

We Wish Readers a Happy Ram Navami

The INDIAN PANORAMA

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



Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by April 11, 2022. For any questions, please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or call 646-247-9458.

PM TO LAUNCH RS 400 COMMEMORATIVE COIN, POSTAL STAMP TO MARK 400TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR ON APRIL 21



Hind Di Chadar Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's birth anniversary falls on April 21, 2022

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): The Centre in coordination with the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) will be holding a two-day commemoration event at Red Fort in New Delhi on April 20 and 21, to celebrate the 400th Parkash Purb (birth anniversary) of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh guru.

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RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN US CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE APRIL 14 AS NATIONAL SIKH DAY



The resolution acknowledged the role the Sikh community has played in developing the United States in the last 100 years

Judge Jackson becomes the first Black woman to make it to the Supreme Court

US SENATE CONFIRMS JACKSON BY 53 TO 47 VOTES



President Joe Biden congratulates Judge Jackson in the White House after the US Senate vote confirming her as high court justice

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation makes her the first Black woman to be elevated to the nation's highest court. Three Republicans joined Democrats in supporting her.

The Senate on Thursday, April 7 confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to be elevated to the pinnacle of the judicial branch in what her supporters hailed as a needed step toward bringing new diversity and life experience to the court, a New York Times report says.

Overcoming a concerted effort by conservative Republicans to derail her nomination, Judge Jackson was confirmed on a 53-to-47 vote, with three Republicans joining all 50 members of the Democratic caucus in backing her. The vote was a rejection of Republican

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Indian American singer Falguni Shah wins Grammy Award: PM Modi Congratulates



"I am very happy and so grateful for winning this GRAMMY with the album 'A Colorful World'".

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, April 5, congratulated New York-based Indian singer Falguni Shah for winning a Grammy Award. Shah, known by her stage name Falu, won the award for 'A Colorful World' in the best children's

album category.

"Congratulations to Falguni Shah on winning the award for the Best Children's Music Album at the Grammys. Wishing her the very best for her future endeavors," Modi tweeted.

Shah, who is in her early 40s, has trained in Hindustani classical music in the Jaipur musical tradition and in the Benares style of 'thumri' under Kaumudi Munshi and semi-classical music from Uday Mazumdar.

Shah moved to the US in 2000 and her subsequent career there led her to collaborate with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Wyclef Jean, Philip Glass, Ricky Martin, Blues Traveler and AR Rahman, among others.

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Key US Congressional committee passes Bill to eliminate per country cap on Green Card

Move to benefit Indian IT professionals languishing over decades of waiting for the Permanent Resident Card



Photo for representation only

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A key US Congressional committee has passed a legislation to eliminate the per-country cap on issuing of Green Card on employment-based immigrant visas and to increase the per-country cap for

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COMMENT

Get Rid of the feudal mindset

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



Punjab is beset with many problems. Surely, Chandigarh is not one. The worst is the feudal mindset that governs relationship between people. There can be no equality if the society is divided among two groups- the masters and the slaves. This mindset has to change. The Sarkar, mai

baap, huzoor, Sahib ji culture has nothing to do with humility. These words reek of slavishness. The people in the government, the bureaucrats and the civil servants should cease to behave like masters.

Another evil plaguing the State is corruption. The pay and play game which has been going on for decades must stop. There can be no fairness and justice in such a system.

Too many people are unemployed and poor. One cannot expect hungry people to contribute to a State in any way. On the contrary, one can clearly find a

connection between unemployment and crime. Drug addiction, drug smuggling, and many other crimes are directly related to the unemployment of the people.

Then there is a fractured educational system, and another is a sick healthcare system.

Any State aspiring to be worth living for people must provide means of sustenance and a dignified life. Hope the new government in Punjab is aware of the problems and has solutions, too.

OPED

Combatting Human Trafficking

BY MELINDA KATZ



With the recent release of a new National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has pledged the full force of the Justice Department to help end a scourge that has been described as the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world.

The strategy correctly focuses on what Garland calls the "three Ps" paradigm of protecting victims, prosecuting traffickers and preventing trafficking.

In announcing the strategy, the attorney general noted: "Our work...will require us to take a multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed approach that unites investigators, prosecutors, victim assistance specialists and non-governmental service providers."

That's the approach we've taken in Queens, where we are uniquely positioned to understand the complexity and intricacies of this deplorable, degrading crime.

Queens is home to two international airports and to many foreign-born and undocumented persons, making our borough rich in culture and diversity but also unfortunately a prime geographical location for trafficking.

During my first six months in office, I created a bureau within the district attorney's office that's dedicated solely to human trafficking cases. Since its inception less than two years ago, my office has secured 25 indictments, charging a total of 41 traffickers and exploiters of women and children.

In February, two defendants were indicted for allegedly exploiting a homeless victim's circumstances and forcing her into prostitution for their own benefit, setting up sex dates in

various hotels - as well as private homes and other locations - throughout the borough.

Earlier this month, two men - acting independently of one another - were indicted for allegedly trafficking the same two teenage girls, ages 13 and 16, between November 2021 and February 2022. The defendants allegedly offered the girls for sex in online advertisements, and then lined their own pockets with the cash the girls were paid to have sex.

We have been, and will continue to be, rigorous in our prosecution of those who seek to profit from the illegal sexual exploitation of minors and the vulnerable.

As Garland indicates, holding traffickers accountable is essential - but provides only a partial solution.

That's why my office has employed a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, victim-centered approach that helps all victims find the path to freedom while reducing the additional trauma of reporting and seeking aid.

Here in Queens, as elsewhere in our nation, traffickers use psychological or physical intimidation, violence, threats, forced drug use and fear to compel victims - often young people from underserved communities - to engage in acts of prostitution or labor. Human trafficking does not require that anyone travel across state lines, or anywhere at all. Traffickers seek out victims who are perceived to be vulnerable and marginalized because of their age, immigration status and even their mental capacity or past experiences with trauma. Some victims have been so coerced they fail to self-identify as a trafficked person.

As a result, underreporting remains the greatest challenge to thwarting human trafficking. Working with victims to connect them to much needed legal, housing, social, medical, and immigration services is essential to reducing the vulnerabilities that

traffickers use to exploit them. That is why I have increased staff and resources targeted for outreach and training aimed at the identification and even the prevention of human trafficking.

The U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking noted in its December 2021 report that increased awareness of trafficking among the public and employment sectors - through trainings, webinars, public awareness campaigns and other venues - is critical to combat trafficking.

Even prior to the issuance of that report, my office put additional resources toward community and institutional outreach to ensure that community members, institutions and those at risk can identify trafficking and are armed with the information and tools to know how to seek help and what resources we have available. They also need to know that my office is a safe haven for anyone who is seeking to escape a trafficking situation, regardless of social, economic or immigration status.

Human trafficking is a complex crime that cannot be eliminated by one office or organization. Therefore, we place importance on our relationships and routine collaboration with our partner service care providers, and both governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions.

Further, trafficking often spans over multi-jurisdictional levels, so my office's consistent collaboration and coordination with the U.S. Justice Department and other local city and state law enforcement institutions is a valuable tool we use to respond. This interagency collaboration ensures that we bring traffickers to justice under the strongest laws available of the federal and state and to best preserve the rights and needs of survivors.

(The author is District Attorney, Queens County, NY)

New York-based social activist Bhandari elected President of leading Rajasthani diaspora organization

NEW YORK (TIP): New York-based social activist Prem Bhandari has been elected president of leading diaspora organization Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), New York.

The Executive Committee of RANA, New York comprises Bhandari as president, Kanak Golia elected as vice president, Neelam Modi, secretary and Kushal Sancheti, treasurer. Election Commissioner for the organization Ashok Sancheti said the members of the executive committee were elected unopposed. The organization has held several international conventions over the years, for which Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje had been invited.

RANA focuses on highlighting and promoting Rajasthani cultural heritage in the country as well as acting as a bridge between diaspora here and the state. Bhandari said plans are on the anvil to organize a global RANA convention soon.

The Consulate General of India here along with RANA and Jaipur Foot USA



Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) has elected Prem Bhandari as president, Kanak Golia as vice president, Neelam Modi as secretary and Kushal Sancheti as treasurer, according to Ashok Sancheti, Election Commissioner for the organization.

are organizing a virtual celebration of Rajasthan Diwas on March 30. The event will be addressed by Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Bhandari, popular folk singer from Rajasthan Swaroop Khan and other eminent artists from the state.

Last month, the language and cultural heritage of Rajasthan was celebrated with fervor at the Consulate General of India here on the occasion of

International Mother Language Day, showcasing the state's rich flavors and vibrant colors.

The Consulate and Jaipur Foot USA had organized the special celebration of the language and cultural heritage of Rajasthan as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on occasion of the 75th year of India's independence.

Bhandari, who is Chairman of Jaipur

Foot USA and of REDIO - Rescuing every Distressed Indian Overseas, has been taking up the cause of OCI card holders for the past several years and also the issue of easing travel during the restrictions imposed amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Through REDIO, he said he has also been actively involved in helping Indians stranded in Ukraine return to their homeland. (Source: PTI)

INDIAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK CONDEMNS ASSAULT ON ELDERLY SIKH MAN IN QUEENS



Nirmal Singh was reportedly punched by an unknown person in Richmond Hill in Queens.

NEW YORK (TIP): The Consulate General of India in New York has condemned the assault on an elderly Sikh man here, terming it as "deeply disturbing", and said they were in touch with the police who are investigating this heinous hate crime.

Nirmal Singh, believed to be in his 70s, was reportedly punched in the unprovoked assault on Sunday, April 3 morning in Richmond Hill in Queens.

Images shared on social media showed Singh with bloodied turban, face and clothes, which has shocked the Indian community.

The Consulate tweeted on Monday, April 4 that it is "deeply disturbed" by the incident.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Emmy nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik and The Indian Panorama congratulate Falu for her grand win at Grammys 2022

BY MURTAZA ALI KHAN

NEW YORK (TIP): New York-based Indian singer Falguni Shah, known by her stage name Falu, recently won a Grammy Award for her album 'A Colorful World' in the Best Children's Album category. Falu made her screen debut in Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik's 2014 film 'On Golden Years.'

Tirlok Malik and Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja, Chief Editor & Publisher, The Indian Panorama congratulated Falu for winning the Grammy Award. "Falu is a great person and very talented singer. Here the whole team of 'On Golden Years' would like to congratulate Falu for winning the prestigious Grammy Award for her album 'A Colorful World'. While working on that film everybody danced to the singing of Falu, which was a highlight number in the film. We feel proud to have worked with her," recollected Tirlok Malik.

Ahead of her emphatic win, Falu also performed the opening number at the Grammy Premiere Ceremony. She is the only Indian-origin woman to be nominated in Best Children's Music Album category at Grammys twice. What's really amazing is that she is the second Indian artist to win a Grammy this year. The other was music composer-Grammy 2015 winner-Ricky Kej, who won the Best New Age Album award for Divine Tides.



Falu sang a lovely number in Tirlok Malik's "On Golden Years" which had Prof. Indrajit Saluja as one of the actors

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

STREET IN NEW YORK NAMED GANESH TEMPLE STREET AFTER PROMINENT HINDU TEMPLE



NEW YORK (TIP): In a significant moment for the Hindu community in the US, a street outside a renowned and prominent temple here has been named the 'Ganesh Temple Street'.

Established in 1977, The Hindu Temple Society of North America, Sri Maha Vallabha Ganapati Devasthanam, popularly known as the Ganesh Temple, is regarded as the first and oldest Hindu Temple in North America.

The Hindu Temple is situated in Flushing, Queens County. The street outside the temple is named Bowne Street, after leading American pioneer of religious freedom and anti-slavery movement John Bowne. In a special ceremony on Saturday, the street was co-named the 'Ganesh Temple Street' in honor of the iconic Ganesh temple.

The special ceremony, during which the street sign was unveiled, was

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American community leader Manjusha Kulkarni wins Racial Equality Award



Manjusha (Manju) Kulkarni is one of the five inaugural winners of Bank of America's 'Neighborhood Builders: Racial Equality Award'

CHARLOTTE (TIP): Indian American community leader Manjusha (Manju) Kulkarni is one of the five inaugural winners of Bank of America's 'Neighborhood Builders: Racial Equality Award' honoring leaders advancing racial equality and economic opportunity for people of color.

The award recognizes individual leaders who are advancing racial equality and economic opportunity in Black, Hispanic-Latino, Asian American, and Native American communities.

The five honorees are being recognized

for their extraordinary contributions to break down systemic racial barriers and create opportunities for people of color across the country, the Bank announced.

Kulkarni, Executive Director of the Los Angeles-based AAPI Equity Alliance, "has dedicated her life to fighting for equity," according to her profile.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, she co-founded the Stop AAPI Hate campaign, which has become one of the leading voices in the effort to identify and oppose hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The data and stories compiled by Stop AAPI Hate helped drive national action among community members to stand up and speak out against anti-Asian discrimination.

Due to their activism, Kulkarni and her fellow Stop AAPI Hate co-founders were named to the Time Magazine "Most Influential People of 2021" list. South Asian Network will be the recipient of Kulkarni's grant.

AAPI Equity Alliance is a coalition of 40+ community-based organizations advocating for 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Los Angeles County with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee, and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

Kulkarni also serves as a lecturer in the Asian American Studies Department at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

In 2014, Kulkarni received the White House Champions of Change award from President Barack Obama, which recognized her dedication to improving health care access for Asian American communities.

In March 2021, she testified before the House Judiciary Committee on anti-Asian hate. Kulkarni will direct Bank of America's funding to the South Asian Network.

"I am incredibly honored to receive the Neighborhood Builders: Racial Equality Award from Bank of America and delighted to be able to support South Asian Network, an organization dedicated to addressing racial, social and economic disparities experienced by South Asian Americans and ensuring equity for all marginalized communities in Southern California," said Kulkarni.

"Through this program we are recognizing the impact of inspiring leaders in our country who are creating real change," said D. Steve Boland, chief administrative officer at Bank of America.

"Supporting nonprofits and their leaders has been core to our approach of

investing in the local communities we serve. We are proud to honor these brilliant leaders and empower nonprofits with resources to continue their work in support of communities of color."

The other four in 2022 group of awardees are: Edgar Villanueva, Founder and Principal of Decolonizing Wealth Project, New York; John Rice, Founder and CEO of Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT), Bethesda, Maryland; Luz Corcuera, Executive Director of UnidosNow, Sarasota/Manatee, Florida; and Nathaniel Smith, Founder and Chief Equity Officer of Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE), Atlanta, Georgia.

The Racial Equality Award is an extension of Bank of America's signature philanthropic program, Neighborhood Builders, which focuses on economic mobility and nonprofit leadership, the release said.

Awardees have the opportunity to direct \$200,000 in flexible funding to a nonprofit of their choice, it said. The selected organizations will also be invited to participate in the company's year-long Neighborhood Builders Leadership Program, which provides strategic growth and development trainings, setting the organizations up for long-term success.

Indian American producer Joseph Patel is the first Patel to ever win an Oscar



"Summer of Soul" producer Joseph Patel has become the 10th South Asian to ever win an Academy award after the film bagged the Oscar in the best documentary feature category.

LOS ANGELES (TIP): "Summer of Soul" producer Joseph Patel, an Indian American, said he became the 10th South Asian to ever win an Academy award after the film bagged the Oscar in the best documentary feature category.

Patel, who produced the film with director Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, Robert Fyvolent and David Dinerstein, also acknowledged fellow South Asian Riz Ahmed's win in his backstage Q and A session with journalists.

Ahmed and director Aneil Karia won the live-action short Oscar for their film "The Long Goodbye".

"I'm in a room full of journalists so I have to say this because I would be remiss not to. Riz Ahmed earlier tonight became the ninth South Asian to ever

win an Academy Award. I became the 10th. Tonight, two South Asians won an Academy Award. Also, this will please my mother I'm the first Patel ever to win an Oscar. So, I am very proud of that," Patel said during the backstage interview post his win on Sunday night.

Roots front man Thompson, best known by his stage name Questlove, arranged the never-seen-before archival footage of the Harlem Cultural Festival, celebrating African American music and culture, and promoting Black pride and unity, attended by 300,000 people in the summer of 1969.

"Summer of Soul (...Or When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)" was nominated alongside India's "Writing with Fire", "Ascension", "Flee" and "Attica".

Sadly, the documentary's moment of glory was eclipsed due to the slap gate that happened just before its win was announced.

In a moment that shocked everyone, actor Will Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock for cracking a joke about wife Jada Pinkett Smith's health condition. Rock was on the stage to announce the best documentary feature winner.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American high schooler's artwork to be displayed at US Capitol

'I WANTED TO SEE IF I COULD DRAW MYSELF AS I AM AND NOT HOW I THINK I AM', SAYS THE WINNER

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In a proud moment for Indian-Americans, the artwork of a community student from Florida is all set to be displayed at the US Capitol.

Sraddha Karthik, a Grade-11 student from a Tampa High School in Florida, has been declared the winner of the annual Congressional Art Competition at the Tampa Museum of Art where high school students from across Hillsborough County competed for a spot to showcase their work in the US Capitol.

This year, Sraddha Karthik, who came to the United States at the age of one along with her parents from Chennai, bagged the top prize with her graphite drawing "Pensive Gaze" created with intricacy and precision, said a media release issued by Congresswoman Kathy Castor.

Karthik's self-portrait tackles perception versus reality.

"I wanted to see if I could draw myself as I am and not how I think I am," she said.

She used different shades of graphite to create depth and dimension for her



Artwork of Indian-American high schooler Sraddha Karthik to be displayed at US Capitol

Photo for representation only.

artwork, the release said.

Karthik, the statement said, has been drawing since she was 7 when her parents registered her for an art class.

"I don't have as much time, but I do try to fit in art as much as possible because it's really helpful for me to express myself," she said.

Art will add depth to Karthik's career in architecture, which she plans to pursue after high school, said the Congresswoman's office.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NRI's help to be sought for projects in rural segments of Punjab, says Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal

JALANDHAR / NEW YORK (TIP): Rural Development and Panchayats and NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, on March 30, held a meeting with the Block Development and Panchayat officials and asked them to create a database of the NRIs so that the department could get in touch with them to seek their support for projects in their native villages, according to a Tribune News report.

He said they would be asked to adopt village schools, hospitals and dispensaries. "We will ask them to contribute whatever amount they can like Rs 5 lakh or so on. We can even put up a stone in memory of their parents or family members along with the work they have sponsored," he said.

The minister said the state government would establish four special courts in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala



Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal speaking at a meeting of Block Development and Panchayat officials in Jalandhar, March 30. Photo / Malkiat Singh

and Bathinda for the cases pertaining to the NRIs. Dhaliwal asked the officials to

start the exercise to get back the encroached panchayat land.

Indian- origin Raj Subramaniam to become President and CEO of FedEx

NEW YORK (TIP): Raj Subramaniam, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Mumbai graduate, is set to become President and CEO of FedEx with founder and CEO Fred Smith planning to step down from his leadership role.

Subramaniam, 56, currently President and Chief Operating Officer, will be promoted to President and CEO effective June 1 with Smith serving as Executive Chairman, one of the world's largest express transportation companies announced Monday.

"FedEx has changed the world by connecting people and possibilities for the last 50 years," said Smith, 77, who founded the company with the current annual revenue of \$90 billion, in 1973.

"As we look toward what's next, I have a great sense of satisfaction that a leader of the caliber of Raj Subramaniam will take FedEx into a very successful future."

"Fred is a visionary leader and a legend of the business world," said Subramaniam who joined the company in 1991. "He founded one of the world's greatest and most admired companies, and it is my honor and privilege to step into this role and build upon what he has created."

"As we continue to transform as a company and reimagine what's next, we will keep our people-service-profit philosophy at our core," he said. "I am immensely proud of our 600,000 team members around the world."

"Together we've set into motion ideas that have changed the world for the better, and together we will unlock new value for our people, customers, and shareholders."



Raj Subramaniam currently President and Chief Operating Officer, will be promoted to President and CEO effective June 1

In a letter to the employees, Smith noted Subramaniam has more than 30 years of experience in key global leadership roles across the FedEx portfolio of operating companies.

"When he served as Chief Marketing Officer, Raj developed many of the strategies that are in place today, and I am confident they will continue to drive outstanding results for our customers, team members, suppliers, communities, and shareholders," he wrote.

"Raj is a brilliant and humble man with great empathy for our various constituencies especially our frontline team members and customers," Smith wrote. "He is a gentleman of impeccable integrity and is a consummate team player. He has a wonderful family and a broad network of friends around the globe."

"Given his mix of experience, I can't think of a better executive in the world to take on the role of CEO of FedEx. There is no doubt he is the right leader to take FedEx into a successful future," he added.

"Raj is an accomplished and proven leader, and he has the full support of the Board," said David P. Steiner, Chair of the

Board's Governance, Safety, and Public Policy Committee.

He has more than 30 years of global experience across strategy and operations and has led the company through a period of tremendous growth. I am confident that Raj will build on this foundation and take the company to even greater heights."

As President and CEO-elect of FedEx Corporation, Subramaniam is responsible for providing strategic direction for all FedEx operating companies: FedEx Express, FedEx Ground, FedEx Freight, FedEx Services, FedEx Office, FedEx Logistics, and FedEx Dataworks.

Subramaniam was elected to the FedEx Board of Directors in 2020 and will maintain his seat on the Board. Prior to his role as President and Chief Operating Officer of FedEx Corp, Subramaniam was President and Chief Executive Officer of FedEx Express.

He also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of FedEx Corp., where he was responsible for developing the corporate strategy. In addition, he served as the President of FedEx Express in Canada and in several other management and marketing roles throughout Asia and the US.

Originally from Trivandrum, India, Subramaniam earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai. He earned a master's degree in chemical engineering from Syracuse University, and a master's degree in business administration from The University of Texas at Austin.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

LEADING INDIAN-ORIGIN DOCTOR RANJIT MANCHANDA TO CHAIR AIIMS INFOSYS ONCOLOGY



UK based Dr. Ranjit Manchanda has bagged the prestigious Infosys Chair in Oncology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

LONDON (TIP): Leading India-origin gynecological oncologist Ranjit Manchanda from London's Cancer Research UK Barts Centre has bagged the prestigious Infosys Chair in Oncology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

Manchanda, an alumnus of AIIMS New Delhi, completed his MBBS and MD from AIIMS in 1990s before proceeding to the University College London, UK for PhD in gynecological oncology.

An acclaimed super specialist, Manchanda's research spans targeted precision prevention of cancer.

His core work includes population-based germ line testing for risk prediction, targeted screening and cancer prevention; developing targeted surgical prevention strategies for ovarian and endometrial cancer; developing genetic testing strategies for cancer diagnosis and prevention and management of familial gynecological cancer.

Currently Professor, Gynecological Oncology at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health at Queen Mary University of London and Consultant Gynecological Oncologist at Barts Health National Health Services Trust, Manchanda is leading several crucial research projects, early detection of ovarian cancer among them.

"This award means a lot to me and it is an honor and privilege to have received it. I am excited at the opportunity to work with colleagues at AIIMS across both clinical and academic domains, and bring our institutes together with the common aim to reduce the burden of disease and improve the lives of women affected by gynecological cancer," Manchanda said.

His work at Infosys Chair will support the division of Gynecological Oncology at AIIMS and will grow collaborative working between Queen Mary University of London, Barts Health NHS Trust and AIIMS.

It will aid early screening strategies for ovarian cancer, the second most common gynecological cancer in India and a leading cause of death from cancer in Indian women with 3.34 per cent (24,015) of cancer deaths in one year.

Advanced ovarian cancer has a dismal prognosis, with the highest case fatality ratio amongst all gynecological cancers globally - which explains the criticality of Manchanda's expertise in the area.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Sri Balaji Temple conducted a temple awareness and fund-raising event

MONROE, NJ (TIP): On Saturday, April 2nd, Om Sri Balaji Temple conducted a temple awareness and fund-raising event at the newly built campus located at 285 Rhode Hall Road, Monroe, NJ. The first phase of the temple building "Sai Jnana Mandir" (center for cultural and spiritual education).

The event included live performances, recitation of Vedic hymns, inspiring speeches by the founder and trustees speeches, and a charity show. The event was a grand success, attended by over 400 guests. Many local community members came forward showing their appreciation and support towards the temple.

The founder, Suryanarayana Maddula, in his opening speech shared his childhood dream about building a temple for the almighty and a center for community education. Together with his team have acquired 12 acres of land near Monroe about 10 years back and started building the temple. The first phase is



Devotees at the temple

completed, and a grand inauguration "Prana Prathistha" (installation of the deities) event is planned for the week of June 13-19th. The temple will welcome the community with its large granite structure, serve the community with multiple faiths with a common goal of

spreading goodness, love and oneness. Phase-1 includes 10 classrooms, a profession kitchen, dining hall and a large prayer hall. Their goal for the event last week was to bring awareness of the newly constructed temple, bring the communities together, importantly the

next generation.

For more information about the event, volunteer opportunities, and donations visit <https://omsrisaibalajitemple.org/>

(Press Release issued by Temple Spokesman Rajendar Dichpally)

Seven Indian-origin persons charged in one-million dollar insider trading scheme

THE SEC ANNOUNCES INSIDER TRADING CHARGES AGAINST THE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS FOR ALLEGEDLY GENERATING MORE THAN USD 1 MILLION IN COLLECTIVE PROFITS BY INSIDER TRADING



Photo for representation

NEW YORK (TIP): Seven Indian-origin persons have been charged by federal authorities with insider trading in a scheme through which they made over a million dollars in illegal profits.

Hari Prasad Sure, 34, Lokesh Lagudu, 31 and Chotu Prabhu Tej Pulagam, 29, are friends and worked as software engineers at Twilio, a San Francisco-based cloud computing communications company, the Securities and Exchange Commission said on Monday.

The complaint said Sure tipped his close friend Dileep Kumar Reddy Kamujula, 35, who successfully traded in Twilio's options. Lagudu similarly tipped his girlfriend Sai Nekkhalapudi, 30, with whom he lived, and he also tipped his former roommate and close friend Abhishek Dharmapurikar, 33. Pulagam tipped his brother Chetan Prabhu Pulagam, 31. All the seven defendants live in California.

The SEC announced insider trading

charges against the seven individuals for allegedly generating more than USD 1 million in collective profits by insider trading ahead of Twilio's positive first quarter 2020 earnings announcement on May 6, 2020.

According to the SEC's complaint, Sure, Lagudu and Chotu Pulagam had access to various databases relevant to Twilio's reporting of revenue. As alleged, around March 2020, they learned through the databases that Twilio's customers had increased their usage of the company's products and services in response to health measures taken in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and concluded in a joint chat that Twilio's stock price would "rise for sure".

The SEC's complaint alleges that despite receiving a company policy that prohibited them from insider trading, Sure, Lagudu and Chotu Pulagam knowingly tipped off, or used the brokerage accounts of Kamujula, Nekkhalapudi, Dharmapurikar and Chetan Pulagam to trade Twilio options and stock in advance of its May 6, 2020 earnings announcement while in possession of the confidential information concerning customer usage.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

GOPIO New York & SIAEA With the Consulate General of India in New York Celebrate Culture of India at Virtual Holi Festival

NEW YORK (TIP): Holi is the national festival of colors, celebrated across India in different forms and traditions. The celebration of this colorful festival brings people of different faiths with diverse socio-political ideologies closer. This message of unity in diversity was shared by the Chief Guest, India's Consul General in New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal during the annual Holi celebrations organized by GOPIO New York Chapter in collaboration with the Society of Indo-American Engineers Architects (SIAEA) in collaboration with the Consulate General of India In New York on Sunday, March 20th, 2022.

Chief guest and honored distinguished guest speakers of the event:



In his eloquent address to the Diaspora community, Ambassador Jaiswal greeted the participants from around the world on the occasion of Holi Festival, who had joined from all major continents on Earth, as hundreds of Indian Diaspora members came together virtually to celebrate the Festival of Holi. While describing the historical and symbolic traditions of the festival of Holi, the veteran diplomat said, "Holi is a very beautiful festival of color. A festival that helps us welcome spring. Holi has several connotations, social, religious, political, and rhythmic with nature. Holi is about togetherness, unity and oneness, and holding hands together, celebrating the goodness and kindness of humanity," he said. He urged the participants to take a moment out to pray for peace.

Congressman Tom Suozzi of Long Island, NY greeted the community with "Holi Mubarak" to all. Describing Holi as an exciting time for all, a great friend of India and the Indian American community, Rep. Suozzi said, "It's great to be with you all to celebrate the festival of Holi, which reminds us of all that Spring is in the air as the flowers start blooming and we await new life and happiness. Thank you for your continued support, and I will do everything in my power to represent the Indian American community in Long Island at the US Congress and the interests of India." Recalling his childhood as a first generation Irish American, he was taught to remember the 3 Is, Ireland, Italy, and Israel, and now, "There are for Is: Ireland, Italy, Israel and India."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

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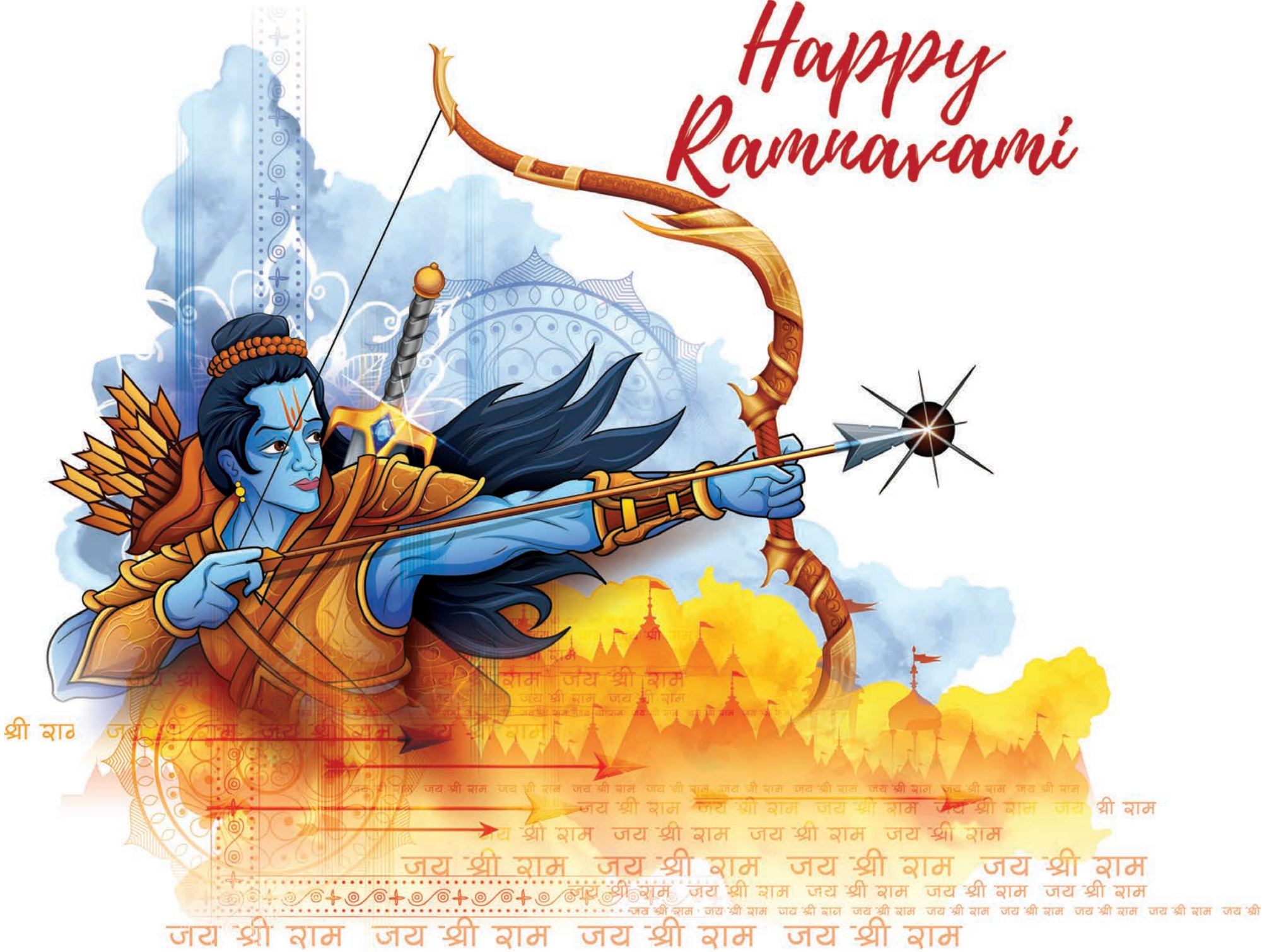
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Is Global 'Democracy' America's Mission?

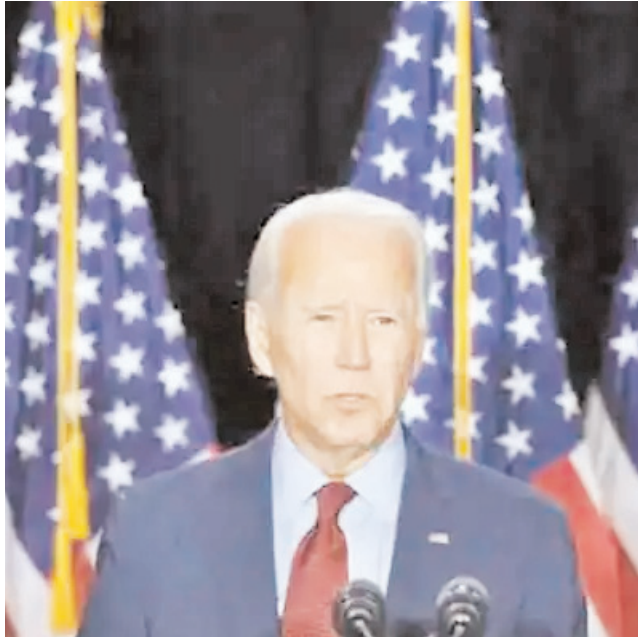
BY PATRICK J. BUCHANAN



"AMERICA'S FOUNDING MISSION WAS NOT DEMOCRACY, NOR ANY OTHER IDEOLOGY. IT WAS WHAT WE DECLARED IT TO BE IN THE DOCUMENT OUR FATHERS AGREED TO AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787:

"WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

"DEMOCRACY" IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN THE CONSTITUTION OR IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS."



: Thus did Biden frame the struggle of our time as the U.S. leading the world's democracies, the camp of the saints, against the world's autocrats, the forces of darkness.

Is "democracy" really America's cause? Is "autocracy" really America's great adversary in the battle for the future? Not all autocrats, after all, are our enemies, nor are all democrats our reliable friends.

"In the battle between democracy and autocracy, democracies are rising to the moment, and the world is clearly choosing the side of peace and security," said President Joe Biden in his State of the Union address.

"This is a real test. It's going to take time."

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When Ukraine was invaded, the U.N. General Assembly voted on a resolution which "deplores in the strongest terms" Russia's "aggression" against Ukraine.

Among the 35 nations that abstained was India, the world's largest democracy. Whose side is India on in the great struggle?

Freedom House ranks Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, all friends, partners and sometime allies of the United States, as "not free."

Have something to say about this column?

Are we in a global struggle against all of these nations, all of these regimes, because all of them are autocracies?

As for America's own wars, democracy-versus-autocracy would seem to be a misguided way to describe any of them.

In the Revolution, we were military allies from 1778 on with King Louis XVI of France, against Great Britain, the Mother of Parliaments. Our goal was not establishing a democracy, but our independence, separation, from the most democratic nation on earth.

When we declared war on the kaiser's Germany in April 1917, we allied ourselves with four of the greatest colonial empires on earth: the British, French, Russian and Japanese empires.

When that Great War began, Germany's Second Reich was a good deal more democratic than the czarist regime of Russia's Nicholas II.

In World War II, we allied with the world's largest colonial empire, Great Britain, and the USSR of Joseph

TO PURSUE GLOBAL "DEMOCRACY" IS THUS A FORMULA FOR ENDLESS INTERVENTIONS IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS, ENDLESS CONFLICTS AND EVENTUAL WAR

Stalin. Democracy was not the cause for which we went to war, but payback to Japan for the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Our most important ally in that Asian war was the Nationalist China of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, no democrat.

History, religion, race, culture, tribe and territory more often define the 100-plus nations of Africa, the Middle East and Asia than whether they are democracies or autocracies.

During the Cold War, we collaborated openly with dictators - Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua, Chiang Kai-shek in China, Syngman Rhee in South Korea, Augusto Pinochet in Chile, Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, the Shah of Iran, Ngo Dinh Diem, and a succession of generals after his assassination, in South Vietnam.

If they stood with us against the Communists in the Cold War, we stood by them. "He may be a SOB, but he's our SOB," FDR said of Somoza.

Communism was our ideological enemy, not autocracy.

If you were an enemy of communism in the Cold War, autocrat or not, you were likely to be treated as a friend by the USA.

If we make global "democracy" the measure of success in the great struggle of our time, our victory or defeat in that cause depends on political decisions and internal choices of scores of nations not our own.

But when did the internal politics of other lands become either the business of the United States or the yardstick of our success as a nation?

To make global democracy our goal in this century's great "battle" is to allow America's success or failure as a nation to be judged and measured by what other nations, not our own, succeed or fail in doing.

America's founding mission was not democracy, nor any other ideology. It was what we declared it to be in the document our fathers agreed to at the Constitutional Convention of 1787:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

"Democracy" is not even mentioned in the Constitution or in the Bill of Rights.

If whether other nations are democratic or autocratic is the measure by which we judge America's success, this must lead invariably to U.S. interference in the internal affairs of those nations not our own - to ensure success in the great struggle.

To pursue global "democracy" is thus a formula for endless interventions in the internal affairs of other nations, endless conflicts and eventual war. The antidote is John Quincy Adams' formulation:

"(America) goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy; she is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all; she is the champion and vindicator only of her own."

(The author is a political commentator, columnist, politician and broadcaster)

The Chandigarh Imbroglia

BY PRABHJOT
SINGH



"Several significant decisions taken in recent months by the NDA government at the Centre were a clear indication that transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab was nowhere under its consideration. Intriguingly, on eve of the Punjab Assembly elections in February, speculations were afloat that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his pre-election rallies in Punjab may announce transfer of Chandigarh to this border State. For many, writing on the wall was obvious. Changing the structure of the Management of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) was an indication of the Centre Government's thinking. And if that was not enough, the union home minister during his last visit to Chandigarh, announced a major policy decision of bringing Union Territory of Chandigarh employees under the central Civil Service rules thus putting to an end to the continuation of Punjab Civil Service rules."

On November 1, 1966, when Chandigarh was carved out of Punjab as a Union Territory, Dr MS Randhawa, ICS, was appointed its first Chief Commissioner. Since then, Chandigarh has grown from "a city of greying beards and green hedges" to a throbbing millennial mini-India, while remaining mired in various controversies.

Unlike major Punjab cities, the Union Territory has a large population of migrants from far off places, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Nagaland, and Jharkhand that has assimilated into a multiethnic and multicultural community making it unique in more than one way.

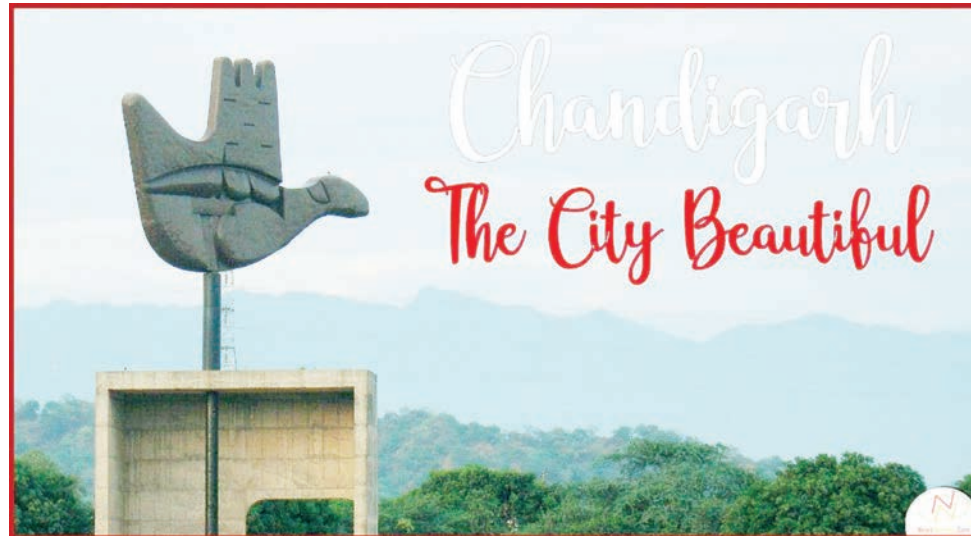
Built as a planned city and capital of Punjab, it has been gradually inching to clinch its own special identity. Supported by the Central Government with lavish funding since 1966 and the unfortunate diminishing interest of parent States of Punjab and Haryana, this adopted territory stands alienated from its motherland.

Developed as a City of Excellence with top of the shelf facilities like open green spaces, wide roads, storm water drainage system, it soon grew to an educational and top-class health care hub with the coming up of institutions.

Less than one third of the normal size of a district in Punjab or Haryana, Chandigarh now boasts of institutions that provide world class education in health, engineering, architecture, law, pharmacy, home care and art. It has exclusive sports stadia for cricket, hockey, tennis, football, skating, indoor sports, and water sports. It has one the highest ratio of tennis courts to population, an extremely popular Golf Club, and a golf range besides several swimming pools, including centrally heated pools.

Besides Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, Chandigarh has the distinction of having plant specific gardens, like Bougainvillea Garden, in addition to an exclusive Japanese garden, a topiary park, a bird sanctuary and two Botanical gardens. Sukhna Lake and Rock Garden make it a major tourist attraction.

It does not have much industry but still it is a top production Centre for steel furniture, sanitary fittings, pharmaceuticals, and needles. It had investment from world leaders in pharmacy (Pfizer) and needles (Goetz & Beckett). The Chandigarh Administration in its wisdom decided to put a full stop before further growth of industry and allowed change of land use



The City Beautiful has always been a bone of contention since the reorganization of Punjab State in 1966

making room for multiplexes, malls, and hotels to come up in place of existing industrial units like Pfizer.

It is the misfortune of the Union Territory that continuity was a glaring missing link that followed the change of administrative head. Ambitious projects like captive power generation - Chandigarh does not have a source of power generation - building of Nehru Centre for Performing Arts, construction of elevated road from the PGI to the Transport Chowk, flyover over The Tribune inter section, Mass Rapid Transport System, and building of Chandigarh Trade Fair ground on the lines of Pragati Maidan never progressed beyond paperwork. Huge amounts were spent on consultancies and feasibility reports. Money was spent lavishly on holding foundation stone laying ceremonies of Nehru Centre for Performing Arts and the Chandigarh Trade Fair ground, but no one was ever held accountable for these languishing projects.

These aspects apart, Chandigarh has always remained a bone of contention between Punjab and Haryana, both claiming their rights over its control. When the 1966 Reorganization Act was implemented, Chandigarh was declared a Union Territory as a stop gap arrangement so that Haryana could build its own new capital. It was to be transferred to Punjab. However, claims and counter claims continued with the Centre playing the role of a clever monkey in a fight between two cats.

The Reorganization Act mandated that Union Territory of Chandigarh would be run by employees drawn from Punjab and Haryana in the 60:40 ratio. Since it was a small territory, it had a Chief Commissioner as its administrative head followed by Home Secretary, Finance Secretary, Chief Engineer, Chief

Architect, an Inspector-General of Police (of the rank of a Deputy Inspector-General) and a Superintendent of Police. These posts were equitably divided between Punjab and Haryana.

All employees, from top to bottom, used to be drawn from the "partner" states. The system continued to work well till about late 80s and early 90s when on the command of the Centre, the Union Territory of Chandigarh started recruiting people directly by gradually cutting down the share of both Punjab and Haryana. Since the protests from Punjab and Haryana were meek, the move picked pace. A stage was reached when the number of employees on deputation was reduced to almost nothing. Most of the positions, from bottom to top, are now filled with UT cadre employees except for a few top bureaucratic slots like Home Secretary, Finance Secretary and Deputy Commissioner.

Even before the "centralization" of the Chandigarh Administration started, the rehabilitation of migrant workers scheme was given a boost by offering tenements to jhuggi dwellers. Thousands of migrant workers, given these tenements, started making capital out of it as they would sell their dwellings at a huge profit and move back to jhuggis to stake claims for new units in future colonies.

Punjab was caught in a vicious fight against terrorism. It was during this period that the Governor of Punjab was appointed Administrator of Chandigarh and the post of the Chief Commissioner was changed to Adviser to the Administrator. Mr. Krishna Banarji, who was till then Chief Commissioner, became the first Adviser to the Administrator of Chandigarh.

In 1985, when the Rajeev Gandhi- Sant Harchand Singh Longowal agreement

was signed, hopes were raised that the decision to transfer Chandigarh to Punjab on January 26, 1986, would finally be implemented. Punjab Government led by then Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala drew all plans for the smooth transfer of Chandigarh.

A senior bureaucrat Inderjit Singh Bindra was named Administrator of Chandigarh. Invitations were sent out for the formal ceremony that was to take place as a part of the Republic Day celebrations. However, on the night of January 25, the decision was put on hold. Once again, there was a little hue and cry in Punjab political circles. No sincere or concerted effort was made thereafter to get the Rajeev-Longowal agreement implemented.

It was Darshan Singh Pheruman, who led a breakaway group of Shiromani Akali Dal, who started fast unto death to demand immediate merger of Chandigarh with Punjab. His fast continued till his death but nothing moved either the Centre or the then Punjab political leadership. His sacrifice remains unacknowledged by the Punjab government.

Several significant decisions taken in recent months by the NDA government at the Centre were a clear indication that transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab was nowhere under its consideration. Intriguingly, on eve of the Punjab Assembly elections in February, speculations were afloat that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his pre-election rallies in Punjab may announce transfer of Chandigarh to this border State. For many, writing on the wall was obvious. Changing the structure of the Management of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) was an indication of the Centre Government's thinking. And if that was not enough, the union home minister during his last visit to Chandigarh, announced a major policy decision of bringing Union Territory of Chandigarh employees under the central Civil Service rules thus putting to an end to the continuation of Punjab Civil Service rules. While the decision was overwhelmingly welcomed by employees in general as the retirement age now goes up from 58 to 60 and they also get other benefits, including extended maternity leave for women employees, Punjab units of a couple of political parties, including the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), have not only assailed the move the NDA government at the Centre but also announced to fight it tooth and nail to save the rights of Punjab.

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

K-RAIL without a Silver lining!

BY GEORGE ABRAHAM



If you are an NRI visitor like me who often takes a trip to Kerala, there will always be some surprises in store for you. Despite all that the doomsayers say, Kerala is on an upward trajectory, building infrastructure and modernizing every facet of people's lives. Although mostly two-lanes, the roads have never been better, at least in the Central Travancore area where I belong. Commercial and Residential buildings are rising on both sides of the highways or significant roadways, and heavy traffic is on most of the main arteries. Main Central Road (M.C. Road) passes through my small town called Kallissery, which used to be a sleepy little village where I grew up and now transformed into a shopping paradise with appliance stores and a Reliance supermarket. Traveling just one Kilometer away from the Center of the town is the newly built 'K.M. Cherian Hospital' with some of the most modern facilities anywhere in the world. The nonstop flow of the vehicles and the constant sirens of Ambulances heading toward the hospitals might make one yearns for those good old days of peaceful and serene times. Traveling from Chengannur to Changanassery on the M.C. Road, it almost appears as one long contiguous town (a mini megapolis) with shops and multi-cuisine eateries on both sides. Yes, Kerala has progressed, and transformative changes come with its rewards and infliction.

On the political front, it has always been noisy. Both sides are impatient to listen to each other, and it is almost as if one is shouting over the other just to offset each other. These days, the most heated topic is the K-RAIL, a Semi-High-Speed Rail development project that the current LDF government is vigorously promoting under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. I cannot argue against this Silver Line project that could reduce travel time and pollute less. Moreover, high-speed transportation systems are an integral part of development anywhere, whether highways or Rail. The Shanghai Maglev in China is the world's first high-speed commercial magnetic levitation ("maglev") line, whose trains run on the non-conventional track and reach a top speed of 430 KM/h (267 mph). In 2020, China started testing a maglev prototype train that ran 600 km/h and planned a 2025 launch date.

If we go back in history, the semi-High-Speed train project was the brainchild of the Oommen Chandy government and is now carried on by the current administration. As we all know, Trivandrum, the Capital of the State, is located at the far end of an elongated State where travel by road could often take almost half a day to reach from one end to the other. After decades of efforts in developing M.C. Road, it is a two-lane road, and an express highway remains a distant dream. Some would also argue that it may be a boon for tourism and open faster access to Kovalam and Vayanad on a single vacation trip. Commuting between the Capital and the commercial hub (Cochin) may become further effortless.

Considering the project's scope, as many experts demand, an environmental impact study may shed light on the flood impact on low-lying areas during the monsoon season. However, development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive if we are to create jobs and prevent scores of our young people from exiting the State after their studies. What is the point of having a beautiful state while people have little or no means to survive?

The real problem is how the current government has addressed this very important project. A level of arrogance and missteps has marred the positive aspects



The 529.45 km SilverLine corridor connecting Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram, with an operating speed of 200kmph, eases the transport between North and South ends of the state and reduces the total travel time to less than 4 hours, compared with the present 10 to 12 hours. The intermediate stations include Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kochi Airport, Thrissur, Tirur, Kozhikode and Kannur.

of this rail project. We should not undertake an ambitious project of this magnitude without transparency to all stakeholders. The government has failed miserably in making its constituents understand either the necessity or vitality of this giant undertaking. Average folks in Kerala have an inherent suspicion of any project due to a history of corruption and misdeeds. On top of that, there is a failure to deliver on past promises; whether it is OKHI cyclone or big flood of 2018, some of the victims are still waiting for rehabilitation. How then, all those who would be dispossessed due to this new venture trust the Government or any empowered Institution to compensate them in a timely fashion? It is a credibility issue that couldn't resolve overnight. As a matter of fact, a government must work hard to create trust among its people, making it easier for any project proposal to succeed in a timely fashion. However, the challenge of maintaining trust is complicated by a faster and more diversified flow of information, such as through the Internet and social networks.

It is a sorry state of affairs as well when some of the Members of Parliament from Kerala appeal to the BJP government not to fund this project. For the UDF, it is not a shining moment in its history! The BJP government at the Center hasn't been very forthcoming to the growing financial needs of Kerala in general, and now they have been provided a support base from none other than the grand old party itself! If anyone from the party rank and files disagrees, they would become the object of scorn and threatened with disciplinary action! A healthy and open debate is an integral part of the democratic process. This issue should have been sorted out at the State level rather than setting up a bad precedent of one party appealing for funds and another demanding a denial of the same to the Center.

There are also vibrant discussions on the project's financial viability and whether the K-RAIL would be solvent. However, if you look around the world, public transportation systems are not self-sustaining, and government subsidies and other financial assistance are integral to daily operations. Amtrak in the USA and

MTA in New York City are prime examples of transport systems that rely heavily on government handouts to provide affordable commuting or long-distance services to their citizens.

Another valid issue that has been raised by the opposition leader V.D. Satheesan is whether we are buying some outdated technology from Japan that may be eager to recoup some money for their discarded products. If we are to embark on a project of this magnitude, we must seek state-of-the-art technology and look forward well into the future. Kerala's mindset typically drives towards only thinking about the short-term, and we ought to alter that to think about tomorrow. Nevertheless, the Congress party must be conscious to avoid attaching itself to an anti-development tag going into the next election. It was the Communist Party that stood against automation, and the people of Kerala have paid a heavy price for it over the years. Their intransigence barred multi-national companies from setting up commercial hubs in the State. The K-Rail issue should not become a distraction as well from monitoring other governance issues that are critical to the well-being of the people of the State.

From my point of view, this project is doomed unless the LDF government brings the opposition to the table for dialogue while convincing the community at large and assuring the directly affected residents of fair and timely compensation. In a democracy, dialogue and building consensus are imperative, and steps need to be taken for transparency and confidence-building measures. Knocking down the kitchen doors with the help of the Police and bureaucrats to lay the survey stones would not help the cause. The current government appears to be inebriated with power, and they might pay a high price for the overreach unless there is a course correction. CPM hasn't learned a lesson from Nandigram in West Bengal, and K-RAIL could be their undoing in Kerala!

(Writer is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and the Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)



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Tax Time Guide: Electronic tax payment and agreement options available to taxpayers who owe

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service, on March 22, reminded taxpayers who have a tax bill that there are several ways to make payments, and there are options for many people who can't pay their tax bill in full by April tax deadline.

The deadline to submit 2021 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed this year falls on April 18, instead of April 15, because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia. Taxpayers in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 19, 2022, to file their returns due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states. Some taxpayers who were victims of a natural disaster have even longer to file their returns.

The IRS reminds people to timely file their tax return and pay whatever they can by the filing deadline to avoid late filing and interest penalties.

Sign in to pay and see payment history

Taxpayers can use their Online Account to securely see important information when preparing to file their tax return or following up on balances or notices. Taxpayers can make a same-day payment for a 2021 tax return balance, an extension to file, or estimated taxes, which are all due by April deadline for most taxpayers. They can also view:

Their Adjusted Gross Income, Economic Impact Payment amounts and advance Child Tax Credit payment amounts needed for their 2021 return,

PAYMENT HISTORY AND ANY SCHEDULED OR PENDING PAYMENTS,

PAYMENT PLAN DETAILS AND

DIGITAL COPIES OF SELECT NOTICES FROM THE IRS.

WAYS TO PAY

ELECTRONIC FUNDS WITHDRAWAL (EFW): This option allows taxpayers to file and pay electronically from their bank account when using tax preparation software or a tax professional. This option is free and only available when electronically filing a tax return.

DIRECT PAY: Direct Pay is free and allows taxpayers to securely pay their federal taxes directly from their checking or savings account without any fees or preregistration. Taxpayers can schedule payments up to 365 days in advance. After submitting a payment through Direct Pay, taxpayers will receive immediate confirmation.

ELECTRONIC FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT SYSTEM: This free service gives taxpayers a safe and convenient way to pay individual and business taxes by phone or online. To enroll and for more information, taxpayers can call 800-555-4477, or visit eftps.gov.

CREDIT CARD, DEBIT CARD OR DIGITAL WALLET: Individuals can pay online, by phone or with a mobile device through any of the authorized payment processors. The processor charges a fee. The IRS doesn't receive any fees for these payments. Authorized card processors and phone numbers are available at irs.gov/payments.

CASH: For taxpayers who prefer to pay in cash, the IRS offers a way to pay taxes at one of its Cash Processing Companies at participating retail stores. The IRS urges taxpayers choosing this option to start early because it involves a four-step process. Details, including answers to frequently asked questions, are at irs.gov/paywithcash.

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER: Payments made by check or money order should be made payable to the



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

"United States Treasury." To help ensure that the payment gets credited promptly, taxpayers should also enclose a Form 1040-V payment voucher and print on the front of the check or money order: "2021 Form 1040"; name; address; daytime phone number; and Social Security number.

File by April 18, 2022 for most taxpayers

The most important thing everyone with a tax bill should do is file a return by the April 18 due date, for most taxpayers (even if they can't pay in full). Taxpayers may also request a six-month extension to file by October 17, 2022, to avoid penalties and interest for failing to file on time.

Though automatic tax-filing extensions are available to anyone who wants one, these extensions don't change the payment deadline. It is not an extension to pay. Visit irs.gov/extensions for details.

Usually anyone who owes tax and waits until after that date to file will be charged a late-filing penalty of 5% per month. So, if a tax return is complete, filing it by April 18 is always less costly, even if the full amount due can't be paid on time.

IRS Free File is an easy, quick way to file that is available to eligible individuals and families who earned \$73,000 or less in 2021. IRS Free File is available on irs.gov.

Pay what you can

Interest, plus the late-payment penalty, will apply to any payments made after April 18. Making a payment, even a partial payment, will help limit penalty and interest charges. The fastest and easiest way to pay a personal tax bill is with Direct Pay, available only on irs.gov. For a rundown of other payment options, visit irs.gov/payments.

The IRS urges taxpayers to first consider other options for payment, including getting a loan to pay the amount due. In many cases, loan costs may be lower than the combination of interest and penalties the IRS must charge under federal law. Normally, the late-payment penalty is one-half-of-one percent (0.5%) per month. The interest rate, adjusted quarterly, is currently 3% per year, compounded daily.

If a loan isn't possible, the IRS can often help.

Online payment plans

Most individual taxpayers qualify to set up an online payment plan with the IRS, and it only takes a few minutes to apply. Applicants are notified immediately if their request is approved. No need to call or write to the IRS. The IRS notes that online payment plans are processed more quickly than requests submitted with electronically-filed tax returns. If a taxpayer just filed their return and knows that they'll owe a balance, they may be able to set up a payment plan online before they even receive a notice or bill.

There are two main types of online payment plans:

SHORT-TERM PAYMENT PLAN - The payment period is 180 days or less and the total amount owed is less than \$100,000 in combined tax, penalties and interest. There's no fee for setting one up, though interest and the late-payment penalty continue to accrue.

LONG-TERM PAYMENT PLAN - Payments are made monthly, and the amount owed must be less than \$50,000 in combined tax, penalties and interest. If the IRS approves a long-term payment plan, also known as an installment agreement, a setup fee normally applies. But low-income taxpayers may qualify to have the fee waived or reimbursed. In addition, for anyone who filed their return on time, the late-payment penalty rate is cut in half while an installment agreement is in effect. This means that the penalty accrues at the rate of one-quarter-of-one percent (0.25%) per month, instead of the usual one-half-of-one percent (0.5%) per month.

Taxpayers who do not qualify for an online payment agreement may still be able to arrange to pay in installments. See Additional Information on Payment Plans for more information.

Other payment options

Some struggling taxpayers may also consider using these other payment options:

Delayed collection

If the IRS determines a taxpayer is unable to pay, it may delay collection until their financial condition improves. However, the total amount owed will still increase because penalties and interest are charged until paid in full. Taxpayers can request a delay by calling the phone number on their notice or 800-829-1040.

Penalty relief

Some taxpayers qualify to have their late-filing or late-payment penalties reduced or eliminated. This can be done on a case-by-case basis, based on reasonable cause. Alternatively, where a taxpayer has a history of compliance, the IRS can typically provide relief under the First Time Abatement program. Visit irs.gov/penaltyrelief for details.

Offer in Compromise

Some taxpayers qualify to settle their tax bill for less than the full amount due, through an offer in compromise. Though there is typically a \$205 non-refundable application fee, it is generally waived for low-income taxpayers and for offers based on doubt as to liability. The Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier tool can help determine eligibility for anyone interested in applying.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that they have rights and protections throughout the collection process. For details, see Taxpayer Bill of Rights and Publication 1, Your Rights as a Taxpayer.

For more information about payments, see Topic No. 202, Tax Payment Options, on irs.gov.

Taxpayers should know before they owe. The IRS encourages all taxpayers to check their withholding with the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator.

This news release is part of a series called the Tax Time Guide, a resource to help taxpayers file an accurate tax return. Additional help is available in Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax.

In a first, Muslims perform Taraweeh prayer at Times Square in New York

NEW YORK (TIP): In an unprecedented event, hundreds of Muslims broke their fast and offered congregational Taraweeh prayers at New York City's Times Square in the US on the first day of the holy month of Ramdan, April 2.

Taraaweeh, a part of the Holy Quran is recited each day during Ramdan until its completion.

On Saturday, April 2 night, 1500 meals were provided to Muslims on the pavements of Times Square, the city's busiest artery, which was then followed up by hundreds of Muslims taking part in the Taraweeh prayers.

Times Square is a major commercial area and tourist destination in midtown Manhattan in New York City. It is one of the "most visited tourist attractions" which draws around 50 million visitors a year, as per media reports.

"We actually are doing this so that we can become closer and more contentious of our creator, our lord, Allah," SQ, one of the organizers of the gathering said, according to CBS News.

"We're here to explain our religion to all those that don't know what Islam all is about," he said, adding that "Islam is a religion of peace."

A person attending the Taraweeh said that there are a lot of misconceptions about Islam.

"There are crazy people throughout all



People offering Taraweeh prayers at New York City's Times Square

Grab from viral video

cultures, all religions, and those small groups of people do not represent the majority ... We're encouraged to pray, fast, do-good deeds, give charity," the man said, according to CBS.

Ramdan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which the followers of Islam fast between dawn and sunset, pray for peace and guidance, give

back to the community in the form of charity or zakaat or engage in humanitarian activities such as feeding the underprivileged and introspect to enlighten their souls.

This annual observance of Ramzan is regarded as one of the five pillars of Islam. It lasts between one sighting of the crescent moon and the next. (Source: ANI)

US EASES COVID TRAVEL GUIDELINES FOR INDIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State Department eased government Covid travel ratings for India and some other countries on Monday, March 28.

The CDC said it had changed its travel recommendation for India to "Level 1: Low" from "Level 3: High", which urges unvaccinated Americans to avoid travel to those locations.

F.D.A. AUTHORIZES SECOND BOOSTERS FOR THOSE 50 AND OLDER AND SOME IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PEOPLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Federal regulators authorized second booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna coronavirus vaccines on Tuesday for everyone 50 and older. The move came after the Biden administration decided it should seek to bolster waning immunity in older Americans in case the virus sweeps the nation again in the coming months.

The Food and Drug Administration also authorized a second booster dose for individuals at least 12 years old and older with certain immune deficiencies, such as people who have undergone solid organ transplants. The agency said the additional shot can be given at least four months after a first booster for both cohorts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to issue some kind of advice on who should consider getting the shot as early as Tuesday. As of late last week, officials were planning to present the second booster essentially as an option that older Americans or people with underlying medical conditions should consider.

The F.D.A. made the decision with scant data, as an interim measure to strengthen protection for older Americans and others considered especially vulnerable until the fall. At that point, federal health officials say they expect that everyone will need another shot. There is some hope that by then, scientists will have developed vaccines that work better against the variants that have emerged over the past four months.

The idea that another shot is necessary now, just six months after federal regulators authorized the first round of boosters, could add to fatigue with Covid vaccines. With each authorized additional dose, fewer and fewer Americans get the shot.

On the other hand, many experts now acknowledge that the government's decision last fall to authorize a first booster shot - the subject of much scientific debate at the time - saved lives during the winter Omicron wave.

Indo-Canadian Sanjay Malaviya donates \$1.2M to Olympic and Paralympic medalists

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

BRAMPTON (TIP): Sanjay Malaviya, an Indo-Canadian and a leading name in IT healthcare industry, has made a huge first of its kind donation to the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Foundations. He has announced a donation of \$ 1.2 million to directly support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic medalists besides extending support to the NextGen programme of preparing future Olympians and Paralympians.

This is the first time a gift of this magnitude has been given directly to Olympic and Paralympic medalists through either foundation. They will receive a \$5,000 grant per medal earned. Additionally, \$100,000 will go to the NextGen program to help support future Olympians and Paralympians.

"Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes have inspired and united us during a very difficult time," said Malaviya. "It's an honor to be able to celebrate their achievements and invest in their future."

In total, 130 Olympians and 53 Paralympians will receive a grant through this donation.

Sanjay Malaviya started a Toronto based patient safety software company in late 90s and served on its Board as President and CEO for a little more than two decades. From a single product company that took roots in IT Department of a hospital, Sanjay made it a leading provider of risk



management, patient feedback, claims management and infection surveillance software to over 2000 healthcare organizations around the world.

Sanjay has been instrumental to the IT-based healthcare solutions with an exclusive endorsement from the American Hospital Association.

A graduate of the University of Waterloo, Sanjay has used both his degree in Computer Engineering, as well as his almost decade of experience in a hospital setting, to offer a truly unique perspective on healthcare IT. He

continues to be driven by his passion for making healthcare software not only cutting-edge, but also intuitive and easy to use for even the most casual user.

"The gift Sanjay has made is truly remarkable, especially following the challenges Team Canada athletes have faced over the past few years," said Jacquie Ryan, Chief Brand and Commercial Officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee and CEO of the Canadian Olympic Foundation. "Sanjay's belief in the power of sport, and the impact Olympic and Paralympic medalists have on all Canadians is truly inspiring."

Malaviya is a Canadian healthcare technology entrepreneur who developed cutting-edge IT products that have helped to keep patients safer in more than 2,000 healthcare organizations around the world.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

RBI MAINTAINS STATUS QUO; LEAVES BENCHMARK LENDING RATE UNCHANGED AT 4%

MUMBAI (TIP)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, April 8, kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent and decided to continue with its accommodative stance despite rising inflation.

This is the 11th time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo. RBI had last revised its policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate on May 22, 2020 in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low.

MPC has decided to keep benchmark repurchase (repo) rate at 4 per cent, Das said while announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy review.

Consequently, the reverse repo rate will continue to earn 3.35 per cent interest for banks for their deposits kept with RBI.

This is the first MPC meeting of the current financial year. *Source: PTI*

SEER ISSUES 'RAPE THREAT' TO A 'COMMUNITY' IF ANY HINDU GIRL IS TEASED IN UP'S KHAIRABAD

SITAPUR (TIP)

A video of a saffron-clad seer allegedly delivering a hate speech against a community and issuing a "rape threat" surfaced on social media on Thursday, April 7, prompting police to initiate a probe into the matter.

The two-minute video containing the hate speech is said to have been recorded on April 2 when the seer identified as Bajrang Muni Das, the mahant of Maharshi Shri Lakshman Das Udasin Ashram in Khairabad town, was taking out a procession on the occasion of Navratri and Hindu New Year.

Bajrang Das Muni can be heard saying in the video that if any Hindu girl is teased by a man belonging to a particular community, he would himself rape a woman of that community. He also made some more objectionable comments.

It is alleged that when his procession reached near a mosque, he started giving the hate speech on a loudspeaker.

"I am telling this to you with all the love that if a single Hindu girl is teased by you in Khairabad, I will openly bring your daughter and daughter-in-law out of your home and rape her," he is heard saying in the video.

After the video surfaced on social media, the Sitapur police initiated a probe under Additional Superintendent of Police North Rajiv Dikshit.

Legal action will be ensured as per rules on the basis of the facts and evidences that surface in the probe, police said. *Source: PTI*

Budget Session 2022: Parliament adjourned sine die; 11 Bills passed by both houses

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Budget Session, 2022 of Parliament, which commenced on, 31 January 2022, has been adjourned sine die today i.e. Thursday, 07 April 2022.

Speaking about the Budget Session, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi stated that during the entire Budget Session, 2022 there were 27 sittings of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. The Minister underlined that the Session, which was originally scheduled to have sittings till 8 April, 2022, was curtailed due to demand of Leaders of various political parties. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs & Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs & External Affairs V. Muraleedharan were also present in the press conference.

The Budget Session, 2022 of Parliament which commenced on Monday, 31st January, 2022 has been adjourned sine die today i.e. Thursday, the 7th April, 2022. In between Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha adjourned for recess on Friday, the 11th February, 2022 to reassemble on Monday, the 14th March, 2022 to enable Departmentally related Standing Committees to examine and report on the Demands for Grants relating to various Ministries/Departments.

The first part of the Budget Session yielded a total of 10 sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the second part of the Session, there were 17 sittings of both Houses.

During the first part of the Session, keeping in mind Covid situation Lok Sabha has used Lok Sabha Chamber, Lok Sabha Public Gallery, Rajya Sabha Chamber and Rajya Sabha Public Gallery for its sittings while Rajya Sabha has used Rajya Sabha Chamber, Rajya Sabha Public Gallery and Lok Sabha Chamber for its sittings. Lok Sabha sat from 4 pm to 9 pm (with extended time, whenever required) daily except on 31.01.2022 and 1.02.2022 when they sat first. Rajya Sabha had its meetings from 9 am to 3 pm (with extended time, whenever required) daily except on 31.01.2022 and 1.02.2022 when they sat second. In the second part of the Session, the timing of the Houses was reverted back to the normal hours i.e. from 11am to 6 pm (with extended time, whenever required) following all protocols.

This being the first Session of the year, the President addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together in terms of Article 87(1) of the Constitution, on 31st January, 2022. Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in Lok Sabha was moved by Harish Dwivedi and seconded by Shri Kamlesh Paswan. This item engaged the Lok Sabha for 15 Hours 13 minutes against allotted 12 Hours. In Rajya Sabha it was moved by Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha and seconded by Shri Shwait Malik. This item engaged the Rajya Sabha for 12 Hours 56 minutes against allotted 12 Hours. The Motions of Thanks were



(From left): The Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Pralhad Joshi briefing the media, in New Delhi on April 07, 2022. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal and the Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, V. Muraleedharan are also seen.

discussed and adopted after reply from the Hon'ble Prime Minister by the two Houses during the first part of the Session.

The Union Budget for 2022- 23 was presented on Tuesday, the 1st of February, 2022. General Discussion on the Union Budget was held in both Houses in the first part of the Session. This engaged the Lok Sabha for 15 Hours 35 minutes against allotted 12 Hours and Rajya Sabha for 11 Hours 01 minute against allotted 11 Hours.

In the Rajya Sabha the working of the Ministries of Development of North Eastern Region, Tribal Affairs, Railways and Labour and Employment were discussed. The discussion of the working of Ministry of Labour and Employment, however, remained inconclusive. During this Session a total of 13 Bills (12 in Lok Sabha and 01 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced. 13 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 11 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament is 11. Some of the major Bills passed by both Houses during the Session are as under :

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, to authorise for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.
The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to (i) unify the three municipal corporations into a single, integrated and well equipped entity; (ii) ensure a robust mechanism for synergised and strategic planning

and optimal utilisation of resources; (iii) bring about greater transparency, improved governance and more efficient delivery of civic service for the people of Delhi.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022, to amend Part XV.—Tripura of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to insert "Darlong" community as a sub-tribe of "Kuki" after sub-tribe "(iii) Chhalya" in entry 9 in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022, to omit Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes in relation to the State of Jharkhand and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Jharkhand.

Further, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 was also passed by Lok Sabha which seeks to— (a) prohibit financing of any activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems; (b) empower the Central Government to— (i) freeze, seize or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources for preventing such financing; (ii) prohibit making available funds, financial assets or economic resources for any prohibited activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

The productivity of Lok Sabha during the Budget Session, 2022 was approx. 129% and that of Rajya Sabha was 98%.



Photographs of the eight journalists have gone viral on social media, where they could be seen standing inside a police station in semi-naked condition.

MP POLICE ARREST JOURNALISTS, FORCE THEM TO GET NAKED FOR COVERING BJP MLA STORY

A group of video journalists were arrested and stripped down by Madhya Pradesh police for covering stories of BJP MLA. They alleged that they were abused, beaten up and asked to strip by some police personnel when they went to cover a protest against a local BJP MLA. The incident was reported on April 2.

As per reports, the journalists went to cover the arrest of Neeraj Kunder who was arrested for making indecent remarks about BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla for using a fake ID.

These journalists were detained by the police after a complaint was registered by Shukla. Shukla alleged that they were running fake news against him. Photographs of the eight journalists have gone viral on social media, where they could be seen standing inside a police station in semi-naked condition.

One of the journalists, Kanishka Tiwari runs a YouTube channel in local language Bagheli and has more than one lakh followers. *Source: TNS*

OVER 100 MORE MILITARY ITEMS FACE IMPORT BAN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday, March 7, released the third list of more than 101 military systems and weapons that will come under an import ban over the next five years and be developed indigenously, in a fresh impetus to the Indian armament industry. The list includes naval utility helicopters, lightweight tanks, submarine-launched cruise missiles, naval anti-drone systems, battlefield surveillance radars and artillery gun systems.

"Today, it gives me great pleasure to release the third positive indigenisation list of 101 defence equipment and platforms to the nation. The release of this list shows the fast pace of our self-reliance in the defence sector," he said.

The third list also comprised next generation offshore patrol vessels, MF Star radars for ships, medium-range anti-ship missiles, advanced lightweight torpedos, high endurance autonomous underwater vehicles, medium altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicles and loitering munitions.

The first "positive indigenisation" list of 101 items that included towed artillery guns, short-range surface-to-air missiles, cruise missiles and offshore patrol vessels was issued in August 2020. *Source: PTI*

China hackers targeted power grids near Ladakh, says report

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Chinese hackers targeted power grids in north India over the last several months including in March this year, a US-based private cybersecurity firm has claimed. It said the seven targeted State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) were "in proximity to the disputed India-China border in Ladakh".

Using a family of malware called ShadowPad, these hackers targeted SLDCs in north Indian states, according to a report released by Recorded Future, a Massachusetts-based cyber security firm that describes itself as specialising in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of threat intelligence.

The hackers are backed by Chinese state entities, the report said, linking the use of the trojan ShadowPad and hacking groups to the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese Ministry of State Security.

It said the company had informed the Indian authorities before publication of the report.

"In recent months, we observed likely network intrusions targeting at least 7 Indian State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) responsible for carrying out real-time operations for grid control and electricity dispatch within these respective states. Notably, this targeting has been geographically concentrated, with the identified SLDCs located in North India, in proximity to the disputed India-China border in Ladakh," the report said.

The report said the hackers, named by the firm as Threat Activity Group (TAG) 38, also targeted an emergency response force, and an Indian subsidiary of a



multinational logistics company.

Although the report did not identify the targets, a blank map in the report pinpoints the locations of the attacks in the areas of Jammu, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana-Rajasthan.

Speaking on the sidelines of a clean energy ministerial meet in the national capital, Power Minister R K Singh acknowledged attempts were made by China, but added India's defences against such intrusions were strong.

"Our defence against cyber attack is strong. These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not succeed. But we are aware," he said. He also said action was taken way

back in 2018 against suspected cyber attacks on the country's power supply system. "We had put protocols in place. Those protocols are working and we are strengthening those protocols every day. So, our cyber defence against cyber attack is strong. We are confident about that," Singh asserted.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We have seen the reports. There is a mechanism in place so that our critical infrastructure remains resilient in such cases... We have systems in place to safeguard critical infrastructure... I don't have any information that we have raised the issue with China."

India-US 2+2 talks on April 11

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India on Thursday said its 2+2 dialogue with the US next week will provide an opportunity to exchange views on important regional and global developments and how both sides can work together to address common interests and concerns.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold the talks with US Defence Secretary Llyod Austin and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on April 11 in Washington.

The unfolding situation in Ukraine is expected to be discussed.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "The dialogue would enable both sides to undertake a comprehensive review of cross-cutting issues in the India-US bilateral agenda related to foreign policy, defence and security."

Why India abstained from UN resolution suspending Russia from rights body

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India on Thursday, April 7, abstained from voting on the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly seeking Russia's suspension from the human rights council "for reasons of both substance and process," said TS Tirumurti, permanent representative to the United Nations. "We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process, as all our democratic polity and structures enjoin us to do. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," he said on Thursday as the UNGA made a rare move to suspend Russia from the rights body. This is only the second time in the history of the intergovernmental organisation that it has taken such an action against a country after Libya was suspended in 2011.

"We do so for both reasons of substance and process. Since the inception of the Ukrainian conflict, India has stood for peace, dialogue and diplomacy. We believe that no solution can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of lives. If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence," Tirumurti said at the UNGA.

"We continue to remain deeply

concerned at the worsening situation and reiterate our call for an end to all hostilities. When innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail as the only viable option," he added.

The envoy also stressed that India condemns the killings in Bucha. "We support the call for an independent investigation. The impact of the conflict can be felt with the increasing food and energy costs, especially for many developing countries. It is in our interest - both inside the UN and outside - seeking an early end to the conflict.

The resolution received a two-thirds majority of those voting, minus abstentions, in the 193-member assembly, with 93 nations voting in favour and 24 against. Those abstaining, included India, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia.

"This is not the first time that a Member State has had its membership of the Human Rights Council suspended. Libya lost its seat in 2011, following repression of protests by ruler Muammar Gaddafi, who was later overthrown," the UN said in a statement. *Source: HT*

India in history this Week

APRIL 8, 2022, TO APRIL 14, 2022

08 APRIL

1857 On the day of 1857, Mangal Pandey, a soldier of the Barrackpore Regiment of British India, was hanged for the crime of breaching military discipline and murder.

1894 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the author of India's national song "Vande Mataram", died in 1894.

1929 On this day in 1929, revolutionary Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs at the Central Legislative Assembly at Delhi.

1950 After the 1950 India-Pakistan partition, on this day both countries had entered into an agreement with a view to securing the rights of the minorities living in their respective countries and ending the possibilities of war between the two countries in future.

1831 The famous social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy arrived in England in 1831.

1985 The border war between India and Pakistan started in 1985, also known as the Second War of Kashmir.

2008 The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka declared Sikhs as a minority in their state.

09 APRIL

1669 Aurangzeb, the emperor of the Mughal Empire, ordered the demolition of all Hindu schools and temples in 1669.

1965 A battle broke out between the Indian and Pakistan Army in the Rann of Kutch.

2004 The Supreme Court of Portugal asked for a re-review of the extradition order of India, the wanted mafia kingpin Abu Salem, in several criminal cases in India.

2011 IIPM Rabindranath Tagore International Peace Prize was announced to Anna Hazare for anti-corruption campaign in 2011.

1893 Rahul Sankrityayan was born, he is given the title of Mahapandit. Rahul Sankrityayan is counted among the leading writers of Hindi. His research on Buddhism is considered epoch-making in Hindi literature.

10 APRIL

1894 Birth of Indian industrialist Ghanshyamdas Birla.

1995 Fifth Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai passed away with Bharat Ratna.

1875 Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Aryasamaj in 1875.



1889 Ram Chandra Chatterjee became the first Indian to fly in a hot balloon in 1889.

1930 Synthetic Rabak was first produced in 1930.

1982 Successful launch of India's multi-purpose satellite "INSAT-1A" in 1982.

2001 Tehran Declaration signed between India and Iran.

1897 Born in 1897 to Prafulla Chandra Sen, a



prominent Congress leader of Bengal, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and a freedom fighter.

1894 Birth of Indian industrialist Ghanshyamdas Birla in 1894.

11 APRIL

1869 Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi, was born in 1869.

1919 The International Labor Organization was established in 1919.

1921 The first live commentary of the Games was broadcast on radio.



1930 A 124-meter swinging bridge made of steel wires was opened to the public in Rishikesh. It was named Laxman Jhula.

1999 The Agni 2 missile was tested in 1999.

2011 Pulitzer Prize for Indian-origin American writer Jhumpa Lahiri for her debut work 'Interpreter of Melladies'.

1964 The Communist Party of India was divided into two parts. The main party is called the Communist Party of India and the second party that was divided was named Communist Party (Marxist).

1910 Anant Laxman Kanhere, one of the young revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the independence of the country, died in 1910.

1801 Ranjit Singh himself declared Maharaja of Punjab.

12 APRIL

1885 Birth of famous historian Rakhaldas Banerjee who discovered Mohenjodaro.

2007 Pakistan approves India on Iran Gas Pipeline.

1621 Birth of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1621.

1978 The country's first double-decker train Sinhagad Express was run from the Victoria Terminal of Bombay (now Mumbai) to Pune to mark 125 years of Indian Railways.

2008 Three people, including two Indian engineers, were killed in a suicide attack on a convoy of Indians in Afghanistan in 2008.



2014 The famous lyricist Gulzar was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2013 in 2014.

13 APRIL

1699 The tenth Sikh Guru Govind Singh founded the Khalsa Panth. The festival of Baisakhi is made on this

day every year.



1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, indicative of the culmination of the atrocities of the British, was carried out.

1984 The Indian Army started a campaign of armed forces to occupy the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.

1947 Diplomatic relations established between India and Pakistan.

1984 Indian cricket team won the Asia Cup for the first time by defeating Pakistan by 58 runs in Sharjah.

1648 Construction of the Red Fort was completed in 1648.

1939 The Hindustani Red Army (Indian Red Army) was formed in India in 1939 for an armed struggle with the British.

1952 The session of the first parliament of independent India started in 1952.

1978 The first flag carrier of the country "INS" was demoted to Delhi in 1978.

1994 The Golden Jubilee session of Escape concluded in 1994 in New Delhi.

2000 Lara Dutta was elected Miss Universe in 2000.

2005 Vishwanathan Anand became 'World Chess Champion' for the fourth time in 2005.

14 APRIL

1891 Architect of Indian Constitution BR Ambedkar born.



2008 Start of passenger rail service between Kolkata in India and Dhaka in Bangladesh for the first time since 1965.

1659 Aurangzeb defeated Dara in 1659 at the Battle of Delhi.

1563 Arjun Dev, the tenth Sikh Guru, was born in 1563.

1944 A ship loaded with weapons exploded in the port of Mumbai, killing more than 1200.

1962 Renowned Indian engineer M. Visveshwaraya, who was awarded Bharatharatna, died in 1962.

1995 India became the Asia Cup cricket champion for the fourth time in 1995.

2005 India and the US entered into an agreement to open their own flight areas to each other's airlines.



JOSEPH SALADINO

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor

The Town Board and
South Asian Advisory Board would like to
invite you to

VAISAKHI

Happy Baisakhi

May Your Baisakhi be blessed
with the bounty of the season
and a Harvest of joy and prosperity!

Thursday, April 14th
6pm - 8pm

Town Hall North
54 Audrey Avenue
Oyster Bay NY

For more information please call (516) 624-6380



Harry Malhotra (917) 325 4903

REELABILITIES FILM FEST RETURNS

BY MABEL PAIS

The ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York returns for its 14th annual event, April 7-13, 2022 organized and hosted by The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM) located at 334 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10023.

It is the largest festival in the U.S. dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with disabilities. It is a completely hybrid event - in person and virtual - at the JCC Manhattan and across New York City, April 7-13.

OPENING NIGHT



Opening Night: "The Specials."

Photo / MMJCCM, 2022

The festival's Opening Night selection is Olivier Nakache and Éric Toledano's acclaimed film **THE SPECIALS**, starring Vincent Cassel, Reda Kateb, Helene Vincent, and Brian Mialoundama. It will screen April 7th, at 7 pm at the IAC Screening Room located at 555 W. 18th Street NY 10011, co-presented by Vimeo. Q&A with special guests from the film, follows.

CLOSING NIGHT



Closing Night: "Imperfect."

Photo / MMJCCM, 2022

The Closing Night film will be the New York premiere of Brian Malone and Regan Linton's documentary **IMPERFECT**, which follows an award-winning theater group consisting of actors who live and perform with the uniqueness of disability as they set out to claim their place in the spotlight with a production of the beloved musical "Chicago." Following these actors' lives inside and outside the theater, curtains are drawn open to overlooked talent and the power of the human condition in its many forms. It will screen on April 13th at 7 pm at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan.

FESTIVAL LINEUP

AMAZING GRACE

Dir. Lynn Montgomery | United States | 55 min | Documentary. Disabilities Represented: Acute Flaccid Myelitis/Quadriplegia, Guillain-Barre syndrome/Paraplegia

ANY GIVEN DAY

Dir. Margaret Byrne | United States | 93 min | Documentary. Disabilities Represented: Mental illness

HERE. IS. BETTER.

Dir. Jack Youngelson | United States | 95 min | Documentary. Disabilities represented: PTSD

IMPERFECT | CLOSING NIGHT

Dir. Brian Malone, Regan Linton | United States | 78

min | Documentary. Disabilities represented: Paralysis, Cerebral Palsy, Blindness, Autism, Multiple Sclerosis, Polio

ME TO PLAY

Dir. Jim Bernfield | United States | 72 min | Documentary.

Disabilities represented: Parkinson's disease

MOVE ME

Dir. Kelsey Peterson, Daniel Klein | United States | 81 min | Documentary

Disabilities represented: Spinal cord injury/disorder

NO BONE: SCARS OF SURVIVAL

Dir. Marc Schiller | UK | 90 min | Documentary

Disabilities represented: Stroke victim

ONLY I CAN HEAR

Dir. Matsui Itaru | Japan | 54 min | Documentary

Disabilities represented: Children of Deaf Adults

POPPY

Dir. Linda Niccol | New Zealand | 98 min | Narrative

Disabilities represented: Down syndrome

THE BLIND MAN WHO DID NOT WANT TO SEE

TITANIC

Dir. Teemu Nikki | Finland | 81 min | Narrative

Disabilities represented: Multiple sclerosis, Blindness

THE OTHER TOM

Dir. Rodrigo Pla, Laura Santullo | Mexico | 111 min | Narrative. Disabilities represented: ADHD

THE SPECIALS | OPENING NIGHT

Dir. Olivier Nakache, Éric Toledano | France, Belgium | 114 min | Narrative

Disabilities represented: Autism

SHORT FILMS

6,000 WAITING

Dir. Michael Joseph McDonald | United States | 29 min | Documentary

Disability represented: Down syndrome, Autism

A CRITTER FABLE

Dir. Grace Fisher | United States | 8 min | Animation

Disability represented: Down syndrome, Autism

A MORNING WITH AROHA

Dir. Nicholas Riini | New Zealand | 11 min | Narrative

Type of disability: Down syndrome

HOLD ON TO ME

Dir. Luca Arcidiacono | Italy | 20 min | Narrative

Disability represented: Down syndrome

AIMEE VICTORIA

Dir. Chrystee Pharris | United States | 11 min

Disability represented: Deafness

BEAT LINGO

Dir. Jose Navas | United States | 16 min | Narrative

Disability represented: Mutism

BEAUTIFUL

Dir. Mulan Fu | United States | 6 min | Animation

Disability represented: Breast cancer

BORDERLINE COFFEE

Dir. Jeff Ayars | United States | 10 min | Short

Disability represented: Borderline personality disorder

DAVEY'S LULLABY

Dir. Adam Douglas Deyoe | United States | 9 min | Animation. Disability represented: Down syndrome

DAWN

Dir. Timon Birkhofer | United States | 5 min | Documentary. Disabilities represented: Five different physical disabilities

DWARFO-PSYCHOSIS

Dir. Maria DiDomenico | United States | 5 min | Narrative Short. Disability represented: Dwarfism

FREEBIRD

Dir. Michael Joseph McDonald, Joe Bluhm | Canada | 5 min | Animation

Disability represented: Down syndrome

ILLUSTRATING SAM NEWTON

Dir. Lily Drummond | United States | 28 min | Narrative short

Disability represented: Deafness

LOUIS' SHOES

Dir. Théo Jamin, Kayu Leung, Marion Philippe, Jean-Géraud Blanc France | 5 min | Animation

Disability represented: Autism

LOCKDOWN TALE

Dir. Cameron Carr, Marie Trudolubova |

United Kingdom | 6 min | Animation Disability represented: Autism

MY OWN LANDSCAPES

Dir. Antoine Chapon | United States | 19 min | Documentary Disability represented: PTSD

NICK LIGHTNING

Dir. Pat Taggart | United States | 27 min | Documentary Disability represented: Autism, ADHD

PROSOPAGNOSIA

Dir. Steven Fraser | United Kingdom | 10 min | Animation, Documentary

Disability represented: Face blindness, Autism

SEE THROUGH

Dir. Eyal Resh | United States | 9 min | Narrative Short Disability represented: Deafness

SIGNS AND GESTURES

Dir. Itandehui Jansen | United Kingdom | 12 min | Narrative Short Disability represented: Blindness, hearing impairment

SILENT WORLD

Dir. Charlie Dennis | United Kingdom | 10 min | Narrative Short Disability represented: Deafness

THE BODY IS A HOUSE OF FAMILIAR ROOMS

Dir. Eloise Sherrid, Lauryn Welch |

United States | 10 min | Animation, Documentary

Disability represented: Ehlers-Danlos syndrome

THE MULTI

Dir. Storm Smith, Natasha Ofili | United States | 18 min | Narrative Short Disability represented: Deafness

TRYING

Dir. Juan Manuel Montilla "Langui" | Spain | 15 min | Narrative Short Disability represented: Physical disability

WAWEL DRAGON

Dir. Cameron Carr | United Kingdom | 6 min | Animation Disability represented: Autism

WHEELS

Dir. Smari Gunn | Iceland | 6 min | Narrative Short

Disability represented: Muscular

Dystrophy/Wheelchair user

ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York

For more information, visit ny.reelabilities.org

Reel Abilities supports:

- Person-first language (a person with a disability, not a disabled person).
- Asking people for their preferences and if they require assistance.
- Creating an inclusive environment welcoming to people with and without disabilities.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE:

ReelAbilities strives for inclusion of all people. All films are screened with open captions and all venues are wheelchair accessible. ASL interpretation, CART, Audio Description, and information in Braille are available upon advance request. Individuals needing accommodations to participate should contact the screening venue directly in advance of the event.

TICKETS : For Tickets and more information, visit reelabilities.org/newyork

The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

To learn more, visit mmjccm.org

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

MUSIC & DANCE KNOW NO BORDERS

BY MABEL PAIS

Music & Dance

- know no borders
- have the power to unite us across time and geography
- do not discriminate

FIRES OF VARANASI - April 9, 2022

The Ragamala Dance Company, founded by Artistic Director Ranees Ramaswamy and co-created by her daughters Aparna Ramaswamy & Ashwini Ramaswamy, returns with "Fires Of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim" on April 9 at 8 p.m. at The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330. This is a World Premiere production.

FIRES OF VARANASI: DANCE OF THE ETERNAL PILGRIM

"Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim" is a site-specific work and ritual for the stage where time is suspended and humans merge with the divine. The choreographers honor the cosmic trinity of Varanasi-sacred pilgrimage routes, the Ganges River, and the patron deity Shiva-and imagine a metaphorical crossing place, where one may leave the mundane and enter the world of transcendence.

"Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim" is a theatrical reimagining, with original, recorded score and scenic/lighting by French designer Willy Cessa, that expands upon the Hindu belief in a birth-death-rebirth continuum in Hindu thought to illuminate immigrant experiences of life and death in the diaspora.

RAGAMALA DANCE COMPANY & ITS CREATORS

One of the foremost classical Indian dance companies (based in Minneapolis, MN), led by the artistic matriarchy of Ranees Ramaswamy (Founder and Artistic Director), Aparna Ramaswamy (Artistic Director), and Ashwini Ramaswamy (Choreographic Associate), Ragamala Dance Company is a pioneering, intergenerational, family-run organization committed to the idea that while history is time bound, the stories we share are timeless.

Ragamala epitomizes intercultural and immigrant narratives that evoke a shared sense of humanity. The company has been hailed by "The New York Times" as "soulful, imaginative, and rhythmically contagious." The company's work in the performing arts field is expansive. Ragamala sets its gaze far beyond the stage to realize the kindred relationship between ancient and contemporary that is urgently needed in today's world. Ragamala engages in a collaborative practice with myriad artists, aesthetics, and communities, and is rooted in the idea of Bharatanatyam as a dynamic living tradition. For more information, visit ragamaladance.org

Rooted in the expansive South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam, Ragamala Dance Company manifests a kindred relationship between the ancient and the contemporary. In this evening-length performance, eleven dancers conjure a realm where time is suspended and humans merge with the divine. Award-winning creators Ranees Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy imagine a metaphorical bridge to a ritualistic world of immortality, evoking the Hindu belief of birth-death-rebirth continuum to honor immigrant experiences of life and death in the diaspora.

Watch a short video from "Fires of Varanasi":



Ranees Ramaswamy (front right) with Aparna Ramaswamy in "Fires of Varanasi."
Photo / Ragamala Dance Company.



Ashwini Ramaswamy in "Let The Crows Come."
Photo / Jayme Halbritter.

youtu.be/Z5iYeitlxxU

The Soraya (Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts)

The 2021-22 Season marks the 10th Anniversary for the celebrated Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. To learn about the Center, visit thesoraya.org

TICKETS & COVID PROTOCOLS

For Tickets & Covid protocols, visit thesoraya.org (the Soraya is located at 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330) or call 818 677 3000.

LET THE CROWS COME - April 13-15, 2022

Ashwini Ramaswamy (Minneapolis-based Choreographic Associate of the Ragamala Dance Company) along with other artists presents "Let The Crows Come" at the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC),

Wednesday-Friday, April 13-15 at 8 pm at BAC's Jerome Robbins Theater at 450 West 37th Street, Manhattan, New York city. This is the New York premiere of the production.

"Let The Crows Come" features Ashwini Ramaswamy and dancer/choreographers Berit Ahlgren and Alanna Morris. Original music by Brent Arnold, Jace Clayton, and Prema Ramamurthy. Music performed by Brent Arnold (cello), Jace Clayton (electronics), Rohan Krishnamurthy (mridangam), Roopa Mahadevan (vocals), and Arun Ramamurthy (violin). With sound design by Maury Jensen and lighting design by Mat Terwilliger.

"Let The Crows Come" was a "Best of Dance 2021" selection by The 'Washington Post.' Evoking mythology and ancestry, it uses the metaphor of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed-and in the process explores how memory and homeland channel guidance and dislocation.

With "Let the Crows Come," Ramaswamy examines ritual, tradition, and iteration through a genre bending evolution of movement and music across cultural and corporeal boundaries. In a series of solos performed by three dancers with distinct artistic lineages and movement styles- Ramaswamy (trained in Bharatanatyam), Alanna Morris (trained in Modern and African Diasporic dance traditions), and Berit Ahlgren (trained in Gaga technique)-the Bharatanatyam form is deconstructed and re-contextualized to recall a memory that has a shared origin but is remembered differently from person to person. The original score, performed live, takes inspiration from Carnatic (South Indian classical) music. Composers Jace Clayton (aka DJ/rupture) and Brent Arnold extrapolate from Prema Ramamurthy's Carnatic score, utilizing centuries-old compositional structures as the point of departure for their sonic explorations.

"My upbringing in both India and the US has encouraged a hybrid aesthetic perspective, and my work is aimed at immigrants longing to make connections between the ancestral and the current," explains Ramaswamy. "I create environments for the stage where past, present, and future intermingle; these worlds capture the disorientation and reorientation of the immigrant settling into a new land and explore how to preserve individuality while creating new spaces of convergence."

ASHWINI RAMASWAMY & OTHER ARTISTS

The foundation of Ashwini Ramaswamy's work and aesthetic direction begins with decades of dance training with her gurus-her mother Ranees Ramaswamy and sister Aparna Ramaswamy (Directors of Ragamala Dance Company), and the legendary Smt. Alarmél Valli of Chennai, India-to uphold the balance between technical rigor, physicality, grace, and expressive authenticity that is the hallmark of their Bharatanatyam lineage. The New York Times describes Ramaswamy as "weaving together, both fearfully and joyfully, the human and the divine...there is a continual flow of energy coursing through her limbs."

To learn about the other artists of "Let The Crows Come," visit bacnyc.org

Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC)

To learn more, visit bacnyc.org

TICKETS & COVID PROTOCOLS

For Tickets and Covid protocols, visit bacnyc.org or call 866 811 4111.

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



Urvashi Rautela collaborates with 'Talk dirty to me' hitmaker Jason Derulo

Actress Urvashi Rautela has announced collaboration with popular singer Jason Derulo, known for belting out hits such as 'Talk dirty to me', 'Wiggle wiggle', 'Swalla' and 'Trumpets' among many others, for their upcoming music single.

Urvashi had shared a glimpse of it on her social media and has made it official on her collaboration for the song.

Jason Derulo, on working with Urvashi, said: "It was a pleasure working with Urvashi Rautela in 'Jaanu'. She's a shining example of raw Indian beauty, and more importantly, Urvashi Rautela is not just the first, but also the second most beautiful woman in the world."

"She is an excellent and outstanding actor and performer. She is the ultimate global icon. The only Bollywood film person I know of after Shah Rukh Khan is Urvashi Rautela. She is very famous. I cannot comment on the industry, but I like the emotions and dance that Indian movies involve." *Source: IANS*

The Kapil Sharma Show promotions doesn't translate to ticket sales: John Abraham

John Abraham is all set for the release of the action thriller film *Attack*. Directed by Lakshya Raj Anand, this film also stars Jacqueline Fernandez and Rakul Preet Singh, will be hitting theatres on April 1, 2022, and the *Dhoom* actor is all out promoting it now.

During one such promotional interview, John opened up about several things including giving new talent the chance to perform, the industry (him included) belting out not so impressive movies and promoting the upcoming on platforms including the much-loved *The Kapil Sharma show*. Read on to know all he said.

A while ago, John Abraham, *Attack* director Lakshya Raj Anand and music director Shashwat Sachdev were interviewed for a video by *Tried & Refused Productions* YouTube channel. While there, the *Garam Masala* got candid about belting out not so great films. The *Desi Boys* actor said, "I had a franchise that worked, and I belted out something that was just the opposite for the second part. Why did I do it? Because I succumbed to the diktats of commercialism. And because it was a part two, I said, 'Hey, listen...' And if you see all the part twos that are releasing now, it's like..."

John Abraham continued, "I'm not trying to hard-sell this film. I have no qualms about being ripped apart for something I've done badly... The fact of the matter is, if you don't call a spade a



spade, you're going to be stuck." In the same conversation, John also said that he doesn't believe in item numbers in his films, and sometimes, it shows on his face even on screen.

In the same conversation, John Abraham also spoke about promoting the film on different platforms. While stating that *Attack* director Lakshya Raj Anand gets hyper about the film's

marketing, John added that promoting a film on *The Kapil Sharma Show* doesn't translate into ticket sales. Citing Vivek Agnihotri's *The Kashmir Files* became a success without traditional marketing, he said, "He (Anand) took me to Kapil Sharma, saying 'I want you to be on Kapil Sharma'. I like Kapil, he's a nice boy, but it doesn't translate to ticket sales."

Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor to marry on 15th April

With so many dates and information on Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's hush-hush wedding floating out there, many are already tired of reading the articles. But, *Pinkvilla* has got you covered. We have with us a very big report on the lovebirds' actual wedding date and the 'logic' behind the date.

The much-awaited wedding of the power couple Ranbir Kapoor & Alia Bhatt is just around the corner. *Pinkvilla* was the first one to reveal about the wedding, which is taking place at the Kapoors' ancestral house 'RK House' in Chembur. Since then, the media has been behind this Big Fat Wedding to dig out the information. But now, there is a slight change in the plan, Ranbir Kapoor & family's Mehendi function on 13th April will take place at RK House.

We waited patiently for our reliable source to confirm the original date of Ranbir Alia's wedding. And no, neither it's happening on the 14th of April nor on the 17th of April. *Source: Pinkvilla*



Ileana D'Cruz's New Dance Track 'Ooo Ooo' Is Out

The groovy dance track 'Ooo Ooo' featuring Bollywood actress Ileana D'Cruz and singer-composer Qaran, was released on Wednesday, April 6. The track, which has flavours of urban and contemporary music, has been composed and sung by Qaran with lyrics by Qaran and Siddhesh Patole.

The song has been conceptualised and created by Vidit Chitroda and directed by Avinash Jai Singh. It features reggaeton inflections powered by guitars and an infectious groove. Talking about the song, Ileana D'Cruz said, "When I heard 'Ooo Ooo' I couldn't stop grooving to the track, it was right up my alley. Qaran and I had a blast filming the song and I can't wait for everyone to listen to it."

Sharing the idea behind the song, Qaran said, "'Ooo Ooo' is a song that I've always wanted to make. Something which puts a smile on peoples faces and gives them a feeling of positivity and happiness. In my opinion, this song and the energy it brings is the perfect way to usher the world back into a state of a relative normalcy after 2 years of uncertainty." *Source: IANS*





Robert Downey Jr partners with HBO Max to produce 2 Sherlock Holmes Spin-Offs

Before Benedict Cumberbatch made his name synonymous with Sherlock Holmes, just a year before that (2009), it was Robert Downey Jr who played the character and was highly loved for it. The actor played the iconic British spy based on the books and his version of him did bring footfalls to the theatres. The biggest mystery around the franchise has been the future and possibility of the third movie. But looks like, while RDJ is moving slowly with the threequel, he is also expanding the Holmes universe.

For the unversed, RDJ known for his role as Iron Man aka Tony Stark in the Marvel Cinematic Universe played the iconic detective in 2 movies. Sherlock Holmes (2009) and A Game Of Shadow (2011). Based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel, the movies went on to earn \$524 Million and \$544 Million respectively. A third Holmes movie featuring Robert and to be directed by Dexter Fletcher is in development.

But while that awaits on the back burner to be resurrected, Robert Downey Jr has joined hand with HBO Max to make two spinoff shows to Sherlock Holmes, expanding the Detective universe further. Read on to know everything you should about it at the same time.

Kim Kardashian opens up on how serious she's with Pete Davidson

Kim Kardashian speaks about her relationship with Pete Davidson, revealing how serious things are between the two. Their romance is one of the least expected ones people have seen. What started as rumours after Kim appeared on SNL became true when the two were spotted hanging out on several occasions.

The SKIMS founder split with Kanye West, who were married for seven years, in 2021. When things became more and more serious between her and Pete, West started to rant about the comedian, thus starting their infamous online feud. Things have seemed to die down ever since Ye's Instagram was suspended.

But who knows what happens behind the closed curtains. Meanwhile, amid all the drama between Kanye West and Pete Davidson, Kim Kardashian has opened up about her relationship with the comedian. Kim will be appearing on Good Morning America, of which a snippet has been released.

Kim Kardashian was asked by the interviewer about how "serious" things are with Pete Davidson. "I mean, I am a relationship kind of girl, for sure," the KUWTK star said. "And I wouldn't be with someone if I didn't plan on spending a lot of my time with them," she continued. "Obviously, I wanna take my time, but I'm very happy and very content, and it's such a good feeling just to be at peace," Kim further said.

To be honest she actually seems happier now. Recently, the make-up mogul landed on the Forbes' annual world's billionaire list. As per the reports, she ranked #1,729 with a net worth of \$1.8 billion. Other than her, Kanye West also made it to the list, who is worth \$2 billion.

However, it is being said that Ye has claimed his worth is being underestimated. Meanwhile, it's not



just Kim Kardashian and Pete Davidson whose relationship is going well. Recently, Kim's sister Kourtney

Kardashian married her beau Travis Barker at a wedding chapel in Las Vegas. Source: Koimoi

Top Gun Maverick: Tom Cruise zooms in a fighter jet to May 27 release

A new trailer for Hollywood star Tom Cruise's much-anticipated movie 'Top Gun: Maverick' has been unveiled on Tuesday and it shows the actor reviving his iconic role of Captain Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell, now a high-flying test pilot and instructor.

The film is a sequel to the 1986 hit movie Top Gun and has all the elements -- thrill, drama and action to keep the moviegoers glued to the screens.

The sequel is set decades after the 1986 movie and features actor Miles Teller as the son of Anthony Edwards' pilot Goose, who is killed during a training exercise in the first movie.

The trailer is loaded with scenes of thrill, drama, suspense and action. It shows

plenty of shots of Maverick jetting across barren landscapes and over mountain ridges. It also features some spectacular action shots.

Top Gun: Maverick also stars Jennifer Connelly, Lewis Pullman, Charles Parnell, Jay Ellis, Jon Hamm, Ed Harris, Bashir Salahuddin, Danny Ramirez and Monica Barbaro.

Joe Kosinski has directed the film, from a script by Peter Craig, Justin Marks and Eric Warren Singer.

Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced the first movie with the late Don Simpson, also produced the upcoming film with Cruise and Skydance CEO David Ellison. Top Gun: Maverick arrives in theatres on May 27.

Source: ANI



UK WATCHDOG SUSPENDS LICENSE OF KHALSA TV AFTER CHANNEL BREACHED BROADCASTING RULES



LONDON (TIP): The UK's media watchdog has suspended the license of Khalsa Television Limited after an investigation found its KTV channel breached broadcasting rules with Khalistani propaganda.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) announced its decision this week after serving a suspension notice on the company over a "Prime Time" program, broadcast on KTV on December 30 last year, for a breach of the Broadcasting Code with content likely to "encourage or incite the commission of a crime or lead to disorder". The communications regulator said the 95-minute live discussion included material likely to "incite violence". "The presenter of the program made a number of statements throughout the program which, taken together, promoted violent action, including murder, as an acceptable and necessary form of action to further the Khalistani cause. This was a serious breach of our rules on incitement of crime and disorder," Ofcom said in a statement.

TURKISH COURT HALTS KHASHOGGI TRIAL, TRANSFERS IT TO SAUDI ARABIA

ISTANBUL (TIP): A Turkish court on April 7 halted the trial of Saudi suspects over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and transferred it to Saudi Arabia, a ruling that drew condemnation from rights groups and comes as Ankara mends ties with Riyadh. The decision was expected after the prosecutor called last week for the trial in absentia of 26 Saudi suspects to be transferred from Istanbul to Riyadh. The justice minister later endorsed the request, which was initially sought by Riyadh. Khashoggi's killing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul four years ago raised a global outcry and put pressure on Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Turkish officials said they believe Khashoggi, a prominent critic of the crown prince, was killed and his body dismembered in an operation which President Tayyip Erdogan said had been ordered at the "highest levels" of the Saudi Government. Hatice Cengiz, Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée who was waiting outside the consulate on October 2, 2018, when he entered to retrieve documents for their upcoming marriage, said she was surprised and saddened by the "political" decision. "Saudi Arabia is a country where we know there is no justice. No one expects a just decision there," she said. — Reuters

Shanghai becomes new Covid-19 epicentre with record cases for sixth consecutive day

BEIJING (TIP): Shanghai, the global financial hub and China's biggest city, has become the epicentre of Covid-19 cases in the country as it set a record of six-straight days of logging around 20,000 cases, as the city ramped up mass testing to tackle the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

The Chinese mainland reported 1,284 new locally-transmitted Covid-19 cases, including 322 in Shanghai, on Wednesday, China's National Health Commission reported on April 7.

April 5 also saw 21,784 new asymptomatic cases, including 19,660 in Shanghai, it said.

Shanghai with a population of about 26 million, which remained under lockdown for several days, has already conducted three rounds of mass testing.

Shanghai's latest caseloads have established it as China's new epicentre for the latest outbreak, pushing the national caseload to 22,995, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

The outbreak in Shanghai, caused by the highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid-19, is becoming so serious that the city's ruling Communist Party sent an open letter to rally members to help front-line health workers in their quest to find and snuff out the disease, the report said.

It was the second letter since March 24 by cadres in the city where the party was established a century ago.

China has already rushed thousands of personnel from various medical services of the military to Shanghai in a similar move to contain the coronavirus in Wuhan, where Covid-19 first emerged in 2019, December.

Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan, a member of the party's Politburo, has been in Shanghai since Saturday to oversee the



city's anti-pandemic work.

Shanghai has reported 114,000 cases since the latest wave of outbreaks started on March 1, recording more cases in a month than the previous two years combined.

Wednesday's new infection numbers surpassed the 13,436 cases recorded on February 12, 2000 in Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak was first reported, the Post report said.

The city was under lockdown to enable health authorities to carry out a fresh round of mass tests since Sunday to spot every infection and break the transmission chain. The city had already undergone three rounds of tests involving every single resident, from April 3 to 6.

Meanwhile, chaos had broken out in sporadic areas since Shanghai's lockdown. People jostled and fought for food at the Nanhui quarantine centre on

Wednesday before authorities brought the mayhem under control, the Post quoted blog posts on social media.

"Trust in the local government has been eroded over the past few weeks since their pledge to protect people and ensure adequate food supply proved to be empty promises," said Gordon Zhu, a Shanghai-based software developer.

"Many people are starving amid the shutdown and they are desperate for meat, vegetables and rice," he said, the Post reported.

The coronavirus first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late December, 2019. The deadly disease has killed at least 6,167,500 people across the world, according to Johns Hopkins University Covid-19 tracker. The world has also reported over 495,218,000 confirmed Covid-19 cases, it says. (PTI)

Cargo plane breaks into 2 half as it skids off runaway in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (TIP): A DHL cargo jet slid off the runway and broke in half while landing at San Jose's international airport April 7, shutting down the airport, but not injuring crew.

The fire department said the Boeing 757 had taken off from Juan Santamaría Airport just west of the capital, but decided to return after detecting a failure in the hydraulic system.

Héctor Chaves, director the Costa Rica Fire Department, said that upon landing the aircraft skidded, turned and broke in two, exposing its cargo.

"Units mobilised to remove the pilot and co-pilot," Chaves said. "Then they applied foam to prevent a spill and now they are working on an earthen dike to



avoid any fuel from reaching the drainage system." A spokesman for cargo carrier DHL said both pilots were unharmed but one was being undergoing a medical check as a precaution.

DHL spokesman Daniel McGrath said the company was working with airport authorities to move the plane so flights could resume. He said an investigation would be conducted to determine the

cause of the incident.

DHL is a subsidiary of Deutsche Post DHL Group.

Luis Miranda, deputy director of civil aviation for Costa Rica, said the plane had gone only about 35 miles from the airport when it requested permission to turn back from its planned flight to Guatemala City. He said the pilot and co-pilot were the only crew members aboard the plane, which was carrying only about 2½ hours worth of fuel.

The airport administration said the crash would keep the airport closed to incoming and outgoing flights until at least 6 p.m. Some flights would be diverted to Daniel Oduber International Airport in Liberia, about 125 miles northwest of San Jose. AP

210 children in over 5,000 people killed in Ukraine's Mariupol since Russian invasion, claims Mayor

ANDRIIVKA (UKRAINE) (TIP): The mayor of the besieged port city of Mariupol put the number of civilians killed there at more than 5,000 on April 6, as Ukraine collected evidence of Russian atrocities on the ruined outskirts of Kyiv and braced for what could become a climactic battle for control of the country's industrial east.

Ukrainian authorities continued gathering up the dead in shattered towns outside the capital amid telltale signs Moscow's troops killed civilians indiscriminately before retreating over the past several days.

In other developments, the US and its Western allies moved to impose new sanctions against the Kremlin over what they branded war crimes.

And Russia completed the pullout of all of its estimated 24,000 or more troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv areas in the north, sending them into Belarus or Russia to resupply and reorganize, probably to return to the fight in the east, a US defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said.

In his nightly address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that the Russian military continues to build up its forces in preparation for the new offensive in the east, where the Kremlin has said its goal is to "liberate" the Donbas, Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking industrial heartland. He said Ukraine, too, was preparing for battle.

"We will fight and we will not retreat," he said.

"We will seek all possible options to defend ourselves until Russia begins to



seriously seek peace. This is our land. This is our future. And we won't give them up."

Ukrainian authorities urged people living in the Donbas to evacuate now, ahead of an impending Russian offensive, while there is still time.

"Later, people will come under fire," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said, "and we won't be able to do anything to help them."

A Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence estimates, said it will take Russia's battle-damaged forces as much as a month to regroup for a major push on eastern Ukraine.

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boichenko said

that of the more than 5,000 civilians killed during weeks of Russian bombardment and street fighting, 210 were children.

He said Russian forces bombed hospitals, including one where 50 people burned to death.

Boichenko said more than 90 per cent of the city's infrastructure has been destroyed. The attacks on the strategic southern city on the Sea of Azov have cut off food, water, fuel and medicine and pulverized homes and businesses.

British defence officials said 160,000 people remained trapped in the city, which had a pre-war population of 430,000. A humanitarian relief convoy accompanied by the Red Cross has been trying for days without success to get into the city. (AP)

UKRAINE URGES NATO TO PROVIDE MORE WEAPONS

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine told residents of its industrial heartland to leave while they still can and urged Western nations to send "weapons, weapons, weapons" on April 7 after Russian forces withdrew from the shattered outskirts of Kyiv to regroup for an offensive in the country's east.

Russia's six-week-old invasion failed to take Ukraine's capital quickly and achieve what Western countries say was President Vladimir Putin's initial aim to oust the Ukrainian Government. Russia's focus is now on the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking region in eastern Ukraine.

In Brussels, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged NATO to provide more weapons for his country to help prevent further atrocities. — AP

HOLD RUSSIA ACCOUNTABLE: ZELENSKY AT UN

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the United Nations Security Council that "accountability must be inevitable" for Russia as he accused Russian troops of committing "the most terrible war crimes" since World War II.

Zelenskyy showed a short video of burned, bloodied and mutilated bodies, including children, in Irpin, Dmymerka, Mariupol and Bucha.

He questioned the value of the 15-member UN Security Council, which has been unable to take any action over Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine because Moscow is a veto power, along with the United States, France, Britain and China.

"We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the UN Security Council into the right to (cause) death," Zelenskyy said in a live video address, urging reform of the world body.

"Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves," he said. Russia's UN ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the council: "We've heard once again a huge amount of lies about Russian soldiers and military." The United Nations said some 11 million Ukrainians — more than a quarter of the population — have fled their homes. More than 4 million of those people have left Ukraine. Zelenskyy told the UN that the atrocities committed by Russian troops are no different from terrorists like the Islamic State extremists as he demanded immediate action to bring the Kremlin's forces to justice for "war crimes". "Yesterday I returned from our city of Bucha, recently liberated from Russian troops not far from Kiev. There is not a single crime that they would not commit there. The Russian military searched for and purposefully killed anyone who served our country," Zelenskyy said. — Agencies

Germany has satellite image indication of Russian involvement in Bucha killings: Security source

BERLIN (TIP): The German government has indications that Russia was involved in the killing of civilians in the Ukrainian town of Bucha based on satellite images, a security source said on April 7.

German news magazine Der Spiegel reported that the intelligence agency had intercepted radio messages from Russian military sources discussing the killing of civilians in Bucha.

"It's true that the federal government has indications of Russian perpetration in Bucha," said the source. "However, these findings on Bucha refer to satellite images. The radio transmissions cannot be clearly assigned to Bucha." The source did not elaborate. He said there was no indication of an order from the Russian armed forces' general staff regarding Bucha.

Bucha, 37 km (23 miles) northwest of



Kyiv, was occupied by Russian troops for more than a month following their Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine. Local officials say more than 300 people were killed by Russian forces in Bucha alone, and around 50 of them were executed. Moscow denies the accusations.

Spiegel said the German intelligence office had intercepted the radio messages and presented the findings in parliament on Wednesday, without giving a source for the information.

Spiegel also said there were additional sound recordings whose physical origin was harder to pinpoint, which it said suggested similar events had occurred in other Ukrainian cities.

The BND foreign intelligence office declined to comment on the matter.

A German government spokesperson declined to comment on the Spiegel report.

Ukraine has accused Russia of genocide and war crimes. The Kremlin said on Tuesday that Western allegations Russian forces executed civilians in Bucha are a "monstrous forgery" meant to discredit the Russian army and justify new Western sanctions.

Russia casts the evidence of civilian executions as a cynical ploy by Ukraine and its Western backers, who Moscow says are gripped by discriminatory anti-Russian paranoia. Reuters

LANKAN FUEL PUMPS MAY GO DRY BY APRIL END; INDIA'S USD 500 MILLION CREDIT LINE EXHAUSTING RAPIDLY

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka may run out of diesel by the end of this month with the USD 500 million line of credit extended by India for fuel purchase exhausting fast amidst the unprecedented shortage of foreign reserves.

According to officials, fuel shipments to Sri Lanka started coming in late March due to the urgency of the situation although they were scheduled to start from April 1.

Three more Indian shipments are due on April 15, 18 and 23 and the facility would be fully exhausted by then unless the Sri Lankan government sought for a further extension from India, they said.

Diesel is widely used for public transport and thermal power generation in the country.

Closure of a few thermal power plants due to lack of diesel has already caused power cuts lasting over 10 hours daily.

The country's only refinery had to be shut down twice in November 2021, since it was unable to pay for imports.

Enraged people got into the streets for endless agitations against the government, calling for its resignation for the incompetence.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) has warned President Rajapaksa about the shortage of even the most essential medicines in the island nation due to the forex related economic crisis.

The SLMA says medicine, equipment and reagents are in short supply in the health sector.

They have stopped routine surgery in order to reserve the available facilities for life threatening emergencies. Separately, garment export industry association, Sri Lanka Joint Apparel Association Forum, has also written to Rajapaksa urging short-term solutions to the current crisis.

Garment exports, mainly to the US and the European Union markets, accounts for about 6 per cent of the GDP.

On Thursday night, a group of protesters tried to break barricades opposite the Temple Trees in Colombo, the prime minister's office cum residence.

Despite the declaration of a state of emergency and a weekend curfew, people joined the protests calling for the resignation of Rajapaksa. Protesters even blocked the access roads to the Parliament.

India had in February extended a USD 500 million credit line to Sri Lanka to fund the country's fuel purchases, as the island nation struggled to overcome its worst financial and energy crisis in decades.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from the UK in 1948. (PTI)

PM Imran Khan to address nation today, calls Cabinet meeting

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on April 7 announced that he would address the nation on April 8 evening after his government suffered a setback following the Supreme Court's decision.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday restored the National Assembly after it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling against the Constitution.

Khan said a meeting of the PTI's parliamentary committee would also be convened on April 8 and he would "continue to fight for Pakistan till the last ball".

This sets the stage for a fresh no-confidence vote in the National Assembly on April 9 at a time when the political power base of the Punjab Assembly is poised on a razor's edge. In a meeting held at a private hotel in Lahore, the Opposition claimed that 199 legislators had "elected" Shahbaz Sharif's son Hamza Shahbaz Sharif as the Chief Minister.



During the hearing itself, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial noted that the Deputy Speaker's ruling is, prima facie, a violation of Article 95. "The real question at hand is what happens next. We have to look at national interests," he had said. Pakistan began undergoing

a political upheaval after the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly blocked a no-confidence motion against Khan. Subsequently, Pakistan President Arif Alvi dissolved the House and endorsed Khan's recommendation to hold fresh elections in 90 days. (TNS)

Prime Minister Deuba seeks mechanism to resolve India-Nepal border dispute

KATHMANDU (TIP): India and Nepal on April 6 discussed the Kalapani border dispute, said Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba in New Delhi. Addressing the media after holding bilateral talks, the visiting Prime Minister jointly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first cross border rail link between India and Nepal. Nepal also became the 105th member country to sign on to the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

"We discussed the boundary issue and I urged Modi to resolve it through the establishment of a bilateral mechanism," said Mr Deuba. The visit of the Nepalese leader is the first since the Kalapani boundary issue erupted in November 2019 after the revised political map of India depicted the triangular area of Kalapani-Lipulek-Limpiyadhura within the territory of Uttarakhand. In a tit-for-tat move, Kathmandu responded by placing a revised political map of the country in the national insignia of Nepal. Both sides were expected to address the issue under an existing mechanism led by the Foreign Secretaries but that meeting is yet to be announced. Nepal had earlier written to New Delhi seeking the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-level mechanism to discuss the border dispute at Kalapani.

India also urged Nepal to avoid "politicisation" of the boundary dispute. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla briefing the media after the talks said, "There was a general understanding that both sides needed to address this in a responsible manner through discussion and dialogue. In the spirit of our close and friendly relations, politicisation of such issues should be avoided." India's position on avoiding politicisation of the Kalapani issue appears to be aimed at the upcoming election season in the Himalayan country when emotive issues like the border dispute are expected to be raised during political campaigns by both the opposition led by former PM K P Sharma Oli and some sections of the ruling coalition of Nepali Congress and CPN - Maoist Center.

The two leaders inaugurated the broad gauge Jaynagar-Kurtha rail link that will establish rail connectivity to Janakpur in Nepal. India also launched the RuPay card facility in Nepal during the formal ceremony held at the Hyderabad House. "This would open new vistas for cooperation in financial connectivity, and is expected to facilitate bilateral tourist flows as well as further strengthen people to people linkages between India and Nepal," declared an official statement that was issued at the

end of official discussion here.

The two sides came out with a Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector cooperation between India and Nepal recognising "unprecedented opportunities". Prime Minister Modi and PM Deuba jointly inaugurated the 90 km long 132 KVDC Solu Corridor Transmission line and substation that were built through the Line of Credit extended by India.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Modi said, "The close friendship between India and Nepal has no comparison anywhere in the world." He welcomed the Nepalese leader's decision to visit Varanasi on Sunday where Mr Deuba is expected to visit the Vishwanath temple. Both the leaders welcomed the February 28 Nepal-India agreement to enable long term supply of fertilizers from India to Nepal, a key demand of Kathmandu to deal with the fertilizer crisis in the country. For the past few years, Nepal's agriculture sector has been suffering from a shortage of urea and chemical fertilizers. Under the G-2-G agreement, Kathmandu can import around 210,000 metric tonnes of chemical fertilizer from India annually.

India and Nepal have been working on building a tourism circuit that connects the pilgrimage sites located in the two countries. (The Hindu)

2022 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®

14TH ANNUAL COUPLES' CHOICE AWARDS HONOR THE TOP WEDDING VENDORS NATIONWIDE AND ABROAD.

INTERFAITH MARRIAGES NAMED WINNER IN 2022 WEDDINGWIRE COUPLES' CHOICE AWARDS®



TIP BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Interfaith Marriages was announced as a winner of the 2022 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®, an accolade representing the top wedding professionals across the board in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism reviewed by couples on WeddingWire, a leading wedding vendor marketplace.

To determine these distinguished wedding professionals, WeddingWire analyzed reviews within its Vendor Directory across more than 20 service categories—from venues and caterers to florists and photographers—to find the most- and highest-rated vendors of the year. The winners exhibit superior professionalism, responsiveness, service and quality when interacting with the millions of couples who turn to WeddingWire to help with their wedding planning process each month.

Wedding professionals who win WeddingWire Couple's Choice Awards® are members of WeddingPro, a leading B2B wedding brand. A marketplace and community for wedding professionals, WeddingPro connects businesses with more than 13 million unique monthly visitors who are planning weddings on WeddingWire and The Knot, as well as with hundreds of thousands of pros in the industry. Through its online marketplaces, educational programs and community-building events, WeddingPro is dedicated to helping wedding professionals build relationships with couples and pros that grow their businesses. Interfaith Marriages is honored to be one of the top vendors in Official in Washington on WeddingWire. Visit www.weddingwire.com/couples-choice-awards

About Interfaith Marriages

Interfaith Marriages is a wedding officiant service based in Washington, DC. Dr. Mike Ghouse, the company's owner, is a member of the American Marriage Ministries who specializes in marrying couples of different religions. He adopts an open approach to creating ceremonies by blending each partner's traditions, whether they are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, or non-religious. Mike believes in curating a meaningful experience for all couples who are committed to one another.

Services Offered

Interfaith Marriages is dedicated to curating memorable nuptials that celebrate the love shared between two PRESS RELEASE partners. Mike's process begins with a consultation where he can learn about the couple and their story, religious backgrounds, and vision for their ceremony. He is happy to incorporate



special readings, blessings, or traditions into the nuptials, or create something completely unique. Before the wedding day, the future spouses can finalize any details they would like to include in their service.

Mike Ghouse says: "Marriage is the most important milestone of your love relationship; indeed, it expresses a commitment to the connection between you two. When you take the bold step to become one regardless of your origins, faiths, races, cultures, and ethnicities, you must be appreciated and applauded. You are setting a new standard on how to live-in harmony despite your inherent differences. You are practicing genuine pluralism, i.e., respecting the otherness of the other and accepting the given (God/Nature) uniqueness.

Marriage is a union of two individuals for happiness and harmonious living.

"Every living organism has a built-in GPS that brings two individuals together, and from a religious perspective, it is the creator who puts love between two individuals.

"I am blessed to have officiated secular and religious ceremonies incorporating both the couple's traditions with their respective input and final approval. Whether it is Jewish-Christian, Hindu-Christian, Bahai-Jewish, Hindu Jewish, Atheist-Jain, or other combinations, the bride and groom and their families feel elated and enjoy the sense of marriage in full.

"As an Indian American, it has been my pleasure to have officiated weddings amongst Hindus, Christians, and Muslims in various combinations. We can customize the wedding with the bride and groom's input, including their family traditions."



Congratulations to Interfaith Marriages for winning the award, and we decided to interview the winner and what is behind it.

Interfaith marriages are becoming common, people from different faiths are marrying each other, and they are finding it difficult to find clergy to officiate the

wedding, as they insist on converting the other. Given this situation, we found it interesting that there are organizations that are officiating such weddings.

We sat down with Dr. Mike Ghouse, the wedding officiant with InterfaithMarriages.org, and had this conversation.



Dr. Mike Ghouse, wedding officiant with Interfaith Marriages.org

How do you get the parents to agree to get their kids married without converting?



Ghouse responded, "As a Pluralist, I believe all religions are beautiful and are designed to create secure societies for every living being. The idea of converting the other assumes that the other's faith is somehow less than yours, and that is wrong. No faith is superior to the other, each faith does its work for its believer. We talk about the essence of both their faiths and when the parents see the essence is the same but rituals are different, they lean towards the idea of interfaith marriage and we go from there."



What is your most rewarding wedding?

"The most joyous wedding was in Dallas, Texas, where a Christian father disowned his son for wanting to marry a Hindu girl, he was adamant that the girl convert and the girl did not want to convert. The father had refused to see his son for three months and I gave him a call, gradually we were mitigating his no-way stance to a possibility. After two weeks of conversation, I casually mentioned to him that I will be invoking the name of Jesus at the start of the ceremony and closing it in the name of Jesus. He could not believe it and asked me if I really meant it and I said, I did. I invited him to the wedding, he came, and did not want to come inside, but was peeking from the door. When I closed the ceremony, in the name of Jesus, may you be blessed?" He dashed in the door, gave me a hug, and then hugs his son and the new daughter-in-law. They really started celebrating. I felt so happy. However, they did not pay the honorarium, nor did they pay for the food I had arranged for them."

Keep up the good work of uniting and bringing happiness into the lives of people. We are all cheerleaders for you. Dr. Mike Ghouse.

(Dr. Mike Ghouse is President of Center For Pluralism and lives in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at (202) 290-3560 (office) and (214) 325-1916 (cell)

More about Dr. Ghouse at www.CenterforPluralism.com)

How to prevent hair loss

Every strand of hair on your head has a lifespan between about 3 to 5 years. Hair follicles have a cycle of active growth, transition, and rest. Hair loss occurs when your hair's growth cycle is disrupted.

Hair loss is most commonly caused by your genetics and becomes more common in men and women with age. The second most common cause is telogen effluvium. This condition occurs when more of your hair enters the rest cycle, during which it falls out.

Telogen effluvium can be caused by: stress, pregnancy, medication side effects, other underlying health conditions

If you're experiencing hair loss that leads to bald spots, patchiness, or large clumps of hair coming out, you should see your primary healthcare doctor or a dermatologist for a diagnosis.

Whether your hair loss is the result of a chronic or short-term health condition, you can take action to protect the hair you have. Keep reading for tips on keeping your hair healthy and strong.

How to improve hair health

You can follow a few hair hygiene tips to improve your overall hair health and possibly prevent hair loss.

Avoid hairstyles that pull on hair

Hair is flexible, but research shows that your hair can only be stretched so much before becoming permanently damaged. Hairstyles like cornrows, tight braids, and ponytails can pull your hair away from your scalp and loosen the bond between your hair and scalp over time.

Avoid high-heat hair styling tools.

Using heat to style your hair leaves your hair follicle dehydrated and vulnerable to damage. Hair dryers, hair straighteners, and curling irons can all damage your hair over time by causing moisture in your hair shafts to expand.

Don't chemically treat your hair

Chemically treating hair with methods such as bleaching damages hair by splitting protein molecules called keratin. If you're concerned about hair loss, limit your use of dyes, highlights, peroxide treatments, and perms.

Use a shampoo that's mild and suited for your hair.

The purpose of shampoo is to cleanse your hair of



dirt and excess oil. Overwashing with shampoo can potentially harm your hair. Sulfates and some other ingredients have been linked to frizz, scalp dryness, and fragile hair. There's no evidence that any specific ingredients in shampoo cause hair loss, but they might contribute to less than ideal hair health. If you notice your hair is overly dry or frizzy, try a shampoo that's as close to all-natural as possible.

Use a soft brush

Using a soft brush with fibers that are natural can potentially promote healthy oil levels on your hair. The keratin proteins in your hair are stacked like shingles on a roof, so brushing them gently in one direction, starting at the top and continuing through to the ends, can help smooth and condition your hair cuticle. Brushing hair daily can also help you avoid seeing hair clumps in your shower drain.

Try low-level light therapy

Low-level light therapy promotes cell growth and repair. It's a potentially effective treatment for male- and female-pattern baldness, the most common causes of hair loss in men and women. These genetic conditions cause a certain pattern of hair loss. For men, it starts at a receding hairline or bald spot at the crown.

FOOD

Italian Chicken



Ingredients

- 4 Pieces of Chicken Breast
- 2 Eggs ½ cup Maida
- ½ cup Chicken Stock
- ½ cup White Wine
- 3 Tbsp Lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 2 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
- 2 sprigs Parsley Salt
- Pepper to taste

Method

- Whisk eggs in a bowl and season it with salt and pepper and let it rest.
- Place the flour on a large plate and season that with salt and pepper and set aside.
- In another bowl, combine together chicken stock, lemon juice and white wine.
- Coat the chicken breast in flour, dip it in beaten egg and shallow fry it on a sauce pan. Cook for about 3 minutes till it turns golden brown. Now that the bake chicken off the pan.
- And add the wine and stock mixture to the pan and let it cook for a few minutes until it reduces slightly and thickens, add some butter, parsley, salt and pepper, continue to cook. Now add the chicken breast back in the sauce and cook them together for just another minute. Serve it hot.



Dermatologists often talk about keeping your skin 'oil-free' and endorse and recommend skincare products that are free of oil. But dermatologist Dr Apratim Goel says, "As I get a deep understanding of face oils over the years, I admit that it is an amazing world with so many ingredients and most of them are therapeutic. Not only are face oils a cure for dry skin, but they are also effective at treating a wide range of skin conditions, right from hyperpigmentation, stretch marks to acne."

What is it

Experts say that face oils are soft and light preparations that have natural oils like avocado, argan, olive, sesame etc, as their base along with therapeutic ingredients. Dermatologist Dr Soma Sarkar says, "We recommend argan, almond and olive oils for the face. These oils have moisturizing properties, are used in many face

Try face oils for healthier skin

products and are great for dry skins. Women who have oily, acne prone skin can use tea-tree oil — avoid applying on the entire face — use an ear bud to apply a drop of tea tree oil on the acne."

Why use face oils

Face oils have many benefits thanks to the different ingredients. Here are a few of them... w Rich in antioxidants Many botanical oils, including argan, passion fruit etc are potent antioxidants. A few drops can be used under your sunscreen or foundation. It works as a moisturizer as well as a primer.

Prevents inflammation

Some oils like argan oil have anti-inflammatory properties and prevent inflammation caused by other active ingredients. Hence, they are ideal bases for skin formulations.

Great hydrants

These oils are lipophilic in nature and they penetrate through the lipid layer of the skin and prevent water or moisture loss. For example olive oil, coconut oil etc.

Anti-ageing properties

Since the oils are combined with anti-ageing ingredients like retinol, glycolic acid and vitamin C, they help in faster and deeper penetration of these molecules into the skin, thereby augmenting the anti-ageing benefits. It also counters the irritation caused by these molecules.

Combats rosacea

Certain aroma oils like orange, tea tree, peppermint etc actually help in reducing acne and rosacea. However this should be done after consultation with an expert.

Social media use impacts wellbeing in teens: Study

Girls and boys might be more vulnerable to the negative effects of social media use at different times during their adolescence, according to a UK research.

In a study involving University of Oxford and Cambridge experts published in 'Nature Communications', data shows that girls experience a negative link between social media use and life satisfaction when they are 11-13 years old and boys when they are 14-15 years old.

Increased social media use also predicts lower life satisfaction at the age of 19 years for both genders. This suggests sensitivity to social media use might be linked to developmental changes, possible changes in the structure of the brain, or to puberty, which occurs later in boys than in girls.

"The link between social media use and mental wellbeing is clearly very complex," said Dr Amy Orben, from the University of Cambridge, who led the study.

"Changes within our bodies, such as brain development and puberty, and in our social circumstances appear to make us vulnerable at particular times of our lives," she said.

"I wouldn't say that there is a specific age group we should all be worried about. We should all be reflecting on our social media use and encouraging those conversations but we need to understand what is driving these changes across the age groups and between genders," she added.

The expert noted the very large individual differences, which means there may be certain teenagers that benefit from their use of social media whilst at the same time, someone else is harmed.

For both girls and boys, the research revealed that social media use at the age of 19 years was associated with a decrease in life satisfaction. At this age, say the researchers, it is possible social changes — such as



leaving home or starting work — may make us vulnerable.

"Currently the amount of time young people spend on social media is a 'black box' to scientists and parents alike," said Professor Andrew Przybylski, Director of Research at the Oxford Internet Institute.

"To improve our science we need better data and to improve parenting around tech we need to start a new conversation. It's not about social media being good or bad, it's about what young people are up to, why they are using it, and how they feel about it fits into the greater picture of family life," he said.

Source: PTI



The findings, co-authored by Israeli, Chinese, French, German and US researchers, were published in the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Scientists develop new combo treatment for head and neck cancer

An Israeli-led research team has developed a potential new treatment for head and neck cancer (HNC), using a targeted drug and immunotherapy, Ben Gurion University (BGU) in southern Israel has announced.

The findings, co-authored by Israeli, Chinese, French, German and US researchers, were published in the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Through pre-clinical study, the researchers found a new treatment combination of Trametinib, a cancer drug that brings a type of killer white blood cells to the cancer site, and Anti-PD-1, an immunotherapy that not kills cancer cells directly but blocks a pathway on immune cells to make them more engaged in fighting tumors.

In traditional clinical treatment, Trametinib has not shown efficiency in inhibiting the targetted hyperactive pathway of cancer cells, said the research.

Researchers then analysed tumor-host interaction that facilitates immune escape in tumor-bearing mice, and found that using a short Trametinib treatment can make resistant tumors more sensitive to anti-PD-1 immunotherapy.

"We sincerely hope that oncologists will test this treatment combination in HNC patients, as improving immunotherapy efficacy is crucial for prolonging the survival of cancer patients," the study's correspondent author Moshe Elkabetz was quoted by the BGU statement as saying. Source: IANS

New Covid vaccine from Austria could protect against Omicron variant: Study

A new vaccine being developed by scientists in Austria is effective against all SARS-CoV-2 variants known to date, including Omicron, even in those who have not yet built up any immunity as a result of immunisation, according to the preclinical data.

The antigen-based vaccine developed at MedUni Vienna targets the receptor binding domains (RBD) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and induced a robust and uniform RBD-specific IgG antibody response in animal models and in human tests.

This antibody response prevents the virus from docking onto and entering the body's cells, so that infection cannot occur, the researchers said.

The SARS-CoV-2 subunit vaccine (PreS-RBD) is based on a structurally folded fusion protein consisting of two RBD of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the PreS antigen from hepatitis B, which serve as immunological carriers for each other, thereby strengthening the immune response, they said.

The researchers noted that currently available genetic SARS-CoV-2 vaccines induce mainly transient IgG1 antibody responses, whereas the PreS-RBD vaccine can additionally induce long-lived RBD-specific IgG4 antibodies.

According to the findings published in the journal *Allergy*, PreS-RBD-specific IgG antibodies detected in blood and mucosal secretions reacted with SARS-CoV-2 variants, including the Omicron variant.

Antibodies induced by vaccination with PreS-RBD more potently inhibited the binding of RBD with its human receptor ACE2, the researchers said.

Their virus-neutralising titers were higher than those in a random sample of individuals fully immunised with two vaccinations of currently



registered vaccines or than those of individuals who had previously had COVID-19, they said.

"The PreS-RBD vaccine has the potential to induce sterilising immunity to old and new SARS-CoV-2 variants by preventing infection by stopping viral replication and transmission through the inhibition of cellular virus entry," said study leader Rudolf Valenta.

It is also expected that the vaccine will even be effective in people who have not previously responded to vaccination, as they will receive additional T-cell support from the PreS portion of the vaccine.

An earlier study by the team had found that approximately 20 per cent of those recovered from COVID-19 failed to form RBD-specific antibodies and were thus at constant risk of re-infection.

Source: PTI

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Apple may rebrand A15 Bionic as A16 for iPhone 14

Apple is expected to announce the iPhone 14 series in or around September and now a new report suggests that for some of the upcoming models, the company will slightly modify the A15 chip, which is based on the 5nm process, and rebrand it as the A16.

According to GizmoChina, the actual new chip could be labelled as the A16 Pro, which will likely be reserved for the iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max.

Analyst Ming-Chi Kuo said that the 6.1-inch iPhone 14 Pro and the 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Pro Max will get the A16 chip, while the 6.1-inch iPhone 14 and the 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Max will retain the same A15 chip from the iPhone 13 series. Kuo believes all models will have 6GB of memory, the Pro models will use LPDDR5 and the non-Pro will use LPDDR 4X.

The upcoming iPhone 14 Pro models will feature both hole-punch and pill-shaped cutouts near the top of the display. The hole is believed to be for the Face ID dot projector, while the pill-shaped cutout will supposedly house the front camera as well as Face ID infrared camera at a minimum. The Pro models would come with a big camera upgrade.

Who are the Lapsus\$ hackers and what do they want?

A prolific hacking gang has been making a name for itself with a string of cyberattacks against a range of high-profile targets. In the space of just a few days, a group known as Lapsus\$ revealed that it has stolen data from big-name organisations including Microsoft and Okta.

The aim of the Lapsus\$ campaign appears to be soliciting ransom payments, with threats to leak stolen information if its extortion demands aren't met. While this tactic is a familiar one, often used by ransomware gangs as extra leverage to force victims to pay a ransom for a decryption key, in the case of Lapsus\$, there's no sign that ransomware is part of the attacks because no data is encrypted.

But that doesn't mean that the attacks aren't damaging: Microsoft Security notes that there's evidence of a destructive element to the attacks for victims that won't give in to extortion demands.

Enterprise identity and access management provider Okta is one of the biggest victims of Lapsus\$, in an incident in which the company says attackers might have accessed information of around 2.5% of Okta customers – a figure that the company says represents 366 organisations.

Okta disclosed the breach on March 22, and the company said it "contained" an attempted security breach in January. However, Lapsus\$ has since claimed that it was able to access a support engineer's laptop and have posted screenshots claiming access to systems. In a blog post, Okta says the laptop belonged to a support engineer working for a third-party provider and that Okta itself hasn't been compromised. However, the company says it has contacted those affected.

Microsoft has also confirmed that it was compromised by Lapsus\$. While the company says the attackers gained limited access, the hackers have posted a torrent file claiming to hold source code from Bing, Bing Maps, and Cortana.

While claiming Okta and Microsoft as victims has



drawn eyes to Lapsus\$, the group isn't brand new, having been active since at least December 2021 and claiming a number of victims in recent months.

One of the first victims of the group was the Brazilian Ministry of Health, which saw over 50TB worth of data stolen and deleted from its systems. Among this haul was data relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, including cases, deaths, vaccinations, and more. It took a month before systems were up and running again.

Other victims of Lapsus\$ attacks in recent months include a number of technology and gaming companies. In February, Nvidia fell victim to a cybersecurity incident that was attributed to Lapsus\$. The group claims to have stolen over 1TB of data from the microchip manufacturer, including employee passwords. *Source: ZDnet*

Israeli startup to test brain-activity gear on space mission to ISS

Israel's Brain.Space, a four-year-old startup that studies data on brain activity, is set to put its gear to test on astronauts in space next week during a SpaceX shuttle flight to the International Space Station (ISS). Three astronauts on the planned private space-flight firm Axiom Space's mission to the ISS will use a special electroencephalogram (EEG)-enabled helmet made by Brain.Space, the company said.

The 10-day mission, the first-ever private trip to the space station, will set off on April 3 with four astronauts. "We actually know that the microgravity environment impacts the physiological indicators in the body. So, it will probably impact the brain and we would like to monitor that," Brain.Space said.

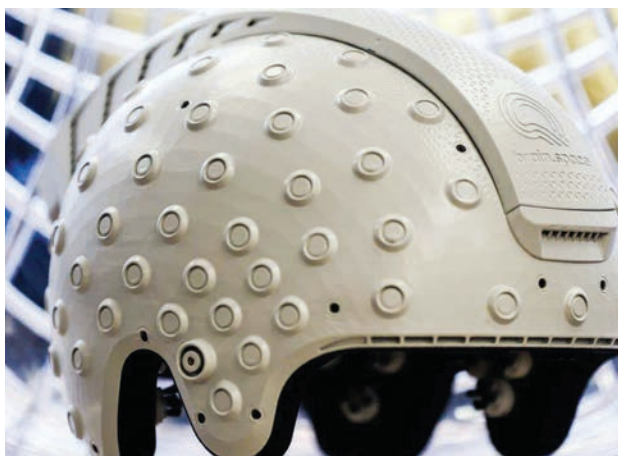
Space Chief Executive Yair Levy told Reuters. Data has continuously been collected on heart rate, skin resistance, muscle mass and others in space but not yet on brain activity, he said.

Brain.Space joins 30 experiments that will take part in the so-called Rakia Mission to the ISS. Three of the four astronauts — including Israeli Eytan Stibbe — will wear the helmet, which has 460 airbrushes that connect to the scalp, and perform a number of tasks for 20 minutes a day, during which data will be uploaded to a laptop on the space station.

The tasks include a "visual oddball" one that the company says has been effective in detecting abnormal brain dynamics.

Similar studies using these tasks have been completed on Earth and after the mission, Brain.Space will compare the EEG data to see the differences in brain activity between Earth and space.

It noted that such experiments are needed since long-term space exploration and "off-world living are within grasp. *Source: Reuters*



An electroencephalogram (EEG) enabled helmet, due to be used in an experiment on the impact of a microgravity environment on the brain activity of astronauts is displayed at Israeli startup Brain.Space in Tel Aviv, Israel, March 22, 2022.

Turn your Android phone into a space monitoring tool with the Camalot app

The Camalot Android app will allow users to turn their smartphones into a tool for crowd-funded science. All you need in order to participate is a compatible Android phone with a working satellite navigation feature and the Camalot app which can be downloaded from the Google Play Store. The app is compatible with more than 50 devices, according to the project's website.

Camalot is a project funded by the European Space Agency (ESA) and is led by ETH Zurich in collaboration with a team at ESA. The researchers will combine data from many users' phones with other sources of data using machine learning for applications like weather forecasting.

Apart from helping scientists create new earth and space weather forecasting models, participants also stand the chance to win phones and Amazon vouchers. This four-month 'citizen science' campaign runs until the end of July.

"Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) such as Europe's Galileo have revolutionized everyday life," explained ESA navigation engineer Vicente Navarro in a press release. "And the precisely modulated signals continuously generated by the dozens of GNSS satellites in orbit are also proving a valuable resource for science, increasingly employed to study Earth's atmosphere, oceans and surface environments. Our GNSS Science Support Centre was created to help support this trend." As signals from satellites reach Earth, they are modified by the amount of water vapour in the lower atmosphere. As they pass through this vapour and other irregular patches in the atmosphere, they undergo 'scintillation' or fading and delaying. Data about this scintillation can reveal insights about the ionosphere, where the earth's atmosphere meets space. *Source: The Indian Express*



INDIA TO GROW AT 7.5% IN CURRENT FISCAL: ADB

India is likely to maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy with the ADB outlook projecting a growth rate of 7.5% for 2022-23 on strong investment prospects against 5% for China in January-December 2022.

The Asian Development Bank Outlook 2022 said India's growth in the next fiscal year 2023-24 will accelerate further to 8%, though China will witness a deceleration in growth to 4.8% in 2023.

The ADB, however, flagged inflation as a major issue mainly on account of a rise in prices of commodities in wake of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. "Economies in developing Asia are starting to find their footing as they slowly emerge from the worst of the Covid pandemic," ADB Chief Economist Albert Park said.

ELON MUSK TO JOIN TWITTER BOARD AFTER BUYING 9.2% STAKE

Elon Musk is joining Twitter's Board of Directors a day after disclosing that the Tesla CEO took 9.2% stake in the social media platform.

Twitter Inc. said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday that it entered into an agreement with Musk on Monday that will give the billionaire a seat on its Board, with the term expiring at its 2024 annual shareholders meeting.

Musk, either alone or as a member of a group, won't be allowed to own more than 14.9% of Twitter's outstanding stock for as long as he's a Board member and for 90 days after.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal said in a tweet the company had been talking to Musk in recent weeks and "it became clear to us that he would bring great value to our Board." "He's both a passionate believer and intense critic of the service which is exactly what we need on @Twitter, and in the boardroom, to make us stronger in the long-term," Agrawal continued.

Musk, who has 80 million Twitter followers, has also raised the possibility with his massive and loyal Twitter following, that he could create a rival social media network.



Jet Airways coming back with hybrid of premium and no-frills services model

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI (TIP)

Jet Airways India Ltd., which is undergoing a court-monitored restructuring, plans to return with a hybrid of premium and no-frills services that would allow the former top local airline to claw back market share while managing costs in the fiercely competitive Indian aviation market.

The bankrupt airline, now helmed by a new set of owners, will have a two-class configuration where business class passengers will be offered services including free meals, its new Chief Executive Officer Sanjiv Kapoor said in an interview near New Delhi on Wednesday. The economy class will, however, be modeled similar to low-cost carriers where flyers pay for meals and other services, he said.

"It's very difficult in the domestic Indian market to take on the cost of the food and everything else in economy class, where the customer in India chooses primarily on the basis of fares," said Kapoor, an aviation veteran who took charge of the defunct airline this week. "Let's just accept that and let's not burden ourselves with extra cost."

A successful revival of Jet Airways, which collapsed under a pile of debt in 2019 and became the first airline to enter a reformed insolvency resolution process, will be a landmark moment for India's bankruptcy laws. The new owners — Dubai-based, Indian-origin businessman Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch, the chairman of London-based financial advisory and alternative asset manager Kalrock Capital Management Ltd. — have pledged to make investments of as much as \$120 million, Kapoor said.

Kapoor himself is not new to navigating carriers through turbulent skies. He spearheaded SpiceJet Ltd. as its chief operating officer in 2014, helming it through a time when the low-cost carrier was severely cash strapped. He was also the chief strategy and commercial officer for Tata Group-led airline, Vistara.

Jet Airways will operate a so-called proving-flight — one or more test flights with no passengers to assess safety — as early



File photo of a Jet Airways aircraft | Pixabay

as this month, using a leased Boeing Co. 737, Kapoor said, adding that this will immediately make the airline eligible for a flying permit. This permit allows the new owners to bring in investments, and enables the airline to negotiate landing and parking slots with airports.

"We are confident that we are very close to a proving flight," Kapoor said. "Proving flight is the last step. If you pass the last step there's nothing preventing you from getting the AOP," he said, referring to an air operator permit which is a license to start commercial operations.

Jet Airways will return to Indian skies that are expected to get more crowded and competitive as billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-owned Akasa Air gears up to fly later this year. The unprofitable and former flag carrier Air India was recently acquired by the Tata Group, which is looking to turn it around. Even though air travel is rebounding strongly from two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, India is a tough place to make money in aviation and several carriers have failed amid bruising fare wars and high costs.

Source: The Print

Debt trustees of SBI, Axis, IDBI under CCI scanner

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Antitrust body Competition Commission of India (CCI) is investigating the trustee units of State Bank of India, Axis Bank and IDBI Bank for suspected collusion on fees, triggering a lawsuit by a group representing them.

Indian regulations mandate that companies raising debt appoint a so-called "debenture trustee" to protect the interests of investors. The trustees charge a fee from the companies issuing the debt and make independent due diligence checks on them.

The three under investigation — SBICAP Trustee Company, Axis Trustee and IDBI Trusteeship — are among the leaders in the business in India overseeing hundreds of billions of dollars by rendering trustee services for not just debt securities, but also real estate and other investment funds.

The CCI in a confidential December order stated the Trustees Association of India — a body where the trio are founding members — last year "substantially" hiked the fee for assisting companies raising debt and prevented members from going below a floor price, thereby hurting competition.

The association has launched a court challenge in Mumbai that seeks to quash the antitrust investigation directive it has termed "illegal" and "capricious", according to court filings. The lawsuit will be heard on Thursday.

Source: Reuters

L'Oréal founder's granddaughter is world's richest woman

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, cosmetics giant L'Oréal's founder's granddaughter, is the richest woman in the world - with a net worth of \$74.8 billion - according to business publication Forbes' 2022 list of richest individuals. Meyers' net worth rose marginally over the past 12 months - up from \$73.6 billion in 2021 - and has increased significantly from 2020 - it was \$48.9 billion two years ago.

Meyers, 68, leads an impressive list of the top 10 wealthiest women in the world, including Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' ex-wife MacKenzie Scott (\$43.6 billion), Australian mining baroness Gina Rinehart (\$30.2 billion), and Fidelity Investments CEO Abigail Johnson (\$21.2 billion).

India finds mention just outside the top 10, with the Jindal Group's Savitri Jindal valued at \$17.7 billion and Falguni Nayar, the CEO of fashion and retail giants Nykaa, valued at \$4.5 billion.

Source: HT



Shree Ganeshaya Namah!!!

Predictions for the month of April 2022

The Indian Panorama brings you Monthly Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



Aries

Ganesha says, this month, you'll realize that you were created to be authentic rather than flawless. This understanding of yourself will enable you to swallow many of the things that have stifled your advancement. This month, go with the flow. This month, you will effectively eradicate toxins from your life. Some things are better if left alone. In the second week of this month, you will make unneeded adjustments, which may suffocate your enjoyment, so be cautious. Your relationship will need a lot of attention this month. You will have to create lots of space in your life for that special person. Your health will be alright this entire month!



Taurus

This month, a stressful connection you've been carrying as the weight will be settled. Working with pragmatism will save you from losing money and wasting time. This month, you'll take a position for what you want, but be cautious since you're likely to injure someone if you speak without screening your words. In the latter half of the week, you will be tempted to find a companion and you are more likely to find that connection in your office or your corporate circle. Venus will surely support you hence do not worry. Your health will need to be attended in the latter half of the month.



Gemini

This month, anything you've misplaced will be compensated. Things will begin to return to normal, and you will begin to put your words into action. You will be able to clearly observe your abilities and dexterity. This month, you will be taken off guard when a crisis arises. Stay wary, dear Gemini, for being excessively enthusiastic will bring you into danger. Your partner will offer you opportunities to enhance your career growth this month. You are more likely to get closer to them over this. Your health will not need any attention this month.



Cancer

This month, your bravery will lead you to the position you truly belong. Lord Sun has aided you on your journey and will continue to do so. The practice has made you perfect, and this month, that perfection will show itself in unexpected ways. You'll end yourself in a muddle if you try to accomplish too many things at once. Also, this month's tip is to only bite as much as you can chew. In terms of relationship, you will have to be really careful in the first half of the month as the position of Venus will not be in your favor but the latter half of the month will bring good results as far as your romantic life is concerned. If you are suffering from any kind of blood pressure-related disease you should be careful about your health this month.



Leo

Dear Leo natives, In the first week of the month, you will receive some vital information. This fantastic news will alter your mind's direction. You'll be pleased with the choices your children make this month. This month, stay away from legal affairs entirely since Rahu will trouble you with them. This month, avoid going to court for anything, especially if it has to do with your business. Also, make every meeting this month a priority. This month, your partner and you will not be able to spend much time together as both of you will be too busy maintaining your professional duties and other obligations. You will have to be really patient about minor situations hindering your relationship. Married couples must keep fast on every Thursday of this month. Your health will not go through any major concerns.



Virgo

You'll be relieved to learn that your previous efforts have paid off handsomely and that the manner you planned your past will make you pleased this month. Reassurances will pervade your day, making you feel safe and tense. In the last week of this month, your over-optimism will drag you down. This month, bring everything into the spotlight before making any relationship decisions and avoid dissecting plans with your companion. Your health will be totally alright the entire month.



Libra

The first part of the month will be stress-free and relaxing, but the second half will force you to put your intellect to action. You'll be asked to organize an event for a friend or family member. You'll be astounded at how excellent you are at it. This month, you'll put off a lot of work. In the third week of the month, you'll be all screwed up and preoccupied. Don't be concerned; the outcome will be better. As suggested by the transition of Venus in the 7th house in the second week of the month, your romantic life will bloom significantly this month. You will also be able to take major decisions concerning your engagement or marriage. Your health will have to be taken care of especially in the latter half of the month as you might suffer from fever and headache occasionally.



Scorpio

This month, your employment will help you relax. You'll finally make time for your family and friends. This month, it's an excellent time to make trip arrangements. This month, you'll benefit much from trusting your intuitive energies. In the second part of this month, avoid believing other people's opinions because someone will try to steer you in the wrong direction and pressurize you to go against your principles. This month, your romantic fronts will stay healthy as you will be able to spend a good amount of time with your spouse or companion. As you will put in significant fights under the rug, you will be able to start afresh in terms of their relationship. You will have to be really careful about the health of your children this month.



Sagittarius

This month, the people you have maintained your confidence in you will save you from a major difficulty. Make sure you only take on jobs that will assist you in the long run, as the vitality you will be given is limited, and you must make the most of it. In the second half of this month, you will be tested. You will be forced to make judgments against your will, but they must be made for the larger good, therefore don't be afraid to do so. You have been procrastinating a lot as far as your romantic obligations are concerned. This month you must be well versed about the expectations of your partner and try to keep your relationship in check. Married couples will have to go through minor issues of understanding in the third week of the month as Rahul will make an unfavorable transition. If you are a patient of diabetes or any sugar-related disease this month will give you a hard time.



Capricorn

This month, you'll be busy forming new ideas and plans. This indicates that you will have a productive day this month. Because of the boosted energy delivered as a boon from Lord Sun specifically for you, you will be able to accomplish your task in less time than you anticipated. People will take your ideas and pass them off as their own this month in order to get fame and money. Make sure you don't tell everyone about your ideas. This month, you will be able to take the lead in your romantic life. Your partner and you will plan out your professional and personal future together. People who have been looking out for love will find someone very compatible and that person will be more likely to be belonging to Taurus and cancer Zodiac. Your health will need minor attention this month.



Aquarius

The placement of the planets in your zodiac this month, Aquarius, indicates that you will spend a lot of time focusing on yourself and your subsequent development this month. After a while, you'll be in a pleasant frame of mind this month. While self-reflecting, you will have to face your anxieties and misgivings. This month, Krishna advises it's fine to reaffirm your faith in anything one more time and always. As far as your marriage is concerned, the transition of Ketu in an unfavorable position will affect you negatively. Your health will have to be taken care of this month.



Pisces

This month, you'll be too preoccupied with repaying favors to someone who helped you in your lowest points. To complete their task, you will have to move beyond your own self-imposed moralities. Do not make the mistake of prioritizing this connection over your ideals. In terms of morals, gratitude is at the top of the list. Domestic problems can throw you into disarray. In the first week of the month, it will be tough for you to make ends meet in terms of finances. Your partner and you will be able to keep yourself in good regard for each other. You will have to be really careful regarding your newly married life. Your health will have to be taken care of in the first half of the month but the latter half will bring good recovery.

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 11 TO APRIL 17, 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week is all about patience for you Dear Aries. This week, you'll make a significant improvement. You will feel psychologically powerful, and this courage will aid you in overcoming the significant obstacles that have been holding you back. This week's late hours may make you feel a little down. It's typical to feel this way when your sun begins to fade. Don't be concerned about it. You will be able to seek advice from our elders on this, which will be quite beneficial to you. If you are diabetic, you must take care of your health since you will develop major health problems.



TAURUS : This week, good fortune will come to you, but at an unanticipated hour and in an unanticipated manner. This week, you must avoid saying 'No.' Being covert will also help you this week. This week, you will learn a new talent. You'll end up ruining your current relationship this week in order to start a new one. You will make a mistake this week, despite the fact that you are always careful with your words. As the Moon moves into a more favorable position in the second half of the week, things will begin to improve in all areas. Your health may require attention this week, as you may experience stomach difficulties. Taurus, drink plenty of water.



GEMINI : You'll break down the toxins and harmful notions that have built up in your head. This week, you'll head to your favorite spot. The development of enthusiasm will motivate you to take action toward a better life. During the first part of the week, you will be emotionally affected by loneliness. Reassurances will arrive shortly, so be optimistic. Due to a shortage of time on their job fronts, your spouse will not be able to attend to you properly this week. Blessings in your seventh house will prevent conflicts in your connection. Your health will be perfectly OK. This week will be fine for your health.



CANCER : You will sense that your petitions are being granted this week. You will not reject anything this week that has the potential to drag you down. You will have the opportunity to work with someone who will help you increase your popularity curve. Keeping black things about or being in a dark environment in the latter half of this week will bring you poor luck. This week, there will be no problems in your relationships. If you're getting married or engaged this week, Venus will shower you with benefits as you embark on this new chapter of your life. This week, donate a coconut to Lord Shiva's temple to improve your health.



LEO : You are the type of person who needs to endure a long time for positive news or who has bad luck. This week, a unique sensation will touch you as your difficult phase comes to a close. This week, take a glance back and grin at how far you've come. From Thursday through Saturday, Rahu will have a detrimental impact on your intellect. Despite your best efforts, you will be unable to keep your heart pure. Your genuine intentions for others will be drowned by jealousy. This week, your spouse will assist you in reviving yourself, and they will hold your hand when you are at your lowest. Your health will not require extra treatment, but you should be cautious of heat strokes this week.



VIRGO : This week, you will be relieved of your most pressing concern. From all of the things that have caused you tension, one will be eradicated because you will find a remedy. Your kids will do something that you will be pleased with. This week, fear of missing out will be your relationship's biggest issue. You must recognize that no matter how hard you try, something will always slip through your fingers, and as a result, you must allow your companion to take some time. In the latter half of the week, those hoping for new love will receive good news. You do not need to be concerned about your health this week.



LIBRA : This is an excellent week for you to relocate or do pooja or spiritual rite at your house. This week, the 2nd house in your zodiac appears to be powerful, so you should take benefit of favorable planet and star configurations. You'll be astounded by the outcomes. Your partner or spouse will be enraged that you were left out of a critical decision-making session. Before avoiding such situations, explain why you are doing so. This week, you'll need to take extra care of yourself. It's possible that you'll have to deal with little back pain. Home cures may be of assistance.



SCORPIO : This week, you'll finally become weary of being impetuous and return to previous preparation. In whatever you undertake, you will adopt a methodical approach. Many things will be sorted as a result of your organized working strategy. In the second part of this week, you'll put off a lot of execution. You'll need to pay close attention to your partner's or spouse's implementation of the plans. Your love life will pick up this week, as Venus in your horoscope predicts. This week, your health will be OK, so you won't have to worry about it.



SAGITTARIUS : This week, instead of focusing on how much stuff you can get done, you'll concentrate on the integrity of your performance. You will be able to withstand the stress that this week will bring, and this will define your strength. This week, you'll expose your flaws in front of others. To avoid being taken advantage of this week, you'll have to keep yourself introverted. Your companion will need to be more cautious about their health this week, as they may experience small concerns. They will be able to make great changes in their lives that will benefit your relationship. This week, your health will not be jeopardized, so you may relax.



CAPRICORN : This week, connections from further afield will emerge. These connections will be extremely beneficial to your career. Keep an eye on your communication channels since you may receive information about a new opportunity or confirmation of an application you submitted. Betting this week, as indicated by the nefarious Rahu, will put you in financial jeopardy. To be secure and maintain financial stability, resist the need to spend money. This week, you and your spouse will spend a lot of time together, which will help you sweep problems under the rug. Your health will require modest care because you may be suffering from blood pressure problems.



AQUARIUS : This week, you'll be in a creative mindset. Everything you do this week will leave you with great expectations. This week, you'll rediscover your trust in people and your work. Buying a yantra, gemstone, or item that resonates with positivity will be quite beneficial to you this week. Don't worry, the Moon will be in a favorable position by the end of the week. This week, your relationship will put your heart in a better place. Your health will be OK, and you will not need to be concerned.



PISCES : You will be thoughtful this week, and the days will offer you relaxation. This week, the problem created by family divisions will be resolved. This week, the project on which you have been working diligently for so long will be done. This week, you may expect beneficial presents. This week, you will overthink a lot in the second half, and this overthinking will cause unneeded disruption. In order to make time for your relationship, you will also postpone responsibilities and push your deadlines. You and your partner may have divergent viewpoints, so keep your head down since Venus may take some time to improve.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 11 TO APRIL 17, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

April 11

Ganesha says this is a good day. Positive energy may keep you active all day long and you may feel highly energetic in the first half of the day. If you want to sort out your marital issues, then this is the fine day to do so. Your positive developments in your lifestyle may prove beneficial to you. You may find yourself more confident on the professional front after achieving career or academic goals. You may get some good marriage proposals today.

April 12

Ganesha says you will be on the correct path in terms of your career today and your love life today. You will work very hard to impress the decision-makers at work as well as your partner today by bringing in gifts and being very diligent and caring. Great financial security is in your cards today which will keep you satisfied and happy throughout the day. You need to be more analytical about making investments now as managing the funds that you receive today will make a significant difference in your life.

April 13

Ganesha says today will be an exciting day for you.

Your partner will be very content and happy with your behavior today. The possibility of taking the next step in your relationship is quite high today. Your partner is most likely to plan the proposal considering how happy and content they are with you today which a positive thing is. Taking time to relax and relish will prove beneficial. Positive energies are for your work today. Your work life will be the most positive part of your day. A very productive day is on its way for you today.

April 14

Ganesha says your energies will be the highest today. It is a good day for you to relax, reflect and enjoy. If you're single, you'll come across many new love interests. If you're in a relationship, you will feel blessed to have your partner today. As they will be your biggest support system through all thick and thin. Your partner has spent a great deal of time, energy and effort in making this day special for you. But their behavior a few times today will make you feel low and bad which might reduce the fun and joy that today is supposed to bring.

April 15

Ganesha says today you will have a great day. You may get appreciated by your boss at the office

and your family at home. You may meet someone at the office from whom you may learn something new. You may make some new friends at the office. Today will be a great day for you if you want to invest in the share market or stock market. Your helping nature will make your place in other people's hearts.

April 16

Ganesha says your clever and inventive ideas may make you a favorite on the professional front. Today your project issue will be solved easily. You may get some new people who may inspire you. You may expect the best in everything today. Your nature to always help those that are in need may find appreciation from all quarters on the social front. People may depend on you for advice.

April 17

Ganesha says today your day will be good. You are likely to go on a short vacation with your family members to a beautiful place. A change of scene may elevate everyone's mood bringing harmony to a relationship. You and your partner will have a great day ahead. You may face some issues related to family but you may solve them together. If you are single, you may find your soul mate soon.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Ram Navami - the day Lord Rama was born

Ram Navami is the celebration of the birth anniversary of Lord Rama, who is believed to be the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu on Earth. Lord Rama's birth was intended to end the rule of the ten-headed demon king Ravana and this day is thus symbolic of the victory of truth over the evil.

Ram Navami is celebrated on the ninth day of the Shukla paksha of the Indian month of Chaitra. According to the Gregorian calendar, it falls in the month of March-April every year.

Ram Navami 2022 is on April 10 Sunday.

According to mythology, the kingdom of Ayodhya was distraught about the fact that there was no successor to the throne. During an afternoon of Chaitra, Lord Rama was born to King Dasharath and his queen Kaushalya after they were given the holy pudding to eat by Rishi Vasishtha. It is said that Lord Rama was born to save the people of Ayodhya from evil and to ensure that peace and prosperity prevails over his kingdom.

This day is also celebrated as the birth anniversary of Swaminarayan, a saint who is considered an avatar of Narayana. He was born in the village of Chhapaiya in Uttar Pradesh.

Bhagwan Rama exemplified the perfect person (maryada purushottam). He was the embodiment of compassion, gentleness, kindness, righteousness and integrity. Although he had all the power in the world, he still was peaceful and gentle.

His reign in Ayodhya is referred to as Ramarajya, the epitome of perfect governance. Ayodhya was the capital founded by the king-rishi Manu. During the reign of King Dasharath, Ayodhya reached a period of great prosperity. But Dasharath had one problem—he had no children. Therefore he decided to perform the ashvamedh sacrifice. Elaborate and difficult rituals had to be observed. Rishi Rishyashring presided over the yagya. The performance of this sacrifice was a great event in Ayodhya. At the end, Rishyashring recited a Mantra and made an offering to the fire. Then the gods, gandharvas, siddhas, and rishis present around began to pray to Brahma. During that time Ravana, the king of Lanka, was terrorizing the people, and they were longing for liberation from his menace. Ravana had acquired great power because he had obtained from God Brahma the boon that he would never die at the hands of gods, or gandharvas, or *yakshas* (demigods) or demons. As he was not afraid of men, he did not care to include men in the list of his potential slayers. So Brahmadev declared that Ravana would die at the hands of a man. Then the gods went to Vishnu for help and requested him that since Dasharath was a glorious king, that He take birth in the wombs of his three queens in four different incarnations of His divinity. When Dasharath's sacrifice came to an end, a shining figure appeared over the sacrificial kund, and offered the king a divine beverage called "payasam", which was to be given to his queens Kausalya, Kaikayi, and Sumitra. In due time, Kausalya gave birth to Rama, Kaikayi to Bharat and Sumitra to Laxman and Shatrugna.

The Sun is considered to be the progenitor of Rama's dynasty, which is called the Solar Dynasty (Raghukula or Raghuvamsa –Raghu means Sun and Kula or Vamsa mean familial descendant). Rama is also known as Raghunatha, Raghupati, Raghavendra etc. That all these names begin with the prefix Raghu is also suggestive of some link with Sun-worship. The hour chosen for the observance of the Lord's birth is that when the Sun is overhead and is at its maximum brilliance. In some Hindu sects, prayers on Ramnavami day start not with an invocation to Rama but to Surya (Sun). Again the syllable Ra is used in the word to describe the Sun and brilliance in many languages. In Sanskrit, Ravi and Ravindra both mean "Sun".

Significance of Ram Navami



Illustration source: Shutterstock/designsoul.

The story of the Ramayan is a classic, eternal, universal message of Dharma versus adharma, of deva versus demon, of good versus evil, as represented in the battle between Rama and Ravana.

Ravana was a brahmin; he was a great scholar who wrote numerous works on scriptural philosophy. He was powerful, dynamic, and beautiful in appearance. As the brilliant, handsome king of Lanka, he had everything one would need to be happy and peaceful. Yet, he was arrogant, egoistic, greedy and lustful. His insatiable desires led him to crave more and more power, more and more money, and more and more ladies to fulfill his every whim.

There is one main difference: Bhagwan Rama's heart overflowed with divinity, love, generosity, humility, and a sense of duty. Ravana's heart, in contrast, was filled with avarice, hatred, and egoism. Under Bhagwan Rama's divine touch, the animals became his devotees and his divine helpers. Under Ravana's touch, even humans became animals.

Through his noble and divine choices, he teaches the world to choose dharma over Artha (when he leaves for the forest rather than be coronated as King) and to choose Moksha over Kama (when he chooses his kingdom over his marriage).

Ravana's ego led to his own demise, first the demise of his spirit and heart and then the demise of his body. He thought he was the one who ran everything. He thought that he was the "doer" of it all. On the other hand, Bhagwan Rama was always humble, and he never took credit for anything. At the end of the war in Lanka, Bhagwan Rama was giving Sitaji a tour of the city, showing her where all of the various events had occurred. When, they reached the place where he victoriously slew Ravana, he reported it to Sitaji only as, "and this is where Ravana died." He didn't say, "This is where I crushed the demon," or "This is where I killed Ravana."

The story of Lord Rama as told in the great epic Ramayana is one that most Indians know irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

Lord Rama is a legendary figure, the epitome of all that is good and true, the man who vanquished the demon king, Ravana. Lord Rama is not just a hero, but has been given the status of a god by the Hindus. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that his birth is celebrated year after year with great pomp and enjoyment on the ninth day after the new moon in Sukul Paksh (the waxing moon), which falls sometime in the month of April.

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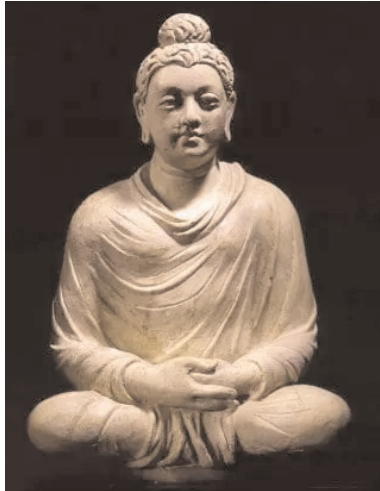
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History This Week April 08 to April 14

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April 8



Buddha

April 8th - Among Buddhists, celebrated as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 million persons currently profess the Buddhist faith.



Harry S. Truman

April 8, 1952 - President Harry S. Truman seized control of America's steel mills to prevent a shutdown by strikers. However, on April 29th, the seizure was ruled unconstitutional by a U.S. District Court. Workers immediately began a strike lasting 53 days, ending it when they received a 16-cents per-hour wage increase and additional benefits.

April 8, 1913 - The 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified requiring direct popular election of U.S. senators. Previously, they had been chosen by state legislatures.

April 8, 1990 - Ryan White died at age 18 of complications from AIDS. As a young boy, White, a hemophiliac, contracted the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from a blood transfusion. At age ten, he was banned from school. He then moved with his mother to Cicero, Indiana, where he was accepted by the students. As his plight was publicized, he gained international celebrity status

and helped promote understanding of the dreaded disease.

April 9

April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 9, 1866 - Despite a veto by President Andrew Johnson, the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was passed by Congress granting blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship.



Paul Robeson

Birthday - African American actor and singer Paul Robeson (1898-1976) was born in Princeton, New Jersey. Best known for his performance in *The Emperor Jones*, he also enjoyed a long run on Broadway in Shakespeare's *Othello*. In 1950, amid ongoing anti-Communist hysteria, Robeson was denied a U.S. passport after refusing to sign an affidavit on whether he had ever been a member of the Communist Party.

April 10

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 10, 1945 - The Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops. Located near Weimar in Germany, Buchenwald was established in July 1937 to hold criminals and was one of the first major concentration camps. It later included Jews and homosexuals and was used as a slave labor center for nearby German companies. Of a total of 238,980 Buchenwald inmates, 56,545 perished. Following its liberation, Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other top U.S. commanders visited the sub-camp at Ohrdruf. U.S. Troops also forced German civilians from nearby towns into the camp to view the carnage.

April 10, 1998 - Politicians in Northern Ireland reached an agreement aimed at ending 30 years of violence which had claimed over 3,400 lives. Under the agreement, Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland would govern together in a new 108-member Belfast assembly, thus ending 26 years of "direct rule" from London.



Joseph Pulitzer

Birthday - Publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He came to America in 1864 and fought briefly in the Civil War for the Union. He then began a remarkable career in journalism and publishing. His newspapers included the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *New York World*. He also endowed the journalism school at Columbia University and established a fund for the Pulitzer Prizes, awarded annually for excellence in journalism.

April 11

April 11, 1968 - A week after the assassination of Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The law prohibited discrimination in housing, protected civil rights workers and expanded the rights of Native Americans.



Apollo 13

April 11, 1970 - Apollo 13 was launched from Cape Kennedy at 2:13 p.m. Fifty-six hours into the flight an oxygen tank exploded in the service module. Astronaut John L. Swigert saw a warning light that accompanied the bang and said, "Houston, we've had a problem here." Swigert, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise then transferred into the lunar module, using it as a "lifeboat" and began a perilous return trip to Earth, splashing down safely on April 17th.

Edward Everett

Birthday - American orator Edward Everett (1794-1865) was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts. In 1863, at the dedication of the Gettysburg Battlefield, he delivered the main address, lasting two hours. He was then followed by President Abraham Lincoln who spoke for about two minutes delivering the Gettysburg Address.

April 12

April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 4:30 a.m. on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

April 12, 1945 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs,

Georgia, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. He had been President since March 4, 1933, elected to four consecutive terms and had guided America out of the Great Depression and through World War II.

Yuri Gagarin

April 12, 1961 - Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. He traveled aboard the Soviet spacecraft Vostok I to an altitude of 187 miles (301 kilometers) above the earth and completed a single orbit in a flight lasting 108 minutes. The spectacular Russian success intensified the already ongoing Space Race between the Russians and Americans. Twenty-three days later, Alan Shepard became the first American in space. This was followed in 1962 by President Kennedy's open call to land an American on the moon before the decade's end.

April 13

Thomas Jefferson

Birthday - Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was born in Albermarle County, Virginia. He was an author, inventor, lawyer, politician, architect, and one of the finest minds of the 1700's. He authored the American Declaration of Independence and later served as the 3rd U.S. President from 1801 to 1809. He died on July 4, 1826, the same day as his old friend and one-time political rival John Adams.

(Read more on www.theindianpanorama.news)

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Judge Jackson becomes the first...

attempts to paint her as a liberal extremist who has coddled criminals. Dismissing those portrayals as distorted and offensive, Judge Jackson's backers saw the confirmation as an uplifting occasion, one where a representative of a group often pushed into the background instead moved to the forefront.

The vote put her in line to replace Justice Stephen G. Breyer when he retires at the end of the court's session this summer.

"Even in the darkest times, there are bright lights," Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, said on the Senate floor. "Today is one of the brightest lights. Let us hope it's a metaphor, an indication of many bright lights to come."

He added, "How many millions of kids in generations past could have benefited from such a role model?" At the Capitol, the galleries to witness the historic vote, closed for much of the pandemic, were full of supporters. The chamber erupted in cheers, with senators, staff and visitors all jumping up for a lengthy standing ovation, after the vote was announced.

Not everyone shared in the joy of the day. As applause echoed from the marbled walls, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the minority leader, turned his back and slowly walked out, as did most of the few Republicans remaining on the floor, leaving half of the chamber empty as the other half celebrated in a stark reflection of the partisan divide.

"When it came to one of the most consequential decisions a president can make, a lifetime appointment to our highest court, the Biden administration let the radicals run the show," Mr. McConnell had said earlier, making one last argument against the judge, whose nomination he framed as an example of extremists taking control of the Democratic Party. "The far left got the reckless inflationary spending they wanted. The far left has gotten the insecure border they wanted. And today, the far left will get the Supreme Court justice they wanted."

Three Republicans - Senators Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Mitt Romney of Utah - crossed party lines to support Judge Jackson, lending a modicum of bipartisanship to an otherwise bitterly polarized process.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to hold the position and one of just 11 Black senators in American history, presided over the vote - one historic figure presiding over the elevation of another - as senators stated their positions from their desks in a reflection of the magnitude of the moment. More than a dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Representatives Hakeem Jeffries of New York and Joyce Beatty of Ohio, clustered on the Senate floor to mark the occasion.

At the White House, Mr. Biden and Judge Jackson watched the vote together from the Roosevelt Room. Officials said the two would appear at an event on Friday to mark Judge Jackson's confirmation, though she will not be sworn in for months.

"I'm overjoyed, deeply moved," Ms. Harris told reporters after the vote. "There's so much about what's happening in the world now that is presenting some of the worst of this moment and human behaviors. And then we have a moment like this."

PM to launch Rs 400 commemorative...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah would be attending these events. PM Modi will release a commemorative coin and a postage stamp dedicated to the birth centenary of the ninth Guru on April 21. As per the sources privy to the development, the commemorative coin will be of Rs 400 denomination,

which will have the picture of Guru Ke Mahal, Amritsar, the birthplace of the ninth Guru on its one side and the writings dedicated to the birth centenary.

The coin will also have a line from the writings of Kavi (poet) Senapati, a contemporary poet to the tenth Sikh Guru,

'Pragat Bhae Gur Teg Bahadur Sagal Srisht Pai Dhapi Chadar

' (Guru Teg Bahadur came forward and saved the entire world from atrocities).

As per the letter written by Atul Kumar Mishra, deputy secretary (Special Cell/C&M) of the Union ministry of culture to DSGMC President Harmeet Singh Kalka on Monday, April 4, HM Amit Shah will inaugurate the event on April 20, followed by a light and sound show, participation in Shabad Kirtan to be organized by children followed by his address. The letter reads that it has been decided to organize two day closing ceremony.

Similarly, PM Modi will inaugurate the event on April 21, followed by the release of commemorative coin and postage stamp, 400 raagis will participate in Shabad Kirtan and PM will also address the gathering.

The ministry of culture hoped for cooperation from DSGMC President Kalka in organizing the commemoration.

However, it is yet unclear that whether the GOI would be officially inviting the SGPC President or not.

Sources told that the GOI for deciding and approving the design and details of commemorative coin of Rs 400 with regards to marking this commemoration, roped in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Amritsar, and the same would be released as per the approval given by the Sikh body (SGPC).

Following a meeting of the SGPC's Sikh Itihas Research Board on January 23, 2021, the then SGPC President Bibi Jagir Kaur had demanded from the GOI to issue a commemorative coin and postage stamp dedicated to the 400th birth anniversary of the ninth Guru.

SGPC had celebrated the 400th Parkash Purb on the ninth Guru on May 1, 2021.

Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was born in 1621 at Guru Ke Mahal, Amritsar and he was executed on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb at Delhi's Chandni Chowk in 1675, and presently, historical Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib is situated in Delhi at the same spot where the Guru was martyred.

Key US Congressional committee...

family-based immigrant visas from seven per cent to 15 per cent, a move which will benefit Indian IT professionals languishing over decades of waiting for the Permanent Resident Card.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently in the US.

The legislative move, when it is finally signed into law, would greatly benefit the immigrants from India and China, from where hundreds and thousands of employment-based category people are currently having decades-long wait for their green cards or permanent legal residency.

After hours of debate, the powerful House Judiciary Committee late Wednesday, April 6 night passed the HR3648 or the Equal Access to green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act on the party lines of 22-14 votes.

The bill now goes to the House for debate and voting. It also needs to be passed by the US Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the President to sign into law.

"What happens is, because of the way we set this system up, people who are equally qualified - in some cases, more qualified - are falling behind people just because of their country of birth. That's not merit based. That's not the opportunity society that America is," said Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren in her remarks during the discussion in the House Judiciary Committee.

Indian IT professionals, most of whom are highly skilled and come to the US mainly on the H-1B work visas, are the worst sufferers of the current immigration system which imposes a seven per cent per country quota on allotment of the coveted Green Card.

As per the vote by the House Judiciary Committee Vote, the bill eliminates per-country caps on employment-based immigrant visas and raises per-country caps for family-based immigrant visas from 7 per cent to 15 per cent.

The bill further outlines a nine-year transition period for the elimination of the per-country limit on EB-2 and EB-3 employment-based visa categories. It would reserve visas for countries other than India and China from 30 per cent of visas in the first fiscal year to five per cent of visas in the seventh, eighth and ninth year.

Additionally, for the first nine fiscal years after the bill's enactment, the bill would reserve an additional 5.57 per cent of EB-2 and EB-3 visas from countries other than India and China, to be allocated to derivatives of principal visa applicants accompanying or following the principal applicant to the US, new principal applicants who have not lived in the US in the four years before filing the visa petition, and other new arrivals, proponents of the bill said.

For the first seven years, the bill also reserves 4,400 EB-3 visas for individuals who will work in shortage occupations, including nurses and physical therapists. Under the bill, for the first nine fiscal years, no country would be permitted to receive more than 25 per cent of reserved visas and no more than 85 per cent of unreserved visas, a fact sheet of the bill said.

Republican lawmakers who opposed the bill said that such a move would increase immigration from China at a time of heightened tensions with them.

"The last thing we ought to be doing right now is removing country caps, which just provides additional green cards to Chinese nationals at a time when the Chinese Communist Party is stealing our intellectual property," Republican Congressman Steve Chabot said.

According to the bill, jobs cannot be advertised as "only available to H-1B workers" and H-1B workers cannot be given a preference over US Citizens. It says that any company with 50 or more employees cannot have more than 50% of their employees on work visas such as H-1B, and L-1 visas. This ensures that all the outsourcing companies will have to hire American workers to operate because these companies have more than 50 per cent of the employees on H-1B and L-1 visas.

Over the years, starting with the High Skilled Per Country Level Elimination Act in 2008, the bill has been introduced in the US Congress in various ways, however, none of them has been able to see the light of the day so far. (Source: PTI)

Resolution introduced in US Congress...

Observing that the Sikh community, which began immigrating into the United States over 100 years ago, has played an important role in developing the United States; the resolution supports the designation of 'National Sikh Day' to honor and celebrate the important role played by the Sikh community in strengthening and inspiring the people of the United States.

Sponsored by Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, the resolution introduced in the House on March 28 was co-sponsored by over a dozen lawmakers: Karen Bass, Paul Tonko, Brian K Fitzpatrick, Daniel Meuser, Eric Swalwell, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Donald Norcross, Andy Kim, John Garamendi, Richard E Neal, Brendan F Boyle and David G Valadao.

Both John Garamendi and David Valadao are Co-Chairs of the Sikh Caucus.

The resolution was welcomed by Sikh caucus committee, Sikh coordination committee and American Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Unexplored Coastal Karnataka

Coastal Karnataka is bestowed with sandy beaches, lush greenery, lively culture, magnificent temples, and delicious cuisine. If you are looking for a much-needed break from the hustle-bustle of daily life, the towns in coastal Karnataka will never disappoint you. Here is a list of the most sought-after destinations that you must visit during your next trip to Karnataka. An ideal road trip will take you through these cities, offering you a vacation like no other.

Gokarna

One of the most popular coastal Karnataka places, Gokarna is a nature's paradise. It is a quaint beach town, blessed with peaceful surroundings and pristine beaches. You can enjoy a relaxing vacation or enjoy thrilling activities. Parasailing, snorkelling, scuba diving and surfing are some of the exciting water sports to try here. Kudle Beach, Om Beach and Half Moon Beach are popular beaches. Gokarna is also a sacred pilgrimage site, housing the majestic Mahabaleshwar temple.

Mangalore

Renowned for its rich history, magnificent temples, alluring beaches, and authentic Mangalorean cuisine, Mangalore is a must-visit destination in coastal Karnataka. Kudroli Gokarnath Temple is one of the most popular temples in the region, known for its vibrant Mangalore Dasara celebration. Besides this, Sammilan Shetty's Butterfly Park and Mangaladevi Temple are other tourist attractions.

Udupi

Home to some of the most iconic temples, Udupi is another coastal Karnataka city that you must visit. Udupi Sri Krishna Temple, Maple Beach, St. Mary's Beach, and The Corporation Bank Heritage Museum are top attractions in the city. So, whether you are a spiritual seeker or a nature lover, there is something for everyone in Udupi.

Murudeshwar

A beautiful beachside pilgrim town, Murudeshwar is home to the world's second tallest statue of Lord Shiva. Murudeshwar Temple is among the most iconic temples of the state, beckoning thousands of devotees every year. Besides this, Mirjan Fort, The Statue Park, Netrani Island, and Murudeshwar Beach are the famous tourist places to visit in the town.



Karwar

This seaside city is a quaint paradise beckoning nature lovers and peace seekers. Here, you can enjoy boat rides on the Kali River, spend some time at the Kali River Garden, watch a mesmerising sunset at the Rabindranath Tagore Beach, and seek blessings at the Naganatha Temple. The authentic Karwar cuisine is a must-try too.

Coastal Karnataka has plenty to offer for the weary travellers. So, if you are planning a vacation, head to one of these cities for creating memories to last for a lifetime.

Kaup Beach & Lighthouse

Kaup Beach, or Kapu as the locals call it, is a sleepy little beach town on the Karnataka coast. Located almost midway

between Mangalore and Udupi, this place makes for a great pit stop on any Coastal Karnataka road trip itinerary.

Malpe Beach

When in Udupi, do not forget to spend some time at one of Udupi's most gorgeous beaches – the Malpe Beach. Located only about 6kms from Udupi, Malpe beach coupled with St. Mary's Island makes for an amazing one-day getaway from Udupi or Mangalore.

St. Mary's Island

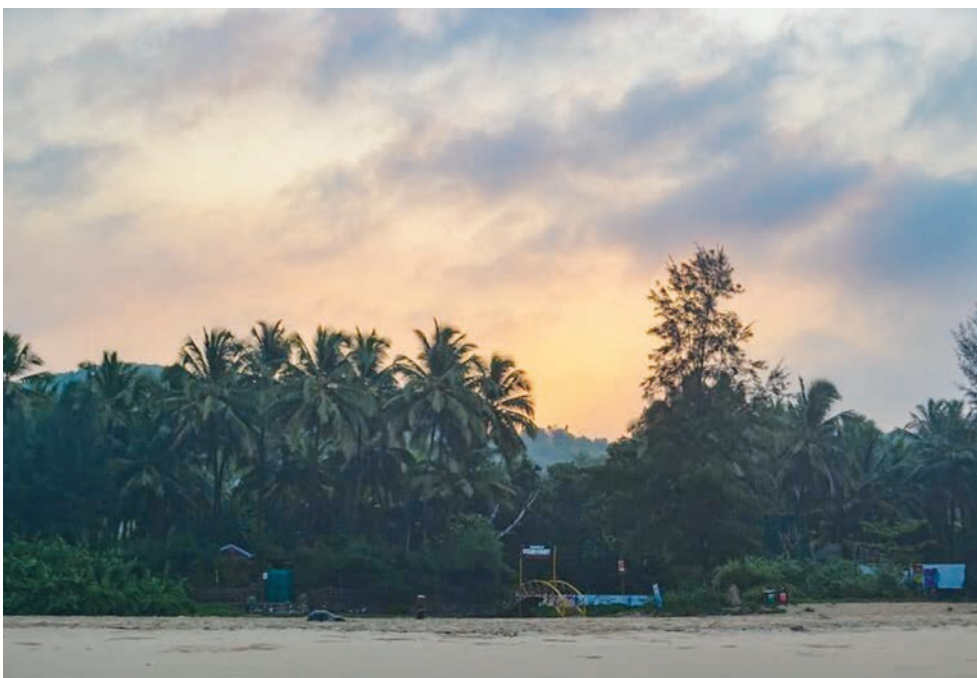
Right next to the Malpe beach, only a 15-minute ferry ride away, is the unique St. Mary's Island. This island is also called the Coconut Island or Thonsepar and makes for an offbeat getaway from the mainland. What is interesting about

St. Mary's Island is the fact that it was formed when Madagascar rifted away from India more than 88 million years ago. The rift gave rise to columnar basalt rocks that are hexagonal in shape. They give the island a distinctive character today.

Varanga

As you travel up north from Udupi, you can take a slight detour to get to the sleepy hamlet of Varanga. Here, you can visit one of the most picturesque Jain temples in the world.

The Jain temple, also called Kere Basadi, is located in the middle of a beautiful lake. You can reach the temple only on a small boat that can accommodate around 10 people at a time.





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NO ENTRY FOR CHANU IN 55KG CLASS AT CWG

The rejection of Mirabai Chanu's 55kg division entry for the upcoming Commonwealth Games (CWG) by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) will not affect India's medal chances in the Birmingham event, head coach Vijay Sharma said.

The Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) had wanted to field Chanu in the 55kg class with Jhilli Dalabehera and S Bindyarani Devi competing in the 49kg and 59kg divisions, respectively. Poppy Hazarika was to compete in the 64kg division at the CWG, to be held from July 28 to August 8.

The move to field Chanu in the 55kg class was aimed at maximising India's medal haul at the CWG. But the entries were rejected based on a new rule that states that the top-ranked lifter in a category will qualify for the CWG. But if she or he withdraws, the next best lifter will not get the berth, as was the case before.

The 27-year-old Chanu will now compete in the 49kg category. "They rejected the entry by saying a lifter can participate in that category where they have performed their best," Sharma said from St Louis, USA, where he is overseeing Chanu's training.

TIGER GETS COMEBACK UNDERWAY WITH OPENING PAR AT MASTERS

Tiger Woods began his highly-anticipated return to competition with a par on his first hole at the Masters on Thursday, April 7, in front of a throng of patrons thrilled to see the five-time champion back.

Woods, wearing a pink shirt and black pants on his return to the Masters following a February 2021 car crash, was greeted at the par-four 445-yard first hole to a raucous reception from spectators who arrived at Augusta National in the early-morning hours to get a front-row seat.

In his first competitive round of golf in 508 days, Woods sent his opening tee just short of the fairway bunker, watched his approach trickle off the front of the green and then chipped to 10 feet before saving par.

Woods' accident, which nearly resulted in doctors amputating his right leg, cast serious doubt on his professional golfing future but the 15-times major champion said earlier this week that he feels like he can still compete at the highest level.



IPL 2022

De Kock shines as Lucknow Super Giants beat Delhi Capitals by six wickets

NAVI MUMBAI (TIP)

Quinton de Kock showed imperious form in his 80 off 52 balls as Lucknow Super Giants outplayed Delhi Capitals by six wickets for their third successive win in their debut IPL season here on April 7.

Delhi Capitals lost their way after a sizzling knock from opener Prithvi Shaw (61 off 31) to end at 149/3 after Lucknow decided to field first.

With the resources that Lucknow possess, 150 should have been a comfortable chase and the KL Rahul-led side made sure it was, getting home with two balls to spare on a tricky surface.

De Kock was at his destructive best as he shared a 73-run stand with opening partner Rahul (24 off 25). After Rahul's fall, his team needed 76 off the last 10 overs. De Kock, who hit nine fours and two sixes, put the team on the cusp of victory with his second 50-plus score of the tournament.

Earlier, Shaw's knock was all class before Lucknow bounced back in the game with an impressive bowling performance. Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/22) was the standout performer.

David Warner (4 off 12), returning to the franchise where he made his IPL debut back in 2009, struggled in his first innings of the season. Brief scores: Delhi Capitals: 149/3 (Shaw 61, Pant 39*, Khan 36*; Bishnoi 2/22); Lucknow Super Giants: 155/4 in 19.4 overs (de Kock 80; Kuldeep 2/31).

Nortje hurls himself out

A target of 150 amid dew was going to need a miracle or a meltdown to defend,



but DC did put in a few quiet overs at the start. On came their retained speedster Anrich Nortje for his first match in five months since the T20 World Cup, and Quinton de Kock burst to life against his compatriot.

A slap past extra cover followed by two lovely straight drives and topped up by a pick-up six produced a 19-run over, and LSG were on their way.

By the time Nortje came back in the 14th, de Kock had gone past fifty and the ball was wet. Nortje ripped two beamers in two overs, one each at de Kock and Deepak Hooda. The first one was fended for six over short third man, the second

one took Nortje out of the attack. Kuldeep Yadav came on to finish Nortje's over, and after copping a couple of fours, succeeded in luring de Kock to step out and slice a heave to short third man on 80 off 52.

Different game after QDK

Like with DC in the wake of Shaw, LSG lost steam after de Kock's departure. Even with a mere 28 needed off 24 balls, the re-minted pairing of Krunal Pandya and Hooda struggled against the changes of pace and full lengths of Shardul Thakur and Mustafizur Rahman for a couple of overs.

Europa League: Barcelona held by Frankfurt, 10-man West Ham draw with Lyon

Barcelona failed to win an away match in the Europa League for the first time after it was held 1-1 by 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt in the first leg of the quarterfinals.

Ferran Torres salvaged the draw in the second-tier European competition with an equaliser following a series of fluent passes around the box in the 66th minute on Thursday.

Barcelona was knocked out of the lucrative Champions League in the team's first post-Lionel Messi season. It is playing for the first time in the Europa League and never won its precursor, the UEFA Cup, reaching the semifinals on four occasions but not getting to a final.

Frankfurt won the UEFA Cup in 1980. Rebuilding under recently hired coach Xavi Hernandez, Barcelona has relied on big away performances to get to the last eight, beating Napoli (4-2) and



Galatasaray (2-1) on the road after first-leg home draws.

In other games, 10-man West Ham also drew 1-1 with Lyon. The Hammers reached the quarterfinals of a European competition for the first time since 1981 after eliminating six-time champion

Sevilla.

Atalanta goalkeeper Juan Musso saved a penalty and a follow-up attempt but he couldn't keep out an own-goal by Davide Zappacosta from the resulting corner as Leipzig salvaged a 1-1 draw.

Also, Braga beat Rangers 1-0.

In the Europa Conference League, Roma, one of the favorites to win UEFA's new third-tier competition, failed to get its revenge at Bodø/Glimt and lost 2-1.

The Norwegian club routed Roma 6-1 in the group stage for Jose Mourinho's biggest loss as a coach. Bodø/Glimt also earned a draw in the return match in Italy, and has eliminated Celtic and AZ Alkmaar in the knockout stage.

Also, Leicester was held 0-0 at home by PSV Eindhoven, Marseille beat PAOK Thessaloniki 2-1 and Slavia Prague earned a 3-3 draw at Feyenoord.

Source: Reuters

contd from page 1
Indian American singer
Falguni Shah...

On winning the Grammy, Falu said:
"I am very happy and so grateful for winning this GRAMMY with the album "A Colorful World". ??

"I dedicate this GRAMMY to:

All of the children around the world who are born with the ability to love each other regardless of the color of their skin or their ethnic background. May we all be as open and loving as our next generation and look up to them for inspiration.

My homeland, India. My gurus, my family - all who have made me who I am today.

My community in America. I love this country and my musical community for emboldening my Indian classical roots. Thank you for being my second home.

The Recording Academy. I thank everyone for the dedication it requires to do such critical work, and to my fellow musicians and colleagues for their amazing contributions in music. It's an honor being part of this incredible community.

The outstanding musicians, the producers, engineers, music professionals and my label @elcerritorecords, for standing by me to make this album. This album brought me the light I needed after losing my beloved father. You pulled me out of one of the darkest times in my life. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

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BASS: DAVE SANDS

DRUMS: OSCAR AUTIE

CELLO: IVETTE FALCÓN

GUITAR: CAMILO LANDAU

TRUMPET: DILEYVIS (EL NICHE) ROMERO

BACKING VOCALS: NONA BROWN

CHILDREN VOCALS: NISHAAD SHAH, AYAN SHAH, SEBASTIÁN GONZALO SANMARTI KEIL, JULIÁN SANTIAGO SANMARTI KEIL, ALBERTO MORITO CÁRDENAS, LOLA CARRIZO BONANZINGA, VERA COSTA, SARA COSTA, DANNA VILLANUEVA MENJIVAR, AND JAYVYN THWAITES

ARRANGEMENTS: MARIO GABRIEL SANMARTI

BACKING VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS: NONA BROWN

PRODUCERS: KENYA AUTIE, MARIO GABRIEL SANMARTI, AND TINA KIDS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: MIA MORAVIS

RECORDING ENGINEERS: OSCAR AUTIE AND MARIO GABRIEL SANMARTI

MIX AND MASTERING ENGINEER: OSCAR AUTIE

ADDITIONAL RECORDING ENGINEERS: BORIS LARRAMENDI, AKASH SHAH, GAURAV SHAH, AND JESSE KASSETTE HANES

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ALBUM COVER ARTIST AND DESIGNER: DANIEL LÓPEZ MÁRQUEZ

Indian American Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna asks India to condemn Putin, stop buying Russian oil

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna has reiterated his call to India to give up its neutral stance and condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin for the invasion of Ukraine.

Going a step further, he wanted India to stop buying oil from Russian and China and get weapons from the US instead of Russia even as he acknowledged that the US needed India to ultimately contain China.

"I've been clear actually on India, and I think India ought to be condemning Putin and India ought not to be getting oil from Russia or China," Khanna said in an interview with Fox News Sunday.

"We ought to rally the world around to isolate Putin," said Khanna, who is also the vice chair of the US India Caucus, the largest country-specific caucus in the House of Representatives.

"First India should condemn Putin in the UN for the blatant human rights violations," he said. "Second, they need to realize, they have to pick sides."

"We, the United States, were with them when China invaded India. Putin wasn't there," he said.

"And it's time for them to buy weapons from the United States, not Russia," said Khanna, who represents Silicon Valley in the House.

"We've got to look at how we can facilitate



Congressman Ro Khanna has reiterated his call to India to give up its neutral stance and condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin for the invasion of Ukraine.

that and make that easier," he said noting, "We need India as an ally ultimately to contain China."

In a recent interview with the American Bazaar too, Khanna had asked India to clearly pick sides with a free enterprise democracy over Vladimir Putin's dictatorship.

"I think my position is supported by most Indian Americans. They believe and understand what I do," he had said.

"We have to strengthen the relationship," Khanna said. "We have to have the defense relationship even more strengthened so that they're not reliant on arms from Putin, but that they are more building and buying from the United States."

"And most people in Silicon Valley at

least want to strengthen the US India relationship," Khanna told the American Bazaar. "Want to see them clearly pick sides with a free enterprise democracy as opposed to dictatorship which is what Putin is."

In the interview with Fox News, Khanna also defended President Joe Biden's off the cuff remarks that Putin "cannot remain in power" even as he made clear that the US policy is not regime change, but a negotiated end of war.

"US policy is not regime change. It's negotiated end of this war," Khanna said noting that the White House had been quick to clarify the US position.

"They have been disciplined and said there has to be negotiated end of this war," he said. "It's a Democratic house and it has been Democratic policy for the last 20 years."

Defending Biden, Khanna said any human being would express frustration over the bombing of women and children in Mariupol.

"The President was speaking from the heart. But it's not the US policy to seek the regime change," he asserted.

Biden's ad-libbed words - "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power" - in Warsaw Saturday at the end of a European visit - created a firestorm around the world and sent US officials scrambling to clarify the US position.

Indian American political scientist Vipin Narang takes up key Pentagon job

NEW YORK (TIP): Vipin Narang, an Indian American political scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), known for his research on nuclear weapons, conflict and proliferation has taken a key job at the Pentagon.

Son of parents of Indian descent, Narang has been sworn in as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy at the Department of Defense, an office that looks after Pentagon's space war-fighting policy.

Narang announced Tuesday that he is "taking a public service leave" from the MIT to take up the high-level civilian post with work involving "nuclear, cyber, and missile defense policy".

"Some professional news: I am taking a public service leave from MIT," he tweeted Tuesday. "Today, I was honored to be sworn in as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, which now includes nuclear, cyber, and missile defense policy. Very excited and humbled to work at OSD/P."

Born in the San Francisco Bay area, Narang is the Frank Stanton Professor of Nuclear Security and Political Science and member of the Security Studies



Vipin Narang, an Indian American political scientist has taken a key job at the Pentagon.

Program at the MIT.

His first book Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era (Princeton University Press, 2014) on the deterrence strategies of regional nuclear powers won the 2015 ISA International Security Studies Section Best Book Award, according to his official bio.

His second book Seeking the Bomb: Strategies of Nuclear Proliferation was published with Princeton University Press in 2022. His work has appeared in a variety of outlets including International Security, Journal of

Conflict Resolution, The Washington Quarterly, International Organization, Foreign Affairs, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.

He was the recipient of the 2020 ISSS Emerging Scholar Award from the International Studies Association awarded to the scholar who "had made the most significant contribution to the field of security studies."

He received his PhD from the Department of Government, Harvard University in 2010. He holds a BS and MS in chemical engineering with distinction from Stanford University and an M Phil with Distinction in international relations from Balliol College, Oxford University, where he studied on a Marshall Scholarship.

He has been a fellow at Harvard University's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, a predoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and a Stanton junior faculty fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

His research interests include nuclear proliferation and strategy, North Korea's nuclear weapons, South Asian security, and general security studies.

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