.



# Simple diet tips to lower cholesterol

Your body needs some cholesterol to work properly. But if you have too much in your blood, it can stick to the walls of your arteries and narrow or even block them. This puts you at risk for coronary artery disease and other heart diseases. Cholesterol travels through the blood on proteins called lipoproteins. One type, LDL, is sometimes called the "bad" cholesterol. A high LDL level leads to a buildup of cholesterol in your arteries. Another type, HDL, is sometimes called the "good" cholesterol. It carries cholesterol from other parts of your body back to your liver. Then your liver removes the cholesterol from your body.

## Choose healthier fats

You should limit both total fat and saturated fat. No more than 25 to 35% of your daily calories should come from dietary fats, and less than 7% of your daily calories should come from saturated fat.

## Eat lots of fruits and vegetables

A diet rich in fruits and vegetables can increase important cholesterol-lowering compounds in your diet. These compounds, called plant stanols or sterols, work like soluble fiber.

## Eat fish high in omega-3 fatty acids

These acids won't lower your LDL level, but they may help raise your HDL level. They may also protect your heart from blood clots and inflammation and reduce your risk of heart attack. Fish that are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids include salmon, tuna (canned or fresh), and mackerel. Try to eat these fish two times a week.

## Limit salt

You should try to limit the amount of sodium (salt) that you eat to no more than 2,300 milligrams (about 1



teaspoon of salt) a day. That includes all the sodium you eat, whether it was added in cooking or at the table, or already present in food products. Limiting salt won't lower your cholesterol, but it can lower your risk of heart diseases by helping to lower your blood pressure. You can reduce your sodium by instead choosing low-salt and "no added salt" foods and seasonings at the table or while cooking.

## Limit alcohol

Alcohol adds extra calories, which can lead to weight gain. Being overweight can raise your LDL level and lower your HDL level. Too much alcohol can also increase your risk of heart diseases because it can raise your blood pressure and triglyceride level.



## Scientists can now read whole genome sequencing of IVF embryo

In a significant breakthrough, scientists at a US-based gene analytics firm claimed that they can decode almost all the DNA of days-old embryos created via in vitro fertilisation (IVF), the Science reported.

According to MyOme, full sequence of both parents' DNA and resulting "reconstruction" of an embryo's genome with the help of the data, could make it possible to forecast risk for common diseases including heart conditions, autoimmune diseases, cancer, that can develop later in life. The advance is currently available only for adults.

In a paper, published in the journal Nature Medicine, the MyOme team described creating such scores by first sequencing the genomes of 10 pairs of parents who had already undergone IVF and had babies.

The researchers then used data collected during the IVF process: The couples' embryos, 110 in all, had undergone limited genetic testing at that time, a sort of spot sequencing of cells, called microarray measurements.

Such analysis can test for an abnormal number of chromosomes, certain genetic diseases, and rearrangements of large chunks of DNA. By combining these patchy embryo data with the more complete parental genome sequences, and applying statistical and population genomics techniques, the researchers could account for the gene shuffling that occurs during reproduction and calculate which chromosomes each parent had passed down to each embryo. In this way, they could predict much of that embryo's DNA, the report said.

The researchers collected cheek swab samples from the babies and sequenced their full genome, just as they'd done with the parents. They then compared that "true sequence" with the reconstructed genome for the embryo from which the child originated.

The comparison revealed, essentially, a match: For a 3-day-old embryo, at least 96 per cent of the reconstructed genome aligned with the inherited gene variants in the corresponding baby; for a 5-day-old embryo, it was at least 98 per cent, the report said.

Source: IANS

# Organs from Covid positive fatalities are safe, says study

Evidence is mounting to show that organ donation from dying donors testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 appears to be safe and does not cause Covid-19 in the patient receiving the donated organ, according to a study.

The Covid pandemic exacerbated the shortage of abdominal organs for donation by increasing organ discard rates, due to the unclear risks of using organs from Covid-19 infected donors.

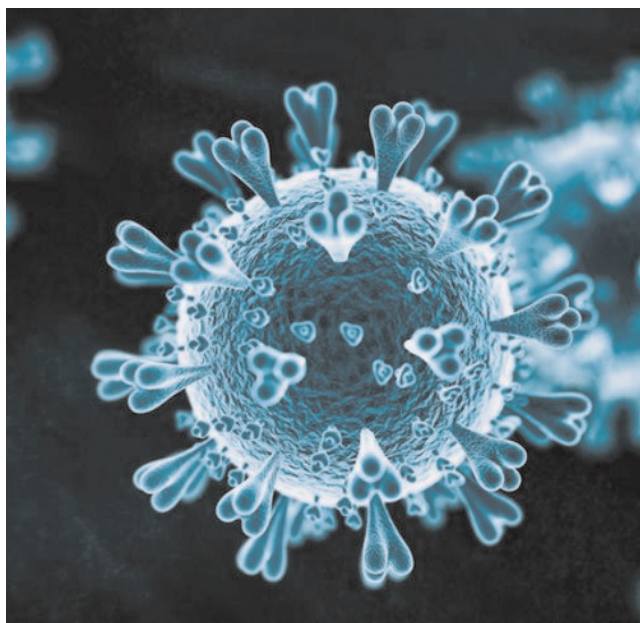
A team from Duke University in the US analysed six abdominal organ transplants performed (2 livers, 2 kidneys/pancreas transplanted together) in four recipients using organs procured from four donors who tested positive for Covid and died.

The donor evaluation protocol included additional review of organ quality, with all four donors undergoing macroscopic and/or microscopic biopsy review to confirm organ suitability.

Donors were assessed by considering organ type, the duration and severity of Covid-19 illness, whether any signs of hypercoagulable disease were present (meaning potentially increased clotting in the donated organ or vessels) as well as careful overall inspection at the time of organ procurement.

Further, if the organ to be donated was lung or intestine, it would only be considered if the donor last tested positive for Covid more than 20 days ago, a timeline consistent with infection control practices of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

And if the virus was found in the base of the lungs, the lungs were deemed unsuitable for transplantation, but other organs could still be transplanted safely,



provided the donor was not dying from severe hyperinflammatory Covid-19 or showed signs of excessive clotting, the team explained.

Even after passing through all these barriers, doctors must still consider the ultimate cause of death for a donor and weigh up whether that is likely to negatively impact organ quality and/or surgical risk, they said.

Further, to reduce the transplant risk, recipients are now strongly encouraged to be fully Covid-19 vaccinated prior to surgery.

Source: IANS

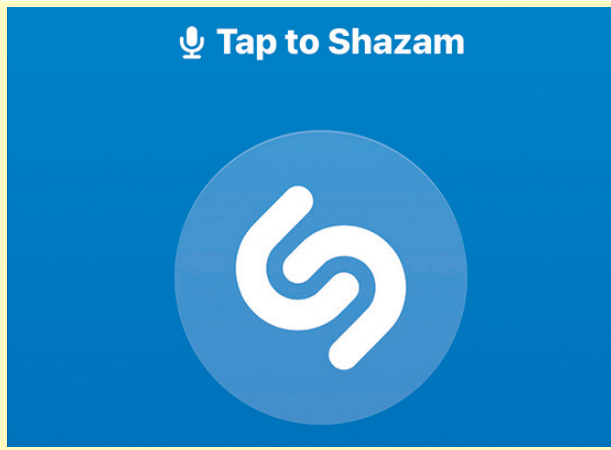
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## Apple's Shazam App to suggest nearby concerts

Shazam, the music recognition platform acquired by Apple for reportedly \$400 million in 2018, has gained a new feature designed to make it easier for users to locate and explore upcoming live music shows. Shazam's new concert feature is now available on iOS and Android.

"Shazam has a long history of innovation in music discovery and connecting artists and fans," Apple VP for Apple Music and Beats Oliver Schusser said.

"With the reemergence of live music, we're excited to give Shazam users access to concerts and bring even more discoverability to artists." The platform has been also updated to version 15.0, with the app now able to spend more time listening to songs that are tough to recognise.

Available as an update via the App Store, Shazam version 15.0's update notes explain that the milestone update adds in a change to the way the feature functions. The app is free to download from the App Store, is compatible with all iPhones and iPads running iOS 13.0 and iPadOS 13.0 or later and weighs in at 34.2MB in size.

# Massive dust cloud spotted by NASA's Spitzer telescope could give insights into planet formation

A group of astronomers made over 100 routine observations of a distant ten-million-year-old star called HD166191 using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope and combined that with knowledge about the star's brightness and size to arrive at information that will help scientists test theories about how planets are formed and how they grow. Their findings are published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

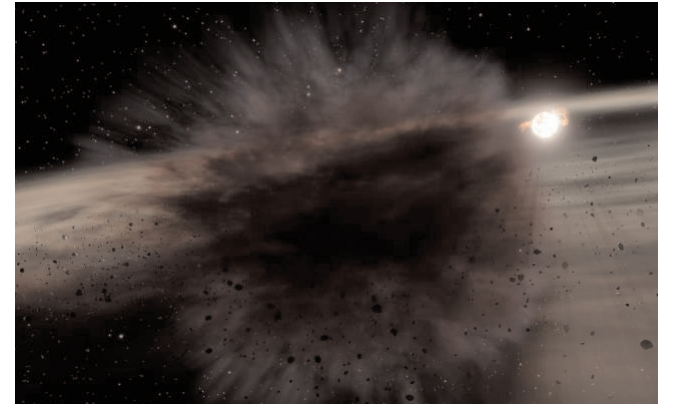
The Spitzer Space Telescope was an infrared space telescope that was launched by NASA in 2003 and continued operating for sixteen years before it was finally decommissioned in 2019.

Most rocky planets, satellites and other celestial objects in the solar system, including the Moon and the Earth, were formed by massive collisions early in the early history of the solar system. Terrestrial bodies accumulate more material and increase in size with these collisions. They can also break apart into many smaller bodies this way.

The astronomers, led by Kate Su of the University of Arizona, began making observations for HD 166191 in 2015. Around the star's early life, dust left over from its formation has clumped together to form small rocky bodies called 'planetesimals', which are potentially seeds for future planets.

After the gas that had previously filled the space between these objects dispersed, catastrophic collisions between them became more frequent. The scientists began making these observations using Spitzer between 2015 and 2019, anticipating that they might be able to gather evidence of such collisions.

Even though the planetesimals themselves were too small to be captured by the telescope, their smashups produce large amounts of dust. As an infrared light telescope, Spitzer was uniquely suited to detecting the dust and debris created by these collisions.



This illustration depicts the result of a collision between two large asteroid-sized bodies. NASA's Spitzer saw a debris cloud block the star HD 166191, giving scientists details about the smashup that occurred. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Astronomers are able to record these observations by detecting when the debris cloud from one of these bodies passes in front of a star and briefly block light. This is called a transit.

In mid-2018, the HD 166191 system became significantly brighter for the Spitzer telescope, which suggests an increase in debris production. During the time, the telescope also detected a transit, or a debris cloud blocking the star.

The astronomers' work suggests that this cloud is highly elongated with a minimum area estimated to be at least three times that of the star. However, the amount of infrared brightening detected probably means that only a small portion of the cloud passed in front of the star and that the debris from this event could even cover an area hundred times larger than that of the star. Source: *The Indian Express*

## Google's Chrome OS now supports variable refresh rates

US-based search engine giant Google is reportedly planning to bring full support for variable refresh rate (VRR) displays to Chrome OS.

As spotted by About Chromebooks, support for variable refresh rate displays is rolling out to the Chrome OS 101 Dev Channel. The variable refresh rate allows the monitor refresh rate to synchronise with the game frame rate to avoid lag. This update to Chrome OS will bring a better experience to the game.

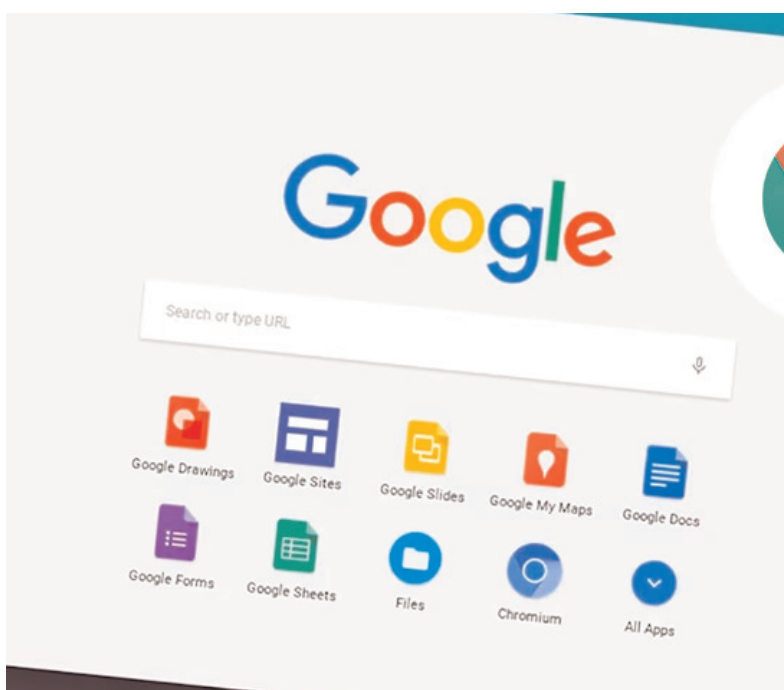
Google recently announced an early access programme called Chrome OS Flex that will bring its operating system to existing Windows and Macs.

The new version of Chrome OS, designed for businesses and schools and can be installed within minutes.

Devices running Chrome OS Flex will also have the ability to be managed with the same setup and licensing as enterprise and education Chromebooks without any differences in the process.

Chrome OS Flex is basically an upgraded version of CloudReady, which has the same functionality. CloudReady was developed by NeverWare, which Google acquired in 2020. The company's free CloudReady installer can make it easy to transform an old Windows PC into a Chrome device.

Source: IANS



## Tesla named 'most trusted' brand developing fully-autonomous vehicles

Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle company Tesla was recently named the "most-trusted" brand in the pursuit of fully-autonomous vehicles, according to a new study.

The study surveyed consumer perception regarding fully-



autonomous vehicle technology, reports Teslarati.

Fifty-six total automotive brands were options for consumers to pick in the study, a release from AutoPacific, who performed the study, said.

Tesla topped the list, earning 32 per cent of the votes, beating out Toyota with 19 per cent and BMW with 18 per cent.

"With 32 per cent of consumers, Tesla claims the crown for being the most trusted brand for developing safe and reliable fully-autonomous vehicles," the study said.

"This likely can be credited to much more 'buzz' surrounding the automaker's pricey and controversial Full-Self Driving driver assistance tech in which current Tesla owners are able to sign up as volunteers and help demo the Level 2 semi-autonomous hands-free capability for Tesla's own R&D efforts," it added. Source: IANS





## FITCH CUTS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 8.5% ON HIGH OIL PRICES, INFLATION

Rating agency Fitch on Tuesday, March 22, slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to 8.5% from 10.3%, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the Russia-Ukraine war.

It has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7%.

"However, we have lowered our growth forecast for FY 2022-2023 to 8.5% (-1.8 pp) on sharply higher energy prices," Fitch said. For 2023-24, it is estimated at 7%.

In its Global Economic Outlook-March 2022, Fitch said the post-Covid pandemic recovery is being hit by a potentially huge global supply shock that will reduce growth and push up inflation.

"The war in Ukraine and economic sanctions on Russia has put global energy supplies at risk. Sanctions seem unlikely to be rescinded any time soon," the agency said.

Last week, another global rating agency Moody's had slashed India's growth estimate for the 2022 calendar year to 9.1% from 9.5% earlier, saying high fuel and fertiliser import bill could limit capital expenditure.

Russia supplies around 10% of the world's energy, including 17% of its natural gas and 12% of oil.

## ANZ BECOMES FIRST AUSTRALIAN BANK TO MINT STABLECOIN

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group said on Thursday it carried out an Australian dollar stablecoin payment, in a landmark transaction to become the first Australian lender to mint a digital asset linked to the country's currency.

A stablecoin is a kind of digital asset that is devised to keep its value stable in relation to another asset, and are frequently used as a portal to other cryptocurrencies or to generate income in decentralised financial systems. ANZ said it has delivered the Australian dollar stablecoin, which it calls A\$DC, to a private wealth management firm for digital assets - Victor Smorgon Group - through digital asset investment platform Zerocap.

The company's move to mint digital assets linked to the Australian dollar comes after the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) said last year the growth of digital wallets could allow the exchange of tokens or digital forms of money that could be backed by the RBA, even as the central bank remains sceptical of the digital currency.

# India crosses \$ 400 bn milestone in exports

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The country's exports for the first time crossed the USD 400 billion mark in a fiscal on healthy performance by sectors such as petroleum products, engineering, gems and jewellery, and chemicals, according to the commerce ministry's data released on Wednesday, March 23.

The merchandise exports rose by 37 per cent to USD 400.8 billion in 2021-22 until March 21 against USD 292 billion in 2020-21. Previously, the outbound shipments had touched a record of USD 330.07 billion in 2018-19.

Imports during the period stood at USD 589 billion, leaving a trade deficit of about USD 189 billion.

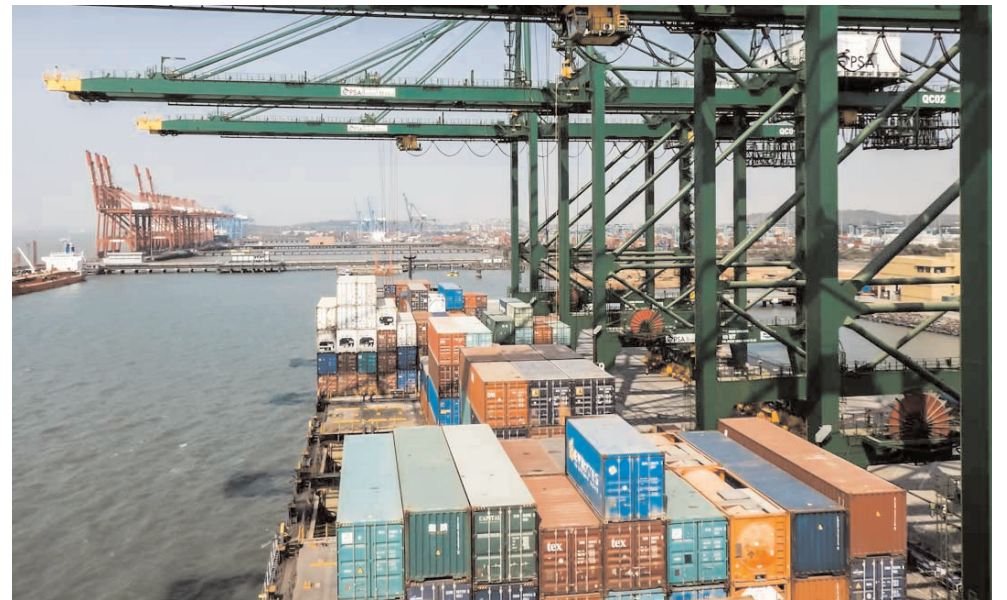
Hailing the country's success in achieving its goods export target, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that this is a key milestone in India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' journey.

The highest ever goods export target was achieved nine days ahead of the March 31 deadline.

"India set an ambitious target of USD 400 billion of goods exports and achieves this target for the first time ever. I congratulate our farmers, weavers, MSMEs, manufacturers, exporters for this success. This is a key milestone in our Aatmanirbhar Bharat journey. #LocalGoesGlobal," Modi tweeted.

Briefing media, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that despite all adversities including Covid-19 pandemic, and Russia-Ukraine war, India has achieved this milestone.

"First time in history, India has crossed USD 400 billion in merchandise



exports if this was a movie like The Kashmir Files, it would be called a Make in India blockbuster," Goyal told reporters here.

He added that closer interaction with states and districts; engagement with exporters; faster resolution of their issues; actively engaging with different export promotion councils, industry associations and other stakeholders have helped in reaching this milestone.

On average, goods worth about USD 33 billion were shipped every month and about USD 1 billion every day.

The key export sectors, which contributed to record healthy growth include petroleum products, engineering, gems and jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The top

five export destinations are the US, the UAE, China, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands.

Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said that going by the trend, "we would be adding USD 10-12 billion in the remaining nine days", taking the exports by end of 2021-22 to over USD 410 billion.

Commenting on the data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said crossing USD 400 billion is a remarkable achievement as exporters have added over USD 110 billion in one year to reach here despite huge logistics challenges, including container shortage, skyrocketing freight and liquidity constraints. *Source: PTI*

## Asian shares struggle, oil edges lower as Ukraine worries linger

BEIJING (TIP)

Asian shares were volatile on Thursday, March 23, and oil prices turned lower as the latest developments in the Ukraine war and more hawkish comments from U.S. Federal Reserve officials left investors uneasy.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan recouped some of its earlier losses to be off 0.34%, on the day, with Chinese stocks leading the declines.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 0.3% while the mainland's blue-chip index slid 0.6%.

Japan's Nikkei, however, reversed losses to gain 0.25% and end the session at a nine-week high, buoyed by a retreat in crude oil and buying into the end of Japan's fiscal year this month.

"It is still a relatively volatile market, (which) suggests that these ripping moves in stocks ought to be treated with caution," said Kyle Rodda, an analyst at IG markets.

European markets are set for a stronger open, as indicated by early futures trading. The pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures were up 0.29%, German DAX futures rose 0.25% and FTSE futures were up 0.2%.

E-mini futures for the S&P 500 rose 0.4%.

Driving some of the volatility, Federal Reserve policymakers on Wednesday signaled they stood ready to take more aggressive action to bring down runaway inflation, including a possible half-percentage-point interest rate hike at the next policy meeting in May. *Source: Reuters*

## I-T Dept raids multiple premises of Hero MotoCorp, CEO Pawan Munjal

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Income Tax Department on Wednesday, March 23, raided multiple premises linked to Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal and other top executives of the company amid allegations of tax evasion.

Sources said Pawan Munjal's home and offices in Gurugram,

Delhi and few more cities were searched, as a team of officials examined financial documents and other business transactions of the company and its promoters.

"The searches are being conducted at Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal premises. Over two dozen premises of Hero MotoCorp and its senior executives are also being searched. It is a search and seizure action on suspicion of tax evasion," a source said.

The company said Hero MotoCorp is an ethical and law-abiding corporate, and maintains the highest standards of impeccable corporate governance. Led by Munjal, the company has presence across 40 countries spanning Asia, Africa, and South and Central America. *Source: TNS*



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 - MAR 28 TO APR 03, 2022**



**Aries**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll be able to overcome your fears. Wearing Blue this week can help you generate a lot of good luck. This week, a rebirth of vitality will make you feel fantastic. As your pressure will be relieved, you will be ready to begin your plans. Mercury's effect will make you feel a little jumbled in your head this week, especially in the second half of the week. Don't be too concerned this week, and try to keep your thoughts under control. This week, your connection will be OK. This week will be fine for your health.



**Taurus**

Dear Taurus, in the minds of some significant individuals, you'll encounter this week, you'll be able to depict yourself as ambitious. This week, you'll be able to perfectly describe yourself. Being helpful can help you recruit smart people to work on your initiatives. The recent condemnation you've been subjected to will lead to a difficult period in the second part of this week. Due to the weak moon in your zodiac, your concerns will continue to plague you this week, but your companion will make things better and keep you happy. You don't need to be concerned about your health since everything will be OK.



**Gemini**

You will effectively accomplish the job that you had previously postponed Dear Gemini. You'll also be able to emerge from your cozy cocoon. Between Wednesday and Saturday, Jupiter will shower you with extraordinary benefits. As a result, schedule any expert meetings related to closing a contract this week during this time. Your emotions will triumph over your intellect. This week, your anxiety will shake your faith in your partnership a little, so you must appeal to Lord Krishna for guidance in your love life. This week, you'll need to focus on your health.



**Cancer**

This week, you'll encounter someone who is both encouraging and interesting. You've been restricting yourself for a long

time. A long-time acquaintance will assist you in gathering the assets you'll need to start a new business. This week, your professional ambitions will fall into place. This week, you should avoid those born under the sign of Pisces. Furthermore, Ketu's position indicates that you should avoid travel this week since an undesirable incident is likely to occur. Your companion will improve the situation. Don't worry about your wellness this week; everything will be OK.



**Leo**

This week, you'll spend a lot of time with yourself. Being self-centered will assist you in making significant changes in your life. You will also make new commitments to yourself, which will be the finest thing that can happen this week. It will be tough for you to figure out numerous things at the same time, and this stress will consume you by the middle of the week. Being emotively weak will likewise be a stumbling block for you. Your companion will assist you in remaining strong. This week will be beneficial for your health.



**Virgo**

Dear Virgo, you have a distinct character that others may try to undermine this week, but no one will be able to change your exclusivity this week. This week, you'll be recognized for the hard graft you've put in in the past. This week, your unique individuality will be the center of attention. You're more likely to get into a fight with someone with whom you have a strong relationship. Due to Venus, your commitment to your relationship will be hampered this week, so try to be gentle with your lover. This week, your health will take a hit since you'll be dealing with back discomfort.



**Libra**

This week, you will finally achieve a sense of security in your daily existence Dear Libra. This week's current equilibrium in your life between negative and optimism will educate you on things you didn't expect to learn so fast. You'll think greater than you thought, and you'll go further than you expected. Your love relationship will be unaffected since your spouse

will be content to give you space for work and 'Me' time. This week, you will fail to look after your health, resulting in sleepiness. In the second half of the week, you will feel disconnected from your professional activities.



**Scorpio**

Dear Scorpio, you will have a fantastic week since a promise made to you a long time ago will be honored this week, which will improve your financial status and career prospects. Wearing pink and red this week will bring you good fortune. Someone will try to sabotage your happiness this week by keeping a close check on your personal and home life. This week, do your best to keep your partner well-equipped with optimism regarding your relationship. As a result of Ketu's malign influence, you'll need to pay attention to your physical health.



**Sagittarius**

This week, you'll make some fantastic trip arrangements, most likely with coworkers. This week, people will get to see a distinct side of you. You will leave an impact on others around you, which will benefit you later in life. As a result of Rahu's connection with Venus, someone with whom you have a love attraction may disrupt your job stream. If you don't handle this particular problem well, everything you've fought so hard for will be ruined. As a result of the Moon's shift, your mental health will be harmed this week. Try to retain your cool and manage your rage.



**Capricorn**

Dear Capricorn, Because of your rigorous and thorough approach to work, you will move a few steps closer to your objectives. Your outlook will be transformed into one that is repaired and healthy. You will meet a better version of yourself this week, and you will be grateful to God for it. You'll have a hard time dealing with the issues in your love life that you were scared might arise. You must realize that discussing your anxieties with your spouse is the best way to conquer them. This week, Venus will

CONTD ON PAGE 27

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAR 28 TO APR 03, 2022  
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**March 28**

Ganesha says today your day will be full of happiness; you may get some good news from your family. You may spend time with family and your partner. Today you may feel good about having your family and partner with you in every step of your life. You may plan to buy a new house. Your partner may surprise you with a gift today. Try to spend as much time as you can with your partner as it's important for the two of you to make your bond strong.

**March 29**

Ganesha says you may receive more than you can give in your professional as well as personal life and your social status is likely to elevate. Positive thoughts may fill up your mind. On the career front, you may take steady steps to ensure personal growth. Today is a balanced day for you. Pay attention to your physical as well as mental health. Spending some time with the outside world or among friends may help you gain new perspectives and prepare you better to deal with the daily tribulations of life.

**March 30**

Ganesha says today your day will be good. Family

members may give you good news. You may plan to buy a new vehicle for your partner. You may get your ancestral property transferred to your name. You may recover from your past disease today. Today, you will have an extraordinary day. You may plan to meet your old friends today, which may make you emotional. You and your partner may enjoy the day together. You may plan to buy a new house today.

**March 31**

Ganesha says you will have a good day today. Your dreams are likely to come true with your hard work and dedication. You may get countless opportunities to fulfill your aspirations and prove your hard work. You will have an adventurous day today. You and your partner may plan for a trek today. You may impress your seniors with your hard work.

**April 1**

Ganesha says you will have a great time with your loved ones and your partner today. Today is a good day for you to start afresh. New beginnings are in your cards today and you will go through a very pivotal moment in your health today and it will shape you to be the best version of yourself that you can be, in the future.

**April 2**

Ganesha says you are likely to enjoy your day with your partner today. You may understand your partner today better by communicating your thoughts and lending an ear to them might strengthen your ties.

You may experience a roller coaster of emotions as new emotions come your way. You are likely to succeed in anything you do today. You may get new opportunities today. You are likely to work on multiple tasks and excel in all of them today.

**April 3**

Ganesha says today your aims and aspirations may get new wings. Your dreams may start to take shape now. You are likely to bring positive changes in your lifestyle, which may fill you with a positive sense of energy. You may plan to travel to a tourist destination with your friends soon.

You and your partner will have a great day. You may plan to go for a romantic dinner with your partner. If you are single, you are likely to tie a knot with your lover. You may start taking interest in making your relationship more serious today.

**CONTD FROM PAGE 26**

be in a favorable position, so take advantage of it. This week will be fine for your health.



**Aquarius**

You'll master toggling this week. You will be inundated with work from all angles, yet you will be able to satisfy your commitments, much to your amazement. This week, people will be extremely helpful to you. In the second half of this week, your proclivity for identifying flaws will betray you. Your spouse will attempt to free you from the painful events that have injured you. This week, you'll have to be more cautious with your wellness. You will be able to ensure that your children make the best selections possible because Lord Sun will assist them.



**Pisces**

Dear Pisces, you will be a highly trustworthy person in your group, particularly among your coworkers this week. This genuine quality of yours will assist you in winning several affections this week. With the assistance of someone more experienced, you will be able to improve your job this week. This week, you must pay attention to your spouse/companion; their approach to the problem will be more honest and productive than yours. In the second half of this week, you'll be a bit irritated. You will not be able to maintain your optimum health owing to being angered and agitated at times, but you will be well by the weekend.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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# History This Week Mar 25 to Mar 31

**"IF YOU DON'T KNOW HISTORY, THEN YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU ARE A LEAF THAT DOESN'T KNOW IT IS PART OF A TREE." - MICHAEL CRICHTON**

## March 25

March 25, 1807 - The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

March 25, 1911 - A raging fire erupted inside a garment factory in New York City killing 123 young women employed as low-paid seamstresses, along with 23 men. The fast-spreading flames engulfed the 8th and 9th floors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in lower Manhattan in just a few minutes. About 50 of the victims had jumped to their deaths rather than perish from the flames. The sensational tragedy spurred national interest concerning the rights of mostly-immigrant women workers of the New York garment industry who labored long hours six or seven days a week in cramped, dangerous conditions for about \$5 weekly pay.

## March 26



Camp David accord. Left to Right: Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, US President Jimmy Carter, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat

March 26, 1979 - The Camp David Accord ended 30 years of warfare between Israel and Egypt. Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the treaty of mutual recognition and peace, fostered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.



Serge Krikalev

March 26, 1992 - Soviet Cosmonaut Serge Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on board the Mir Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet Union (USSR) collapsed



Tennessee Williams

and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Birthday - American playwright Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) was born in Columbus, Mississippi. His works featured Southern settings and include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Night of the Iguana*, and two Pulitzer Prize winning plays, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

## March 27

March 27, 1977 - The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

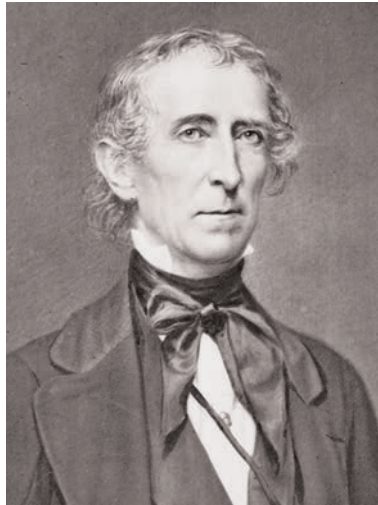
## March 28

March 28, 1979 - Near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident occurred in which uranium in the reactor core overheated due to the failure of a cooling valve. A pressure relief valve then stuck causing the water level to plummet, threatening a catastrophic nuclear meltdown. The accident resulted in the release of radioactive steam into the atmosphere and created a storm of controversy over the necessity and safety of nuclear power plants.

## March 29

March 29, 1979 - In the U.S. Congress, the House Select Committee on Assassinations

released its final report regarding the killings of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy.



John Tyler

Birthday - John Tyler (1790-1862) the 10th U.S. President was born in Charles City County, Virginia. He became president upon the death of William H. Harrison and served from 1841 to 1845. In 1861, Tyler was elected to the Confederate Congress, but died before being seated.

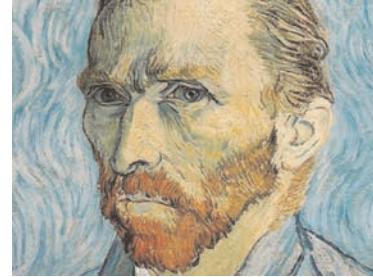
## March 30



Ronald Reagan

March 30, 1981 - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The president was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived. The president soon recovered from the surgery and returned to his duties.

Birthday - Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) was born in Groot Zundert, Holland. He was a Postimpressionist painter,



Vincent Van Gogh

generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt. During his short (10-year) painting career he produced over 800 oil paintings and 700 drawings but sold only one during his lifetime. In 1987, the sale of his painting *Irises* brought \$53.9 million, the highest price ever paid for a work of art up to that time. During his life, Van Gogh suffered from despair and bouts of mental illness, at one point cutting off part of his own left ear. He committed suicide in 1890 by gunshot.

## March 31

March 31, 1933 - The Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC, was founded. Unemployed men and youths were organized into quasi-military formations and worked outdoors in national parks and forests.



Lyndon Johnson

March 31, 1968 - President Lyndon Johnson made a surprise announcement that he would not seek re-election as a result of the Vietnam conflict.

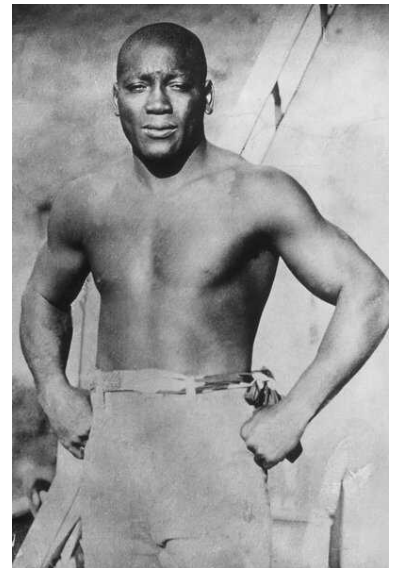
March 31, 1991 - The Soviet Republic of Georgia, birthplace of Josef Stalin, voted to declare its independence from Soviet Russia, after similar votes by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Following the vote in Georgia, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency.

Birthday - Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was born in



Franz Joseph Haydn

Rohrau, Austria. Considered the father of the symphony and the string quartet, his works include 107 symphonies, 50 divertimenti, 84 string quartets, 58 piano sonatas, and 13 masses. Based in Vienna, Mozart was his friend and Beethoven was a pupil.



Jack Johnson

Birthday - Boxing champion Jack Johnson (1878-1946) was born in Galveston, Texas. He was the first African American to win the heavyweight boxing title.



# Papmochani Ekadashi

**P**apmochani Ekadashi is an important day in Hinduism. Papmochani Ekadashi is observed on the Krishna Paksha Ekadashi of Chaitra month according to the Hindu calendar. There are about 24 to 26 Ekadashi in a year and each Ekadashi has its own special significance, thus also Papmochani Ekadashi. Papmochani Ekadashi is known as it is a fast to get rid of sins. This fast is described in 'Bhavishyottara Purana' and 'Harivasar Purana'. In Hinduism, 'Paap' means actions that are wrong. The meaning of 'Mochani' is to get salvation.

It is believed that Papmochani Ekadashi destroys all sins and a person who observes the Pamochni Ekadashi fast with full devotion never fears demons or ghosts. Papmochani fast is considered very auspicious.

Lord Vishnu is worshiped on the day of Papmochani Ekadashi. First of all, Sage Lomasa told King Mandhata about the Papmochani fast. Then Lord Krishna told King Yudhishtira about the importance of Papmochani Ekadashi. Whose fasting has become prevalent.

## Papmochani Ekadashi Worship

Lord Vishnu is worshiped with full dedication on the day of Papmochani Ekadashi. The person observing the fast should wake up at sunrise and take a bath. A small idol of Lord Vishnu is placed at the place of worship and devotees offer sandalwood paste, sesame seeds, fruits, lamps and incense to the Lord. It is considered auspicious to recite 'Vishnu Sahasranama' and 'Narayan Stotra' on this day.

On the day of Dwadashi, after feeding Brahmins, send them off and then eat food.

## Fruits of Worship and Significance of Papmochani Ekadashi Vrat

The importance of Papmochani Ekadashi fast has been described in 'Bhavishyottara Purana' and 'Harivasara Purana'. It is said that Papmochani Vrat liberates one from the effects of all sins. By observing Papmochani Ekadashi fast, learning at Hindu pilgrimage places is more virtuous than donating cows. Those who observe this auspicious fast enjoy all the worldly pleasures and eventually find a place in 'Vaikuntha', the heavenly kingdom of Lord Vishnu.

## Papmochani Ekadashi fasting story

In ancient times there was a beautiful forest called Chitraratha. In this forest, Devraj Indra Gandharva used to live freely in this forest along with girls and deities. A sage named Medhavi was also doing penance there. The sage Shiva worshiped and the



Apsaras Shiva Drohini was Anang's maid.

Once Kamadeva sent an Apsara named Manjughosha to him to break the sage's penance. The young sage was fascinated by Apsara's work on gestures, dance, songs and sarcasm. 57 years have passed while doing Rati-Krida. One day Manjughosha asked for permission to go to Devlok.

On asking Manjughosha's permission, the consciousness of the sage awakened and he realized that Apsara Manjughosha is the only reason for taking me to the abyss. He cursed Manjughosha to be a vampire. Hearing the curse, Manjughosha trembled and asked the remedy for salvation. Then the sage asked to keep the fast of Papmochani Ekadashi. He went to father Chyawan's ashram after telling the remedy for salvation. Hearing the curse, the Chyawan sage severely condemned the son and

## Important information

- Papmochani Ekadashi 2022
- Monday, 28 March 2022
- Ekadashi Tithi Start : 27 March 2022 at 06:04 PM
- Ekadashi Tithi End : 28 March 2022 at 04:15 PM
- Vrat Parana Time : 29 March 06:26 AM - 29 March 08:52 AM

ordered him to observe the fast of Paapmochani Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi. Sage Medhavi also observed the Papmochani Vrat and was freed from his sins. Due to the effect of the Papmochani fast, Manjughosha Apsara, freed from her body, went to Devlok.



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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

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# Ooty: Queen of the Nilgiris

Nestled amidst Nilgiri hills, Ooty, also known as Udagamandalam, is a hill station in Tamil Nadu which serves as a top-rated tourist destination. Once regarded as the summer headquarters of the East India Company, the Queen of the hills is a picturesque getaway.

Dotted with tea gardens, serene waterfalls, winding country lanes, and charming colonial architecture, Ooty is the perfect respite everyone. Popular among couples and honeymooners, Ooty allures its visitors with the panoramic views of the Nilgiri mountains.

The Nilgiri mountain railway is the steepest track in all of Asia. Remember the hit song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' where Shahrukh Khan and Malaika Arora matching steps on top of a train? Remember the breathtaking locales as the train chugged its way across lush greenery? Yes, that was the Nilgiri Mountain Railways, and the Nilgiri Mountains all along.

## Nilgiri Mountain Railway

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway built by the British in 1908 is a World Heritage Site. It's a 46-kilometre beautiful toy train journey that starts from Mettupalayam and goes through tunnels, curves, bridges and beautiful scenery to reach Ooty in five hours. From 300 feet to 7200 feet, the Ooty toy train is definitely a ride to cherish. Here's a tip – try to sit on the side that looks out in to the valley for the best views on the way up.

## Ooty Lake

Ooty Lake is a popular destination for picnicking, paddle boating and enjoying Ooty leisurely. Built in 1825, it is a 2.5-kilometre long lake meandering through the scenic beauty of the Nilgiris.

## Botanical Garden

Ooty Botanical Garden, spread over a huge area of 22 hectares and with more than 650 species of flowers and trees, is a horticulturist's delight. The highlight of the garden is a fossil tree that is believed to be 20 million years old. Another attraction here is the Toda tribe settlement towards the top of the garden. Be privy in to the lifestyle and culture of this tribe during your visit.

## How to Reach Ooty

Ooty's colonial charm and innate splendor attracts tourists from all over the world every year. Ooty has a well linked network of Air, Rail and Road ways.

## By Air



The nearest airport to Ooty is located in Coimbatore. The hill station is at a distance of about 98 kilometers from the Coimbatore Airport. The airport is connected to Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Cochin by Indian Airlines flights. In order to reach Ooty from the airport, one has to hire a taxi or a bus to reach Ooty.

## By Rail

The hill station of Ooty has a railway station of its own. It is called the Udagamandalam railway station and can be reached by The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (a.k.a. Toy Train) from Mettupalayam. Though the toy train isn't very fast but the scenic beauty of this route attracts many tourists. Mettupalayam is the nearest major railway station to Ooty. One can also hire a private taxi to reach Ooty here. The

distance of Ooty from Mettupalayam is about 52 km.

## By Road

Ooty is also connected to all the nearby towns and cities by good roads. The hill station connects to various other important cities of South India like Chennai, Bangalore, Mysore, Coimbatore, etc. The road to Ooty from Coimbatore is popular for its scenic beauty. As Ooty is located on NH 67 several tourist buses and taxis commute here without any hassle.

## Shopping in Ooty

Shopping in Ooty is one of the most exciting and thrilling experience for tourists who love to go on a shopping spree. Endowed with sprawling tea gardens and luxuriant green forest, Ooty is known for its fine flavored and aromatic

tea leaves, delicious honey, eucalyptus oil and several fruits.

The shopping malls of Ooty are flooded with natural products of forests. Ooty is a paradise for those who love shopping. Surrounded by tea gardens, the tourists can smell the enchanting scent of fresh tea leaves while taking a stroll in the long winding paths of Ooty.

The fresh tea leaves are purchased by the tourists as a relic of the beautiful place of Ooty. Another prominent itinerary in the list of items while shopping in Ooty is the pure and sweet honey which is available in all the stores and shopping centers of the place. The natural oil of Eucalyptus has a great demand among the shoppers because of its medicinal value. The markets of Ooty are full of fresh fruits that impart a colorful look to the place.



## CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## Ukraine and Russia Closer to Ending War as Understanding Reached in Four Areas: Erdogan

Newsweek said it has contacted the ministries of foreign affairs of both Russia and Ukraine for comment on the peace talks.

Turkey has been in contact with the negotiating teams from the two countries. The NATO member shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the Black Sea and has a strong relationship with both states. Although it has imposed some sanctions on Moscow since the war started on February 24, it has also offered to mediate the conflict.

Erdogan was speaking at a press conference following the extraordinary summit of NATO leaders on Thursday and Friday.

"We will continue our talks with both Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelensky from now on as well," Erdogan said, according to a statement from his office. "All our efforts aim to create an atmosphere of peace by bringing together the two leaders."

"As is known, there is almost a consensus regarding such issues as NATO, disarmament, collective security and using Russian as official language in the technical infrastructure works during the ongoing process in Belarus," Erdogan added. "However, there is the issue of Crimea and Donbas, which is impossible for Ukraine to consent to."

The Turkish leader called Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky's move on Monday to declare that Ukrainian compromises with Russia will be decided on by a referendum was "wise leadership."

"Turkey's strong support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty since 2014 is known by everyone. We have stated at every opportunity that we never have and never will recognize Crimea's annexation, and we continue to do so," Erdogan said.

"The destruction and humanitarian tragedy caused by the war are evident. The war-torn cities, hospitals, schools and houses that have nearly turned into wrecks, and weeping refugees, who packed all their assets in one suitcase, have all reminded us once again of the bitter face of wars."

Erdogan is due to tell Russian President Vladimir Putin: "Make an honorable exit in Ukraine and become an architect of peace," Soylu reported.

The Turkish president met with U.S. counterpart Joe Biden and other NATO leaders in Brussels on Thursday to discuss further sanctions on Russia and bolstering the alliance's eastern flank. Biden will travel to a Polish town near the border of Ukraine later on Friday to show solidarity and show Western resolve against the Russian invasion. (Source: Newsweek)

## Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM; 52 ministers also sworn in

While the party has retained top OBC leader Keshav Prasad Maurya despite him losing his seat, several big names, including Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma and cabinet ministers Shrikant Sharma and Sidharth Nath Singh, were dropped.

Shrikant Sharma's name is, however, doing the rounds for the post of UP state president. The buzz is that after party president JP Nadda completes his term, some names from UP may figure in the organization headed by the new chief.

PM's close confidante and former bureaucrat AK Sharma has also made it as the UP Cabinet. The inclusion of AK Sharma, an MLC, is an acknowledgement of his handling of the second wave of Covid-19 in Varanasi/Purvanchal region.

Among the new ministers are former Uttarakhnd Governor Baby Rani Maurya and Jitin Prasad, Brahmin leader who quit the Congress last year. Former police officer Aseem Arun and Kalyan Singh's grandson Sandeep Singh have been included as ministers of state (independent charge).

## Foreign Secretary Shringla calls for alignment between UN, League of Arab States

However, Mr. Shringla's visit to New York amidst the ongoing war in Ukraine has fueled speculation that he would also take part in the discussions at the United Nations about the way forward in the crisis.

At the UNSC meeting on the LAS, Mr. Shringla called for greater policy alignment between the U.N. and the LAS, fostered by regular and frequent consultations. He also suggested comprehensive coordination at the field level and emphasized post-conflict peace building via reconstruction and economic development. Mr. Shringla suggested that all efforts ensure regional stability with a special focus on the welfare of women and minorities.

"Both organizations must take concerted efforts to support the reactivation of the Middle East [West Asia] peace process in line with a two-state solution based on the internationally agreed framework and previous agreements between the parties," Mr. Shringla said. "India welcomes the agreement for normalization of relations between countries in the region, which we believe will contribute to greater peace and stability in the region."

The UAE, along with several other Arab countries, began normalizing its relations with Israel, particularly with the signing of the Abraham Accords - a trilateral agreement among the U.S., the UAE and Israel, signed in 2020, during the administration of (former) U.S. President Donald Trump.

Even as the UNSC meeting was under way on Wednesday, a parallel session of

the UNGA (a resumption of the Emergency Special Session from earlier in March) began. Ukraine introduced a draft resolution, proposed by France and Mexico, "Human Consequences of the Aggression Against Ukraine", which holds Russia responsible for the crisis in Ukraine. Another draft UNGA resolution, sponsored by South Africa, a BRICS member-country, calls for "an immediate cessation of hostilities by all parties in the conflict", without naming Russia.

New Delhi has received a large number of foreign leaders and delegations over the past week, and more are expected to follow, mostly from countries that are part of the sanctions regime against Russia, seeking to shift India's position on the Russia-Ukraine issue. The Modi government has refused to support any resolution at the U.N. bodies that criticizes Russia and has suggested that it is considering a Russian offer of more oil at discounted prices.

Diplomatic sources confirmed that the surge in the number of visitors to Delhi by European and U.S. allies was mainly aimed at trying to ensure that the Modi government shifts its position on the Ukraine issue. NATO and the E.U. countries hope that New Delhi will consider voting in favor of at least one or both of the resolutions on the humanitarian situation before the UNGA.

"A vote in favor of one of the resolutions would be a sign that New Delhi is willing to shift its position," said a diplomat, speaking on the condition of anonymity, adding that if India remains committed to the U.N. charter, territorial sovereignty principles and a need for a stop to the violence, it must also hold Russia to account for "being the aggressor".

A third resolution, sponsored by Russia, is in the works at the UNSC and faces widespread opposition for not referring to its invasion of Ukraine. (Source: The Hindu)

## First woman US secretary of state Madeleine Albright dies at 84

died on Wednesday of cancer, her family said.

A lifelong Democrat who nonetheless worked to bring Republicans into her orbit, Albright was chosen in 1996 by President Bill Clinton to be America's top diplomat, elevating her from the US ambassador to the United Nations, where she had been only the second woman to hold that job.

As secretary of the state, Albright was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US government. She was not in the line of succession to the presidency, however, because she was born in what was then Czechoslovakia. Still, she was universally admired for breaking a glass ceiling, even by her political detractors.

"We have lost a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend," her family said in a statement.

President Joe Biden ordered flags at the White House and other federal buildings and grounds to be flown at half-staff until March 27.

Outpourings of condolences came quickly.

Biden said, "America had no more committed champion of democracy and human rights than Secretary Albright, who knew personally and wrote powerfully of the perils of autocracy."

"When I think of Madeleine," Biden added, "I will always remember her fervent faith that America is the indispensable nation."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Albright was "a brilliant diplomat, a visionary leader, a courageous trailblazer, a dedicated mentor, and a great and good person who loved the US deeply and devoted her life to serving it."

Clinton called her "one of the finest Secretaries of State, an outstanding UN Ambassador, a brilliant professor, and an extraordinary human being."

"And through it all," Clinton added, "even until our last conversation just two weeks ago, she never lost her great sense of humor or her determination to go out with her boots on, supporting Ukraine in its fight to preserve freedom and democracy."

Former President George W. Bush said Albright "lived out the American dream and helped others realize it...She served with distinction as a foreign-born foreign minister who understood firsthand the importance of free societies for peace in our world."

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US envoy to the United Nations, honored Albright as a "trailblazer and a luminary" in remarks on the General Assembly floor.

In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Albright the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, saying her life was an inspiration to all Americans.

Albright remained outspoken through the years. After leaving office, she criticized Bush for using "the shock of force" rather than alliances to foster diplomacy and said Bush had driven away moderate Arab leaders and created potential for a dangerous rift with European allies.

As a refugee from Czechoslovakia who saw the horrors of both Nazi Germany and the Iron Curtain, she was not a dove and played a leading role in pressing for the Clinton administration to get militarily involved in the conflict in Kosovo.

She also took a hard line on Cuba, famously saying at the United Nations that the Cuban shootdown of a civilian plane was not "cojones" but rather "cowardice".

Albright advised women "to act in a more confident manner" and "to ask questions when they occur and don't wait to ask".

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent," she told HuffPost Living in 2010.





## WOMEN'S TENNIS: WORLD NO.1 ASH BARTY ANNOUNCES SHOCK RETIREMENT

The world's top women's tennis player Ashleigh Barty has stunned the sport by announcing her early retirement at the age of just 25.

"Today is difficult and filled with emotion for me as I announce my retirement from tennis," she said in a video posted on Instagram.

The Australian leaves the sport less than two months after becoming the country's first home-grown Australian Open champion in 44 years, and winning a Grand Slam tournament on three different surfaces.

Barty has won 15 titles, including Wimbledon, played on grass, and the French Open, played on clay.

"I know how much work it takes to bring the best out of yourself ... I don't have that in me any more," she said in the video.

"I don't have the physical drive, the emotional want and everything it takes to challenge yourself at the very top level any more. I am spent."

Barty previously walked away from the game as a teenager in late 2014 after becoming disaffected by the Tour.

## ITALY FAIL TO QUALIFY FOR 2022 FIFA WC AFTER SHOCK LOSS TO NORTH MACEDONIA

Italy has gone from winning the European Championship to failing to qualify for the World Cup in just eight months.

In a rapid and stunning fall from grace, the Azzurri were upset by North Macedonia in a 1-0 loss that headlined a night of drama in the European qualifying playoffs on Thursday.

Italy will miss out on back-to-back World Cups for the first time in the national team's storied history, having also failed to get to the tournament in 2018.

It was only in July that Roberto Mancini and his players were celebrating winning Euro 2020 at Wembley Stadium, supposedly completing Italian soccer's redemption story.

On Thursday, there were tears of a different kind, and a general feeling of disbelief inside the Stadio Renzo Barbera in Palermo.

"Just as last July was the best thing I experienced at a professional level, this is the greatest disappointment," Mancini said. "Soccer is like that, sometimes incredible things happen."

# IPL 2022: MS Dhoni passes CSK baton to Ravindra Jadeja

MUMBAI (TIP)

Twelve seasons, four title triumphs and five runner-up finishes later, the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni has decided to hand over the captaincy of Chennai Super Kings to his trusted lieutenant Ravindra Jadeja.

But the 40-year-old will continue to represent the franchise for the "season and beyond", having led one of the most successful IPL sides since the tournament's inception in 2008, barring the two seasons when the team was suspended in the wake of the spot-fixing scandal.

"MS Dhoni has decided to hand over the leadership of Chennai Super Kings and picked Ravindra Jadeja to lead the team. Jadeja, who has been an integral part of Chennai Super Kings since 2012, will only be the third player to lead CSK," said CSK in a statement, adding: "Dhoni will continue to represent Chennai Super Kings this season and beyond."

Dhoni, who will turn 41 in July, had announced his international retirement on August 15, 2020 and yet led CSK to their fourth title last season. CSK play KKR in the first match of IPL-15 here on Saturday.

### Feeling good: Jadeja

"Feeling good but at the same time I need to fill in big boots," said Jadeja in a video shared by CSK on Twitter. "Like Mahi bhai has already set a big legacy and we need to carry it forward, so hopefully I will. And I don't need to worry too much because he's here and whatever question I need to ask, I'll definitely go to him. He was my go-to person and he still is today, so I'm not worried too much."

India's World Cup-winning captain



Mahendra Singh Dhoni led CSK for 12 seasons. Ravindra Jadeja will only be the third player to lead the team that has won the IPL title four times.

Dhoni has always been his own man when it comes to leaving captaincy or announcing his retirement.

He quit Test captaincy and also the five-day game in the middle of a series in Australia in 2014. And when he was sure Virat Kohli was ready to lead India across formats, Dhoni made the way for him in 2017. Though the inspirational leader carried on to play the IPL after announcing his international retirement in his inimitable style, his decision to hand over the CSK leadership to Jadeja was not entirely surprising.

The 33-year-old Jadeja, who is at the peak of his prowess, is ready for the challenge. The southpaw was CSK's first retention before the auction ahead of Dhoni, Moeen Ali and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

The announcement still took CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan by surprise, but said: "Whatever decision MS takes it is in the best interest of the team."

It can be safely said that CSK couldn't have become the brand it became without the charismatic Dhoni, who developed a special bond with the team and its fanatical fans. *Source: PTI*

## Hockey Pro League: India to open campaign against New Zealand in new format for 2022-23

BHUBANESWAR, (TIP)

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Thursday, March 22, released the new schedule for the fourth edition of FIH Pro League as per which India will take on New Zealand in the opener at home in October 2022.

India will host the first set of matches with the men's team starting its campaign against New Zealand on October 28 and Spain on October 30. They will play their return leg matches against New Zealand and Spain on October 4 and 6, respectively. Both the visitors New Zealand and Spain will also play a double-header against each other on October 29 and November 5.

As per the new format, the schedule will be divided into a series of date blocks, agreed by all parties, to assist with international and domestic competition planning, within which "mini-tournaments" will be played where several teams will gather in one venue to play two matches against each other.

This move will have a major positive impact on players' welfare and the environment, thanks to a substantial reduction in the amount of travel needed for each team and the officials. Another great advantage of this revised format is that it increases the number of dates available for athletes to compete in their domestic leagues and club competitions, the FIH



informed in a release on Thursday.

For the first season with this new schedule, matches will be hosted in the following seven nations -- Australia, Argentina, Belgium, England, India, the Netherlands and New Zealand. The matches will be held between October 28, 2022, to July 5, 2023. *Source: IANS*



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