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The Supreme Court of India issued a stern warning to NDMC to refrain from violating the apex court's orders on demolitions in Jahangirpuri

Will take serious view of demolitions even after orders, SC tells NDMC: Status quo extended in Jahangirpuri

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, April 21, said it would take a serious view of North Delhi Municipal Corporation's act of continued demolition in Jahangirpuri despite the apex court's stay yesterday,

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Prime Minister Modi pays glowing tribute to the Sikh Gurus

RECALLS THE SACRIFICE OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR, RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE COIN AND POSTAGE STAMP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi releasing the commemorative coin during the 400th Parkash Purab celebrations of Guru Tegh Bahadur at Red Fort, on April 21, 2022.
Photo / PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, April 21, 2022, released a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur and recalled the sacrifice of the ninth Sikh guru in protecting India and the Indian culture.

Mr. Modi addressed the gathering at Red Fort, where a two-day celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur culminated on Thursday, April 21 night. The Prime Minister said Red Fort had witnessed many events in history, including the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur and tested the

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Boris Johnson becomes first UK PM to visit Sabarmati Ashram



Boris Johnson tries his hand at a spinning wheel at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.

Photo / Courtesy Reuters

AHMEDABAD (TIP): Visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday, April 21, termed Mahatma Gandhi an "extraordinary man" who mobilized the principles of truth and non-violence to change the world for better.

Johnson became the first prime minister of the UK to visit the

Sabarmati Ashram here, the place from where Gandhi led India's struggle for freedom from the British colonial rule for more than a decade.

In fact, the Tory politician is also the first British prime minister to visit Gujarat post 1947. "It is an immense privilege to come to the ashram of this

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FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN MET IMF'S DMD GITA GOPINATH, DISCUSSED CHAIRMANSHIP OF G20, AMONG MANY OTHER ISSUES



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Gita Gopinath.

Image source/
Twitter

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in Washington on Monday, April 18, for the annual spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. On Tuesday, April 19, she met the head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva. On the sidelines of these meetings, the Finance Minister met John Neufer, President and Chief

Executive Officer of the Semiconductor Industry Association. John Neufer told Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that he was excited by the Government of India's initiatives to promote investment in the semiconductor ecosystem. He also appreciated India's commitment to secure a trusted position in the global supply chain.

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RENNED VOCALIST ARUNA SAIRAM MESMERIZES THE AUDIENCE AT "VANDA MATARAM"



Aruna Sairam singing at the concert "Vande Mataram: A Musical Journey through India" in New York on April 18, 2022.

NEW YORK (TIP): Consulate General of India, New York, Asia Society New York & Indian Fine Arts Academy, San Diego celebrated Vande Mataram: A Musical Journey through India, a concert by renowned vocalist Aruna Sairam on April 18, 2022.

Aruna Sairam mesmerized with her melodious singing the audience which included the Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal.



Andy Singh

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GUEST COMMENT

DANGEROUS DECEPTIONS: On Jahangirpuri demolition drive

DEMOLITION DRIVE BETRAYS USE OF STATE MACHINERY TO HARASS MUSLIMS

The bulldozer has now emerged as a dominant symbol of state-backed intimidation of Muslims in the country. After Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, Jahangirpuri in Delhi has seen the use of demolition of shops and houses seemingly as a punitive measure in the wake of a riot that followed a provocative religious procession. The Jahangirpuri demolitions, halted by an order of status quo passed by the Supreme Court, one which had to be reiterated as the drive went on for more than an hour after the order, represent an egregious violation of the rule of law. Even though described as part of a demolition process that had begun a few months ago, and done after prior notice, few would believe that the drive in Jahangirpuri had anything to do with 'encroachment', coming as it does in the wake of communal disturbances and in the middle of Ramzan. By intervening in time, the Court may have halted what could have been a series of demolitions of small businesses and households

belonging to some of the poorest residents of the capital. CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, who was present at the site, has highlighted the continuance of the demolition even after the court order was made known to the authorities. The Supreme Court should deal with this contumacious behavior as part of the ongoing proceedings, in which its main concern, of course, ought to be to push back against the dangerously divisive and partisan manner in which authorities are responding to law and order issues.

There are aspects to the controversy that betray an emerging pattern of the use of state machinery to inflict misery on Muslims. One is the role of the ruling BJP, whose Delhi chief wrote to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation to carry out the demolition targeting 'rioters' who had allegedly thrown stones at a Hindu religious procession in the vicinity of a mosque. As the counsel contended in the court, this wish seems to have been treated as a command, and police force mobilized

within a day to carry it out. Another aspect is the attempt to conflate the legal consequences of rioting and communal violence with administrative measures to deal with encroachments in public spaces. The official line leans towards the theory of clearing encroachments even as the political message is that 'rioters' will be dealt with. It is of concern that the Aam Aadmi Party, which while blaming the BJP on the one hand, has also made an unsubtle insinuation that those fomenting trouble are 'Bangladeshis' and 'Rohingya', terms that will render the residents of the area vulnerable to denial of their rights. The most dismal aspect is the apparent enjoyment that the BJP's communal constituency derives from the infliction of suffering on the 'other'. The challenge before the country's political opposition is not only to take on the unlawful ways of the state but also to reverse this polarizing slide in the wider society.

(The Hindu)

Demolition overdrive: Court steps in to stop vindictive action in Jahangirpuri

In a welcome intervention, the Supreme Court halted the anti-encroachment drive initiated by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation in violence-hit Jahangirpuri on Wednesday. Communal clashes during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in the area on Saturday had left eight police personnel and a local resident injured. With normalcy yet to be restored in the locality, undertaking the demolition of unauthorized structures - and that too without giving prior notices to the alleged violators - was an injudicious move at the outset. Its timing left no room for doubt about its intent: communalizing the illegalities and targeting members of a particular community. Encroachments and illegal constructions didn't spring up overnight in Jahangirpuri; nor are these

structures confined to this Delhi locality. Many such eyesores are spread around various places of worship in the Capital and elsewhere, mushrooming rampantly over the years, or even decades, thanks to administrative laxity and political patronage.

The pick-and-choose approach of the authorities reeks of a vindictive agenda, especially since it comes close on the heels of a similar crackdown on illegal constructions in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Calling the goings-on a ploy to target minorities, especially Muslims, in the name of crime prevention, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has filed a petition in the apex court against the use of bulldozers for razing houses and other buildings in BJP-ruled states.

It is not uncommon for an anti-encroachment drive to face resistance

from local residents. Following the due process of law is a prerequisite for the smooth conduct of this exercise. However, this process is being repeatedly bypassed as the powers that be are riding roughshod over constitutionally granted rights. Presumption of innocence is a well-established and time-tested legal principle. And it is for the courts to pronounce the sentence after they find an accused guilty of an offence. The punitive action being ordered and executed without a hearing against the violators - singled out on the basis of the community they belong to - does not bode well for our justice delivery system. Officials involved in this extrajudicial and unconstitutional overdrive, and the politicians spurring them on, must be held accountable.

(Tribune, India)

Readers Comment

JAHANGIRPURI DEMOLITION DRIVE: STOP THIS BRUTE FORCE AGAINST MUSLIMS

It gives me no joy to write about the oppression, toxicity, bigotry and overall ugliness around us.

I tick mark most of the boxes of privilege, but the apathy and lack of compassion around me is frustrating!

The glee of so many "normal" people at what is happening to the Muslims in India, the encouragement and celebration of "We are teaching them a

lesson for the past!" is sickening!

I can't even begin to imagine what the Muslims must be going through, the insecurity and the anxiety they must face every day. Waking up every day to rape threats, houses being bulldozed, vandalized mosques, even vandalized 'kabristans', criminals being honored and celebrated (the goons who attacked Arvind Kejriwal's house were honored by the BJP after getting bail), all Muslims being labelled Jihadis by seers and religious leaders to claps and cheers, the silence of educated friends, the illogic of Bhakts, the lies and the hopelessness is bound to upset anyone with a conscience and any empathy!

As a law-abiding citizen, I'm horrified at the blatant way in which the state is using brute force to oppress Muslims, while letting the Hindu extremists get away with all crimes (All Hate Speech accused are out on bail, and continue to give more speeches!).

The message going out to the miscreants is that they can get away with anything. It is truly scary!

We are heading down a very slippery slope at an accelerated rate, and unless the courts and more people come forward to condemn this, we are doomed!

Leher Sethi
Secretary of the Indian Council for UN Relations

Sikh Day Parade in New York City takes place on April 23

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP) The Sikh Community is taking out a massive and impressive Parade in New York City in celebration of the community's birthday on Saturday, April 23. Sikhism is the youngest and the fifth largest religion of the world, with a following of about 30 million across the world.

Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society President Davinder Singh Boparai who gave program details to The Indian Panorama has requested all Sikhs and non-Sikhs to participate in the parade in large numbers.

Organized by the Sikh Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York, in cooperation with Sikh Temples and Sikh organizations of the Tri-States of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, the Sikh Day Parade on April 23 in Manhattan, New York is expected to attract large crowds of Sikh men, women and children, and contingents of Sikhs from as far as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Maryland.



The surging crowds march behind their Guru, the Holy Shri Guru Granth Sahib. File photo Photo / BJ Video

The parade that will start at 12 PM from 38th Street and

Madison Ave, would wind its way through the city and end up at 26th Street and Madison Ave for the conference on 23rd Street.

There will be a dozen or so floats depicting Sikh history, culture and religion. Thousands will be marching in the parade singing hymns from the Holy Sikh Scripture.

An interesting feature is participation in parade of NYPD band and police officers. Another impressive feature of the parade is langar (free food). The whole 26th Street between Madison and Park is dedicated to food stalls where free food will be served to the thousands irrespective of color or creed.

A conference will be held as the closing part of the parade.

The event is held annually to mark Vaisakhi, the harvest festival of Punjab that coincides with the day the Tenth Master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, created the order of Khalsa in 1699.

Dr Hari Shukla shares with Consul General his vision of the South Asians of New York, Inc

JAMAICA, NY (TIP): Dr. Hari Shukla and Kirti Shukla hosted at their home in Jamaica Estate, on April 19, the Consul General of India Mr Randhir Jaiswal and his wife Dr. Abha Jaiswal to a dinner with a few community leaders.

The community leaders included Harshad Patel , Pakaji, President ,Gujarati Samaj, Anil Shah , Chairman Vaishnav temple Long Island, Mukund Mehta, President of Indi-American Seniors and Chairman of India Home, Dr Vipul Patel BAPS Swaminarayan Temple, Flushing, Malini Shah, Indo-American organization of Queens, Hemant Shah, President Floral Park, Bellerose, Indian Merchants Association, HK Shah and Malti Shah, Founder of World Vegan Vision, Dr Nita Jain, Democratic District Leader, Queens, Mohinder Verma, Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, President The Indian Panorama, Manish Dave, Jai Sachidanand Sangh, New York, Bina Sabapathy, President, IALI, Nilima Madan, Indian Association of North America, Haridas Kotahwala, Chairman, Navika Group of Companies, and Vimal Goyal, India Association of North America.

Dr Mrugank Shukla, New York Presbyterian Hospital-Queens and Dr Mehmood Shukla, NYU -Langone Hospital also joined.

Dr Hari Shukla, President and Founder of South Asians of New York, Inc explained through slides the projects he



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal said such meetings provided opportunities to know one another and share thoughts and ideas. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Kirti Shukla, Dr. Abha Jaiswal, CG Randhir Kumar Jaiswal , and Dr. Hari Shukla

has been doing through his organization. The charitable projects included distribution of food and clothing. He said he had plans to expand the area or work.

Consul General Mr. Jaiswal had a word of appreciation for the humanitarian work Dr. Shukla was doing. He said he was very happy to find the Indian American community taking up humanitarian projects in quite a large number here and also taking all care to pay back to their motherland. He added that the NRIs were real strength of India.

Speaking about the importance and utility of such



The gathering

group meetings, Mr. Jaiswal said they provided opportunities to know one another , and more importantly, share thoughts and ideas. He thanked Dr. Hari and Kirti Shukla for organizing the meet and greet.

Dr. Abha Jaiswal who holds a BDS also spoke on the occasion. She said it pleased her a lot to see how the Indian American community is contributing to India and also appreciated their role in being a bridge between the two countries.

The Shuklas treated the guests to a delicious Gujarati dinner.



Surya Makkar with Dhol and Prachi Makkar on mike get set to give a performance.

ARYA SAMAJ OF LONG ISLAND TO CELEBRATE VAISAKHI ON APRIL 30

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The Arya Samaj of Long Island was formed on June 17, 2006 with the objective of extending the Vedic Heritage for the benefit of the Hindu Community at large.

Almost all Hindu Festivals are celebrated by Samaj along with the weekly satsangs. Some of the festivals which ASLI celebrates include Vasant Panchami, Shiv Ratri & Rishi Bodh UTSAV, Holi (Festival of Colors) , Ram Navami, Vaisakhi , Krishna Janmashtami, Deepavali. & Rishi Nirvana Utsav, and Swami

Shradhanand Balidan Divas.

Among other occasions celebrated are Children's Day, Republic Day & Independence Day.

Besides the regular yajna, Yajur Ved Maha Yajna and Nav Varsh Yajna are also organized.

ASLI has been celebrating Vaisakhi since 2007. Mr. Veer S. Mukhi informed The Indian Panorama that Vaisakhi this year is being celebrated at a large scale in a school auditorium capacity of 400+ with the intention to spread India's rich tradition and culture. Invitations

have been extended to all communities.

Vaisakhi - a joyous Indian Spring Festival-celebration has been organized by ASLI on Saturday, April 30 from 6 PM to 9 PM at Hicksville Middle School, 215 Jerusalem Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801. The Sikh martial art Gatka , electrifying Punjabi dance Bhangra and some other entertainments are a part of the celebrations.

For more information, please call Arya Samaj of Long Island at 917-715-1974.

Sikhs in Singapore launch first Sikh professorship on the occasion of Baisakhi

SINGAPORE (TIP): Sikhs in Singapore celebrated the harvest festival of Baisakhi with the launch of first Sikh professorship in the city-state and Southeast Asia, and an initiative to raise the number of women in community leadership roles.

The Central Sikh Gurdwara Board (CSGB) on Thursday, April 14, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National University of Singapore (NUS) on a visiting professorship in Sikh studies aimed at promoting academic scholarship in this field both in Singapore and abroad.

This is the first Sikh professorship to be set up in Singapore and Southeast Asia. The CSGB said it is aiming to raise S\$1.2 million for an endowment fund to support the visiting professorship. Donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the government.

Senior Minister of State for Defense, Heng Chee How, joined the Sikh



Sikhs in Singapore celebrated Baisakhi with the launch of first Sikh professorship
Picture for representation only

community in their Baisakhi celebrations and witnessed the signing of the MoU.

Besides, a panel of 21 Sikh women from diverse backgrounds - the EnKaur Working Committee - will study the factors that have prevented a higher representation of women in Sikh organizations and initiatives, including at the leadership levels in Singapore, stated in a report.

"Historically, Baisakhi, which marks the creation of Khalsa, was meant to create a community of equals - regardless of caste, creed, class or gender," said Malminderjit Singh, Sikh Advisory Board (SAB) chairman and a promoter of the EnKaur study.

"The Sikh Advisory Board is pleased to kick-start the EnKaur initiative during Baisakhi (celebrations) this year to ensure Sikh women in Singapore have greater opportunities to play leadership roles," Singh said.

Indian operator in Singapore jailed 41 months for trafficking three women dancers from India



Alagar Balasubramanian in Singapore jailed 41 months for trafficking three women dancers from India
Photo for representation only.

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian operator of an entertainment club in Singapore has been jailed for 41 months and fined Singapore dollars 27,365 (USD 20,000) for trafficking three women dancers from India and assaulting two of them.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) said on Tuesday, April 19, that 'Jaiho Club' operator Alagar Balasubramanian, 47, imposed financial demands that the women would not be able to repay if they wished to quit.

All three women, rescued by the MOM, have since returned to India. Two of them were assaulted by Balasubramanian, it said in a statement.

They were not paid any salary throughout their employment in 2016, which ran on a six-month contract, The Straits Times reported, quoting the MOM statement.

Balasubramanian also seized their passports, work permits and mobile phones and threatened to hurt them if they returned to India without his approval.

The ministry said that its investigation officers visited the women regularly to check on their well-being and engaged professional counselling services for them. They also got temporary employment under the Temporary Job Scheme prior to returning to India.

Balasubramanian faced four charges under the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act and claimed trial for three. He was acquitted of one charge. There is a gag order on the victims' identities, the report said. The court heard that Balasubramanian was caught after a police report was made and police officers raided the club on May 30, 2016.

The three victims were not well educated and were

unfamiliar with Singapore. Two had not been to Singapore before, while the other victim stayed in Singapore only for a week prior to being employed by the club.

Balasubramanian recruited the women from their villages in India and knew that they would be susceptible to his coercion, said the prosecution.

The victims testified that they were not allowed to leave the premises on their own.

"(The club) is like a big jail. Once you are caught in his clutches, you can only leave when he releases you. You just have to go along with him, and only if he likes you, he'll take good care of you... Otherwise, he will torture you and reduce you to nothing," said one of the victims.

The women lived on the third floor, above the club. Balasubramanian also lived at the club during their employment. The dancers were given work phones to call regular patrons and entice them to visit the club. They were required to allow customers to dance with them and touch them in exchange for money.

Balasubramanian's lawyer Kalidass Murugaiyan argued that his client had a rule against customers touching the dancers and that the victims had disobeyed him.

Deputy public prosecutors Han Ming Kuang and Selene Yap countered that Balasubramanian could easily have enforced the rules, given the defense's case that there were bouncers present when troublemakers were present at the club.

Balasubramanian, a Singapore permanent resident, was also ordered by the court to pay Singapore dollars 2,722 in compensation.

He was convicted on February 21 for labor trafficking offences relating to his work as the operating manager of the Club at 46 Dunlop Street in the Little India precinct of motels, shops and eateries.

If he fails to pay his fine, he will be jailed for an additional 20 weeks. If he fails to pay the compensation, he will face two more weeks in prison.

Those found guilty of human trafficking here face a mandatory jail sentence of up to 10 years and a fine of up to Singapore dollars 100,000 (USD 73,000) for first-time offenders. They also face up to six strokes of the cane.

DISABLED INDIAN-ORIGIN MALAYSIAN MAN TO BE HANGED IN SINGAPORE NEXT WEEK

Nagaenthran Dharmalingam, 34, was detained in 2009 and convicted of trafficking 42.72 grams of heroin in 2010, a crime punishable by the mandatory death penalty under Singapore law



Disabled Indian-origin Malaysian man to be hanged in Singapore next week
Photo for representation only

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin Malaysian man with a mental disability and convicted of drug trafficking is scheduled to be executed in Singapore's Changi prison on Wednesday, April 24 after losing a final appeal, a media report said on Thursday, April 21.

Nagaenthran Dharmalingam, 34, was detained in 2009 and convicted of trafficking 42.72 grams of heroin in 2010, a crime punishable by the mandatory death penalty under Singapore law.

"Just received the heart-breaking news that Nagaenthran will be hanged next Wednesday," Malaysian daily The Star quoted Dharmalingam's former lawyer in Singapore M Ravi as saying.

The execution comes after a Singapore court on March 29 rejected his final appeal against the death sentence imposed for drug trafficking. His appeal against his conviction and sentence was dismissed in 2011.

In 2017, the High Court in Singapore ruled that Dharmalingam did not qualify to be given life imprisonment based on evidence from four psychological and psychiatric experts.

His case drew public attention in October last year after a letter from the Singapore Prison Service of his pending execution on November 10 was sent to his mother in Ipoh.

The letter, which was posted on social media, drew calls for clemency against the death sentence. A last-minute effort to halt the execution was mounted by Ravi, who contended that Dharmalingam had the "mental age" of a person below 18.

However, efforts to gain leave to start judicial review proceedings challenging his death sentence were dismissed by the High Court.

Shefali Razdan Duggal is inspiration for Indian-Americans, says community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American political activist Shefali Razdan Duggal, who has been nominated by US President Joe Biden as his envoy to the Netherlands, is a source of inspiration for the South Asians, in particular girls and women, an eminent community leader has said on Tuesday, April 19.

On March 11, Biden nominated Duggal as the US Ambassador to the Netherlands. Her nomination is pending before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A Kashmiri pandit, Duggal, 50, was born in Haridwar and moved with her family to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the age of two.

"Shefali has been leading our community at National level in Democrat politics and have inspired so many South Asian Americans and Americans all over the country to have a seat at the table and play important roles and contribute to the growth of the Democratic Party," community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria said.

"Shefali Razdan Duggal's nomination



Shefali Razdan Duggal, a Kashmiri pandit, was born in Haridwar and moved with her family to Pittsburgh at the age of 2
Photo / www.shefalarazdanduggal.com

for appointment by the President as the next ambassador to the Netherlands is a moment of great joy and pride for South Asians and the entire Indian-American community. I am so full of happiness to see Shefali being nominated as the next Ambassador to the Netherlands," he said.

In its certificate of competency sent to the United States Senate, the State Department said Duggal's demonstrated commitment to the American democratic process, advancing human rights, coupled with her keen understanding of the need to ensure that all voices are heard in a multi-ethnic society, make her a well-qualified candidate to serve as Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Describing her as "an experienced political activist, women's rights advocate and human rights campaigner," the State Department said former US president Barack Obama appointed Duggal to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council, and after her term expired, she has continued to serve as a Western Regional Advisor.

A strong Democratic Party activist, Duggal has been a major fundraiser of the party since the days of Obama. She joined US Vice President Kamala Harris's successful campaign for attorney general of California and later for her transition team.

INDIAN AMERICAN NAVY VETERAN SHANTI SETHI APPOINTED KAMALA HARRIS' DEFENSE ADVISER



Shanti Sethi has joined US Vice-President Kamala Harris's office as her executive secretary and defense adviser

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Shanti Sethi, a trailblazing Indian American Navy veteran, has joined US Vice-President Kamala Harris's office as her executive secretary and defense adviser, according to a media report.

Sethi, the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship, recently joined Harris' office, Politico news website quoted Vice-President's senior advisor Herbie Ziskend as saying.

In her new role, Sethi coordinates National Security Adviser documentation across the Office of the Vice-President, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012. She was also the first female commander of a US naval vessel to visit India.

INDIAN AMERICAN DEFENSE EXPERT VIVEK LALL TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS ENTREPRENEUR LEADERSHIP AWARD



Vivek Lall has been selected for the prestigious Entrepreneur Leadership Awards by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In recognition of his contribution in the defense sector, Indian American chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation Vivek Lall has been selected for the prestigious Entrepreneur Leadership Awards by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Established in 1968, the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) is the apex bi-lateral Chamber synergizing India-US economic engagement. Lall, 53, has been selected for the 'Global Leader in Defense and Aviation Sector' award category, which would be presented virtually during an awards ceremony on Friday. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia will be the chief guest at the event.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICANS SLAM UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW PROFESSOR FOR HER DISPARAGING COMMENTS AGAINST ASIAN-AMERICANS



Prof Amy Wax, a law professor from the University of Pennsylvania has been slammed for her disparaging comments about the Asian-American community, with a specific disdain for Indian-Americans.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Leading Indian Americans, including US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, have slammed a law professor from University of Pennsylvania for her disparaging comments about the Asian-American community, with a specific disdain for Indian-Americans.

In a recent interview to media, Prof Amy Wax from the University of Pennsylvania alleged that "Blacks" and "non-Western" groups have "a tremendous amount of resentment and shame against western people for [their] outsized achievements and contributions".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT RACHNA SACHDEVA NOMINATED BY BIDEN AS HIS ENVOY FOR MALI



Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen has been nominated US envoy to Mali

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American diplomat Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen as his envoy to Mali, the White House has said, the third such nomination of an Indian American in over a month.

A career member of the US Foreign Service, Korhonen currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary and the Executive Director of the combined Executive Offices of the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.

She previously was the Consul General and Principal Officer of the US Consulate in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the White House said in a statement on Friday, April 15.

She also led the Management Section of the US Embassy in Colombo, and, in Washington, she served as a Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Management.

Among her other assignments, Korhonen was the Supervisory General Services Officer and Senior Human Resources Officer at the US Embassy in Riyadh, and the Political Chief of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kirkuk, Iraq.

She also had assignments at the US Embassy in Kuwait and the US Consulate General in Mumbai, the White House said.

Korhonen completed her undergraduate degree in computer science and mathematics and worked in the corporate sector for AT&T, IBM as well as internet startup Zed before joining the State Department. She is from Flemington, New Jersey, according to her profile on the US State Department's website.

Last month, President Biden announced his intent to nominate Indian-origin diplomat Puneet Talwar as America's ambassador to Morocco and Indian-origin political activist Shefali Razdan Duggal as his envoy to the Netherlands.

Seven Women honored at the IAF Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala

GLEN COVE , NY (TIP): Indian American Forum honored 7 women of character, courage, commitment and accomplishments at its Eleventh Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala on March 27.

They included Nisha Kumar Behringer, Kalpana Bhandarkar, Neeta Bhasin , Beena Kothari, Dr. Preeti Mehta, Ragini Srivastav and Malini Rudra.

Here are the thumbnail sketches of the honorees.

NISHA KUMAR BEHRINGER is strategic, and shareholder focused Chief Financial Officer, independent Director, and merger acquisitions executive with over two decades track record. She is formerly a Managing Director and the Chief Financial and Chief Compliance Officer of Greenbriar Equity Group L.P. a private equity firm for investments.

KALPANA BHANDARKAR currently residing in Nassau County has nearly twenty years of experience in Health Care and civic engagement. Kalpana has dedicated her professional career in improving access to Quality health care for people living in low resource setting. Over past several years Kalpana has focused her work with Long Island based organizations, serving as co-chair of the Board of ERASE Racism, an advocacy organization focused on fair housing and equitable education for all residents statewide

NEETA BHASIN is the President of ASB Communications, the power of multicultural marketing company. ASB Communications is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this Year. Neeta Bhasin has served the Community through her TV shows, NEETA BHASIN SHOW on social media since last two Years. She started Event Guru Worldwide, the company that created history in 2013 by conceptualizing and producing the 2nd biggest event after New Year's eyeball drop-in Times square> DIWALI at Times Square

BEENA KOTHARI has lived in Long Island for over 30 years. Her association, interactions contributions with Indian and American communities has been very extensive, valuable, and memorable and inclusive of all. She has several accomplishments within various social and cultural nonprofit leadership capacities. She firmly believes in VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM meaning the world in ONE Family.

DR PREETI MEHTA is the founder of Digestive Disease Care, one of the Largest Gastroenterology practices expanding from Queens to Nassau and Suffolk, she is well renowned in the field of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Charitable work and giving back to the communities' top priorities of Dr Mehta. She supports Charities dedicated for children and women education

RAGINI SRIVASTAV Town Clerk. Town of North Hempstead is serving her first term as Town Clerk of Town of North Hempstead, a time honored and historic function for the township since its founding in 1784. Town Clerk Srivastava is proud of The Town of North Hempstead and the unique characteristics of our villages and services

MALINI RUDRA is a junior at Williams College. She is 21 Years old, graduated from Syosset High School, she is Co-Captain of the Williams College Golf Team, which is ranked no 1 in NCAA Div. 111 Athletics. Malini has tremendous success in Golf. She won or placed top 5 in numerous tournaments locally as well as nationally. Since 7th grade Malini was selected as part of the Syosset Girls Varsity Team, she is winner of Several Golf Championships. Malini also serves as a Board member of the Children's Hope Teen Chapter and helped raise funds for under privileged in Long Island. Malini acknowledged the award with a video message.



Honorees with IAF officials. L to R: Sanju Sharma, Anju Sharma, Chanbir Kaur Sethi, Dr Nirmal Kumar, Honoree Dr Preeti Mehta, Honoree Ragini Srivastava, Honoree Beena Kothari, Honoree Neeta Bhasin, Honoree Nisha Kumar Behringer, Honoree Kalpana Bhandarkar, Indu Jaiswal, Roopam Maini



: Indu Jaiswal, Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenback, Supervisor Jennifer Desena, Town of North Hempstead Clerk Ragini Srivastava, IAF Member Chanbir Kaur Sethi



Board of Trustees and Executive Members of Indian American Forum



Ganesh Vandana by Vandana Jauhar



Sunita Sadhnani pays musical tribute to late Lata Mangeshkar

She was playing in a Golf Tournament in California.

Several Elected officials present congratulated the honorees on their achievements and success, and also presented them with citations. Citations of behalf of Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Legislator Ms. Rose Walker, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Suffolk County Executive Steve Vallone were presented to all Honorees

Honorable Jennifer Desena, Supervisor Town of North Hempstead, Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava, Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, Town of



A Kathak dance performance by students of Nartan Rang Dance Academy run by the well-known choreographer Swati Vaishnav



A dance performance by Mukthambar Fine Arts Inc

Hempstead, Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker, Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenback and several elected officials were present.

Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Founding Member of IAF as also IAF Board of Trustees Dr Azad Anand, Dr Urmilesh Arya, Dr Bhupendra Patel, Mohinder Singh Taneja, and Board members Beena Kothari, Bina Sabapathy, Jyoti Gupta, Indu Gajwani, Anu Gulati, Roopam Maini, Chanbir Kaur Sethi, Rohini Singh, Anuj Rihal, Inesha Singh, Dr Prachi Dua, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Ratna Bhalla, Anju Sharma, Sanju Sharma, Sunny Thakkar, Jasbir Jay Singh, Indu Gajwani and Bina Sabapathy also attended. Gala Chairperson Shammi Singh could not come.

Indu Jaiswal, chairperson of the IAF led from the front. Several speakers described her as an untiring community leader and congratulated her for organizing the grand event.

Program started with Ganesh Vandana sung by Vandana Jauhar. Dance performances were given by the students of Nartan Rang Dance Academy run by the well-known choreographer Swati Vaishnav, and Mukthambar Fine Arts Inc. Tributes were paid to late Lata Mangeshkar by Sunita Sadhnani.

Chanbir Kaur Sethi, Roopam Maini, Inesha Singh, Rohini Singh and Dr Prachi Dua, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh and Mrs Ratna Bhalla, coordinated a brief Q&A session with the honorees discussing and emphasizing their accomplishments.

(Based on a press release)

An Interfaith Vaisakhi Parade to spread the message of Humanity, Peace and Love



An organizer of the Interfaith Vaisakhi Parade makes an appeal to people to participate in the parade

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): A middle aged Sikh priest Bhai Bhupinder Singh, head priest at Gurdwara Shaheedan in Hicksville took an initiative to organize an Interfaith Parade to celebrate the birthday of the Sikhs who are also known as Khalsa. The Tenth Master of the Sikhs Guru Gobind Singh created an order and named it Khalsa which means pure, on the day of Vaisakhi in 1699. In just over 400 years, Sikhism is the youngest and the fifth largest religion of

the world. Its around 30 million followers can be found all over the world.

The Indian Panorama asked Bhai Bhupinder Singh what the idea was behind organizing an Interfaith Vaisakhi Day Parade , he said the Sikhs believe in Equality, Fraternity, Liberty and Brotherhood of humanity. The idea is to share these values with brethren from other faiths. It is an attempt to spread the message of Humanity, Peace and Love around the world. He appealed

to people from all faiths to be part of the historic event and spread the message of oneness of humanity .

The first ever Interfaith Vaisakhi Parade on Sunday, May 1, 2022 will start at 12.15 PM from Gurdwara Shaheedan located at 18 W Nicholai Street, Hicksville, 11801. The colorful floats in the parade will depict messages of various faiths.

Free food will be served all along the route of the parade.

NASSAU 7-ELEVEN ROBBED AT GUNPOINT

Police are searching for the robber, who threatened employees and stole cash from the store.



Nassau County police are searching for a man who robbed a Hempstead 7-Eleven at gunpoint.
Photo for representation only

HEMPSTEAD, NY (TIP): A man robbed a Hempstead 7-Eleven at gunpoint Thursday, April 21 night, and Nassau County police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

According to police, the man entered the 7-Eleven located at 797 Peninsula Blvd. at 10:25 p.m. Police say he approached an employee, pulled out a handgun and demanded money. The employee gave him money, and the man fled on foot with the cash.

The robber was described as a black man, 6 feet tall with a thin build.

Police ask anyone who has information about the robbery to call Nassau County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-244-TIPS. All callers will remain anonymous.

DR. NIMISHA SHUKLA APPOINTED TO N.J. STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Photo caption: Dr. Nimisha Shukla owns and manages multilocation pediatric practices in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Gov. Phil Murphy has appointed Dr. Nimisha J. Shukla, a reputed Pediatrician in the state of New Jersey, to the State Board of Medical Examiners. This is the first time an Indian American Physician will be serving on NJ Medical Board of Examiners under Gov. Murphy Administration.

New Jersey's Board of Medical Examiners is responsible for protecting the public's health, safety and welfare. The Board meets its responsibility by licensing medical professionals, adopting regulations, determining standards of practice, investigating allegations of physician misconduct, and disciplining those who do not adhere to requirements - thereby assuring the public that the physicians are qualified, competent, and honest. In addition to physicians, the Board is responsible for the oversight of a number of allied health providers.

Since the late 1800's, a license has been required to practice medicine in New Jersey. The Board, pursuant to the Medical Practice Act of 1894, was authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery, including regulation of chiropractic. Today 12 physicians, one podiatrist, three public members, a certified nurse midwife, a licensed physician assistant, a bioanalytical laboratory director, the Commissioner of Health or his designee and a government liaison member -- all gubernatorial appointees -- serve on the Board.

Dr. Shukla owns and manages multilocation pediatric practices in New Jersey. Along the way and contemporaneous with her practice of medicine, she achieved distinction as Chief Resident at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine, taught medical students as Assistant Clinical Professor at Michigan State University, conceived and launched an early entry into telecom ecommerce, became the first Indian American female broadcaster as a result of her acquisition of a Metropolitan New York area radio station, served on Federal Communication Commission's advisory committee on diversity and digital empowerment, formed Nrityanjali USA institute dedicated to teaching Indian Classical Dance form Kathak to new generation of Indian Americans in New Jersey, served on local advisory and curriculum boards, and founded Indian American Women Entrepreneurs Association. She is looking forward to serving on the NJ State Board of Medical Examiners. (Based on a press release)

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The threat to Indian State

NO OVERARCHING HINDU UNITY CAN BE BUILT ON BASIS OF HINDU-MUSLIM BINARY

"THERE ARE OVER 200 MILLION MUSLIMS IN OUR COUNTRY AND ARE SPREAD ACROSS ITS LENGTH AND BREADTH. IS IT POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THEM TO THE STATUS OF SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS AND STILL SURVIVE AS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY WITH CITIZENS ENJOYING EQUAL RIGHTS? WOULD REPEATED ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST THEM INVITE NO REACTION? IF EVEN A SMALL FRACTION OF THE 200 MILLION BECOME RADICALIZED AND TAKE TO RETALIATORY VIOLENCE, WOULD THE INDIAN STATE BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE SECURITY CHALLENGE? WOULD MORE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS HAVE TO BE SACRIFICED TO ENABLE THE STATE TO KEEP US SAFE? THERE COULD BE EXTERNAL RAMIFICATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. WOULD INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY BE ABLE TO MANAGE THE FALLOUT?"



The embrace of diversity has been a cause for celebration

The events of the past few weeks fill one with a sense of foreboding. The diversity of our country has been its defining characteristic through the ages. It is threatened with a stifling uniformity. The embrace of diversity can be, and has been, a cause for celebration. We are a people who speak different languages, profess different faiths or no faith at all and share an incredible range of cultural traditions, musical and dance forms and literary and artistic sensibilities. Our cuisines offer a breathtaking range of flavors, and our textile traditions and regional costumes are a designer's delight. Indian culture is rich and vibrant because for us culture is for sharing not just for showing. India's diversity demands a political dispensation which accommodates and nurtures this unique source of strength and vibrancy. The Constitution reflects this age-old wisdom.

Diversity acknowledges difference. Difference can lead to positive interaction, each actor confident of her own identity but eager to explore other identities. Difference can also lead to a sense of threat, an assertion of separate and narrow identities, an anxiety about being absorbed in a more amorphous collectivity. These differences then become fault-lines in society. These could be fault-lines involving religion, language, even modes of dressing and food habits as we have been witnessing in recent years. What should be a source of strength instead spawns deepening divisions.

The assumption that creating a religious fault-line between Hindus and Muslims can somehow enable other fault-lines in Indian society to be transcended in a larger Hindu unity is deeply flawed. No overarching Hindu unity can be built on the basis of a Hindu-Muslim binary. As soon as one fault-line is excavated, others will erupt. We are already witnessing the reassertion of regional identities. The next delimitation exercise, redrawing electoral constituencies, may well deepen the North-South divide. The larger population increase in the northern, mainly Hindi-speaking states, may lead to an even more skewed

representation in Parliament. Would the southern states be willing to accept a diminished representation as reward for their greater success in delivering relatively higher growth and lower population increase over the past several years? This is a simmering danger that not much attention has been paid to.

There are other fault-lines which may surface with unexpected virulence. It is becoming apparent that a set of social norms and taboos, specific to the Hindi-speaking heartland, are sought to be imposed across different communities and regions. There is rising intolerance of beliefs and practices which do not conform to the norms of an imagined Hindu society. It has always been accepted that some devout Hindus would be vegetarian during Navratri, and also avoid certain kinds of grain and vegetables such as onions and garlic. It has never been expected that the rest of the country's population must adhere to these food prohibitions. But that is what we have witnessed recently. One could enjoy Navratri dishes as a matter of choice for their unique flavors without thinking about their religious associations. Now, it has become an identity marker. It is the same with Iftaar parties during Ramzan. People of all communities would join Muslim friends and colleagues to enjoy a vast array of special dishes. Now, these, too, have become an identity marker. The sense of sharing, of celebrating together, is diminishing.

Throughout the year, there are many religious festivals to be celebrated. What used to be family celebrations or small community affairs have now become politically charged sectarian events. There is something perverse about raising Jai Shri Ram slogans while intruding into mosques or planting saffron flags on masjid minarets. To associate the holy name of Shri Ram with such deeply offensive behavior cannot be the public image of Hinduism. Does this ancient faith, which has survived for centuries, need an enemy 'other' to survive and flourish?

There are over 200 million Muslims in our country and are spread across its length and breadth. Is it possible to

BY SHYAM SARAN



THE ASSUMPTION THAT A RELIGIOUS FAULT-LINE CAN ENABLE OTHER FAULT-LINES IN INDIAN SOCIETY TO BE TRANSCENDED IN A LARGER HINDU UNITY IS DEEPLY FLAWED.

reduce them to the status of second-class citizens and still survive as a democratic country with citizens enjoying equal rights? Would repeated acts of discrimination and violence perpetrated against them invite no reaction? If even a small fraction of the 200 million become radicalized and take to retaliatory violence, would the Indian State be able to handle the security challenge? Would more democratic freedoms have to be sacrificed to enable the State to keep us safe? There could be external ramifications, particularly among Islamic countries. Would Indian foreign policy be able to manage the fallout?

The framers of the Constitution were conscious of the fault-lines in India's diverse society which could be easily ignited and overwhelm the State. There had to be a strong commitment to national unity but this unity was sought to be achieved not through the suppression of diversity, but through transcending it in a larger concept of common citizenship. Indians could retain and even celebrate their multiple identities but as equal citizens enjoying individual-based fundamental rights. The enjoyment of these rights was not linked to membership of a particular community. The only exception allowed was for Scheduled Castes and Tribes taking into account the social infirmities that they had suffered through history and therefore needed a special but temporary dispensation.

Any citizen may voluntarily follow her community's norms but the community cannot have a veto over the exercise of her rights as an individual, guaranteed in the Constitution. This is a basic character of the Constitution which is being undermined as each community claims a veto over actions of other communities. Any community whose 'sentiments have been hurt' claims an entitlement to attack others, sometimes with indiscriminate violence without the state intervening.

These disturbing trends, if left unchecked, could irretrievably fracture Indian society. Not just Indian democracy but the future of a united India itself would be in danger.

(The author is a Former Foreign Secretary of India and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research)

India can criticize Russia's Ukraine invasion

IN 2003, DESPITE A GROWING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. THAT WAS FINALLY TURNING A CORNER AFTER THE NUCLEAR TESTS, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT BROUGHT A RESOLUTION TO PARLIAMENT THAT "DEPLORED" THE ACTIONS OF THE COALITION LED BY THE U.S. FOR ITS WAR ON A SOVEREIGN IRAQ, CALLING THE INVASION "UNACCEPTABLE". BUT THEN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER YASHWANT SINHA STOOD UP TO SPEAK DURING THE DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, AND NOTED THAT DESPITE INDIA'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE U.S. ON THE WAR, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY TO EXPRESS ITS OPPOSITION TO RUSSIAN ACTIONS IN UKRAINE SIMILARLY, WHILE MAINTAINING AN INDEPENDENT POSITION ON UNILATERAL SANCTIONS.

It is possible for the Government to express its criticism while maintaining an independent stand on unilateral sanctions

Just four years ago, in June 2018, then United States President Donald Trump sent his Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, on a sensitive mission to New Delhi. Ms. Haley, who was to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convince the Government to drop its oil imports from Iran or face U.S. sanctions, and said that India must "rethink its ties", was probably chosen because she was a diplomat and also an Indian-American which had a certain appeal in India. A day later, India's petroleum ministry asked refiners to cut imports from Iran. Within a few months, when the American deadline expired, the Government announced that it had "zeroed out" its imports of oil from Iran, once India's preferred choice and its third biggest supplier of crude.

'Appeals' and India's reaction

Now, in 2022, the U.S. pressure on India to cut its oil imports from Russia has been much less subtle. The appeal to "zero out" oil purchases from Russia, and not accelerate them, has come from the highest quarters: these include U.S. President Joe Biden to Mr. Modi during a virtual summit; U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during the "2+2" ministerial meeting in Washington last week, and from another Indian-American emissary, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics Daleep Singh, who, while he was on a visit to Delhi, spoke of "consequences" for creating payment mechanisms around sanctions against Russia.

The pressure is likely to increase in the coming weeks, with more engagements planned by Mr. Modi with European leaders - the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will arrive in India this week, and Mr. Modi is expected to travel to Germany and France for bilateral meetings and to Denmark for a summit with Nordic countries.

Thus far, nearly two months into Russia's war with Ukraine, New Delhi's position has been to push back: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in February that India does not recognize unilateral sanctions (only the ones mandated by the United Nations), followed by some tough talking in Washington last week. This includes the fact that after 12 occasions of votes at the UN, India continues to abstain on resolutions critical of Russia's invasion and the daily bombardment of civilians. Despite talks with leaders from the U.S., Japan and Australia, each of whom criticized Russia in their summit remarks, India's Ministry of External Affairs has not allowed any direct mention of Russia in the respective joint statements. In March and April, India has bought more Russian oil, at a discount, than it did in all of 2021, and is now accelerating coal imports as well. While deliveries of the Russian S-400 missile defense system may be delayed by the war, New Delhi is not putting its defense deals with Moscow on hold. Russian bank officials have held meetings with the Reserve Bank of India in Mumbai for technical talks on the rupee-rouble payment mechanism to be used for purchases that circumvent sanctions.

Sustainability of stand



A picture of destruction in Ukraine

Photo courtesy / AP

So, what explains the Government's refusal to bow to combined western pressure on the issue of India's Russian engagement so far, when it gave in to far less pressure on dealing with Iran? And can New Delhi's position be sustained much longer? While most analysis of India's stance deals with its past relationship with Russia, (this includes the Soviet Union), the truth may lie in the Modi government's perceptions of its future challenges: from its defense and energy procurements to global economic trends, to its continental border challenges, especially with China, and the growing focus by western countries on human rights issues in India. For example, India's defense hardware dependency on Russia ranges around 60%, while dependency on spare parts is close to 85%. These could be offset with more purchases from the U.S. and the procurement of spares from the Commonwealth of Independent State countries that produced Soviet weapons. What will be harder to replace are defense purchases involving the transfer of technology, and export capabilities such as the BrahMos missile (short for Brahmaputra-Moskva), as the Government seeks more domestic production.

Similarly, while India's energy dependence on Russia has been pegged at less than 2%, and it is unlikely to substantially increase its intake on the "heavy" Ural variety due to its high sulphur content, it is worth remembering that Indian oil public sector units have invested \$16 billion in Russian oil and gas fields in eastern Russia, with stakes in Sakhalin-1, Vankor and Taas-Yuryakh. In 2017, Russia fulfilled a long-held dream dating back to Tsarist times to buy a warm water port, when Rosneft acquired a stake in the Vadinar refinery situated strategically on the Gujarat coast as

part of a deal for a 49% stake in Essar Oil (this was a deal that Mr. Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin had themselves promoted at a summit). In renewable energy too, while India has signed civil nuclear deals with a number of countries, including the U.S. and France, the only foreign nuclear power plants that actually exist are those built by Russia (Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu).

Above all, any serious future analysis of the conflict would question the long-term sustainability of the sanctions imposed by the western bloc, their effect on the Russian economy, and whether a sizeable number of important global economies will join the sanctions regime. If only about 30 to 40 countries have joined the sanctions trail, while India, China and much of South America and Africa stay out (as is the situation now), then it stands to reason that India does not benefit by restricting itself to only one side of the "dollar vs non-dollar" economic system and will seek to straddle both.

Comfort in groupings

India's strategic future is also inextricably linked with Russia. The Napoleonic adage, "If you know a country's geography, you can understand and predict its foreign policy", could not hold truer for India's continental predicament with its primary threats on its northern frontier from China and Pakistan, and a resultant need to have Russia onside.

In the past two years, as Chinese troops have transgressed and occupied Indian territory, it is Moscow that has stepped in to provide venues and facilitate talks that have resulted in partial disengagement. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

CONT'D ON PAGE 36

BY SUHASINI HAIDAR



Indo-Canadians are emerging as a strong political entity

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



Indo-Canadian Punjabis have registered significant presence on the Canadian political scene

Indo-Canadian politicians after establishing their credibility at the community level, and now, on the basis of their track record, are emerging as a strong political entity with their growing presence on the provincial and federal stage. When Ontario goes to polls in first week of June, they will be major playmakers, says Prabhjot Singh, holding their past record since their entry in provincial politics in British Columbia in 1986 has been a success story that every immigrant community across the globe should emulate.

After making a dent in the political scenario of the province of British Columbia in Canada in the early 80s when they sent Moe Sihota to the state legislature as an elected MLA on the New Democratic Party ticket, South Asian politicians have come a long way. They have not only scripted a success story but are a vibrant and rapidly growing political entity that has successfully spread its wings as both federal and provincial lawmakers.

Born in Duncan, Moe - Munmohan Singh - Sihota has been the second generation politician of Indian origin who served on the BC Cabinet in different capacities before heading the BC NDP.

"Immigrants from South Asia take more interest in politics back home than flex their political sinews in the new countries of their domicile. They, somehow, do not get assimilated in their new political environments." This observation, made by one of the scholars-cum-writers on the Indian diaspora about 30 years ago, now needs to be revised.

The South Asian politicians are now more into Canadian politics at all levels - from municipal to federal - than remaining involved in politics back home. Their diminishing interest in politics back home was evident from their token presence in the just concluded Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections that gave a landslide win to the Aam Aadmi party with 92 of 117 seats.

South Asian immigrants now not only occupy 20 odd seats in the House of Commons but also have one of them as the leader of a major federal party, the NDP. It is this leader, Jagmeet Singh, who earlier sat in the Ontario Provincial Parliament for nearly two terms, signed an agreement with the minority Liberal Government of Justin Trudeau to keep it in office till the completion of its term in 2024, for getting important demands of NDP, including free dental care, accepted.

What started as a single seat in the

British Columbia Provincial Parliament in October 1986 has now spread to five Provincial Parliaments that have South Asian politicians as members. The latest on the list is Saskatchewan that had in 2020 elected its first ever Indo-Canadian Gary Grewal from Regina.

The South Asian politicians in general and Indo-Canadians in particular will now be sending 50-odd candidates for the ensuing elections to the Ontario Provincial Parliament in the first week of June. Besides representing the ruling Conservatives, they will also be contesting under the banners of Liberal, NDP, Green and other parties.

Interestingly, most of these candidates are not only second generation Canadians but are also well qualified professionals, including lawyers, teachers, nurses, engineers and social activists with degrees from top universities in Canada. Only a handful of first generation politicians will be in fray for the June polls.

The growth of Indo-Canadian politicians has been phenomenal. Fourteen years after Moe Sihota was elected to British Columbia Provincial Parliament, Ujjal Dosanjh earned the distinction of becoming the first Indo-Canadian to take oath as Premier of British Columbia.

The Indo-Canadian community, especially Punjabis, have, since then, not looked back. Though initial political successes came in British Columbia under the banner of NDP, the South Asian politicians jumped on the Liberal bandwagon for rapid strides in Canadian politics. The 1990 Calgary Convention of the Liberal Party, leading to the election of Jean Chretien as its leader, was a milestone, for it formed a solid, loyal voting block for the future Prime Minister of Canada. It was the first time the community organized itself as a political force.

Some still believe that the events back home in 1984 was a strong factor that mobilized a small but highly vociferous community into a political group.

Now 30 years later, the Indo-Canadian community not only boasts of Indo-Canadian as Defense Ministers of Canada in Harjit Singh Sajjan or Anita Anand or a Punjabi as the first woman Leader of the House of Commons in Bardish Chagger or first Punjabi Premier of British Columbia in Ujjal Dosanjh but also several ministers starting with Herb Dhaliwal, Navdeep Bains, and Amarjeet Sohi; Gurbax Malhi, the first turbaned Sikh as Member of the House of Commons for five successive terms; and Grewals, Gurmant and wife Neena, as the first Punjabi couple in Parliament, but also several Punjabis sitting in Provincial Parliaments of Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In Ontario, Raminder Gill, who represented the Conservative Party, was one of pioneers of Punjabi politicians to be elected as a Member of the Provincial Parliament. Since then, the number of Punjabi politicians as MPPs (Members of Provincial Parliament or MLAs in common parlance) has been growing with every election.

Dr Gulzar Cheema has the distinction of sitting in both Manitoba and British Columbia Provincial Parliaments.

Besides the 1990 Calgary convention of the Liberals, the emergence of this new phenomenon of ethno-politics in Canada is also linked more to the election of three Indo-Canadians to the House of Commons in 1993 - Herb Dhaliwal, Gurbax Singh Malhi and Jag Bhaduria - it has been gradually gaining ground to what the Canadian media used to describe as the "apna factor", symbolizing a movement that was gaining strength using the "block voting" technique.

Arguments given in favor of the "apna factor" and "block voting" techniques were substantiated by the fact that most of the political success stories, for example in Ontario, came from the suburbs of major cities like Brampton, Mississauga and Scarborough of the Greater Toronto Area. It is true that not

THE SOUTH ASIAN POLITICIANS IN GENERAL AND INDO-CANADIANS IN PARTICULAR WILL NOW BE SENDING 50-ODD CANDIDATES FOR THE ENSUING ELECTIONS TO THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE. BESIDES REPRESENTING THE RULING CONSERVATIVES, THEY WILL ALSO BE CONTESTING UNDER THE BANNERS OF LIBERAL, NDP, GREEN AND OTHER PARTIES.

many politicians of South Asian origin have won from the main cities. But things are changing.

Late Deepak Obhrai, who won from Calgary East for a record number of times, used to attribute the influence of the Indo-Canadian community to a passion for politics that he believed was rooted in a movement that led to India's Independence from Britain in 1947.

It is pertinent to mention here that Kamagata Maru or the Ghadar Movement, too, took off from the shores of British Columbia in Canada, the region from where the battle for political recognition began. The then Indo-Canadians or Indian immigrants worked as lumberjacks and participated in development projects, before getting together and heading homewards to get their motherland freed.

It was argued that the freedom movement galvanized the whole nation as every cross-section of society was involved. It infused Indians with an intense interest in politics that is still palpable in the Indo-Canadian community, which has been called the "most politically active ethnic group in Canada now."

Interestingly, the Indo-Canadian community mostly supported the NDP in British Columbia in provincial elections. It also ensured that Sukh Dhaliwal now and Herb Dhaliwal earlier retained their seat in the House of Commons as Liberals. In Alberta, the Indo-Canadian community, though small in number, elected more Reform or Conservative MPs. In Ontario, initially they used to go with Liberals in Federal elections but gradually started supporting Conservatives also. It has supported both Liberals and Conservatives in the provincial elections.

That diversity of view is seen at the elected level, where there are MPPs or MPs with the Reform, Liberals, NDP and Conservative parties. Some former Canadian MPs of Punjabi origin, including Gurbax Malhi, used to attribute the success of Indo-Canadian politicians to timing rather than to the "apna factor".

(To be concluded)

(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 probinge.com or follow him on Twitter.com/probingeye. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



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International Gujarati Film Festival (IGFF) is back this year with its 3rd Edition at Atlanta



Festival Director : Umesh Shukla (Oh My God and 102 not out fame)



Jury Member Faroukh Mistry

Gopi Desai

Jay Vasavada

Saumya Joshi

ATLANTA (TIP): The 3rd Edition of Vadilal International Gujarati Film festival (IGFF) will be held between May 20th to 22nd, 2022 at ATLANTA, GA, USA, the cinematic cultural festival is also supported by Gujarat Tourism. After the gap of two years due to Worldwide corona pandemic, IGFF is all set to host the three-day film festival which is armed with a singular goal of promoting Gujarati cinema on a scale that was never seen or heard of before on international level.

IGFF aspire to elevate Gujarati Cinema from local to global level. It was the first event of its kind to bring professional and amateur filmmakers together to celebrate the evolving world of Gujarati Cinema. From reminiscing the rural life to melodramatic modern youth. From fun of our everyday relationships to fierce valor of our martyrs. We have tread to showcase the culture and art of Gujarat to the world. With the filmmakers and regional cinema exposed as the main protagonists, the IGFF is the first regional film festival of India to take place outside of India.

IGFF was previously held in the year 2018 at New Jersey and in the year 2019 at Los Angeles and New Jersey. The festival was attended by more than 5000 attendees in both the year and got over whelming response from the audience.

The Governor of New Jersey Phil Murphy had to mention IGFF to their official site, with the community activities.
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562019/20190920a.shtml>

Awards:

IGFF will select one exclusive Grand Prize Winner for each official competition category, the competition's highest and most coveted honor.

Best Feature Film
 Special Jury Mention
 Best Documentary
 Best Short Film
 Best Web Series
 Special Category - Best Short Documentary Film - "OUR HERITAGE"

Film Festival Will be attended by Who's who of Atlanta, Dignitaries &Gujarati community, and Gujarati Film fertility from Gujarat along with the Festival Director Umesh Shukla, Jury Member Faroukh Mistry, Gopi Desai, Jay Vasavada and Saumya Joshi. As surprise Gujarati Film Actors all the way from India to Atlanta GA are going to make their presence at these mega three days festival.

Reason to Select ATLANTA

"Film industry in Georgia is the largest in the United States. Atlanta is the center of the film industry with all the studios located along with the multicultural Indian community also Gujaratis being the most in numbers as community made our decision very strong to host the festival at this most beautiful city. This year Venue for the event is Venture Cinema. The festival will open on 20th May, with the Opening red-carpet Ceremony, the most talked about Gujarati film by Pan Nalin 'The Last Film Show' will be the opening film of the festival. closing ceremony along with the award night. We hope a greater

number of Gujarati community members to attend the festival he mentioned." IGFF has one goal, to show that a Gujarati Cinema has the potential of creating scripts and movies which can stand shoulder to shoulder with any other movie industry.

Final selection of the selected films will be screened during 21st and 22nd May. The schedule and listing of the films will be declared in April end for an audience to choose the best film they want to see. The Festival Director and Indian film Director Umesh Shukla will also be present along with the festival jury, Gopi Desai, Saumya Joshi and Jay Vasavada. Indeed, The Last film show director Pan Nalin will be there on the opening night. The festival tickets will be soon available on shulekha.com

Following is the list of officially selected Feature films, short films, Documentary films, Gujarati Language Web series and short film on "OUR HERITAGE" in Vadilal International Gujarati Film Festival 2022.

FEATURE FILMS:

- The Last Film Show (Chhelo Show)
- 21mu Tiffin
- Bharat Maro Desh
- Dear Father,
- Dhumass
- Divaswapna
- G The Film
- Gajab Thai Gayo
- Gandhi And Co.
- Gandhi Ni Bakri
- Gujarat Nu Gaurav
- Kothi 1947
- Nayika Devi

- Vachan Ek Promise
- Yuva Sarkar

SHORT FILMS:

- Gandhi
- Parnettar from Saurashtra ni Rasdhar
- Shiro - A Story Of Hope And Faith
- And SHORT FILM "OUR HERITAGE":
- Roha Fort - Ek Visraati Viraasat

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS:

- Sur Shabdnu Sarnamu
- Shrimad Rajchandra
- And DOCUMENTARY FILM:
- Okhamandal - Ek Anokhu Andolan

WEB SERIES:

- Benaqaab
 - Ghaat
 - Kshyadyantra
 - Vaat Ma
 - Vitthal Tidi
 - Yamraj Calling
- Festival Director and Festival Jury will be available for the telephonic interview.

Media interviews lineup & Press Release: Chetan Chauhan MB & WhatsApp: 919898003311

Email:
chetan@promotionsredefined.com

Official website:
<https://gujaratifilmfestival.com/>
 Filmfreeway:
<https://filmfreeway.com/igff/>

US, not Russia, is and will be India's reliable partner post Ukrainian war: State Dept Counsellor

WASHINGTON,D.C. (TIP): It is the United States, and not Russia, which is and will be India's "reliable" partner post the war in Ukraine, the Biden Administration pitched on Thursday, April 22, asserting that it is ready to go the extra mile to meet New Delhi's defense and national security needs.

"I think there are real doubts about Russia's ability to be a reliable partner for the foreseeable future. Because Russia is burning through a tremendous amount of its own military equipment. So, it faces urgent resupply needs of its own," US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet told PTI in an interview.

Of the rank of Under Secretary of State and a senior policy advisor to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chollet said the Biden administration is very much eager to work with India as it diversifies its defense capabilities and defense suppliers.

"We very much want to be part of that. We're doing much more than we've ever done in the history of our relationship together in terms of defense. And so, as India's seeking to acquire new capabilities, the United States very much wants to be a partner with India in that effort," he said.

Chollet argued that the military equipment being supplied by Russia has

shown it is lacking in capability. "The difficulty of doing business with Russia is only going to grow over time. It's become much harder given all the sanctions placed on Russia in the last 12 weeks," he said.

"Also, the export control against Russia... Russia's inability to import key technologies to be able to make certain products, including some of its military hardware, are going to mean that it's going to have a hard time even getting the capability to replace or to produce this kind of material. So, any way you look at it in terms of actual capability, in terms of the difficulty of doing business with Russia, in terms of the reputation costs associated, Russia is just a far less attractive partner," he said.

However, Chollet evaded a direct answer to the question on the US deploying its Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal in December 1971 during the India-Pakistan War, which many in India say is a symbol of the US also not being a reliable partner when needed.

"The US has shown throughout the course of this conflict, something we believe deeply, that we are a very reliable partner. If you think back...the United States made the decision to start sharing some of the most sensitive intelligence

that we had about Russia's planning and intentions when it came to Ukraine, our effort to share as much information as we possibly could with our friends and allies around the world in the spirit of being a reliable partner and in trying to bring the world and make them together and to make them aware of what we were seeing and try to create a unified effort," he said.

Chollet asserted that the India-US relationship has not been impacted by the Ukrainian war.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not impacted the relationship between the US and India. The US-India relationship is deep, it's strong," he said, adding that it has bipartisan support in Washington.

"Obviously, we have talked with our Indian friends about everything from votes in the UN to the defense relationship with Russia. It was a topic of conversation at 2+2 (ministerial meeting) recently, but we fully understand the position that India is given its long-standing defense relationship with Russia," he said.

"It's important to note that from our perspective we see that the defense relationship (between India and Russia) in a way started and flourished at a time when the United States was not available as a partner to India. Obviously, we are in



US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet told PTI in an interview that it is the United States, and not Russia, which is and will be India's "reliable" partner post the war in Ukraine

a much different moment right now," he said.

The US-India defense relationship is in a much different and more positive place than it was even 10 years ago. "One of the significant outgrowths of the 2+2 process is the potential and the continued growth of the US-India defense relationship," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US Congressman expresses concern over human rights situation in Kashmir

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A prominent American Congressman has expressed concern over the human rights situation in Kashmir and emphasized that the US government must make clear that it expects better of democracies like India.

The remarks by Congressman Andy Levin - a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation - came during a virtual Congressional briefing organized by the Indian American Muslim Council and 16 other groups on Wednesday, April 20.

The Democratic Party Congressman

emphasized the need for the US to take a clear stance on India's human rights violations and make clear that "the US cares about what happens in Kashmir and that we expect better of democracies like India."

India has repeatedly rejected criticism by foreign governments, lawmakers and human rights groups on allegations that civil liberties have eroded in the country.

The government has asserted that India has well established democratic practices and robust institutions to safeguard the rights of all. The government has emphasized that the Indian Constitution

provides for adequate safeguards under various statutes for ensuring the protection of human rights.

Quoting reports of various human rights groups documenting the rights abuses and intensified crackdown in Kashmir after revoking its special autonomous status, Levin cautioned that abuses were "not happening in a vacuum... these abuses are part of a worrying trend towards authoritarianism."

The Indian Parliament had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, bifurcating the state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.



Congressman Andy Levin has expressed concern over the human rights situation in Kashmir and emphasized that the US government must make clear that it expects better of democracies like India

The Ministry of External Affairs had said the Constitution was, is and will always be a sovereign matter and developments pertaining to Article 370 are entirely India's internal affair.

(Source: PTI)

Bharti Desai Midwest Garba Queen Rocks Chicagoland Indian Community

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): First time in Chicago Aarush Entertainment and Manav Seva Mandir present Chaitra Navratri Garba by Midwest Garba Queen Bharti Desai on Saturday - April 09, 2022 at Manav Seva Mandir, 101 S Church Rd, Bensenville, IL. This auspicious event was celebrated by family, friends, and well-wishers.

For Garba, the members were adorned with beautiful and traditional attire, Chaniya-Choli and Kurtapajama. The whirling dancers, clapping hands, distinct sound of wooden 'Dandiya' striking together, toe tapping music and people wearing vibrant colorful clothes marked the Navratri celebrations at the Garba & Dandiya Raas,

Chaitra Navratri is a nine-day festivity which starts on the first day of Hindu Luni-Solar calendar and falls



Garba Queen Bharti Desai and her team of musicians

in the month of March or April. Chaitra is the first month of Hindu lunar calendar and because of it this Navratri is known as Chaitra Navratri. Chaitra Navratri is also known as Vasanta Navratri.



Fans, participants and performers

This year, the Navratri celebration was organized by President of Aarush Entertainment Manoj Rathod.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



SUPREME COURT REJECTS NAWAB MALIK'S PLEA IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik's plea to release him from jail in a money laundering case was on Friday rejected by the Supreme Court. "It is too nascent a stage to interfere with the investigation. We can't interfere with the due process at this stage. You (should) move the competent court," the top court said in its remarks.

The 62-year-old NCP leader was arrested in February in a case linked to Dawood Ibrahim, the mastermind of 1993 Mumbai blasts. Earlier the Bombay High Court had rejected the application by the minister to release him from jail.

The ruling Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance in Maharashtra - in an attack on the BJP - has been claiming that the NCP leader's arrest in the investigation by the central probe agency was "politics of vendetta".

Earlier on Thursday, the Enforcement Directorate - that probes financial crimes - submitted a 5,000-page chargesheet in a Mumbai court. The special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases will take cognizance of the charge-sheet after verification of the documents, news agency PTI reported, citing the probe agency's lawyers.

The case is based on an FIR filed recently by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against Dawood Ibrahim and his aides under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Malik, the ED has alleged, funded a prominent member of 'D-Gang' (Dawood gang) for illegal occupation of a property.

Last week, the ED had provisionally attached eight properties belonging to Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik and his family members.

Rajasthan High Court Grants 15-Day Parole To Man To Get Wife Pregnant

JAIPUR (TIP)

In a rare incident, the Rajasthan High Court has granted 15-day parole to a man so that he could get his wife pregnant. The order has been given by the Jodhpur bench of the high court.

The order came by the two-judge bench of justices Sandeep Mehta and Farjand Ali on the petition of 34-year-old Nand Lal's wife Rekha, who sought the release of her husband on the "right of progeny".

The judges said in their order that the spouse of Nand Lal is innocent and "her sexual and emotional needs associated

JAMMU (TIP)

Two Pakistani terrorists, reportedly belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad group, and an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the CISF were killed and five have so far been injured in a pre-dawn encounter with militants that broke out in Sunjuwan area of Jammu on April 22.

Locals in the area panicked with the rattle of AK-47 from both sides early on Friday morning. Intelligence sources informed that the police, already alert for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in Samba district on Sunday, received an input about presence of two terrorists inside a home in the area.

The police had surrounded the area at midnight after confirming the presence of the ultras. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh said that the police had laid a cordon in the area after inputs about presence of terrorists. "The ultras started firing on the security forces in the dark due to which one personnel died and some were injured. We believe they are hiding inside a home. We had inputs on basis of which the operation was started" said Mukesh Singh.

The injured police personnel were shifted to Government Medical College Jammu.

In 2018, JeM ultras had attacked a vital army installation at Sunjuwan in a similar pre-dawn attack in which six



Search operations on in Sunjuwan area of Jammu.

soldiers were killed along with three ultras.

Let's longest surviving commander killed in encounter in J-K's Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Top Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) commander Yousuf Kantroo, one of the longest surviving terrorists in the Valley, was among three militants killed in Baramulla district on Thursday, April 21, police said. Kantroo was involved in the killings of several security forces personnel as well as civilians and was among the top-10 most wanted ultras in the Kashmir valley, they said.

With Kantroo's killing, the security forces achieved a major success, a police

spokesman said. He said acting on specific information about the presence of terrorists in the Malwah area of Baramulla in north Kashmir, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there.

As the search party reached the suspected spot during the operation, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately at them, injuring four soldiers, including one officer, and a policeman, the spokesman added. In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT, including dreaded terrorist commander Kantroo, were killed and their bodies retrieved from the gunbattle site, he said.

Source: TNS

Govt working on national database on terrorism: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Centre is working on creating a national database on bomb blasts, terror funding, fake currency, narcotics, hawala transactions, arms smuggling and terrorism, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday, April 21.

The database is being formulated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in coordination with the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and Intelligence Bureau, he added.

"Any data, if used in silos, is of no use but if it is shared with each other and analysed properly, it will be very helpful,"

the Union minister said while addressing the 13th foundation day of NIA here.

There should be a radical change in the method of investigation, Shah said. "Investigation should no longer depend on third-degree methods but on data, information and technology," he added.

The minister also said that "it has been the endeavor of the government to coordinate sharing of all terrorism-related information with police and agencies of all states, strengthen the anti-terrorism laws, hence empower the anti-terror institutions".

"The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was amended in that direction only

Now, NIA can even declare individuals as terrorists and probe cases in foreign jurisdictions," Shah said.

The home minister also lauded the NIA for its investigation and conviction rate in terror-related cases in the last 13 years.

"In such a short span (13 years), the NIA has set 'gold standards' of conviction in terror cases and has played a major role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a terror-free India," Shah said. The central agency has established itself as an international agency and has worked hard to probe cases related to terrorism, terror funding and Maoists in just over a decade, he added.

Source: HT

with marital lives are affected" by the man's imprisonment.

"Thus, viewing from any angle, it can

safely be concluded that the right or wish

to have progeny is available to a prisoner

as well subject to the peculiar facts and

circumstances of each case," the high

court said.

"It is also found apposite to hold that

the spouse of the convict-prisoner cannot

be deprived of his or her right to get

progeny," the bench further said in the

April 5 order. The court cited Hindu

scriptures, including the Rig Veda, as

well as referred to the tenets of Judaism,

Christianity and some other Abrahamic religions.

"If we see the matter with the religious

aspect; as per Hindu philosophy,

Garbhadhan, i.e. attaining the wealth of

the womb is the first of the 16

sacraments," said the judgement.

It also highlighted that preservation of

lineage is also greatly emphasised by the

Islamic Shariah and the Cairo

declaration of human rights in Islam also

supported the protection of lineage in

Islam.

Presenting the legal aspect, the court

linked the right to progeny to the

fundamental right of life as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"The Constitution guarantees that no person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. It includes

within its ambit the prisoners also," said the judges.

Nand Lal has been serving life sentence awarded by a Bhilwara court in Rajasthan in 2019, and is lodged in Ajmer Central Jail. He was granted a 20-day parole in 2021. The court noted that Nand Lal's conduct had been exceedingly well in the jail premises.

Source: NDTV



BOEING PLANS TO FLY TWO F/A-18 SUPER HORNET TO INDIA

American aerospace company Boeing is planning to send two Super Hornet fighter jets to Goa for operation demonstrations before its potential buyer Indian Navy this summer, reported news agency PTI quoting a senior company executive.

Alain Garcia, vice president of Boeing's India Business Development, made a strong sales pitch for F/A-18 Super Hornet, saying the aircraft has been specifically designed for carrier operations. Garcia said that the fighter jet can operate from the Indian Navy warships and will meet or exceed the STOBAR (Short Take-off But Arrested Recovery) performance requirements of the Indian Navy.

"This has been proven by our successful ski-jump tests conducted in 2020 and extensive simulation studies. Additionally, we will also prove that further with operational demonstrations in India in May and June," PTI quoted Garcia as saying.

"I really believe the F/A-18 Super Hornet Block III will be a transformative capability for the Indian Navy, the way the P-8I has been...and also the impact that it will have on the aerospace industry," he argued.

WOMAN CHASED, STABBED TO DEATH IN FRONT OF HER CHILDREN IN DELHI: POLICE

A young woman was stabbed to death in front of her children on Thursday, April 21, in south-west Delhi. The accused then managed to escape, the police said.

The police official told news agency ANI, "We received a PCR call at around 2:00 pm at Sagar Pur police station that a woman was stabbed. We reached the spot immediately. The woman was taken to the hospital where she was declared dead."

The police further said that "CCTV footage of the incident showed that the accused was chasing her when she was heading home with her children."

"At around 2:10 pm the accused stabbed her and managed to escape," they added.

Upon investigation it was found that the woman and the accused were former neighbours before she moved to her current residence. However, the reason for the murder is not known yet.

"A case of murder has been registered. The police are trying to identify and locate the accused," the police official said.

Active Covid cases in India rise to 14,241

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With 2,451 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of Covid cases rose to 4,30,52,425, while the active cases increased to 14,241, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, April 22.

The death toll climbed to 5,22,116 with 54 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprised 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded as 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 808 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.55 per cent and the weekly positivity rate as 0.47 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,16,068, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid vaccination drive has exceeded 187.26 crore.

Among the 54 new fatalities 48 were from Kerala and one each from Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

A total of 5,22,116 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,47,831 from Maharashtra, 68,750 from Kerala, 40,057 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,162 from Delhi, 23,502 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,200



from West Bengal.

Delhi surge may be due to new Omicron sub-variant

The sudden rise in Covid cases in the national Capital may be due to a new sub-variant of Omicron detected in the majority samples in the first fortnight of April. The surge has caused the Delhi Disaster Management Authority to bring back the mask mandate and impose a Rs 500 penalty for violation.

Omicron sub-variant BA.2.12 could be linked to the surge in and around the city, said a source in the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), the umbrella body conducting advanced genome surveillance to determine the

variant lineages of Covid-19 positive persons.

He said the Omicron variant BA.2.12 had been found in the Delhi samples — the same variant that had caused a spurt in cases in the US recently. The Health Ministry was silent on the issue. The Director, National Centre for Disease Control, SK Singh, did not respond to calls. Sources said BA.2.12 (52% samples) and BA.2.10 (11% samples) with a higher transmission potential had been detected in 60 per cent of all Delhi samples with BA.2.12 prima facie having a growth advantage of 30 to 90 per cent a week over BA.2 (Omicron). A source said more than 300 samples had been subjected to genome surveillance in Delhi in the first fortnight of April. Source: PTI and TNS

India Condemns US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's Visit To Pak-Occupied Kashmir

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India has condemned US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's visit to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. The Congresswoman is on a four-day visit to Pakistan starting April 20, where she has also met former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his successor Shahbaz Sharif.

Answering a question about her visit to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, the foreign ministry spokesperson said it is condemnable.

"If such a politician wishes to practice her narrow-minded politics at home that may be her business, but violating our territorial integrity in its pursuit makes this ours. Condemnable," the ministry said.

The Congresswoman is on a four-day visit to Pakistan -- April 20-24 -- where apart from having meetings with the political leadership in Islamabad, she was to visit parts of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The Prime Minister's Office had said that she will visit Lahore and "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" to have a greater understanding of Pakistan's cultural, social, political, and economic potential.

Kashmir always figures largely in Pakistan's interactions with the US and it was also discussed between Prime Minister Sharif and Ms Omar.

Sharif told reporters that he had raised Kashmir with the 39-year-old lawmaker, known for her anti-India stance, and stressed the importance of peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, enabling the region to realise its economic potential and promote social progress, reported news agency Press Trust of India.

Omar's visit is largely directed at a reboot of the US-



Muslim US Congresswoman Ilhan Abdullah Omar (left) meets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the PM Office in Islamabad, on April 20, 2022. — PakPMO

Pakistan relations after deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan's allegations of conspiracy. The opposition, Mr Khan had alleged, has conspired with the US to see him out of office through a no-trust vote in the national assembly.

Visit not sponsored by US govt: Official

Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's travel to Pakistan this week is not sponsored by the United States government, an official said on Thursday, April 21.

India in history this Week

APRIL 22, 2022, TO APRIL 28, 2022

22 APRIL

1921 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned from the Indian Civil Service in 1921.

1970 Earth Day was celebrated for the first time in the world.

1958 Admiral RD Katari became the first chief in the Indian Navy in 1958.

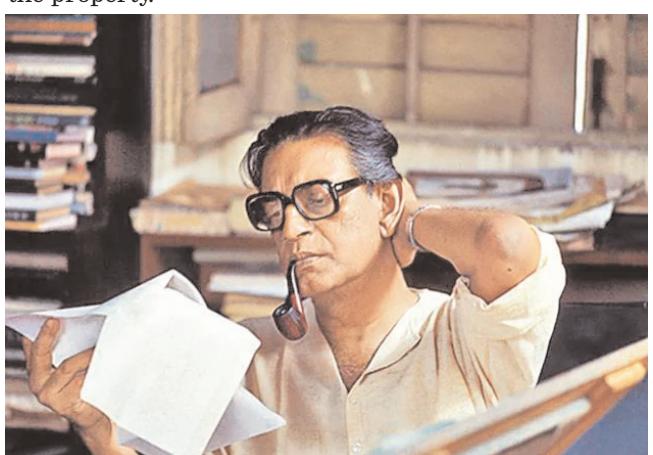


1974 Indian writer Chetan Bhagat was born in 1974.
1969 The famous revolutionary of 'Kakori Kand' Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee passed away in 1969.

23 APRIL

1858 Babu Veer Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur, the hero of India's first freedom struggle passed away.

1987 The Supreme Court ruled the widows share in the property.



1992 Satyajit Ray, who was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the famous Indian filmmaker-director, died in 1992.

1995 Celebration of World Book Day began.

1984 Scientists found out about the AIDS virus in 1984.

2005 The first video was uploaded to YouTube in 2005.

2013 West Indies explosive batsman Chris Gayle scored the fastest century in cricket history in 2013 in just 30 balls.

1504 Birth of the second Sikh religious leader Angad in 1504.

24 APRIL

1973 Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, the country's greatest cricketer who was considered among the best batsmen in the world in the history of cricket, was born on this day.

1815 The Gorkha Regiment, considered the first and bravest battalion of the Indian Army, has completed 200 years today.

1815 The foundation stone of Gorkha Regime was laid in 1815 in Himachal.



1972 The famous Indian painter Gemini Roy died on this day in 1972. He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1955.

25 APRIL

1968 Hindustani classical music singer Bade Ghulam Ali Khan died.

1982 Doordarshan aired a colorful picture for the first time in 1982.

1933 On this day, the terrorists who hijacked the Air Indian plane were killed.

2000 On this day, the mastermind of Kandahar Hijack, Bilal alias Lalu Mian, was arrested from West Bengal.

2007 The new campus of the Virala Institute of Technology and Sciences opened in 2007 in Panama (Bahrain).

2010 In 2010, the Indian Navy began the process of procuring new Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs) in place of the old Chetak helicopters.



1969 India's famous football player IM Vijayan was born in 1969.

26 APRIL

1920 The great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujam passed away.



1975 Sikkim became the 22nd state of India.

1847 The Bombay Gadget newspaper was first published in 1841 on silk cloth.

1929 The first non-stop flight from England to India was completed in 1929.

1980 Situated in 1980, the Center for Positional Astronomy was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1990 In 1990, VRP Menon set a world record by performing disco dance for 463 hours in a row.

1993 A 1993 Boeing-737 plane crash in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, killed about 60 people.

2006 India and Uzbekistan signed 6 treaties in 2006.

2008 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the 390 MW Dul Hasti Hydel Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir to the country in 2008.

2010 The Bihar government decided in 2010 to brand Bihar's famous Chiniya banana as 'Ganga Banana'.

1864 Pandit Gurudutt Vidyarthi, a disciple of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and one of the five prominent leaders of the Arya Samaj, was born.

27 APRIL

1526 The Mughal ruler Babur defeated the Sultan of Delhi and became the new emperor.

1748 The Mughal ruler Muhammad Shah died in Delhi.

1878 The University of Calcutta gave the first approval for eligibility for women in the field of university education.

1960 Establishment of National Defense College in New Delhi.

1912 The great actress Zohra Sehgal was born.

28 APRIL

1916 BG Tilak founded the Indian Home Rule League in 1916.

1932 The development of yellow fever vaccine for humans was announced in 1932.

2003 Employee Safety and Health Day was observed around the world in 2003.

2008 The Indian Space Research Organization created a new history in 2008 with PSLV-C9.

1791 Hari Singh Nalwa, the Chief of Army Staff of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born.



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Indian Star



Guru Tegh Bahadur Jayanti 2022 or Prakash Parv 2022 is being celebrated on April 21 to mark the birth of the Ninth Guru of Sikhism, Guru Tegh Bahadur. This year marks the 400th year of his birth anniversary.

Born in 1621, Guru Tegh Bahadur, often venerated as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar), or Hind Di Chadar' (Protector of Hindu Religion), was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind. Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered as the warrior guru, who relentlessly fought for religious freedom. Widely regarded as the saviour guru, Tegh Bahadur is considered to be an honourable scholar and poet who greatly contributed to the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of Sikhism.

Known as a great teacher, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an excellent warrior, thinker, and poet, who wrote detailed description of the nature of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other things spiritual. His writings are housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns. He was also an avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent. During one such mission, he founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib. In 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was forced by the then Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to give up his faith and convert to Islam. When he refused, the Sikh Guru was beheaded on November 24, 1675, in Delhi.

Early Life

Guru Tegh Bahadur was born Tyag Mal on April 1, 1621, in Amritsar, Panjab. He was born to the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind, and his wife, Mata Nanaki. As a child, Tyag Mal learnt Sanskrit, Hindi, and Gurmukhi from the revered Sikh scholar, Bhai Gurdas. While horsemanship and archery was taught to him by Baba Buddha ji, Guru Hargobind taught him swordsmanship.

When Tyag Mal was just 13 years old, he accompanied his father to a battle against the Mughals, who had laid siege to Kartarpur. Thanks to Guru Hargobind and Tyag Mal, Kartarpur was successfully defended by the Sikhs. For exhibiting great valor and military skills in the battle, Guru Hargobind bestowed upon his son the title 'Tegh Bahadur,' which literally means 'brave sword wielder.' Tyag Mal henceforth came to be known as Tegh Bahadur.

In 1632, Tegh Bahadur got married to Mata Gujri. By now, Tegh Bahadur had begun to spend much of his time in meditation and had gradually secluded himself. In 1644, Guru Hargobind asked Tegh Bahadur to move to a village, Bakala, along with his wife and his mother. The next two decades saw Tegh Bahadur spend most of his time meditating in an underground room in Bakala, where he would later be recognized as the ninth Sikh Guru. During his stay in Bakala, Tegh Bahadur traveled extensively and even visited Delhi to meet Guru Har Krishan, the eighth Sikh guru.

Guruship

In 1664, Guru Har Krishan's health was badly affected by smallpox, which ultimately led to his death on March 30, 1664. While on his death bed, Guru Har Krishan was asked who would be his successor to which he simply uttered the words 'Baba' and 'Bakala,' which implied that the next Guru would be found in Bakala. When the word about the next

Guru Tegh Bahadur - Hind ki Chadar



Sikh Guru spread, many imposters settled down in Bakala and claimed to be the next Guru for monetary and other trivial gains. This led to confusion among the Sikhs as it made the task of finding the real Sikh Guru very difficult.

Meanwhile, a wealthy trader named Baba Makhan Shah Labana had once been caught in a powerful storm, which had almost capsized his ship. During the incident, Baba Makhan Shah felt helpless and hence prayed to God that he would offer 500 gold coins to the Guru, should he be saved from the storm. After being saved miraculously, Baba Makhan Shah went in search of Guru Har Krishan, when he was informed about the passing of the Guru. He was also informed that Guru Har Krishan had professed that the next Guru will be found in Bakala.

When Baba Makhan Shah Labana arrived in Bakala on August 1664, he was surprised to see as many as 22 imposters claiming to be the ninth Sikh Guru. Baba Makhan Shah recalled his prayer and then started giving away two Dinars to every imposter. As expected, all the imposters walked away happily after receiving two Dinars. Baba Makhan Shah, who was disappointed for not having met the real Guru, was taken to Tegh Bahadur on August 10, 1664. Upon seeing Tegh

Bahadur, Baba Makhan Shah placed two Dinars before him, for which Tegh Bahadur replied by saying, 'why two when you pledged 500?' Upon hearing those words, Baba Makhan Shah placed 500 gold coins before Tegh Bahadur and started yelling with excitement, 'Guru ladho re' (I have found the Guru). Henceforth, Tegh Bahadur was declared as the ninth Sikh Guru.

Works

Guru Tegh Bahadur started traveling to various parts of the country in order to preach the teachings of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. He also started spreading the message of Sikhism, while helping those in need. In 1664, Guru Tegh Bahadur visited Kiratpur thrice for three different reasons. During his first visit on August 21, 1664, the Guru met with Bibi Rup, the daughter of the seventh Sikh guru, who was mourning the death of her father as well as that of her brother. The second visit was prompted by the death of Bassi, the mother of the seventh Sikh guru, Guru Har Rai. The third visit marked the end of a long journey through the northwestern Indian subcontinent.

On one of his visits to Bilaspur, Guru Tegh Bahadur met with Rani Champa of Bilaspur, who offered him a piece of land.

The Guru insisted on paying her 500 rupees for the land, where he founded a city called Anandpur Sahib.

Some of Guru Tegh Bahadur's works are added in the 'Guru Granth Sahib' and cover a range of topics, including nature of God, mind, body, physical attachments, etc. In 1672, the Guru traveled through the North-West Frontier, where the persecution of non-Muslims was at its peak.

Execution

When the then Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb forced the Brahmin scholars of Kashmir to convert to Islam, the Brahmins approached Guru Tegh Bahadur for a solution. The Guru sent them back with a message to Aurangzeb, which stated that the Mughal emperor could convert the Brahmins if he succeeds in converting Guru Tegh Bahadur. A few days after his proclamation, Guru Tegh Bahadur was arrested along with a couple of his followers, namely Bhai Mati Das and Bhai Dayal Das. When the trio refused to convert to Islam despite being tortured, Aurangzeb ordered their execution. While Mati Das was sawn to death, Dayal Das was cast into a huge cauldron of boiling water. On November 24, 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded in Delhi for standing up against the Mughal ruler.

Impact of the Execution

Post Guru Tegh Bahadur's execution, the Sikhs became more resilience than ever. Many Sikh temples were built in the memory of Guru Tegh Bahadur and his deceased followers. 'Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib' was built in Chandni Chowk, where the Guru was executed. After his execution, the severed head of the Guru was taken back to Punjab by one of his followers named Bhai Jaita. After cremating his head, another Sikh temple was built there. The Guru's sacrifice continues to remind the followers of the Sikh religion to stay true to their faith.

Legacy

Upon Guru Tegh Bahadur's execution, his son Gobind Singh became the tenth Sikh Guru and came to be known as Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Tegh Bahadur's execution left an indelible impression on Guru Gobind Singh, who was just nine years old at that time. As a result, Guru Gobind Singh organized the Sikh group in such a way that it eventually became a distinct and symbol-patterned community. Also, the Sikhs began to focus more on aspects like bravery and self-defense, which gave rise to the 'Khalsa.'

A number of places, including educational institutions and hospitals have been named after Guru Tegh Bahadur. While many of these places are located in Punjab, there are several places in other parts of India, which have been named after Guru Tegh Bahadur. While Maharashtra has several educational institutions named after him, places like New Delhi and Uttar Pradesh too, have a number of schools and colleges that have been named after the great Sikh Guru.

NYIFF HONORS INDIA'S 75TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN 22ND EDITION

By Mabel Pais

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) presents its annual event with its 22nd edition highlighting the impact of Indian film and culture on the globe. The Festival is available virtually for the 3rd consecutive year. The festival celebrates independent, art house, alternate, and diaspora films with on-demand streaming offered by Shift72 from May 7-13, 2022. However, there will be a closing night film screening and awards presentation at the Village East Cinemas, 181 2nd Ave., New York, NY 10003 on May 14, 2022, starting at 4:30 p.m.

NYIFF is presented by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC). The Festival includes 18 feature narratives, 6 documentaries and 36 short films - a total of 60 films. Key highlights from the NYIFF celebrates alternative, independent cinema from the global Indian community and brings this rich collection of films to the New York audience.

"We look forward to sparking a resonating dialogue about the ongoing impact of Indian culture on the world on the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence," said Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, IAAC Chairman.

Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York, said at a recent pre-Festival launch held at the Consulate General of India, New York, "in the Indo-American Arts Council, we have a very strong supporter, a very strong builder of cultural bridges between India and the United States and when we have such platforms, such energy, and such ideas supporting you, our work as representing India, our work as cultural ambassadors becomes easier. And if that is the case, I would say you are as big a cultural ambassador of India in the United States as I am or even more so."

"So, a big 'thank you' to the Indo-American Arts Council and all that you've been doing over the years: from film festivals to dance, to music, to art."

"I wish the Film Festival the very best. Needless to say that the Consulate is deeply proud to partner with the NYIFF 2022."

NYIFF FILM SLATE

Feature Narrative Films

Bhagavadajjukam

Dir: Yadu Vijaykrishnana l 2021 l Sanskrit l 1h 41m

Boomba Ride

Dir: Biswajeet Bora l 2021 l Assamese l 1h 16m

Burqa : Dir: Sarjun KM l 2021 l Tamil l 1h 21m

Deid : Dir: Omkar Barve l 2022 l Marathi l 1h 38m

Demons : Dir: Rohit Mittal l 2021 l Hindi l 1h 36m

Gandhi & Co.

Dir: Manish Saini l 2022 l Gujarati l 1h 41m

Godavari - OPENING NIGHT

Dir: Nikhil Mahajan l 2021 l Marathi l 1h 53m



"Godavari," Opening Night Photo / www.iaac.us/neerjapr.com

Jhini Bini Chadariya/ The Brittle Thread

Dir: Ritesh Sharma l 2021 l Hindi l 1h 37m

Koli Esru :

Dir: Champa P Shetty l 2022 l Kannada l 1h 21m

Mahishasur Mardini

Dir: Ranjan Ghosh l 2022 l Bengali l 1h 58m

Nishiddho/ Forbidden

Dir: Tara Ramanujan l 2021 l Malayalam l, Bengali l 2h 4m
Once Upon a Time in Calcutta

Dir: Aditya Vikram Sengupta l 2021 l Bengali l 2h 11m

Pedro : Dir: Natesh Hedge l 2021 l Kannada l 1h 48m

Powai : Dir: Kuldip Patel l 2021 l Hindi l 2h 6m

Shoebox : Dir: Faraz Ali l 2021 l Hindi l 1h 38m

The Road to Kuthriyar

Dir: Bharat Mirle l 2021 l Tamil l 1h 55m

Three-Legged Horse

Dir: Noopur Bora l 2021 l Marathi l 2h 3m

Waiting for Dawn/ Bhor Er Oppekhā

Dir: Akash Sharma l 2021 l Bengali l 1h 17m

Feature Documentaries

15 Seconds a Lifetime

Dir: Divya Kharnare l 2021 l Hindi, Marathi, English l 1h 2m

If Memory Serves Me Right

Dir: Rafeeq Elias l 2021 l English l 56m

Kaifinama

Dir: Sumatra Ghosal l 2019 l Urdu, English l 1h 30m

Lords of Lockdown

Dir: Mihir Fadnavis l 2021 l English, Hindi l 2h

Taanagh/Longing - CENTERPIECE

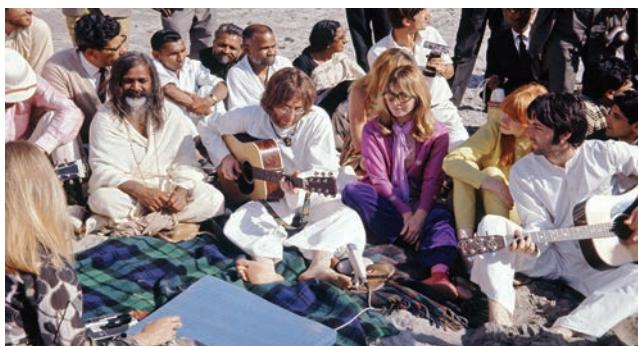
Dir: Bani Singh l 2021 l English, Punjabi, Hindi & Urdu l 1h 40m



"Taanagh/Longing," Centerpiece Photo / www.iaac.us/neerjapr.com

The Beatles and India - CLOSING NIGHT

Dirs: Ajoy Bose and Peter Compton l 2021 l English l 1h 36m



"The Beatles And India," Closing Night Photo / www.iaac.us/neerjapr.com

Short Narratives

7 Star Dinosor (sic.) Entertainment

Dir: Vaishali Naik l 2021 l Hindi l 20m

A Box of Cuban Cigars

Dir: Soumadeep Sen l 2021 l English, Bengali, Hindi l 21m

Arjun : Dir: Shivraj Waichal l 2020 l Marathi l 15m

Cheepatakadumpa

Dir: Devashish Makhija l 2021 l Hindi l 24m

Cycle : Dir: Devashish Makhija l 2021 l Hindi, Telugu, Oriya, Bengali l 20m

Dal Bhat : Dir: Nenil Shah l 2021 l Gujarati l 29m

Holiday : Dir: Rahul Nangia l 2020 l Hindi l 12m

Keep Punching :

Dir: Kirnay Bhatt l 2020 l Hindi l 25m

Kiss : Dir: Varun Grover l 2021 l Hindi l 17m

Kopfkino

Dir: Veena Bharati l 2021 l Malayalam, English l 16m

Man & Wife

Dir: Rahul Roye l 2021 l Bengali, English l 9m

Mintgumri :

Dir: Aakash Chhabra l 2021 l Hindi l 23m

Mr. Lawyer

Dir: Sumit Purohit l 2021 l Hindi l 23m

My Mother's Girlfriend

Dir: Arun Fulara l 2021 l Marathi l 15m

Nafs Said : Dir: Huma Hussain l 2021 l Hindi l 13m

Overbridge

Dirs: Nihar Kapoor and Amshu Chukki l 2020 l Kannada l 9m

Pariah :

Dir: Nishant Roy Bombarde l 2021 l Hindi l 26m

Raavi : Dir: Jasmine Kaur Roy l 2021 l Punjabi l 14m

Smrisha

Dir: Shilpa Krishnan Shukla l 2021 l English, Malayalam l 30m

Succulent

Dir: Amrita Bagchi l 2021 l Hindi, English l 29m

Swarna : Dir: Anusha Rao l 2021 l Telugu l 29m

The Daughter

Dir: Soumyak Kanti Debiswas l 2022 l Hindi l 16m

The Silent Echo

Dir: Suman Sen l 2021 l Nepali l 15m

The Test : Dir: Shahnawaz Qadeer l 2020 l Hindi l 14 m

The Way We Are/ Phir Kabhi

Dir: Nihit Bhave l 2021 l Hindi l 18m

There is No Other Way to Do This

Dir: Mragendra Singh l 2022 l English l 6m

Together : Dir: Azad Alam l 2021 l Hindi l 23m

Vanilla : Dir: Kanishka Deo l 2021 l Hindi l 11m

Short Documentaries

Aakhri Safar/ The Last Journey

Dir: Suraj Gunjal l 2021 l Hindi l 22m

Kicking Balls

Dir: Priyanka Singh l 2020 l Hindi l 36m

Listen With Your Heart

Dir: Meghna Damani l 2022 l English l 27m

Murmurs of the Jungle

Dir: Sohil Vaidya l 2022 l Marathi, Hindi l 20m

Reflections at 29

Dir: Tanmaya Shekhar l 2021 l English l 6m

The Bat Man and Woman of India

Dir: Emily Driscoll l 2021 l English l 7m

The Flowers and the Gemstones

Dir: Sriram Raja l 2019 l Tamil l 23m

The Spirit of Ganga

Dir: Natasha Rathore l 2022 l English l 17m

TICKETS : For Tickets, Single Ticket or Festival Passes, visit nyiff.us/ticket

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF):

The NYIFF is the oldest, most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the independent, arthouse, alternate and diaspora genres. For updates and more information, visit nyiff.us

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. The Council works cooperatively with colleagues around the U.S. to broaden its collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. The focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. For more information, visit iaac.us.

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



Nimrat Kaur on her absence from Bollywood: 'I genuinely wanted to work...'

Nimrat Kaur was last seen in Abhishek Bachchan's *Dasvi* as Bimla Devi. This was her first Bollywood project in seven years. Now, in an interaction with Hindustan Times, Nimrat talked about her absence from Bollywood and said, "I haven't consciously stayed away from Bollywood films. I genuinely wanted to work on more projects."

When Nimrat Kaur was asked about the thought of being forgotten by the Indian audience due to her absence, she said, "I've enough faith and belief that whichever project I take up in any part of the world, no matter how much time it takes, there will always be a space in the audience's mind for me. I hear things like 'they want to see more of me', and that's very encouraging. It's the 'absence makes the heart grow fonder' kind of thing."

Nimrat Kaur wishes she had spent more time in Bollywood and added, "I wish I could have chased my last Hindi project way quicker with a new project."

Actor Akshay Kumar has apologised to fans and well-wishers after people on social media trolled him for appearing in an ad for Vimal Elaichi.

Many pointed out the ad could be seen as the actor promoting a tobacco product. From amused to offended, the voices are varied. Most Twitter users said that Akshay Kumar, known for fitness, was endorsing a product owned by what is essentially a gutka brand.

"I'm sorry," the actor tweeted.

"I would like to apologise to you, all my fans and well-wishers. Your reaction over the past few days has deeply affected me. While I have not and will not endorse tobacco, I respect the outpouring of your feelings in light of my association with Vimal Elaichi. With all humility, I step back," Akshay Kumar tweeted.

"I have decided to contribute the entire endorsement fee towards a worthy cause. The brand might continue airing the ads till the legal duration of the contract that is binding upon me, but I promise to be extremely mindful in making my future choices. In return, I shall forever continue to ask for your love and wishes," he said.

The actor, however, did not mention what's the duration of the contract for the Vimal Elaichi ad.

Some social media users had posted an older video of Akshay Kumar speaking about how he would not do a gutka ad. In the clip, he said while he has been offered several such ads, he



would not feature in them as he believed in the concept of a "healthy India".

The Vimal Elaichi ad has two more

stars - Shah Rukh Khan and Ajay Devgn - embracing the tagline "Bolo Zubaan Kesari" in a foreign location with swanky cars around them.

Vidyut Jammwal to give 'Agni Pariksha' in *Khuda Haafiz Chapter II*

Khuda Haafiz: Chapter II – Agni Pariksha, starring Vidyut Jammwal, is slated to be launched in theatres on June 17. A follow-up to the 2020 action-thriller *Khuda Haafiz*, the upcoming film is written and directed by Faruk Kabir who penned and helmed the primary movie within the franchise as effectively.

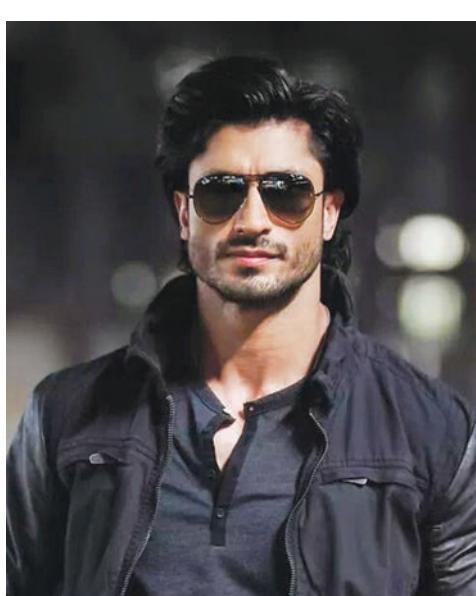
Jammwal took to Twitter to share the discharge date of the sequel. Also starring Shivaleeka Oberoi, the film is produced by Panorama Studios.

"Witness the #AgniPariksha of Sameer & Nargis in #KhudaHaafizChapterIIAgniPariksha. Releasing in theatres on June 17, 2022," the actor wrote as he shared the poster of the movie.

Khuda Haafiz featured Jammwal as Sameer, a person who races towards time to rescue his kidnapped spouse Nargis, performed by Oberoi, from flesh merchants. The movie was launched on the streamer Disney+ Hotstar in 2020.

The makers beforehand described the sequel as an "intense love story" between Sameer and Nargis.

Khuda Haafiz: Chapter II – Agni Pariksha is offered by Zee Studios, Cinergy, and Panorama Studios. Mithoon and Vishal Mishra have composed the music and Irshad Kamil has penned the lyrics for the venture.



Amitabh Bachchan-led *Jhund* to have its digital premiere on ZEE5

Filmmaker Nagraj Manjule's sports drama *Jhund*, headlined by megastar Amitabh Bachchan, is set to have its digital premiere on ZEE5 on May 6. The film featured Bachchan as Vijay Barse, a Nagpur-based retired sports teacher who pioneers a slum soccer movement.

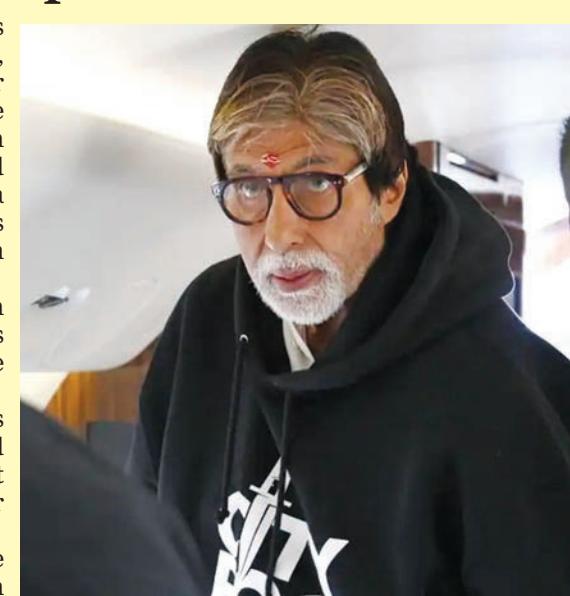
Jhund released theatrically in March but couldn't translate its glowing reviews to box office glory.

Manish Kalra, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 India described *Jhund* as an inspiring film that sends a "powerful message to our youth".

"The stories right from the heartlands resonate with audiences and I am happy to bring it exclusively to our ZEE5 audiences. As a customer-first brand, we will continue to invest in understanding our viewers and their interest areas to build a slate of real, authentic and relatable content."

"The roster for the next few months is strong and we are hopeful, *Jhund* will drive in much love and appreciation from the audiences," Kalra said in a statement on Thursday. *Jhund*, which marked the Hindi debut of Manjule after acclaimed Marathi films like *Sairat* and *Fandry*, was produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series. Kumar said the story of *Jhund* transcended boundaries.

Source: PTI





'Fantastic Beasts' Actor Ezra Miller Behind Bars

Hollywood star Ezra Miller has been arrested for second-degree assault in Hawaii, less than four weeks after the 'Flash' and 'Fantastic Beasts' star was arrested for disorderly conduct and harassment in Hilo, Hawaii.

According to 'Variety', Miller was arrested early Tuesday morning after an incident at a private residence in Pahoa. Patrol officers responded to a report of an assault that occurred at a get-together in the Leilani Estates subdivision in lower Puna.

According to the Hawaii Police Department, Miller allegedly became irate after being asked to leave and threw a chair, striking a 26-year-old woman on the forehead and resulting in an approximate half-inch cut. The woman refused treatment for the injury.

Police arrested Miller at 1.30 a.m. after the actor was located on the roadway during a traffic stop at the intersection of Highway 130 and Kukula Street in Keaaau.

Miller was released at 4.05 a.m. after conferring with the County Prosecutor's Office, pending further investigation. The investigation remains active, reports 'Variety'.

Miller's first arrest came on March 28. South Hilo officers responded to a report of a disorderly bar patron, where Miller had become unruly and yelled obscenities while other patrons sang karaoke.

'The Kardashians' Becomes Most-Watched Premiere In America

Kim Kardashian-starrer reality show 'The Kardashians' is its biggest series premiere in US history, says network Hulu.

According to 'Variety', the streamer did not provide specific viewing numbers, as the platform does not release ratings. Outside of actual subscriber numbers, which Disney has to reveal for shareholders, the Disney-owned streamers have never given out any actual viewership data.

Hulu also claims the new show is the most-watched Star Originals series, (so not including Disney's Marvel or 'Star Wars' streaming titles) on Disney+ and Star+ across global markets.

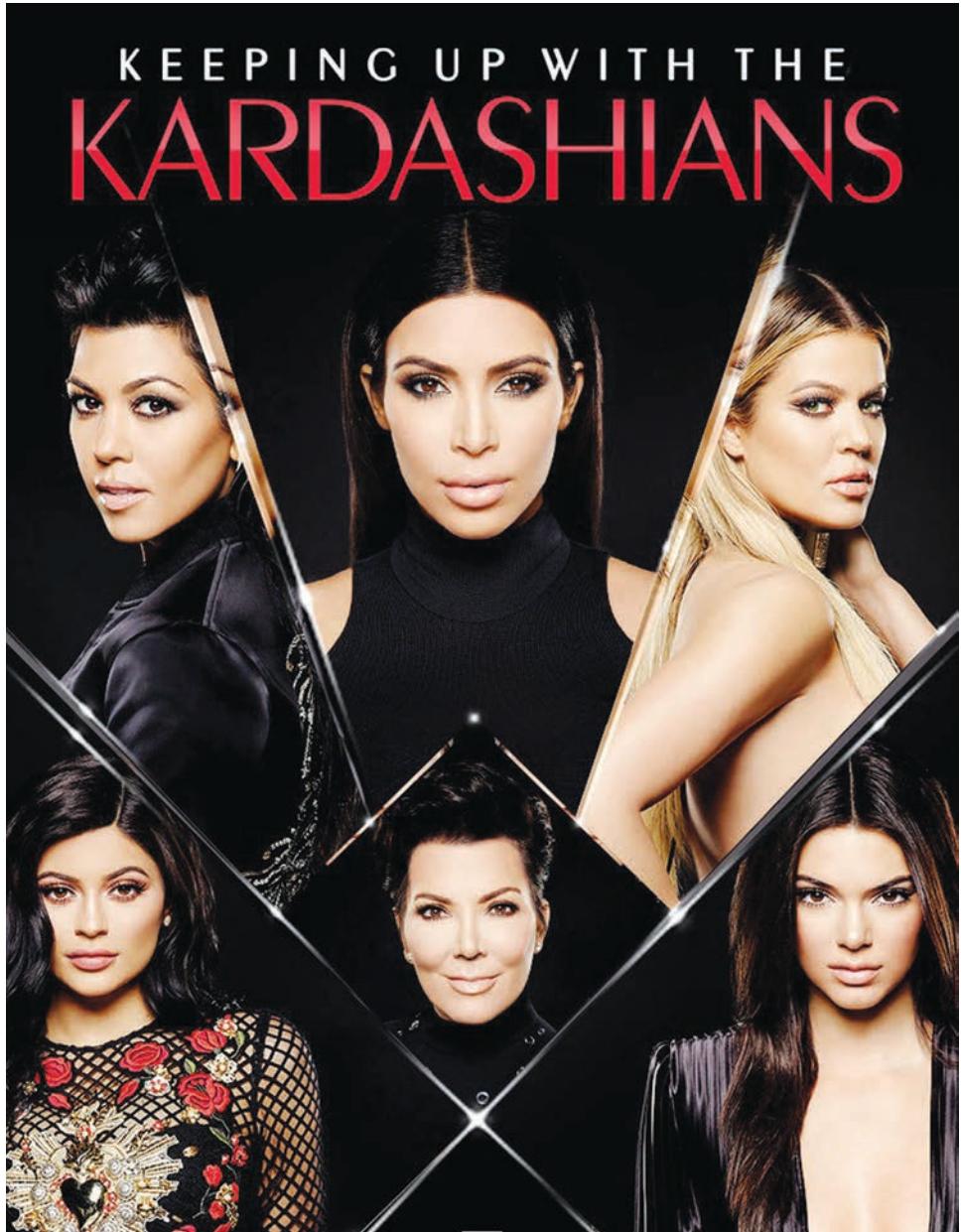
"'The Kardashians' is the most-watched series premiere on Hulu in the United States, and on Disney+ and Star+ among Star Originals, across all global markets to date," a Hulu spokesperson shared with Variety.

Hulu's record-breaking number for 'The Kardashians' is based on the premiere episode hours watched in the first three days of its release, since the show launched on April 14.

'The Kardashians' is the new series from the Kardashian-Jenners, following their groundbreaking show on E!, 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', which ran for 15 years, 20 seasons and numerous spinoffs.

The Kardashian clan ended 'KUWTK' in 2020. Soon after, they announced they'd be joining the Disney family with a new pact at Hulu.

Under the deal, Hulu will be launching 40 episodes of 'The Kardashians', spread out over 10-episode seasons.



Vin Diesel unveils new title for 'Fast & Furious 10'

Hollywood action star Vin Diesel took to Instagram to share that 'Fast & Furious 10' will officially be titled 'Fast X', also announcing the launch of production. "Day one" the action star wrote, reports 'Deadline'. While details with regard to the plot of 'Fast X' have thus far been kept under wraps, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Michelle Rodriguez, Sung Kang, Jason Momoa, Daniela Melchior and Brie Larson will also star. Justin Lin is on board as director and will also produce alongside Diesel, with the film set to bow in theaters via Universal on May 19, 2023.

Lin has been one of the lead directors for the action franchise, having previously helmed 2021's 'F9', as well as 'Fast & Furious 6', 'Fast Five', 'Fast & Furious' and 'The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift'.

The franchise is Universal's biggest of all time - its films having collectively grossed over \$6.6 billion worldwide.

UK SETS OUT 26 NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

LONDON (TIP): Britain on April 21 added 26 new designations to its list of sanctions against Russia over the Ukrainian war, including on military figures and defence companies.

Britain, which has sought to play a key role in the West's response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, has already set out hundreds of sanctions, such as asset freezes and travel bans on prominent Russian billionaires and politicians including President Vladimir Putin.

Among those on the updated sanctions list, published on the government website, were Colonel General Nikolay Bogdanovsky of the Russian army who holds the position of First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, manufacturer Military Industrial Company, and industrial group Promtech-Dubna. Reuters

TWENTY BURNT TO DEATH IN NIGERIA ROAD ACCIDENT

BAUCHI (TIP): Twenty people, including children, were burnt to death after a public mini-bus collided with a car on a highway in northern Nigeria, the road safety agency said on April 19.

"The accident was caused by a speed violation. A driver was injured, 20 were killed and burnt to ashes," the Bauchi state command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said in a statement.

In Africa's most populous nation, many roads are poorly maintained and riven with potholes, leading to accidents that claim dozens of lives every year. Reuters

NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM OBSERVES MISSILE TEST TO ENHANCE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

SEOUL (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has observed the test firing of a new type of tactical guided weapon aimed at boosting the country's nuclear capabilities, the North's KCNA state news agency reported on April 19.

The report comes amid signs North Korea could soon resume nuclear testing according to South Korean and U.S. officials and after Kim broke a self-imposed moratorium on intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) testing with a launch last month.

South Korea's military said on Sunday it had detected two projectiles launched on Saturday from the North's east coast towards the sea. The projectiles flew about 110 kilometres (68 miles) with an apogee of 25 kilometres and maximum speed of less than Mach 4, indicating they were short-range missiles. (Reuters)

UK PM Boris Johnson to face parliamentary probe on 'partygate'

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson will be probed by a House of Commons committee after MPs voted on April 21 whether the British prime minister misled Parliament about attending illegal parties in Downing Street during the coronavirus lockdown.

While Johnson was miles away in India on a two-day bilateral visit, MPs shouted "aye" for the Parliament's Committee of Privileges to investigate whether the UK prime minister knowingly misled Parliament.

The vote, tabled by the Opposition Labour Party, passed without the need of a formal vote as the Conservative Party benches were sparsely attended after the ruling party abandoned a planned amendment to delay the motion.

Under parliamentary rules, UK government ministers are expected to resign for knowingly misleading MPs and correct the record as soon as possible if they inadvertently tell Parliament something false.

Speaking in Ahmedabad, Johnson, 57, said he had "no concerns" about the committee investigation.

"If the Opposition want to focus on this and talk about it a lot more that's fine" but he "wanted to focus on what matters for the future of the country," including boosting trade ties with India.

Defending Johnson in the Commons during the debate, UK Cabinet Office Minister Michael Ellis said the UK Prime Minister did not mislead the Commons, but made comments about partygate revelations "in good faith".

He added that the prime minister "has always been clear that he is happy to face whatever inquiries Parliament sees fit".

"He has responded to the event for which he has received a fixed-penalty notice," Ellis said.

The fixed-penalty notice refers to a fine, believed to be worth GBP 50, that was issued to Johnson by Scotland Yard last week after he was found in breach of



lockdown rules on his birthday in June 2020.

His wife Carrie Johnson, who had brought a cake into the Cabinet Room of Downing Street on the day, and UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak who said he was there for a meeting were also fined by the Metropolitan Police. All three immediately paid up their fines and apologised in the wake of the notices.

Labour Leader Keir Starmer accused Conservative MPs of failing to stand up for the values of "honesty and integrity" and said "Britain deserves better" than Johnson.

He said Johnson had "stood at that despatch box and point blank denied rule-breaking took place, when it did." Labour's deputy leader Angela Rayner reiterated her party's call for the PM to resign, telling MPs that "the prime minister is leading the Conservative Party into the sewer".

Urging MPs to support an investigation, Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said: "The public won't

stomach another Conservative stitch-up that drags our democracy through the mud just to protect one of their own." Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Ian Blackford said Johnson had "lied to avoid getting caught, and once he got caught, he lied again".

After over five hours of debate, MPs were asked if they supported launching an investigation into Johnson and as no one opposed the proposal, the motion was approved without a formal vote.

The clash stems from Johnson's initial statement to the Commons that insisted COVID lockdown rules had been followed at No. 10 Downing Street in the wake of the first partygate allegations. His Tory party colleagues have stood by him, with only a handful voicing their criticism within the Conservative Party.

Therefore, a parliamentary vote on the issue was expected to go in Johnson's favour but marks yet another dent to his leadership ahead of local council and mayoral elections scheduled for May 5. (PTI)

Shanghai reports 7 more Covid deaths as virus situation remains grim

BEIJING (TIP): Shanghai reported seven more deaths due to Covid as the Chinese financial hub grapples with a record outbreak, taking the total death toll in the country to 4,648 with over 21,400 new cases, most of them from the city.

Seven new deaths from Covid were reported on April 19 in Shanghai in addition to the three a day earlier, the first in the recent outbreak, taking the total death toll in the country due to coronavirus since it emerged in Wuhan in 2019 to 4,648, according to figures

released by China's National Health Commission on Tuesday.

The late surge of Omicron variant of the coronavirus in China continues unabated as the country has reported 3,297 locally-transmitted confirmed Covid cases, of which 3,084 were in Shanghai.

Apart from Shanghai, 18 other provincial-level regions on the mainland saw new local Covid cases, including 88 in the northeastern province of Jilin, the Commission report said.

Shanghai also reported 17,332 locally-

transmitted asymptomatic infections of Covid out of a total of 18,187 local asymptomatic carriers newly identified on the mainland, it said.

Currently, China has 30,384 people undergoing treatment for Covid.

Meanwhile, as the Omicron continued to spread, China's Health Minister Ma Xiaowei on Monday pledged the toughest measures yet to prevent a major outbreak of Covid, ruling out any relaxations ahead of this year's 20th Communist Party Congress.

(PTI)

Russia-Ukraine War

Block off...so that not even a fly comes through, Putin after Mariupol takeover

KYIV (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces not to storm the last remaining Ukrainian stronghold in the besieged city of Mariupol on April 21 but instead to block it "so that not even a fly comes through".

His defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, said the rest of the city beyond the sprawling Azovstal steel plant where Ukrainian forces were holed up has been "liberated" - as Russian officials refer to areas of Ukraine they have seized. Putin hailed that as a "success".

But leaving the plant in Ukrainian hands robs the Russians of the ability to declare complete victory in Mariupol, which has seen some of the most dramatic fighting of the war and whose capture has both strategic and symbolic importance.

The scale of suffering there has made it a worldwide focal point, and its definitive fall would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, complete a land bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, and free up Russian troops to move elsewhere in the Donbas.

Shoigu said the plant was "securely



blocked". Putin and Shoigu's comments appeared to reflect a change in strategy in Mariupol, where the Russians previously seemed determined to take every last inch of the city. But it was not clear what it would mean in practical terms.

Ukrainian officials did not comment on the latest remarks, but earlier said four buses with civilians managed to escape from the city after several unsuccessful attempts. Thousands more remain in the city, much of which has been reduced to a smoking ruin in a nearly

two-month siege, with over 20,000 people feared dead.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said another attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol would be made on Thursday - though it was not clear how the latest comments would affect that.

In Kyiv, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Denmark's Mette Frederiksen became the latest European leaders to show support with a visit to the capital.

They were due to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who warned in a video address overnight that the Russians were not "abandoning their attempts to score at least some victory by launching a new, large-scale offensive".

"The West stands together to support the Ukrainian people," Frederiksen, the Danish prime minister, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said it submitted a draft of its demands for ending the war, and the West raced to supply Ukraine with heavier weapons to counter the Russians' new drive to seize the industrial east. (AP)

WE AWAIT KYIV RESPONSE ON PEACE TALKS: RUSSIA

MOSCOW (TIP): The Kremlin's spokesman says Russia has presented Ukraine with a draft document outlining its demands as part of peace talks and is now awaiting a response from Kyiv. Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters Wednesday that Russia has passed on a draft document containing "absolutely clear, elaborate wording" to Ukraine and now "the ball is in their court, we're waiting for a response".

Peskov didn't give further details. He blamed Ukraine for the slow progress in negotiations, and claimed that Kyiv constantly deviates from previously confirmed agreements. "The dynamic of work on the Ukrainian side leaves much to be desired, the Ukrainians do not show a great inclination to intensify the negotiation process," he said.

Ukraine presented Russia with its own draft last month in Istanbul, where the two sides held talks aimed at ending the conflict. It has been unclear how regularly the two sides have spoken to each other since then. The German government and military are rejecting an assertion by Ukraine's ambassador that the country could spare armoured fighting vehicles and deliver them to Kyiv. Ambassador Andriy Melnyk, who has frequently criticized perceived German slowness on weapons deliveries and other issues, argued that Germany's Bundeswehr uses about 100 Marder vehicles for training and they could be handed over to Ukraine immediately. (AP)

Russia tests nuclear-capable ballistic missile that President Putin says has no peer



MOSCOW (TIP): Russia on April 20 said it had test-launched its Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, a new addition to its nuclear arsenal which President Vladimir Putin said would give Moscow's enemies something to think about.

Putin was shown on television being told by the military that the missile had been launched from Plesetsk in the country's northwest and hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula in the far-east.

"The new complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is capable of overcoming all modern means of anti-missile defence. It has no analogues in the world and won't have for a long time to come," Putin said.

"This truly unique weapon will strengthen the combat potential of our armed forces, reliably ensure Russia's security from external threats and provide food for thought for those who, in the heat of frenzied aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country."

THE SARMAT IS A NEW HEAVY INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE WHICH RUSSIA IS EXPECTED TO DEPLOY WITH 10 OR MORE WARHEADS ON EACH MISSILE, ACCORDING TO THE US CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

It has been under development for years and so its test-launch is not a surprise for the West, but it comes at a moment of extreme geopolitical tension due to Russia's eight-week-old war in Ukraine. (Reuters)

RUSSIA TESTS 'PEERLESS' N-MISSILE

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"The new complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is capable of overcoming all modern means of anti-missile defence. It has no analogues in the world and won't have for a long time to come," Putin said. — Reuters

10 KILLED, 40 HURT IN AFGHANISTAN BLASTS

KABUL (TIP): A series of explosions across Afghanistan on April 21 killed at least 10 persons and wounded several others, according to police and hospital officials.

No one immediately took responsibility for the deadly explosions, but they mostly targeted the country's minority Shiite Muslims. — AP

IMRAN INDIRECTLY BLAMES GEN BAJWA FOR OUSTER

LAHORE (TIP): In a veiled attack on Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, former Prime Minister Imran Khan has alleged that "some elements" in the powerful establishment who indulged in "bad practices" were responsible for his unceremonious ouster from power.

Addressing party workers on Twitter on April 20 night, Imran said, "If one or two individuals do something wrong, the entire institution is not responsible. If one person (in an apparent reference to army chief Gen Bajwa) makes a mistake, this does not mean that the whole institution is at fault." Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry told a news channel on Wednesday that relations between the establishment and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government had strained for months. "We tried our best, including myself, to clear misunderstandings with the establishment but could not succeed," he said. The army has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

— PTI

SRI LANKA ONCE AGAIN MAKES IT COMPULSORY TO WEAR MASK OUTDOORS

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka on April 21 once again made it compulsory to wear a mask outdoors, just two days after the government announced that face masks are not required in public places other than indoor gatherings. In a statement, Health Services Director General Dr Asela Gunawardena said the relaxation, previously announced by Health Minister Channa Jayasumna on Monday, has been temporarily suspended. "Considering the large public gatherings currently taking place in the country, lifting of the mandatory requirement to wear face masks outdoors is temporarily suspended. Masks should be worn outdoors as done before," he said. The directive will be effective from midnight Thursday. Health Minister Jayasumna told News 1st that wearing the face mask will not be mandatory at public places, however, it will be made mandatory when using public transport, and when involved in indoor events, such as offices. (PTI)

World Bank ready to provide emergency support to Sri Lanka: Report

COLOMBO/WASHINGTON (TIP): The World Bank is ready to provide emergency support to Sri Lanka and protect the vulnerable people amidst the unprecedented economic crisis in the country, a media report on Wednesday quoted a senior official of the global lender as saying.

Sri Lanka, which is on the brink of bankruptcy, is grappling with an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948.

World Bank Vice President Hartwig Schafer held talks with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ali Sabry in Washington on April 19, the Colombo Gazette reported on Wednesday.

Finance Minister Sabry is in the US for the annual spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund IMF and the World Bank. Schafer said they discussed actions to address the economic crisis, support stabilisation and recovery, and protect the vulnerable people, the report added. Schafer said that the World Bank is deeply concerned about the impact of the crisis on the poor and vulnerable and stands ready to provide emergency support for essential medicines and health-related supplies, nutrition, and education, the report said.

The Finance Minister also had talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Washington on



Monday.

The IMF has commended the steps already taken by the Finance Minister to mitigate the present financial situation in Sri Lanka, the report said.

The IMF has also assured their fullest support to Sri Lanka and a positive response has also been received to expedite the process to strengthen the support extended towards Sri Lanka.

As the island nation is experiencing its worst economic crisis in history, massive anti-government protests are being held throughout the country against the government's failure to tackle the crisis.

With long lines for fuel, cooking gas, essentials in short supply, and long hours of power cuts, the public has been

suffering for months.

With the economic crisis and the shortage of forex, an Indian credit line of USD 500 million for fuel imports provided a lifeline to the island nation.

India recently announced to extend a USD 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to the country to deal with the economic crisis following a previous USD 500 billion line of credit in February to help it purchase petroleum products.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has defended his government's actions, saying the foreign exchange crisis was not his making and the economic downturn was largely pandemic driven with the island nation's tourism revenue and inward remittances waning. (PTI)

Former Pakistan Sikh body chief Mastan Singh, kin attacked in Sri Nankana Sahib

Amritsar (TIP): Tension prevailed at Sri Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev in Pakistan, after a group of men belonging to the land mafia allegedly attacked members of a prominent Sikh family, leaving them injured.

The injured included Mastan Singh, former president of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC); his sons Dilawar Singh (25) and Parminder Singh (30); besides their two friends Taranjit Singh (25) and Palwinder Singh (21).

Taking cognisance of the incident, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said if a prominent Sikh family could be subjected to brutality, what security could the ordinary Sikhs expect in Pakistan?

The family of Mastan Singh and their relatives had for the past several years been cultivating wheat and paddy on 5.5 acres of leased land, 5 km from the shrine. The local land mafia, which had been eyeing this piece of prime land, attempted to forcibly occupy it, which



was resisted by the victims.

Talking to The Tribune over the phone, Mastan, who headed the PSGPC from 2004-2006, said the incident occurred on April 19 when a group of men trespassed onto their fields.

"We were busy in Baisakhi celebrations when we learnt about the incident. We hurried to the spot only to find our crop being damaged to lay the foundation of a mosque. When we resisted the move, we were attacked with

batons," he said.

The local Nankana Sahib administration has constituted a committee to look into the incident. The committee has, however, questioned the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), the parent body of the PSGPC. "The ETPB has been asked to submit a report by Sunday. We have been told the next course of action will be taken accordingly," he said.

Dilawar said they feared for their safety. "We talked about 'azadi' (freedom)? Is this the freedom we have here? The land mafia can harm us and our properties without fear. We are not safe here. We have been fighting the land grabbers for the past 10 years, but haven't been helped by the police," he said.

The SGPC president has urged the Centre to take up the matter with the Pakistan Government and ensure the safety of Sikh minorities.

Meanwhile, heavy security has been deployed at Sri Nankana Sahib to avert a communal clash. (TNS)

TRIBUTE TO A STALWART

Professor Emeritus Harkishan Singh, Padma Shri Awardee

BY HARRY PANASER



Professor Harkishan Singh, Ph.D., D.Sc. (University of Science, Philadelphia, PA, USA & Punjab University, Chandigarh, India) was Professor Emeritus at the Panjab University (Chandigarh, India), is a well-recognized pharmaceutical academic, medicinal chemistry researcher and a science historian. He has experience of over half a century to his credit. He has worked at the Banaras Hindu University, University of Saugor and Panjab University in India, and abroad at the University of Maryland, University of Mississippi and the University of London.

His scientific research has been in organic chemistry, medical chemistry, and natural products. Nearly 50 master and doctoral theses have been completed under his supervision. There have been 125 original scientific research papers. 14 patents have been obtained. His research group has been successful in designing a clinically useful drug candocuronium iodide (INN) (chandonium iodide, HS-310), which is a synthetic azasteroid.

Dr Singh has lectured on his research at several of the institutions and conferences in India, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland and China. He delivered invited lectures at the Harvard School of Medicine and at the International Symposium on Molecular Structure sponsored by the International Union of Crystallography at Beijing.

As a science historian Professor Singh has examined the history of pharmaceutical developments in India of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His history research studies have been on pharmacopoeias and formularies, pharmaceutical education, pharmacy practice, biographies of pharmaceutical luminaries, and pharmaceutical journalism. He has published over eighty articles.

In addition to his scientific and history research papers, Dr Singh has authored and/or co-authored many books and review articles, including several book chapters. He has written extensively on educational, scientific, historical and professional issues.

All told, his total publications come to well over 400, including eighteen books. Selected publications are listed on his website and Wikipedia.

Professor Singh has been on many academic, scientific, professional and



India's President Pranab Mukherji conferred on Dr. Harkishan Singh Padma Shri- one of the nation's top civilian awards



Dr. Harkishan Singh (extreme right in a wheelchair) with the President, Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues, and fellow awardees at Rashtrapati Bhavan

governmental bodies. He was a member of the Committee on International Education of Medicinal Chemists of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, which prepared the Report on the International Education of Medicinal Chemists (IUPAC Technical Reports Number 13; 1974).

His affiliations with several scientific and professional organizations include emeritus membership of the American Chemical Society, life memberships of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association and Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India, and memberships of the American Institute of History of Pharmacy and British Society for History of Pharmacy.

Professor Harkishan Singh was a recipient of several scientific and professional awards and recognitions. He has been a National Fellow of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. He has been General President of the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress. He received the Eminent Pharmacist Award of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association. Lifetime achievement awards have been conferred on him by several bodies; the recent one is the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Punjab Academy of Sciences. Dr Singh's standing as historian has been recognized through his election to the Academie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie. The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and Punjab



(25.11.1928 - 20.03.2020)

S.A.S. NAGAR

This bound volume is listing of the archival collection received at Pharmaceutical Heritage Centre, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, S.A.S. Nagar from Professor Harkishan Singh.

On March 14, 2019, Professor Harkishan Singh has willed that this collection be transferred to the Pharmaceutical Heritage Centre of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research at Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) for use by interested researchers. (Please refer page 81)

NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR acknowledged the support of Prof. K. P. R. Kartha, Prof. Pramil Tiwari, M. Arbind Singh, Anurag Sharma for accomplishing the transfer of the archival collection

Pharmaceutical Heritage Centre
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
S.A.S. NAGAR, PUNJAB
January 2020

Dr. Harkishan Singh through a will transferred his entire library, awards and honors to NIPER.

University in Chandigarh conferred upon Professor Harkishan Singh the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his distinguished academic career and outstanding contributions to scientific research in organic and medicinal chemistry and the history of pharmacy

Professor Harkishan Singh is also known for his creation of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, SAS Nagar, Punjab along with Dr. Parvinder Singh, MD, Ranbaxy. Today, NIPER is the only postgraduate research and research institute in Pharmaceuticals as AIIMS is to Medicine and IIM is to Management. NIPER.

Professor Harkishan Singh had the biggest collection of pharmaceutical 1750 books/ bound volumes, magazines and publications collected from around the world, his awards and certificates and all photographs including his original degrees, citations, proclamations including his Padma Shri. His collection was described to be priceless worth millions at one point and was referred to as a historical archive. This treasure collection is now at the NIPER's Pharmaceutical Heritage Center at Professor Harkishan Singh's Archival Collection Center. Here with attached find NIPER's 114-page listing of this collection per Professor Singh's will was fully transferred to NIPER in January 2020, two months before he chose to bid farewell to the mundane world on March 20, 2020.

Benefits of face waxing for women

Many women opt for face waxing to get rid of unwanted hair on cheeks, upper lips, forehead and sidelocks. It is one of the most convenient ways to remove hair. Facial waxing also comes with other advantages for your skin. Let's take a look!

Long-Lasting Results Of Facial Waxing

If you want to slow down the growth of hair strands on the face, there is no better method than facial waxing. It pulls the locks from the roots, making it difficult for hair to grow quickly.

Thus, once you have a face waxing session, you can forget about the appearance of facial hair for at least 15-20 days. For some women, their faces remain free from hair for more than a month or even two after waxing.

Low Risks For Ingrown Hair After Face Waxing

The dermal layer on our faces is sensitive, and therefore, we try to avoid any risks of bumps and ingrown hair. These are common disadvantages of the razor. However, with facial waxing, women do not have to worry about ingrown hairs.

If you have first tested the face wax on a smaller area and used it to get rid of hair on your face, it would hardly cause any reaction or irritation. Moreover, it will also help you get rid of blackheads and whiteheads.

Flawless Skin Texture After Facial Wax

When you pull the hair on the face using wax, you also remove the layer of dead skin that resides on the top. It helps you remove any flaky texture or chapped skin. Thus, facial waxing helps women achieve a flawless glow with minimal effort.

Face waxing leaves your skin feeling smooth and supple. If you hydrate the dermal layer after the process, you will soon achieve a radiant face. The hair removal process also helps with pigmentation and diminishes blemishes.

Slow Regrowth After Face Waxing

When a woman opts for facial waxing, she would notice that hair strands start to become fine after each session. The growth becomes less dense than



before. Thus, it offers you comfort and makes every succeeding session less painful than the previous one.

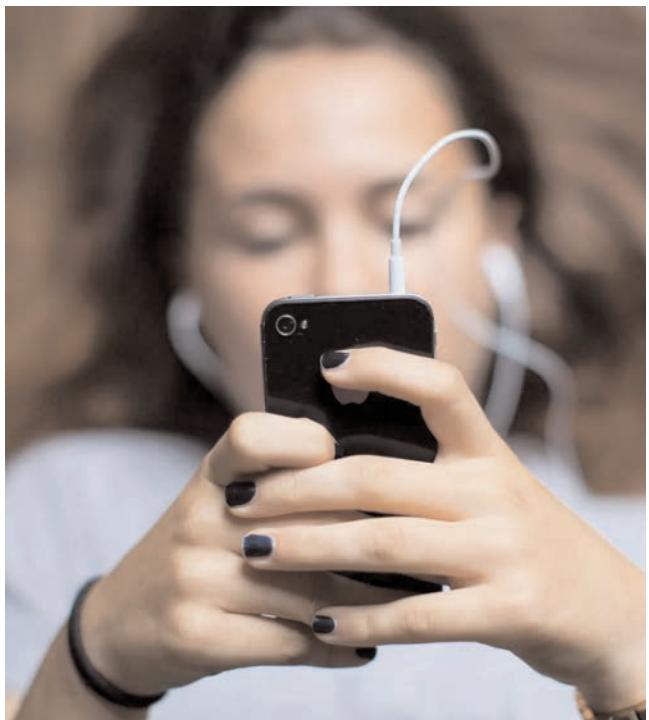
For some regions or follicles, the hair stops growing after repetitive sessions of waxing. It is not true for every patch of hair and every woman. However, many have experienced smooth skin after facial waxing and reported a halt in hair growth.

Precise Removal Of Hair After Facial Waxing

No matter how close you glide the razor on your face, you will not achieve precise results like face waxing. Because wax pulls the hair out from the roots, the level of precision is quite high compared to shaving. Hence, a lot of women choose to go with waxing than shaving. Though using a razor is less painful than removing hair with wax, it is the perfection that makes women choose the latter option.

Source: HerZindagi

Limit smartphone use to avoid personal, social problems



People who use smartphones in excess may experience personal, social and workplace problems, warns new research.

In the study, participants who identified themselves as "addicts" and "fanatics" exhibited signs that could indicate depression, social isolation, social anxiety, shyness, impulsivity and low self-esteem.

"Our smartphones have turned into a tool that provides short, quick, immediate satisfaction, which is very triggering," said Isaac Vaghefi, Assistant Professor at Binghamton University-State University of New York.

"Our neurons get fired and dopamine is being released, and over time this makes us acquire a desire for quick feedback and immediate satisfaction. This process also has contributed to developing shorter attention spans and being more and more prone to boredom," Vaghefi

said.

The umbrella term "technology addiction" refers to addictive behaviour related to social media, excessive texting, information overload, online shopping, gambling, video gaming, online pornography and overall smartphone usage.

For the study, the researchers surveyed 182 college students and asked them to report their daily routine of smartphone usage. Based on the analysis of the responses, they classified the user as one of the following types — thoughtful, regular, highly engaged, fanatic and addict. 7% identified as "addicts" and 12% identified as "fanatics."

Both groups experience personal, social and workplace problems due to a compulsive need to be on their smartphones, according to the study published in the Information Systems Journal. Females were most likely to exhibit susceptibility to

addiction, the study said.

"While self-identified 'addict' users were in the minority, I predict technology addiction will increase as technology continues to advance and application, game and gadget developers find new ways to ensure users' long term engagement with technology," Vaghefi said.

The researchers said that if you constantly check your smartphone, even when it does not ring or vibrate, or you get paranoid when the smartphone is not with you, seeking professional help might be a good idea.

Moreover, if you use technology as a way of escaping problems or relieving feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety or depression, or you ignore what is happening in real time in favour of what is happening virtually, you might then be a right candidate to seek professional help, the researchers said.

Food

Smoked Chicken Chaat

INGREDIENTS

3 pieces chicken breasts, 5 pinches salt, 5 tablespoon olive oil pomace, 1 medium onion, 1/2 small capsicum (green pepper), 1/4 teaspoon red chilli powder, 300 gm paneer, 2 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves, 1/4 teaspoon thymol seeds, 6 pieces mushroom, 2 slices pineapple, 2 tablespoon garlic, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1/4 teaspoon black salt, 1 teaspoon cumin powder, 4 chilli flakes as required, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon black pepper, 1 teaspoon chaat masala.

METHOD

Wash chicken. Pat dry. Cut into 1/2 strips and then into squares. Rub 1/2 tsp salt, pepper and red chilli flakes on it.

Place a small steel bowl or a katori in a kadhai with a lid. Put the chicken around the empty steel katori. Place the coal pieces on the naked flame for 5-7 minutes, till they turn grey and red hot at the edges.

Pour some olive oil on the coal and cover immediately to trap the smoke. Leave covered for 10 minutes for the chicken to acquire a smoky flavour. You can smoke the paneer also in the same way.

Marinate onion, capsicums and mushrooms in lemon juice, salt, pepper, chaat masala, cumin powder and crushed garlic. Do not marinate pineapple.

To serve, heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a pan. Add thymol seeds and wait for it to crackle. Add the marinated vegetables and pan fry without stirring much to get that charred, blackened look. Add pineapple and cook for 2-3 minutes.

While the veggies are being cooked, heat 2 tbsp olive oil in another pan. Add grated garlic and stir. And then mix in smoked chicken. Cook on medium heat, stirring continuously otherwise the chicken will stick to the pan.

Fry for 3-4 minutes without stirring much till chicken turns whitish and light golden from all sides. Remove chicken from heat when cooked.

Mix chicken, veggies, pineapple and coriander. Serve in a platter along with some roasted almonds (optional) along with the toppings of your choice.



Lifestyle changes to cleanse and keep your liver healthy

The liver is an essential part of the human body. It filters the blood that leaves the stomach and intestines and then breaks down, regulates, and produces nutrients in this blood, as well as digesting drugs into forms that are easier for the human body to use or that are harmless. Hence, it is extremely necessary for us to take good care of our liver. This Work Liver Day, we will focus on ways in, which we can maintain a healthy and proper-functioning liver.

Here are some changes you can make to your lifestyle to promote healthy liver:

Workout regularly

Working out is extremely important and beneficial not only for maintaining a healthy liver but for our overall health. Exercise relieves liver tension, boosts productivity, and helps avoid obesity, which is a potential risk for liver problems. Lifting weights enhances muscle and bone strength. Women, in particular, need to retain muscle and bone strength since liver disease makes bones more prone to osteoporosis. Weight lifting also helps to reduce body fat, build correct body weight, and improve metabolic activity.

Eating a healthy diet

Just like working out, eating healthy is extremely important too. We need to consume a diet high in nutrients in order to maintain good health. Liver health is also boosted when we consume a healthy, high-nutrition diet. The body requires 7 different types of nutrients; Carbohydrates, proteins, lipids (fats), vitamins, minerals, fibre, and water; all of which should be consumed daily. In order to regularly consume a balanced diet, we must know what foods provide us with these 7 important nutrients. Here's a list of foods to incorporate into your diet:

Carbohydrates

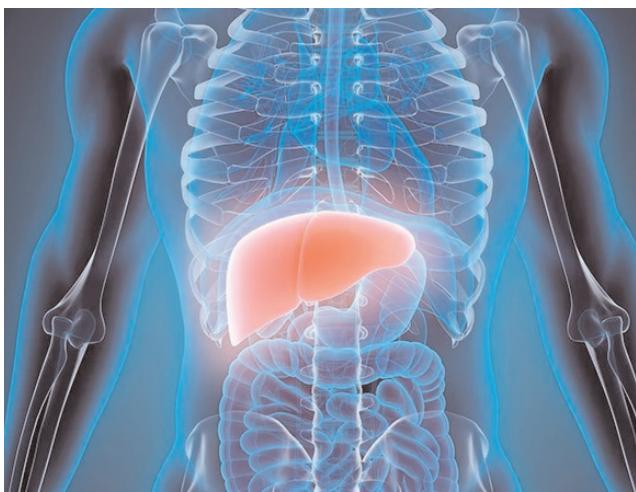
Carbs are often considered unhealthy or low in nutrition however, they are extremely important for a healthy balanced diet. Healthy carbs boost metabolism and the digestive system. High carb foods include milk, potatoes, grains and grain products (flour, rotis, bread, pizza, etc.).

Proteins

Proteins generally assist the body in repairing tissues. They also protect the liver cells from fatty deposits and/or any damages they may cause. High-protein foods include dairy products, fish, poultry, chickpeas etc.

Lipids (fats)

Fats are another nutrient that is often considered unhealthy however they are not. Healthy fats are very important for the body as they are healthy the body extracts various vitamins. Various vitamins are fat-soluble. Meaning, that they cannot be absorbed by the body



without the help of fats. Some of the healthy fat foods include nuts (dried fruits), whole eggs, cheese, etc.

Vitamins

Vitamins help boost our immune system, heal injuries and support bones. Furthermore, vitamins help the body convert food into energy. Some vitamin-rich foods include citrus fruits (lemons, oranges), and green and/or leafy vegetables (broccoli, spinach, green beans).

Minerals

Minerals are very important for the proper functioning of various organs. Minerals include calcium, iron, etc. Some high-mineral foods are meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, etc.

Fibre

Fibre helps digest foods smoothly. It is essential in maintaining a healthy bowel. Some high-fibre foods are: fruits (apples, pears, etc.) and vegetables (beetroot, carrots, etc.)

Water

Water is extremely important for the liver. It helps maintain and detoxify the liver. An average person must consume at least 2.7 litres of water daily.

Say no to alcohol and substances

Alcohol and illicit drugs hugely contribute to the degradation of the liver. Several liver cells die every time our liver processes alcohol. Our liver can regenerate new cells, however long-term alcohol abuse can weaken its capacity to do so. Our liver can be irreversibly harmed as a result of excessive drinking. Drugs can harm the liver by causing serious harm to liver cells and/or preventing biliary flow out of the liver.

Source: NDTV

Severe hepatitis cases rising among UK kids

There has been a sharp increase in severe hepatitis cases among children under ten in the UK over recent months. The UK Health Security Agency has been informed of 74 cases since January 2022, with 49 of these in England, 13 in Scotland and the remaining 12 spread between Wales and Northern Ireland. (Also read: XE variant: Watch out for these symptoms of Covid-19 in kids)

Other isolated cases of severe acute hepatitis in children have been identified in the US, Spain and Ireland.

Severe hepatitis in children is very rare and we don't yet know what's causing this highly unusual

rise in cases. The leading theory is that it's some kind of viral infection, perhaps even SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

But how likely is it that these hepatitis cases are linked to COVID? Or is there a more likely cause to be found elsewhere?

First let's break down what hepatitis is and how it's linked to viral infections.

Hepatitis is the medical term for inflammation of the liver. Inflammation is a general immune response to an infection or injury – a sign the body is trying to fight off a potential disease. Symptoms in children usually include some (but not all) of the following: dark

urine, grey-coloured faeces, yellowing of the skin and eyes (called jaundice) and a high temperature. With the right medical attention the condition can usually be treated, but some patients may require a liver transplant. The World Health Organization has reported that six of the children affected in the UK have undergone a transplant so far.

The causes can be varied but in children, hepatitis is usually associated with viral infections. The most common of these are the five hepatitis viruses: hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. Other viruses such as adenoviruses can cause hepatitis, but this is rare.

Source: PTI



Covid-19 pneumonia patients at increased dementia risk

Patients hospitalised with COVID-19 pneumonia have a higher risk of developing dementia than those with other types of pneumonia, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Missouri (MU) in the US pulled electronic medical records of 1.4 billion encounters prior to July 31, 2021 in Cerner Real World Data.

They selected patients hospitalised with pneumonia for more than 24 hours.

Among 10,403 patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, 312 (3 per cent) developed new onset dementia after recovering, compared to 263 (2.5 per cent) of the 10,403 patients with other types of pneumonia diagnosed with dementia.

"The risk of new onset dementia was more common in COVID-19 pneumonia patients over the age of 70 in our study," said lead researcher Adnan I. Qureshi, a professor of clinical neurology at the MU School of Medicine.

"The type of dementia seen in survivors of COVID-19 infection mainly affects memory, ability to perform everyday tasks and self-regulation. Language and awareness of time and location remained relatively preserved," Qureshi said in a statement.

The median time interval between infection and dementia diagnosis was 182 days for COVID-19 patients, according to the researchers.

The study, published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases, only included new onset dementia associated with hospital admission during a short follow-up period.

"Approximately 3 per cent of patients with pneumonia associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection developed new-onset dementia, which was significantly higher than the rate seen with other pneumonias," the authors of the study noted.

Qureshi said further study over longer periods of time would provide a more complete picture and may help to determine the underlying reasons why COVID-19 pneumonia might increase dementia risk.

"The findings suggest a role for screening for cognitive deficits among COVID-19 survivors. If there is evidence of impairment during screening and if the patient continues to report cognitive symptoms, a referral for comprehensive assessment may be necessary," Qureshi added.

Source: PTI

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Microsoft's new Edge Canary feature to autosave your passwords

Tech giant Microsoft is reportedly rolling out a new "save passwords automatically" feature for Edge Canary for some users.

It is optional and can be enabled within the password section of Edge's settings.

Not everyone has this feature available to them, reports Windows Central.

Those of you who are tired of manually typing in passwords or giving Edge permission over and over again to save them on your behalf can rest easy, as a helpful new feature may be on its way to standard Edge, the report said.

It is a "save passwords automatically" feature that's recently snuck into Edge Canary.

The feature was spotted by Leopeva64-2 over on Reddit, the report said.

Edge is always testing new features, so there are no guarantee users will see this password-saving tool in the standard release anytime soon.

And Microsoft does not only try out these sorts of things for Edge, it does it with all its products, including Windows 11 and search engine Bing.

Source: IANS

iPhone 14 series likely to have autofocus front camera

Tech giant Apple is likely planning to unveil its upcoming iPhone 14 series with upgraded front-facing camera with autofocus. According to GizmoChina, details about the front-facing camera of the Apple iPhone 14 series models have leaked online as analyst Ming-Chi Kuo has revealed what improvements will be made to the front camera of the devices.

As per the new report, all four models—iPhone 14, iPhone 14 Max, iPhone 14 Pro, and iPhone 14 Pro Max will have an upgraded front-facing camera sensor with f/1.9 aperture and support for autofocus.

In comparison, all the models in the current-generation Apple iPhone 13 series come with a front-facing camera sensor having an f/2.2 aperture and fixed focus.

With a wider aperture, the smartphones will be able to capture more light. It is also said that the camera upgrades will result in an improved depth-of-field effect for the Portrait Mode photos and videos.

On the other hand, the autofocus support for the front camera will enhance the focus during FaceTime calls or video calls using third-party apps.

The Apple iPhone 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max are also expected to come with an upgraded rear camera configuration and possibly feature a 48MP wide lens as the primary sensor with support for 8K video recording.

This is expected to result in a thicker camera bump for the smartphones, as revealed in the recently leaked renders, the report said.



Source: IANS

Surprised astronomers find new type of star explosion — a micronova

Astronomers have detected a previously unknown type of stellar explosion called a micronova involving thermonuclear blasts at the polar regions of a type of burned-out star called a white dwarf after it has siphoned material from a companion star.

The researchers said on Wednesday a micronova is by far the least powerful type of star explosions now known -- less energetic than a blast called a nova in which a white dwarf's entire surface blows up and tiny compared to a supernova that occurs during the death throes of some giant stars.

Micronovae are observed from Earth as bursts of light lasting about 10 hours. They were documented on three white dwarfs - one 1,680 light years away from Earth, one 3,720 light years away and one 4,900 light years away. A light year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km.

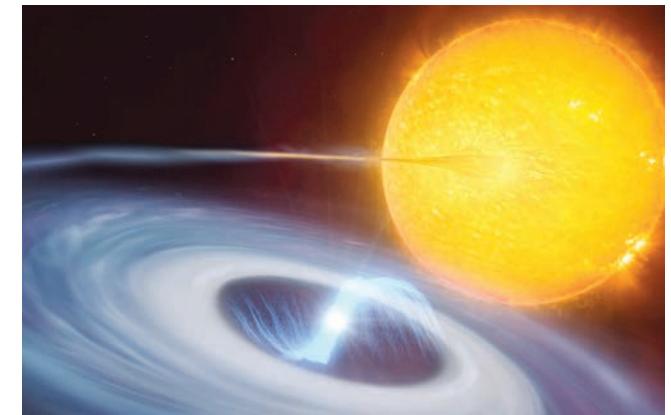
"The discovery was an unexpected surprise. It goes to show just how dynamic the universe is. These events are fast and sporadic. Finding them requires looking at the right place at the right time," said astronomer Simone Scaringi of Durham University in England, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature.

White dwarfs, among the densest objects in the universe, result from the collapse of a dying star's core. They have the mass of our sun but are about the size of Earth in diameter.

Most stars, including the sun, are destined to end their existence in this form.

Some white dwarfs are part of what is called a binary system, in an orbit with another star.

Micronovae happen in very specific binary systems - with a white dwarf star possessing a strong magnetic



This artist's impression shows a two-star system where stellar explosions called micronovae may occur. Reuters

field and a low-mass normal star. The white dwarf's gravitational pull can strip hydrogen gas from the companion star's surface. The hydrogen then flows toward the white dwarf's magnetic poles, similar to how Earth's magnetic field channels the solar wind to our planet's magnetic poles, causing the auroras.

At the base of accumulating columns of gas at the white dwarf's poles, pressure and temperature rise, causing thermonuclear fusion that converts hydrogen into helium.

"Under the conditions in which this is triggered, this fusion is explosive, and the micronova occurs: a thermonuclear 'bomb' goes off," said astronomer and study co-author Paul Groot, who divides his time between Radboud University in the Netherlands and the University of Cape Town and South African Astronomical Observatory.

Source: PTI

Smartwatches, fitness bands can track individual's response to Covid vax

Wearable sensors, such as smartwatches and fitness bands, can reveal a person's physiological response to the Covid-19 vaccination, according to a study.

The study published in npj Digital Medicine, analysed sensor data on sleep, activity and heart rate from over 5,600 individuals.

The findings showed that the average resting heart rate of participants significantly increased the day following vaccination, peaking two days post-vaccination, and returning to normal four days after the first dose and six days after the second.

The effect appeared to be stronger after the second dose of the Moderna vaccine, compared to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and more pronounced in younger individuals.

This suggests that prior Covid infection was linked with a significantly higher resting heart rate increase after the first vaccine dose relative to those without prior infection.

The increase is also consistent with an expected greater immune response for these individuals, the researchers said.

"Investigating the physiological signals in the period around vaccination can help us better understand the variability of vaccine response between people, as well as the changes from an individual norm due to vaccination," said lead author Giorgio Quer, director of Artificial Intelligence at the Scripps Research Translational Institute.



Source: IANS



NETFLIX ROCKED BY SUBSCRIBER LOSS, MAY OFFER CHEAPER AD-SUPPORTED PLANS

Netflix Inc said inflation, the war in Ukraine and fierce competition contributed to a loss of subscribers for the first time in more than a decade and predicted deeper losses ahead, marking an abrupt shift in fortune for a streaming company that thrived during the pandemic.

The company said it lost 200,000 subscribers in its first quarter, falling well short of its forecast of adding 2.5 million subscribers. Suspending service in Russia after the Ukraine invasion took a toll, resulting in the loss of 7,00,000 members.

Wall Street sent Netflix's stock tumbling 26% after the bell on Tuesday and erased about \$40 billion of its stock market value. Since it warned in January of weak subscriber growth, the company has lost nearly half of its value.

The lagging subscriber growth is prompting Netflix to contemplate offering a lower-priced version of the service with advertising, citing the success of similar offerings from rivals HBO Max and Disney+.

"Those who have followed Netflix know that I've been against the complexity of advertising, and a big fan of the simplicity of subscription," said Netflix CEO Reed Hastings. "But, as much as I'm a fan of that, I'm a bigger fan of consumer choice."

ELON MUSK SAYS HE HAS SECURED \$46.5 BILLION IN FUNDING FOR TWITTER BID

Tesla Chief Elon Musk said that he had lined up commitments worth \$46.5 billion to finance a Twitter takeover deal, a week after he first made a public offer to buy the social media company, CNN reported.

According to Musk, he has commitment letters to finance the deal, including two debt commitment letters from Morgan Stanley and other unnamed financial institutions and one equity commitment letter from himself, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday (local time).

However, he has yet to receive any formal response from Twitter's board to his offer to acquire all of its shares that he does not currently own for \$54.20 a piece, the Tesla Chief said in the filing.

Last week Twitter's board adopted a "poison pill" defence that could make a takeover attempt prohibitively expensive.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka hit by record inflation

COLOMBO (TIP)

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka's inflation hit a record high for the sixth consecutive month, official data showed on Friday as the government asked the IMF for an urgent bailout.

The broad-based National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) rose 21.5 per cent year-on-year in March, more than four times the 5.1 per cent inflation of a year earlier.

Food inflation in March stood at 29.5 per cent, according to the latest data from the Department of Census and Statistics.

The figures are likely to rise further: the state-run oil company has subsequently raised the price of diesel, commonly used in public transport, by 64.2 percent.

The worsening economic crisis has led to clashes at nationwide demonstrations calling on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down over mismanagement and corruption.

Sri Lanka asked the International Monetary Fund this week for emergency assistance, but was told that the South Asian nation's \$51 billion external debt was "unsustainable" and must be "restructured" before any help.

"When the IMF determines that a country's debt is not sustainable, the country needs to take steps to restore debt sustainability prior to IMF lending," the Fund's country director Masahiro Nozaki said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Approval of an IMF-supported program for Sri Lanka would require adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored."

The government has announced a default on its foreign debt and said precious foreign exchange will be reserved



to finance essential food and medicines.

Police clashed with protesters in central Sri Lanka on Tuesday, killing one of them and wounding nearly 30.

At least eight people have also died waiting in long lines for fuel in the past six weeks.

The country's foreign exchange shortage has led to a slowing down of imports, including essentials.

Shops have rationed the quantity of rice, milk powder, sugar, lentils and tinned fish sold to consumers.

Sri Lanka's economy has collapsed since the onset of the pandemic, with a nosedive in tourism revenue as well as foreign worker remittances.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has paid for two Russian cargoes to SUEK AG's Singapore unit through a telegraphic transfer, two senior government officials told Reuters,

in a move that is likely to help ease the island nation's crippling power shortage.

Demonstrations have been held across the South Asian island country of 22 million people for weeks with the public angry over the government's mishandling of the economy that has led to shortages of essentials and prolonged power cuts.

Sri Lanka has been struggling to pay for critical imports including fuel and food due to paltry forex reserves, while many Russian firms are struggling to complete transactions because foreign banks are wary of doing business with them after Western nations imposed sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Government officials scrambled for days to facilitate payment for the cargoes which were stranded on the coast without unloading due to non-payment of dues, a top power ministry official said.

WPI inflation hits 4-month high of 14.55% in March

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The wholesale price-based inflation spiked to a four-month high of 14.55 per cent in March on rising prices of crude oil and other commodities due to disruption in global supply chain in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine War, a development that may prompt the RBI to raise interest rates to contain price rise. In February, WPI Inflation was at 13.11 per cent, while it was 7.89 per cent in March last year.

WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the 12th consecutive month since April 2021.

In November 2021, it had touched a high of 14.87 per cent.

The data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday, showed that crude oil prices were the biggest contributor to the rise in WPI inflation in March 2022, relative to February, followed by fuels and core items.

Food articles witnessed some softening month-on-month led by vegetables and pulses, even though wheat, paddy, potato, milk, egg, meat and the fish basket saw moderate increases during March.

During March, inflation in food articles eased to 8.06 per cent, from 8.19 per cent in February. Vegetable inflation was 19.88 per cent in the month under review, as against 26.93 per cent in February. "The high rate of inflation in March 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, mineral oils, basic metals, etc owing to disruption in the global supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

IMF pegs 'fairly robust' 8.2 percent India growth in 2022

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The International Monetary Fund on April 19 projected a "fairly robust" growth of 8.2 per cent for India in 2022, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world, almost twice faster than China's 4.4 per cent.

The global growth has been projected at 3.6 per cent in 2022, down from 6.1 per cent in 2021, the IMF said in its annual World Economic Outlook report released here.

It has also lowered India's growth projection by 0.8 percentage points for 2022 from its previous forecast for the same period last year. In 2021, India registered a growth rate of 8.9 per cent. By 2023, India is estimated to grow at 6.9 per cent, the IMF said.

The downgrade in the 2023 growth projection for India is partly reflective of the war in Ukraine that has resulted in high energy and food prices, slowing down the growth momentum.

Notable downgrades to the 2022 forecast for Asia include Japan (0.9 percentage point) and India (0.8 percentage point), "reflecting in part weaker domestic demand—as higher oil prices are expected to weigh on private consumption and investment—and a drag from lower net exports," the report said.

In its report, the IMF has projected global growth at 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023, 0.8 and 0.2 per cent lower than in the January forecast, respectively. "The downgrade largely reflects the war's direct impacts on Russia and Ukraine and global spillovers," it said. China, which registered a growth rate of 8.1 per cent in 2021, has been projected to grow at 4.4 per cent in 2022 and by 5.1 per cent in 2023.

Source: PTI

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - APRIL 25 TO MAY 1, 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, you'll provide a helping hand. You will have a significant impact on someone's career. They'll most likely be a friend or partner of yours. This week, you'll enhance your cooperation on both a corporate and interpersonal level. Because of Rahu's location, you will allow your words to flow more than they should. This week, try to keep your emotions under control. This week, you will not be able to make things smooth with your partner in terms of relationship, give it some time and things will be fine. Stomach troubles will bother you this week. You will need to revise your diet this week.



TAURUS : Dear Taurus, you will now delineate your project timeline for each day starting this week. Your greater dedication to your time and labor will undoubtedly bear fruit shortly. You will be less concerned with your personal concerns, which will help you stay focused. Due to a variety of causes, there will be some imbalance between personal and social development in the second part of the week. Your partner and you will be in a good mental space this week. This week you will see recovery in your long-time health issues. From this week make sure you take proper care of your health.



GEMINI : You'll have to conceal many boundaries this week. You'll also have to keep the information you'll get this week under wraps. You'll be asked for suggestions and expected to be empathetic. In short, your general demeanor will turn someone's day around for the better. What you do this week will undoubtedly come back to haunt you. This week, you'll need to be extremely powerful in specific areas. Your partner and you will go through minor setbacks in the latter half of the week. Consumption of oily and heavy food will bother your digestive system this week therefore be careful about eating.



CANCER : This week, you'll learn how to use your foreknowledge to counteract the material world. You'll be able to see the genuine challenges that lie behind your slick ideas. You do not need to be concerned since all of your good intentions will be rewarded this week. This week, your intentions will clash with those of someone else who is equally ardent and power-hungry as you. Your relationship will be all well and good this week. Avoid unnecessary opinions over your marriage. Minor back pain will bother you this week. Make sure you visit your doctor this week if it gets serious.



LEO : You've been on the backhand side for quite some time. This week, it's your turn to play in the lead. You will be admired by both your household and professional fronts. Students with shortfalls will be able to clear them out this week, giving them a fresh feeling of relief. This week, the chances you take will bring you into trouble. Make sure you're taking calculated risks. If you have been looking out for love, this week will bring you someone really compatible. You will feel fresh and alright this week hence, you do not need to worry about your health this week.



VIRGO : Dear Virgo, you have been developing good habits for a long. Avoiding harmful habits will let you realize how much money you have saved to date. Also, being frugal with your spending can help you make money this week. Even if your intentions are apparent to help someone in need, you will be strangled in a humiliating circumstance. Your partner or spouse will be appreciative of your efforts this week. Stability of mind will guide you a lot this week. You will be able to maintain this by meditating.



LIBRA : This week, anything choreographed and guided will be overshadowed by your innocence. You will get the opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones. From this week on, everything will go in the right direction. When it comes to relationships, you are a person with a pure heart who lacks tact. This will be an issue for you this week, but stay on the side of your pure heart. Your relationship will be blessed by Lord Venus in the latter half of the week, leading to good bonding. You will have to push yourself to stay active this week. Make sure you drink enough water this week.



SCORPIO : This week, the stars are expecting more from you. This week, you'll need to spread happiness around you in order to open the floodgates of good fortune for yourself. Financial fronts will also improve this week. Making investments within this week will certainly bring good results. This week, you'll notice a significant improvement in your relationship also. Your partner will make you feel all new in love. A feeling of health and wellbeing will mark your attitude this week.



SAGITTARIUS : Your excitement and optimism will open new doors for you this week. You'll focus on items that will provide long-term value in the near future. This week's religious events will pique your attention. Your relationship will not go through any issues this week. You will have to be more conscious regarding discussing certain things with your partner this week. You will have to take preventives for allergies beforehand this week. Make sure you keep your immunity boosted.



CAPRICORN : Dear Capricorn natives, your amazement and forceful character will be in the spotlight this week. People will want to learn from you, even if they don't like you. This week, it will be advantageous for you to listen to the advice of your well-wishers. This week, you will leap with both paws into something without considering the consequences. Before putting both feet into anything, double-check the depth. You and your partner will be considering learning new things about each other. You both will enjoy being with each other this week. This week, you will have to take good care of your family members. Avoid ignoring your health own too.



AQUARIUS : This week is a very good week for networking opportunities and agreements. You will be able to reclaim your life's equilibrium. This week, you'll gain an extraordinary amount of self-assurance. As conflicts occur on business fronts, you will be motivated by emotions. To avoid this, keep things in check this week. Your partner and you both will have a lot of things this week. This week, a little bit of hypertension will bother you this week. Good physical exercise will help you stay energized yet calm this week.



PISCES : This week, you will outperform your own aspirations. This week, you'll strike a lucrative joint venture contract. You'll also dedicate a substantial period of time to your academic pursuit this week. This will assist you in reconnecting with your artistic side, which you may have forgotten about. When problems occurred, craftsmanship always made you feel vibrant. Your relationship will not go through any major issues this week. Just make sure you take proper care of your partner's point of view over things. In terms of your health, the remedies you carried on for so long will show their effects this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 25 TO MAY 1, 2022

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

April 25

Ganesha says this year you should concentrate on your priorities and your efforts will definitely bring desired results. Past investments will fetch returns and long pending property disputes will settle amicably. Unexpected gifts and presents from near ones and friends will keep you in high spirits. New plans and ventures will start on a positive note. Family front will be pleasant as children and partner will provide you with love and affection.

April 26

Ganesha says you have the capability of dealing with your professional as well as personal life together. Time to implement your past experience and lessons learned in the upcoming new venues. Respect and accolades will follow you. You ought to be a technical person with honed skill of manipulating things. Instead of planning and discussing all the time you believe in implementing the ploy, so it is high time to start a new venture.

April 27

Ganesha says you are so down to earth which will help you to make friends easily. You love attending events/ parties, mingling with people and are quite

comfortable in a big crowd of people. You will spend quality time with your family which soothes you. Luck will favor you from all the sides. You will get whatever you want without much delay and pain. You are always choosy to spend your time on your work rather than for any materialistic thing. Put together all your ideas to sort out your important matters.

April 28

Ganesha says you need to make certain guidelines and follow them to get success. A long term investment which they have made for you will come to you soon. Academically the things will be in your favor and you are likely to enroll yourself somewhere. Your area of interest will promise you to bring a lot of harmony, support, name and fame in the near future. You thoroughly and wisely use your valuable time to accomplish your goals. Your guidance is utmost important for you as well as for others.

April 29

Ganesha says your excellence is unmatched in terms of planning and observing. Your footprints will be followed by others. Your dual personality helps to claim name and fame in all fronts of life.

You are always there for your friends. You are supposed to get respect and regard from your coworkers and seniors. You are likely to follow western culture of taking no tension for the future.

April 30

Ganesha says you get ample opportunities to prove your mettle at your workplace and will be appreciated by all. Circumstances will lead you to spend time with your family and with your kind gestures you lead the show. You might hit the jackpot which improves the stability of your life. You are a down to earth person. Playing with hurdles from your childhood makes you a tough personality not easy to dominate. People will like what you are by nature.

May 1

Ganesha says you are blessed with immense talent. Your artistic nature will create win situations for you everywhere. You create new opportunities which are likely to bring you a revolution. Try to reclaim your yesteryear charm because of your bewilder trait and succeed in it. If you are anchoring in some channel then time will bring you to have well conceived interactive sessions with some high profiled people. Your expertise will be required while doing so. You will have lots of happiness around you.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥



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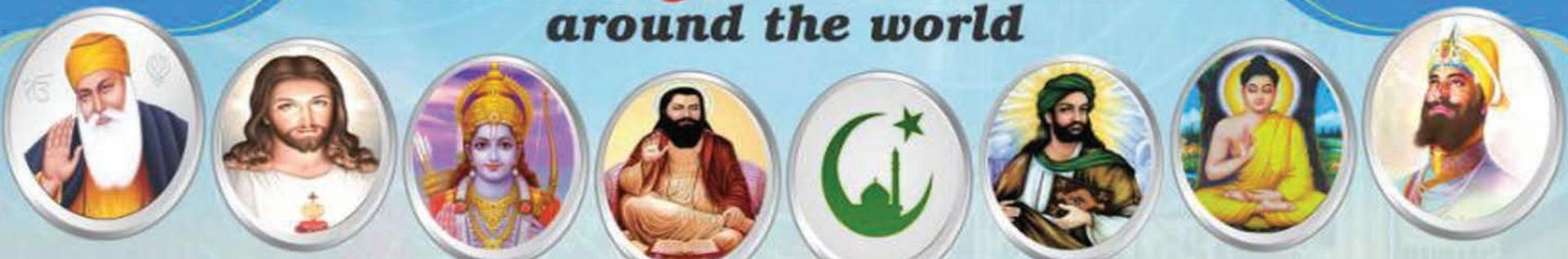


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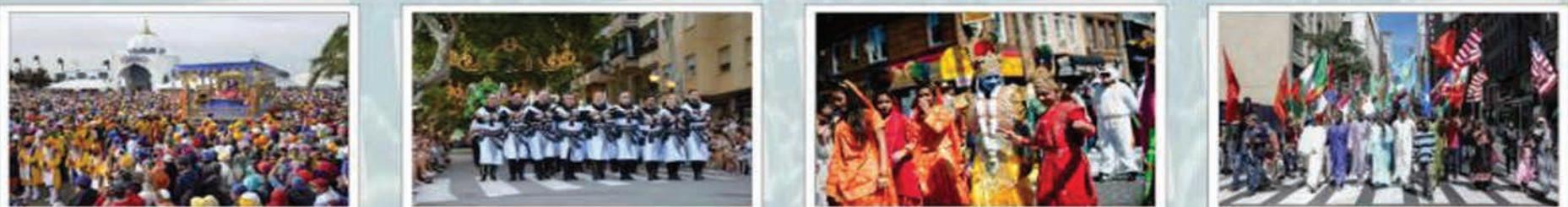


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Different floats representing different religions will be part of this parade

People for all faiths are cordially invited to be part of this historical event and spread the message of oneness and togetherness.

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Varuthini Ekadashi

Varuthini Ekadashi, also known as Baruthani Ekadashi, is a Hindu holy day, which falls on the fifteenth lunar day of the Hindu month of Chaitra. Varuthini Ekadashi falls in April or May. Like all Ekadashis, Lord Vishnu, especially his fifth incarnation Vamana, is worshiped.

Dharmaraja Yudhishtira had asked Lord Krishna, what is the name of Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Vaishakh month? Shri Krishna said, O Rajeshwar! The name of this Ekadashi is Varuthini. It is a blessing, a destroyer of all sins, and a salvation in the end.

Fasting on this day has the potential to give up gambling, sleep, dentistry, blasphemy, petty, theft, violence, rituals, anger and abandonment of lies. Doing so provides mental peace. The fast should be eaten as sattvik. Family members should do Bhagavad bhajan at night and do awakening. The donation of food is considered to be the biggest donation on this day.

Significance of Varuthini Ekadashi

The significance of Varuthini Ekadashi is narrated by Lord Krishna to Yudhishtira in the Bhavishya Purana. He says that this Ekadashi can turn the unfortunate to fortunate and release a soul from the cycle of birth and death. Observing this Ekadashi has helped the Ikshvaku King Dhundhumara to become free from the curse of Shiva and King Mandata to get enlightened. Also, according to various Hindu legends, observing fast on Varuthini Ekadashi is equivalent to one hundred Kanyadaans or donating gold at Kurukshetra on the day of a solar eclipse.

Thus, Varuthini Ekadashi is an important observance for Hindus, offering countless benefits. It is believed that one who observes Varuthini Ekadashi vrat will be protected from all the evils and bestowed with blessings from Lord Vamana. Also, it is supposed to bestow cure from illnesses and sufferings, fame, happiness, prosperity, material pleasure etc.

The ultimate power of Varuthini Ekadashi is granting of Moksha, freedom from the cycle of life and death. According to Hindu astrology, one who observes the vrat on this day will be freed from all sins and liberated from the cycle of re-birth.

Varuthini Ekadashi Vrat

Devotees observing Varuthini Ekadashi vrat are recommended to fast from sunrise in Ekadashi to sunrise in Dwadashi. Since a complete fast is recommended, one can start fasting from the previous day's sunset to ensure that no undigested food remains in the stomach. Observing Varuthini Ekadashi vratis not just abstaining food. One should not indulge in gambling, lying, criticizing others, violence, sports, and sexual activity. The devotee on vrat should not succumb to sleep, anger and greed too. Thus, by resisting the feelings and temptations, vrat purifies the mind, body, and soul. Certain activities such as shaving, smearing oil on the body, etc. are also prohibited on Varuthini Ekadashi.

Parana or breaking the fast should be done on the next day (Dwadashi) after the sunrise. It is necessary to do Parana on the next day unless Dwadashi is over before sunrise. Also, one should take care not to do Parana on Hari Vasara period, which is the first quarter of the Dwadashi tithi. Pratahkal is considered as the most auspicious time to break the fast while breaking the fast in Madhyahna is not recommended. So, if one couldn't do Parana in Pratahkal, then he/she should do it after Madhyahna.

Two types of Ekadashi Vratis are recommended; one for Smarthas, those with family, and the other for Sanyasis and Moksha seekers. While a one-day fast is recommended for Smarthas or normal devotees, alternate fasting or a two-day fast is suggested for Sanyasis and Moksha seekers.

Though full fasting is recommended on Varuthini Ekadashi, those who can't bear it due to health issues can observe a partial fast by eating once, at midday, or in the evening. In that case, a devotee should avoid non-veg food (meat, fish, egg, etc.), beverages (tea, coffee, cola, and other energy drinks), mushrooms, grains, onion, peas, beans, black gram, spinach, betel nut, paan,



Important information

Varuthini Ekadashi or Baruthani Ekadashi

Tuesday, 26 April 2022

Begins - 01:37 AM on April 26, 2022, Ends - 12:47 AM on April 27, 2022

red lentil, honey, sesame seeds, mustard, asafoetida, cloves, fenugreek, cardamom, nutmeg, fennel, tulsi, tamarind, custard, salt, baking soda, baking powder, etc.

Eating in bell metal utensils and eating from other houses are also prohibited. The devotee can choose to eat the Havishyanna food offered to Yajna on the previous day. It is said that even those who are not observing the vrat should avoid consuming grains, pulses, and non-vegetarian foods on Ekadashi.

Legend

There is a story associated with Varuthini Ekadashi vrat told by Lord Krishna to Arjun. It's the story of King Mandhata who ruled the banks of river Narmada. He was a generous and priestly king. Once on an occasion, when the King was meditating in the forest, a bear attacked him. It bit his feet and dragged him. The King, following the sacred rules of TapasyaDharm, didn't respond and endured that ordeal, praying to Lord Vishnu. Eventually, Lord came to his rescue, but by then, the bear had chewed the King's leg. The Lord advised the king to get back to Mathura, worship his Varaha Avatar and observe the Varuthini Ekadashi Vrat. The king who followed this advice devotedly became free from his past sins and got his injured leg back to normal.

Rituals

Like all ekadashis, devotees keep a strict fast on Varuthini Ekadashi. They pass the day without eating or taking a drop of water. One who observes a fast should eat only one meal the day before, on dashami. The vrat continues then on ekadashi till the sunrise on 'dwadashi' (12th day). On Varuthini Ekadashi eating rice, chickpea, black gram, lentils, betel nut, betel,

honey and non-vegetarian food is strictly prohibited. On ekadashi one must not eat in bell metal utensils is not allowed.

Lord Vishnu's incarnation, Vamana is worshipped on the day of Varuthini Ekadashi. Devotees make special puja arrangements for this day and also follow some specific rules to make it more fruitful. On Varuthini Ekadashi day, one must stay away from sleep, anger, gambling, applying oil on the body and fostering any ill feeling for others. Sexual activity and violence should be completely avoided.

On the day of Varuthini Ekadashi it is a good practice to read Holy Scriptures like 'Vishnu Sahastranaam' and 'Bhagavad Gita'. Devotees spend their time by listening to and singing bhajans in honour of Lord Vishnu.

Offering donations on Varuthini Ekadashi is considered very auspicious as it brings good luck. Some of objects that should be donated on this holy day include sesame seeds, land, elephant and horses.

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"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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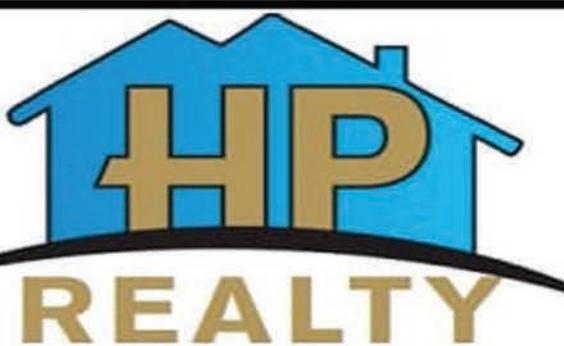
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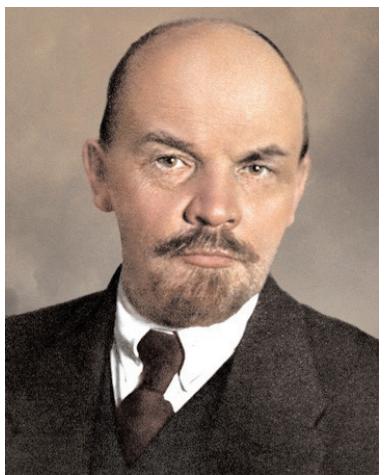
History This Week APRIL 22-28

"A SMALL BODY OF DETERMINED SPIRITS FIRED BY AN UNQUENCHABLE FAITH IN THEIR MISSION CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY." -- MAHATMA GANDHI

April 22

April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress.

April 22, 1889 - The Oklahoma land rush began at noon with a single gunshot signaling the start of a mad dash by thousands of settlers. They were seeking to claim part of nearly two million acres made available by the federal government. The land originally belonged to Creek and Seminole Indian tribes.

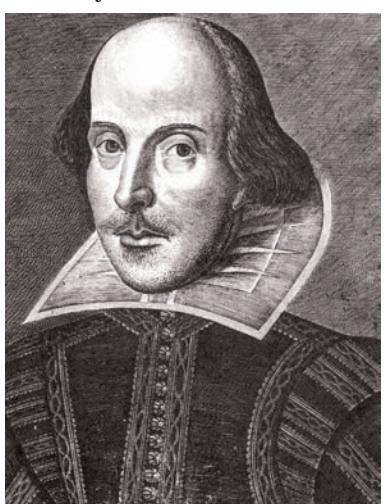


Vladimir Lenin

Birthday - Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924) was born in Simbirsk, Russia. He led the Russian Revolution of October 1917 which toppled Czar Nicholas and paved the way for a harsh Communist regime. Following his death in 1924, his body was embalmed and placed on display in Moscow's Red Square, becoming a shrine that was visited by millions during the years of the Soviet Union.

April 23

April 23rd - Established by Israel's Knesset as Holocaust Day in remembrance of the estimated six million Jews killed by Nazis.



William Shakespeare

Birthday - William

Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born at Stratford-on-Avon, England. Renowned as the most influential writer in the English language, he created 36 plays and 154 sonnets, including Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice.



James Buchanan

Birthday - James Buchanan (1791-1868) the 15th U.S. President was born in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania. He was the only life-long bachelor to occupy the White House, serving just one term from 1857 to 1861.

April 24

April 24, 1800 - The Library of Congress was established in Washington, D.C. It is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the world's largest library. Among the 145 million items in its collections are more than 33 million books, 3 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 6 million pieces of sheet music and 63 million manuscripts. About 10,000 new items are added each day.

April 25

April 25, 1967 - The first law legalizing abortion was signed by Colorado Governor John Love, allowing abortions in cases in which a panel of three doctors unanimously agreed.



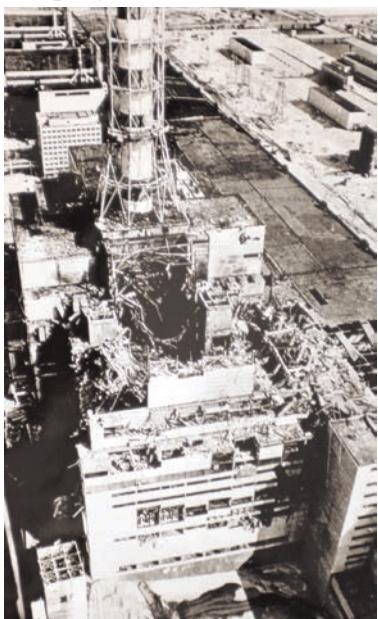
Guglielmo Marconi

Birthday - Radio inventor Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was born in Bologna, Italy. He pioneered the use of wireless telegraphy in the 1890's. By 1921, Marconi's invention had been developed into wireless telephony (voice radio).

April 26

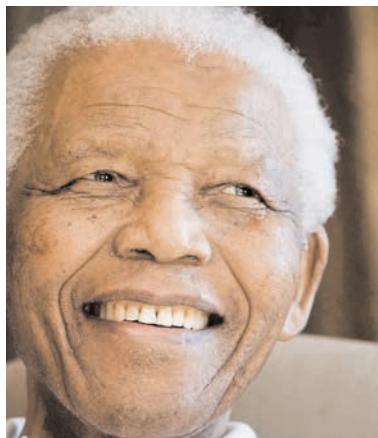
April 26, 1937 - During the Spanish Civil War, the ancient town of Guernica was attacked by German warplanes. After destroying the town in a three-hour bombing raid, the planes machine-gunned fleeing civilians.

April 26, 1944 - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.



Chernobyl nuclear disaster

April 26, 1986 - At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe. A 300-square-mile area around the plant was evacuated. Thirty-one persons were reported to have died while an additional thousand cases of cancer from radiation were expected. The plant was then encased in a solid concrete tomb to prevent the release of further radiation.



Nelson Mandela

April 26, 1994 - Multiracial elections were held for the first time in the history of South Africa. With approximately 18 million blacks voting, Nelson Mandela was elected president and F.W. de Klerk vice president.



John J. Audubon

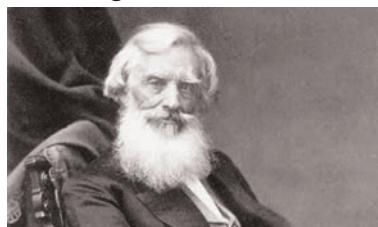
Birthday - American artist and naturalist John J. Audubon (1785-1851) was born in Haiti. He drew life-like illustrations of the birds of North America.

Birthday - Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was born in Hartford, Connecticut. He helped design some of the most famous parks in America including Central Park in New York, the Emerald Necklace series of connecting parks in Boston, and Yosemite National Park.

Birthday - Nazi Rudolf Hess (1894-1987) was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He was Deputy Führer of Nazi Germany and a member of Hitler's inner circle. On May 10, 1941, he made a surprise solo flight and parachuted into Scotland intending to negotiate peace with the British. However, the British promptly arrested him and confined him for the duration. Following the war, he was taken to Nuremberg and put on trial with other top Nazis. He died in captivity in 1987, the last of the major Nuremberg war criminals.

April 27

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.



Samuel F.B. Morse

Birthday - Telegraph inventor Samuel F.B. Morse (1791-1872) was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He developed the idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in the 1830's and tapped out his first message "What hath God wrought?" in 1844 on the first telegraph line, running from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. The construction of the first telegraph line was funded by Congress (\$30,000) after Morse failed to get any other financial backing. After Western Union was founded in 1856, telegraph lines were quickly strung from coast to coast in America.



Ulysses S. Grant

Birthday - Civil War General and 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. During the war, he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant and was given command of the Union armies. He served as President from 1869 to 1877 in an administration plagued by scandal. He then went on to write his memoirs and died in 1885, just days after its completion.

April 28

April 28, 1789 - On board the British ship Bounty, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against Captain William Bligh, setting him and 18 loyal crew members adrift in a 23-foot open boat. Bligh survived a 47-day voyage sailing over 3,600 miles before landing on a small island. Christian sailed the Bounty back to Tahiti, eventually settling on Pitcairn Island and burning the ship.

April 28, 1945 - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.

(Read more on www.theindianpanorama.news)

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

PRIME MINISTER MODI PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO THE SIKH GURUS

courage of those who died for the country. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in the nearby Chandni Chowk, while the order for his beheading was issued from Red Fort.

Mr. Modi said there was a "storm of religious fanaticism in the country at that time" and Guru Tegh Bahadur was the great hope for India to save its identity and stand against Aurangzeb's tyranny.

The sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur had inspired many generations to live and die "to protect the dignity of their culture", he said.

"Great powers have disappeared, big storms have calmed, but India is still standing, moving ahead," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi said the government was working on connecting the centers of Sikh pilgrimage. He said India had never posed a threat to any country or society and even today, India thought about the welfare of the whole world.

Earlier as part of the two-day celebrations organized by the Culture Ministry, a kirtan was held and the story of Guru Tegh Bahadur's life was depicted through a sound and light show projected onto the facade of Red Fort.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president Harmeet Singh Kalka called on the Prime Minister to fulfil two demands - setting up a Sikh university in Delhi and naming the Indira Gandhi International Airport after Guru Tegh Bahadur.

WILL TAKE SERIOUS VIEW OF DEMOLITIONS EVEN AFTER ORDERS, SC TELLS NDMC: STATUS QUO EXTENDED IN JAHANGIRPURI

April 20, and ordered a status quo until further direction on demolitions in the strife-torn area. The case will come up after two weeks, says a TNS report.

Is it an instrument of state policy to engage in fake encounters and now bulldozers...They never did anything like this in 1984 and 2002, then why now? - Dushyant Dave, Senior Advocate

A Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai issued notice to the Centre and other parties on a petition by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which said properties of Muslims accused in the Hanuman Jayanti riots were razed in yesterday's drive.

"Status quo to be maintained... will take a serious view of the demolition, which was carried out despite SC's orders and even after NDMC Mayor was informed. We will take that up later," the SC said.

Representing the petitioners, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said the matter was not limited to Jahangirpuri and "affected the social fabric of the country". "If we allow this, there will be no rule of law or democracy left... How can a BJP leader write a letter (to NDMC Mayor) that you demolish and NDMC demolishes? There is a provision for appeals too. There are 731 unauthorized colonies in Delhi with 50 lakh people. If you want to act against unauthorized constructions, go to Sainik Farms, Golf Links, where I stay, where every second home is an encroachment. You don't want to touch them, but you target poor people," Dave said, arguing that the issue raised larger questions of constitutional and national importance.

As the Bench asked "what was national importance in this matter as it only pertained to an area", Dave maintained the trend was visible wherever riots had occurred. He said what happened in Jahangirpuri was a matter of judicial inquiry, "but what you do is arrest people of only one community and start bulldozing".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta explained that the

drive in Jahangirpuri began in January. "The allegation that only one community is being targeted is incorrect," he said.

BORIS JOHNSON BECOMES FIRST UK PM TO VISIT SABARMATI ASHRAM

extraordinary man, and to understand how he mobilized such simple principles of truth and non-violence to change the world for better," Johnson wrote in the visitors' book at the Gandhi ashram.

While the British PM was effusive in his praise for the Mahatma, during the freedom struggle such praise for Gandhi from Britain's ruling class was rare.

Winston Churchill famously called Gandhi a "half-naked fakir" as the latter opposed sending Indian soldiers to fight for Britain in the Second World War and launched the Quit India movement in 1942.

The Mahatma's call to use the charkha (spinning wheel) and boycott foreign goods including cloth hit the textile industry in Manchester. Charkha became a very potent symbol of the anti-colonial struggle.

During his visit, Prime Minister Johnson tried his hand at the charkha at Hriday Kunj, the hut where Gandhi lived. A replica of the charkha was also presented to him.

The Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust also gifted two books to him.

One of the books was 'Guide to London', an unpublished book which consists of Gandhi's suggestions on how to live in London.

The other book was 'The Spirit's Pilgrimage', autobiography of Mirabehn or Madeleine Slade, Gandhi's British-born follower.

Johnson is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Friday, April 22.

Ahead of the meeting, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at a media briefing said: "We are looking forward to it as a productive visit...we had a very successful summit last year."

He said he cannot speculate on what the leaders would discuss during the meeting.

"He (Johnson) is in Gujarat and has been given a very warm welcome by the government of Gujarat. He has already done a few engagements during the day, including to Sabarmati. He has travelled to India before but this his first visit to India as the prime minister. We look forward to that very much," Bagchi said.

A major focus of Johnson's talks with Modi will be on the situation in the Indo-Pacific as the United Kingdom is strongly opposed to any kind of coercion in the region, people familiar with the development had said.

FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN MET IMF'S DMD GITA GOPINATH, DISCUSSED CHAIRMANSHIP OF G20, AMONG MANY OTHER ISSUES

Sitharaman met on Thursday, April 21, the International Monetary Fund First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath and discussed many issues including India's G20 presidency.

India will preside over the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 summit in India in 2023.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 9 AINDIA CAN CRITICIZE RUSSIA'S UKRAINE INVASION

Lavrov's visit to Delhi this month - he arrived directly from China, and one that closely followed the trip by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to India (and also where both officials stressed the importance of regional cooperation) on the one hand and last week's meeting of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-

South Africa Sherpas on the other, are pointers. They indicate that the Modi government still finds comfort in groupings such as BRICS, RIC (Russia-India-China) and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), despite all the developments so far.

As has been oft-repeated, Russia's consistent support as a P-5 member of the UN Security Council is important, albeit not irreplaceable, but its support at other multilateral institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group makes it that much more valuable. These factors are reinforced by the Modi-Putin bonhomie. Apart from visits to Brussels to meet Mr. Biden and Beijing to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, Mr. Putin has made an exception only for Delhi, meeting Mr. Modi last December. The two leaders are in regular telephonic contact, and unlike the West, Mr. Putin has not (even once) raised concerns over the "backsliding of democracy" or "human rights violations" in the manner the European Union and the U.S. have - these include the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Jammu and Kashmir reorganization, or the treatment of minorities, the media and non-governmental organizations.

If these are the "pull factors" that keep New Delhi firmly anchored to Moscow, the absence of any "push factors" is another reason for this situation. While in 2017, Mr. Trump may have seemed irrational enough to sanction a strategic partner such as India over Iran, a Biden administration as well as European countries seem far less likely to do so. As a result, South Block's expectation is that riding out this current period will be easier, apart from a few awkward conversations at the leadership levels.

In refusing to entertain western sanctions, and even building payment structures to circumvent them, the Government has invoked India's firmly held principles of non-alignment and strategic autonomy. They mirror decisions of the past like when the A.B. Vajpayee government decided to conduct nuclear tests and face sanctions in 1998, and the Manmohan Singh government refused to bend to U.S. pressure on Iran oil sanctions, despite a visit by the U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in 2012.

Expression without fear

What the Government fails to explain, however, is why any of these reasons prevent it from criticizing Russia for what is quite obviously a brutal invasion by one country on another. In 2003, despite a growing partnership with the U.S. that was finally turning a corner after the nuclear tests, the Indian government brought a resolution to Parliament that "deplored" the actions of the coalition led by the U.S. for its war on a sovereign Iraq, calling the invasion "unacceptable". But then External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha stood up to speak during the debate on the resolution passed unanimously and noted that despite India's differences with the U.S. on the war, the Government would continue to develop bilateral relations.

It should have been possible for the government of the day to express its opposition to Russian actions in Ukraine similarly, while maintaining an independent position on unilateral sanctions. The Government could look no further at the explanation on neutrality that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave during a speech in the U.S. in 1949, a few years before the Bandung Conference that led India to the Non-aligned Movement - "We are neither blind to reality nor do we propose to acquiesce in any challenge to man's freedom from whatever quarter it may come. Where freedom is menaced or justice threatened or where aggression takes place, we cannot and shall not be neutral." The assertion of strategic autonomy cannot carry credibility unless it is expressed without fear or favor of the consequences.

(Source: The Hindu. The author can be reached at suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in)

Offbeat hill stations of India

While popular destinations have their charm, offbeat destinations are yet unexplored and give you a reason to visit to chase the unexpected. You don't know what you will find in these places as there is yet a lot unexplored. This offbeat destination has their adventure as you need to find out how to reach there and arrange your accommodation could also be a challenge sometimes and some extra work but an untamed beauty of these places make every worth it. These hill stations are yet unadulterated and untouched by many.

Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

Ziro, arguably one of the most bewitching landscapes of India, is nestled at the highest point of Arunachal Pradesh in the Lower Subansiri district. The destination is home to the ancient Apatani tribe, which is known for its unique cultural values, agricultural system and social forestry system. The facial tattoos and nose plugs that the elderly locals sport gives this census town a mystical feel, delineating the rich cultural heritage that it has been carrying till now. In fact, UNESCO has also made a proposal to include this place in the World Heritage Sites. Peppered with beautiful rice fields, this place has a laidback vibe that turns musical and hippy during the month of September when Ziro Music Festival is organised, an event that is attended by thousands of music lovers from around the world.

Mashobra, Himachal Pradesh

Mashobra is a quaint little town in Himachal Pradesh, connected to Shimla via Hindustan-Tibet Road, the historic road built by Lord Dalhousie way back in 1850. Not frequented by tourists often, this place is apt for a relaxing holiday. Thickly wooded with oak, rhododendron, Himalayan deodar and cedar trees, Mashobra is ideal for a creative break for artists.

Munsiyari, Uttarakhand

Extremely popular among adventure enthusiasts, Munsiyari is a beautiful hill station nestled at an elevation of 2298 m. Deeply forested with rhododendron, cedar and deodar trees, this place offers beautiful views of snow-capped Himalayan ranges. It's a starting point of many treks, of which, the trek to Namik Glacier Trek is quite popular.

Aru Valley, Andhra Pradesh

This beautiful valley in the Eastern Ghats is one of the best kept secrets of Andhra Pradesh. Also, known as the 'Food bowl of South India', it is noted for coffee plantations, caves and waterfalls. The serpentine hill roads making their way through the mist is a sight to behold as you head to visit nearby attractions like Sangda Waterfalls, Dumbriguda Fall, Katiki Falls, and Borra Caves to mention a few. This place is in full bloom during the months from September to October, and March to May.

Dharamkot, Himachal Pradesh

This quaint little hill station rests on the top of the hill above Mcleodganj, neatly away from the hustle and bustle of Dharamshala. Peppered with tiny guesthouses and village homes, this



place is widely known for its meditation centres—Vipassana, Tushita and Dhamma Sikhar—and slow-footed life. It is also a jumping-off site for Triund, a popular trek, which has been attracting adventure enthusiasts from far and near. Do visit the cafes here, apparently every café in Dharamkot has aced in pancakes, lasagnas, pastas and hummus. Fruit wines and apple cedar are widely available in grocery shops here; don't forget to try them.

Kaza, Himachal Pradesh

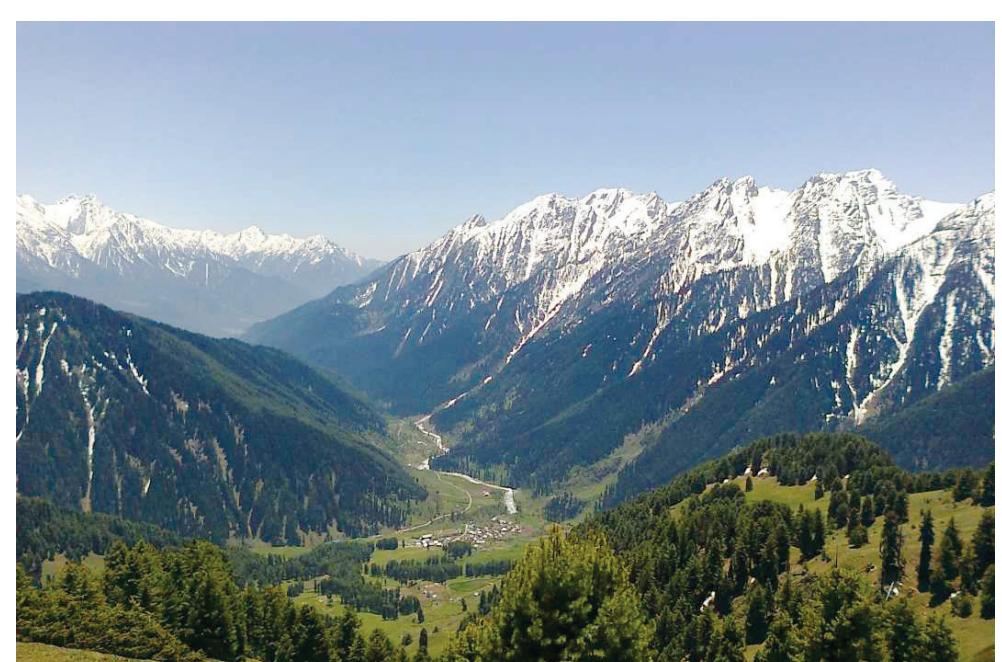
This high-altitude cold desert rests at an altitude of 3650 m above sea level with a similar terrain as that of Tibet or Ladakh. Buddhist culture prevails in the region and the town is accessible from Kinnaur as well as Lahaul Valley. Less frequented by tourists due to rough terrain, this place mainly attracts mountaineers, adventure junkies and trekking enthusiasts. Tangyud Monastery, Kibber Village and Key Gompa are some of the most prominent attractions near Kaza. The town rests on the banks of the Spiti river, with a street market where utilities are available. The market also has a few shops, selling adventure sports equipments, and bakeries that sell amazing lemon tarts.

Aru Valley, Kashmir

If you enjoyed the village-like setting of Pahalgam, the sounds of gushing Lidder river and galloping horses, pitching a tent in Aru Valley will certainly amplify your pleasure. Wake up amidst misty mountains every morning and stroll across the valley, click pictures and go for horse riding. Opt for trekking if you wish to, as Aru is the starting point of expeditions to Kolahoi Glacier and Sonamarg. Nearby attractions include Betaab Valley, Baisaran and Chandanwari.

Kibber, Himachal Pradesh

Resting at an altitude of 4205 m, Kibber is, supposedly, the highest village in the world, has a difficult terrain and thus witnesses less tourist footfall. The allure of barren and the majestic mountains besides the overwhelming silence of monasteries adds to the charm of this place. It is about 18 km away from Kaza



and lies in proximity to villages like Komic, Langshu and Hikkim, which are base camps for many treks. There is a wildlife sanctuary too, home to Himalayan wolf, Tibetan wild ass, snow leopard, Tibetan woolly hare and blue sheep among others.

Tawang- Arunachal Pradesh

Tawang, located in the state of

Arunachal Pradesh, is one of the least populated cities of the country. Resting at an altitude of 3048 m, this place is historically and naturally blessed, and is one of the least frequented hill stations of the country. You are required to get a government-issued special Inner Line Permit to enter the district, available in Tezpur, New Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati.



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WIMBLEDON BAN ON RUSSIANS, BELARUSIANS CRAZY: DJOKOVIC

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic said Wimbledon's decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine is "crazy".

Wimbledon announced on Wednesday that it had barred all Russian and Belarusian players from this year's championships due to the invasion, which Russia calls a "special operation".

The grasscourt Grand Slam is the first tennis tournament to ban individual competitors from the two countries, meaning men's world No. 2 Daniil Medvedev from Russia and women's fourth-ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus will be banned from the June 27-July 10 tournament.

Djokovic, who grew up in war-torn Serbia, said the athletes had nothing to do with the ongoing conflict.

"I will always condemn war, I will never support war being myself a child of war," Djokovic said. "I know how much emotional trauma it leaves. In Serbia we all know what happened in 1999. In the Balkans we have had many wars in recent history. However, I cannot support the decision of Wimbledon, I think it is crazy. When politics interferes with sport, the result is not good."

The All England Lawn Tennis Club's (AELTC) decision has been criticised by the ATP and WTA tours.

The move is the first time players have been banned on the grounds of nationality since the immediate post-World War Two era when German and Japanese players were excluded.

Source: Reuters

KIERON POLLARD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket though he will continue to freelance in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe. If one tries to sum up Pollard's international career in a nutshell, he could be termed as a perennial underachiever in maroon jersey.

The 34-year-old Pollard, who made his ODI debut back in 2007, fittingly played his last series against India, a country which has become his second home due to his long association with Mumbai Indians. "Hi all, after careful deliberation, I have decided to retire from international cricket. It was a dream of mine to play for West Indies since I was a 10-year-old boy and I am proud to represent the West Indies for over 15 years in T20 and ODI format of the game," Pollard announced on his official Instagram page.

Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah among Wisden's 5 cricketers of the year

India captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah have been named among five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.

Besides the duo, the list also features New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and Proteas women star Dane van Niekerk.

England's Joe Root has been named leading cricketer in the world, while South African women's team batter Lizelle Lee has been awarded the title of leading woman cricketer.

Besides, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world.

Bumrah starred for India in their visit to England last summer. Besides his exploits in India's historic win at Lord's, he also produced a match-winning spell at The Oval with the latter handing India a 2-1 lead in the series that is to be concluded in July this year. Rohit had an exceptional summer at the top of the order for India, scoring 368 runs in four Tests at an average of 52.57. The India skipper scored a match defining 127 at The Oval, his first Test century away from home.

Root was named leading cricketer of the year after an historic 12 months in which he scored 1,708 Test runs in a calendar year, the third most in history.

Lee was named leading woman cricketer in the world after a dominant 2021, averaging 90.28 with the bat in ODI cricket, including a spectacular series against India in which she scored 288 runs in four innings.

Rizwan's T20 recognition came after a record breaking 2021 in which he scored 1,329 runs at 72.88 in 27 T20s that included a century and 11 fifties. By passing 1,000 runs in a calendar year, he also became the first cricketer in the international game to achieve the feat.



IPL 2022: Dhoni scripts last-ball win for CSK; 7th straight loss for Mumbai

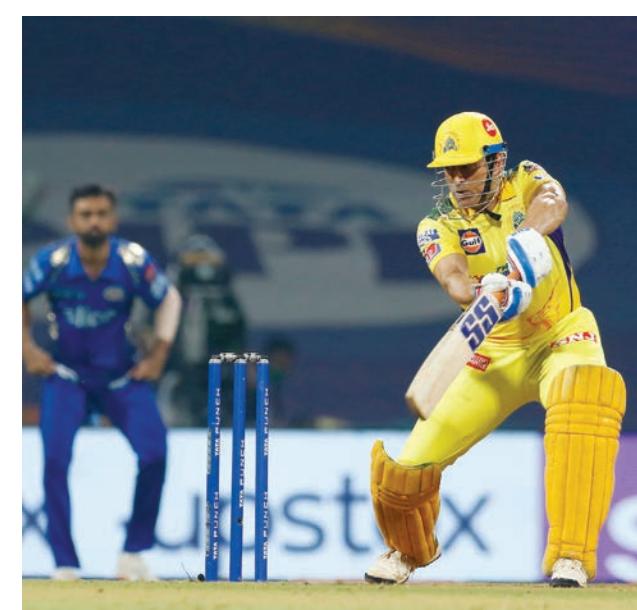
NAVI MUMBAI (TIP)

MS Dhoni turned back the clock to script a three-wicket victory for Chennai Super Kings against Mumbai Indians in the IPL on April 21, following a heart-stopping finish that saw him hit a four off the last ball of the game.

CSK pacer Mukesh Choudhary wreaked havoc with the new ball before Tilak Varma's responsible 51 not out off 43 lifted Mumbai Indians to 155/7. Choudhary (3/19) accounted for Rohit Sharma (0) and Ishan Kishan (0) in the first over and then dismissed Dewald Brevis (4), leaving Mumbai reeling at 23/3. Chasing the moderate target, CSK were up against it with 48 required off 24 balls and four wickets in hand but Dhoni (28 not out off 13) with the help of Dwaine Pretorius (22 off 14 balls) ensured his team got over the line. Dhoni helped CSK get the required 17 runs off the final over. He smashed a six and two fours off Jaydev Unadkat to leave the Mumbai players shattered.

With seven losses in as many games, Mumbai Indians will need a miracle to come back from this position. It was only the second win for CSK, who too are looking for consistency after enduring a poor start to the season.

Brief scores: MI: 155/7 (Tilak 51*; Choudhary 3/19); CSK: 156/7 (Rayudu 40, Uthappa 30, Dhoni 28*; Sams 4/30).





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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**

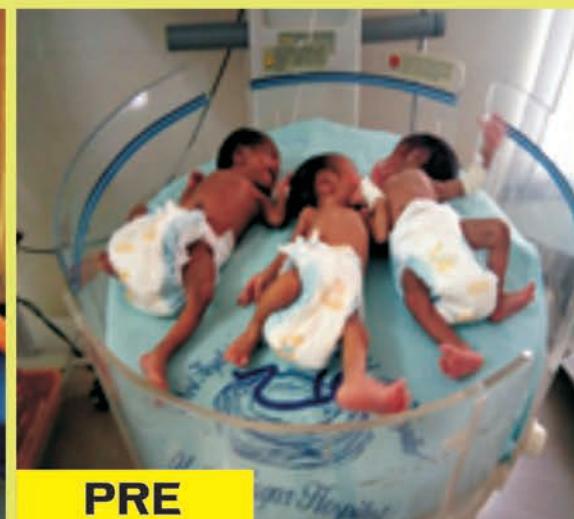
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