



\$44 BILLION TWITTER DEAL 'TEMPORARILY ON HOLD' OVER DATA ON FAKE ACCOUNTS; STOCKS SLUMP



Elon Musk
File photo

NEW YORK (TIP): Elon Musk tweeted on Friday, May 13, that his \$44-billion cash deal for Twitter Inc was "temporarily on hold" while he waits for the social media company to provide data on the proportion of its fake accounts, says a Reuters report.

Twitter shares initially fell more than 20% in premarket trading, but after Musk, the chief executive of

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20 Punjabis in fray for Ontario provincial polls

MAJOR POLITICAL OUTFITS BANKING HEAVILY ON SOUTH ASIANS IN GENERAL AND PUNJABIS IN PARTICULAR

MISSISSAUGA (TIP): As many as 20 candidates of Punjab origin are in the fray for the Ontario provincial elections in Canada for which the polling is scheduled to be held on June 2 for all 123 constituencies.

The three major political outfits - the Liberals, National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Progressive Conservative Party (PC) - are not only banking heavily on South Asians in general and Punjabis in particular, but they have also given "adequate representation" to their communities by fielding them.

In the final list, Liberal Party and Progressive Conservative Party have

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(Left to right) Param Gill, Nina Tangari and P Sarkaria are among the 20 Punjabis in fray for Ontario provincial polls

Doyen of Punjabi singing Satinder Sartaaaj to perform in New York on May 15



Harry Singh Bolla (7th from left) is being honored by Satinder Sartaaaj (6th from left) and Bajwa (5th from left)

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): One of the best-known Punjabi singers of all times, Satinder Sartaaaj is on a singing tour of the US. He is scheduled to perform at the

Colden Center auditorium in Queens, New York on May 15th evening.

The organizer of the show Balwinder Singh Bajwa hosted a meet and greet for

Sartaaaj at Antun's in Hicksville on Thursday, May 12th.

Bajwa who has promoted more entertainment shows than any other in the Punjabi community in the US described Sartaaaj as a singer in the best Sufi tradition whose songs are rich in poetry and deal with the beauty of mind and soul. He is the best among the best Punjabi singers, Bajwa said.

Speaking in his characteristic mellifluous tone, Sartaaaj made a passionate plea for the need to preserve and promote Punjabi culture abroad. He said he loves Nature, and he sings Nature. He has always wished to remain rooted to his cultural values. That explains the Sufi tradition in his singing.

Harry Singh Bolla, a prominent Punjabi businessman and one with charitable disposition who patronizes culture and art and every worthwhile community endeavor observed that the younger Punjabi generation in the US is

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RANIL WICKREMESINGHE RETURNS AS LANKAN PM



Newly appointed Sri Lanka PM Ranil Wickremesinghe (L) with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Twitter photo

COLOMBO (TIP): Opposition leader and former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th Prime Minister on Thursday, days after his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign following violent protests over the worst economic crisis in the debt-ridden island nation.

The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took oath before President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a ceremony in the President's office after

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DELHI FIRE: COPS IDENTIFY 7 BODIES, 29 STILL MISSING; DEATH TOLL LIKELY TO RISE



As many as 27 people were killed in the major fire incident on Friday, May 13 afternoon while 12 sustained injuries
Photo / PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Day after a massive building fire in outer Delhi's Mundka claimed 27 lives, frantic relatives were still searching for their loved ones as police said 29 people were unaccounted for. According to the Fire Department, the death toll could rise up to 30 as charred remains were found in

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THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE HAS NO LIMITS IN A DEMOCRACY

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has yet again fastened the people's faith in judiciary and its highest office by underscoring the 'requirement to balance' security interests of the State with civil liberties of its citizens in Wednesday's order putting the sedition law on hold. Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code has no place in a civilized society, as is evident from cases slapped by various state governments against their political opponents - the latest being the Shiv Sena government's case against BJP leaders in Maharashtra. The continuance of a law used by the colonial administration to throttle freedom fighters is itself a matter of shame; and then for Independent India's rulers to misuse this very law to settle political

scores is an assault on the basic tenets of the rule of law. The British had used this law to lock up for life all those who expressed hatred against the alien government. Section 124A is as illegitimate as the colonial rule.

The government's response to the progressive leap taken finally by the CJI, after 75 long years of India's Independence, is disappointing. The applicability and the contextuality of the law are not only within the Supreme Court's remit, but it is entirely a justiciable issue for the apex court. There have been previous instances of judicial transgression into legislative and executive spheres, but not this. Who else but the Supreme Court would decide the merits of a law that governments

love and the Opposition hates? Then for the government to remind the CJI of the Lakshman rekha over this order was most inopportune as the pursuit of justice has no limits in a democracy.

Last year, the SC Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Hemant Gupta had ordered that dissent is not sedition, while dismissing a petition filed against Farooq Abdullah. Now, the Bench of CJI Ramana, Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli has taken the judicial review forward by offering relief to all those who have been incarcerated under this vague and repressive law. It is the Centre's responsibility to ensure that the police do not breach the Lakshman rekha of the spirit of this order.

(Tribune)

REFORMING WHO

MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ENHANCE WHO'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS

In the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again brought up the much-discussed issue of reforming the World Health Organization while addressing the heads of countries at the second global COVID-19 summit. That reforms are urgently needed to strengthen the global health body and its ability to respond to novel and known disease outbreaks in order to limit the harm caused to the global community is beyond debate. The long delay and the reluctance of China to readily and quickly share vital information regarding the novel coronavirus, including the viral outbreak in Wuhan, and its stubborn refusal to allow the global agency to investigate, freely and fairly, the origin of the virus have highlighted the need to strengthen WHO. But any attempt to build a stronger WHO must first begin with increased mandatory funding by member states. For several years, the mandatory contribution has accounted for less than a fourth of the total budget, thus

reducing the level of predictability in WHO's responses; the bulk of the funding is through voluntary contribution. Importantly, it is time to provide the agency with more powers to demand that member states comply with the norms and to alert WHO in case of disease outbreaks that could cause global harm. Under the legally binding international health regulations, member states are expected to have in place core capacities to identify, report and respond to public health emergencies. Ironically, member states do not face penalties for non-compliance. This has to change for any meaningful protection from future disease outbreaks.

While Mr. Modi has been right in calling for reforms in WHO, the demand for a review of the health agency's processes on vaccine approvals is far removed from reality. Covaxin is not the first vaccine from India to be approved by WHO, and the manufacturer of this vaccine has in the past successfully traversed the approval processes without

any glitch. The demand for a review of the vaccine approval process is based on the assumption that the emergency use listing (EUL) of Covaxin was intentionally delayed by the health agency, which has no basis. That the technical advisory group had regularly asked for additional data from the company only underscores the incompleteness of the data presented by the company. As a senior WHO official said, the timeline for granting an EUL for a vaccine depends "99% on manufacturers, the speed, the completeness" of the data. To believe that the agency was influenced more by media reports than the data submitted by the company is naive; the media were only critical of the Indian regulator approving the vaccine even in the absence of efficacy data. Also, the rolling submission began in July 2021 after the company had completed the final analysis of the phase-3 data. Any reform in WHO should not dilute the vaccine approval process already in place.

(The Hindu)

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IIT Kanpur Delegation Visits New York

GRAND EVENT HELD TO FELICITATE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF IITK



Consul general Randhir Jaiswal addresses the gathering

NEW YORK (TIP): IITK delegation, led by IIT Kanpur Director, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, made their first pit-stop at New York to hold formal interactions with alumni at an event held in Indian Consulate on 8 May 2022.

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Indian Consul General, was the Guest of Honour. The

event was attended by Dr Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General, along with about 75 eminent alumni.

Distinguished alumni of IITK, Dr. Dev Joneja, Prof. Shivendra Panwar, and Mr. Ranjan Tandon were felicitated at the event as they could not attend Distinguished Alumnus Award and



Members of the IIT Kanpur delegation with the Consul General Randhir Jaiswal (5th from left) and Deputy Consul General (2nd from right)

Distinguished Services Award ceremonies of IITK due to Covid-19 pandemic.

As one of the top benefactors of IITK, Dr. Dev Joneja and Mr. Anil Bansal addressed the gathering and encouraged alumni to give back to the Institute.

IITK delegation team consists of Prof.

S. Ganesh, Deputy Director, IITK, Prof. Yogesh M. Joshi, Mr. Kapil Kaul, CEO, IITK Development Foundation.

The delegation is traveling across the US to meet its alumni to strengthen its relations and chart the future road map of the Institute.

(Based on a press release)

38th Edition of FIA's 'Dance Pe Chance' dazzles after 2 years of hiatus

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Over 300 children participated from the various community dance schools in the tri-state area to showcase their talent, discipline, technique and costumes. Children aging from 6-year-olds thru 16 and mix-age adult groups participated in the competition.

Mesmerizing performances were a mixed repertoire of culture and tradition set to the tune of contemporary Indian 'Bollywood' Film Songs. Inclement weather did nothing to dampen the spirit and the event saw a great turnout of over 1100 spectators.

A total of 16 different performances were showcased by the groups which included non-scoring performances by adult dancing groups.

The panel of judges included a renowned Kathak Dancer and Actress Guru Archana Joglekar, Bollywood Choreographer and director Kush Banker, popular actress of South Indian Films Manya, and the star emcee, Sensational Bollywood actress Mannara Chopra.

Deputy Counsel General of India-New York Dr. Varun Jeph was in attendance. He expressed his joy in witnessing the participation from diverse community groups including members from other communities of the USA. He expressed his gratitude to FIA for engaging the community's children with such confidence and discipline-building engagement

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Mr. Varun Jeph, deputy Consul General of India at New York gives his remarks



A view of participants



Winners Aum Dance Creations and Atma Dance Studios

California Sikh faces racial slurs and threats in his neighborhood

PARAMJIT SINGH AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): For a first generation Sikh American father, Rouble Paul Claire, Sutter in California has been home for decades. The family has been living in the neighborhood since 1973.

Naturally for most immigrants in America, having lived so long in a place, the country feels like a natural home. However, Claire and his family were in for a rude shock when he found himself confronted with racism in his very neighborhood.

The incidents began surfacing in 2021, when a woman shouted and called Claire a F*cking Hindu and then he woke up to find racial graffiti written on his driveway calling him N*gger.

In 2021, he was accosted by a woman in his neighborhood while at South Butte Market, a local grocery store. The woman shouted and cursed at Claire -including by calling him a "f*cking Hindu"- threatened to "ram" him with her car, and then got in her car and sped towards him in a parking lot, only swerving away at the last moment.

Later that day, another woman connected to the assailant in the first incident wrote the word "Sand N*gger" in chalk on the sidewalk outside Claire's house and in his driveway, and called him "N*gger."

Claire, 66, immediately notified the Sutter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). But after months of delay and inconsistent responses, he has now retained the Sikh Coalition, a civic service organization providing free legal help to victims of racism.

Claire says, "I have been subject to threats, harassment, and racial slurs - yet almost a full year later, no one has been held accountable."

He adds, "For months after immediately reporting these hateful acts, I sat in silence waiting for action that never came. I did not want to have to take legal action against anyone, but I believe that this failure of justice is unacceptable: No one in our community should have to face this kind of hate and bigotry."

The Sikh Coalition is now urging Sutter County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO) to bring criminal charges in the first case. Simultaneously, Claire has filed a civil suit against officers of the SCSO, Sutter



Claire says, "I have been subject to threats, harassment, and racial slurs - yet almost a full year later, no one has been held accountable."

County, and the individual who threatened him.

Despite repeatedly appealing to the SCSO for help, Claire received little aid. One deputy who responded to the chalking incident used his own water bottle in an attempt to wash away the evidence before taking photos for the office. Another advised him not to drive on his own street to avoid any confrontation.

For months, Claire's requests for action, charges, or even a police report documenting the incidents, repeatedly fell on deaf ears. After the Sikh Coalition was retained, its attorneys met with SCSO Sheriff Brandon Barnes in Dec 2021 and January this year.

In those conversations, Sheriff Barnes acknowledged that his deputies failed to follow proper investigatory protocol in the course of these cases and confirmed that one deputy had received additional training as a result.

Eventually, they also secured a police report detailing Claire's experiences - in which the SCSO recommended criminal charges against the woman who threatened him at the store six months after the incident.

The SCDAO, however refused to press charges aside from minimizing the danger of the altercation and ignoring the hateful slurs and vandalism Claire was subjected to both at the market and at his home.

They cited the amount of time that had elapsed between the incidents and the police finally calling for charges as reason not to move the case forward - despite the fact that this delay was due to the SCSO's failure to

properly investigate and act.

The Sikh Coalition is calling on the SCDAO to bring charges of criminal threats, assault, assault with a deadly weapon against the woman who initially threatened Claire with her car.

The coalition says it also remains extremely concerned about the utter inaction of local law enforcement in response to the racial slurs and graffiti on and around Claire's property - and broader allegations of a pattern of inaction by the SCDAO in cases targeting members of marginalized communities.

"No one deserves to feel threatened in their own community, and law enforcement- both police and prosecutors- simply must do better," said Amrith Kaur Aakre, Sikh Coalition Legal Director.

"Tragically, we have seen time and again that hateful interactions can lead to violent results. The case of Khalid Jabara, killed in Oklahoma in 2016 after months of verbal, bias-based harassment from a neighbor, comes to mind."

"The large Sikh population in this area is only more reason to ensure that all members of this community feel safe and secure," Aakre added.

"It is unacceptable that the law enforcement authorities sworn to protect Claire did so little over such a long time-and then ultimately refused to pursue the justice that he deserves," said attorney Sean Tamura-Sato who is representing the case.

"This civil suit is a first step to remedying that failure, as well as taking legal action against the women who threatened and harassed him, who have faced no consequences whatsoever due to Sutter County's practice of inadequately investigating and prosecuting hate crimes against racial and ethnic minorities," said attorney Gina Szeto-Wong.

Sikhs are members of an independent faith tradition that is the world's fifth largest religion, and California is home to roughly half of the 500,000 Sikhs in the United States.

Sikhs remain among the top five most frequently targeted religious groups in the country for hate crimes and bias incidents, according to the FBI.

Indian-origin man jailed for 20 years for violent robbery in London



Ajaypal Singh was jailed for 20 years for violent robbery in London
Photo for representation only

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin man who was found guilty of a violent robbery in east London has been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment along with two of his accomplices.

Ajaypal Singh, 28, had pleaded guilty to the charge of possession with intent to supply and possession of a pointed/bladed article and was found guilty of robbery at a trial in November

last year. He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Friday to 20 years, with an extended license period of five years allowing for a further term dependent on conduct.

"This result is the conclusion of a complex investigation into a serious and violent crime that had a significant impact on the local community," said Detective Constable (DC) Darren Warner from the Specialist Crime Command of the Metropolitan Police, who conducted the investigation.

"It also left a family, including a young child, terrified. They will never be able to forget what happened to them that night. I am grateful to the members of the public who came forward to assist the investigation - in the Metropolitan Police we know that we are most effective when we police with the support of the public, working together to tackle those causing the most harm," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin accountant jailed for five-and-a-half years in UK for fraud, money laundering

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin chartered accountant (CA) has been sentenced to five-and-a-half years of imprisonment by a UK court after being convicted for exploiting a vulnerable victim out of money and assets worth 331,858 pounds.

Sukhvinder Singh, 73, was sentenced on four counts of fraud and one count of money laundering at York Crown Court in north-east England on Thursday. The court heard that the victim, identified only as 'A', has learning, social, and physical disabilities and was targeted and duped by Singh.

"Singh put himself forward as a trusted friend and professional financial adviser for an individual with considerable vulnerabilities. His actions, in diverting money and property for his own personal gain, was a huge breach of trust, and failed to support and protect the victim," said Andrea Thomas, a Senior Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Serious Economic



Sukhvinder Singh, 73, has been jailed for five-and-a-half years in UK for fraud, money laundering
Photo for representational purpose only

Organized and International Directorate (SEOCID).

"He may have obtained further assets from the victim but for the work of North Yorkshire police who helped to build a strong and compelling case. The conviction and sentence follow close team working between the CPS and police and results in justice for the victim. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Dr. Arun Majumdar named inaugural dean of Stanford University's new school on climate change and sustainability

STANFORD, CA (TIP): Dr Arun Majumdar, Indian-American material scientist, engineer and professor, has been named the inaugural dean of Stanford University's new school that focuses on climate change and sustainability.

Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, the university's first new school in 70 years, which aims to accelerate solutions to the global climate crisis, will be launched on September 1, according to Stanford news.

Majumdar, currently the Jay Precourt Provostial Chair Professor, a faculty member of the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering, and Senior Fellow and former director of the Precourt Institute for Energy, will assume his new position on June 15.

Originally from Kolkata, Majumdar



Dr. Majumdar will assume his new position on June 15

received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, in 1985 and his PhD from the University of

California, Berkeley, in 1989. He was nominated to the position of Under Secretary of Energy in the United States between November 30, 2011 and May 15, 2012 but then the nomination was retracted.

After leaving Washington DC, Majumdar was the vice president for energy at Google, where he assembled a team to create technologies and businesses at the intersection of data, computing, and electricity grid.

Majumdar joined Stanford in 2014. He was the founding director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), and currently serves as the chair of the advisory board to the US Secretary of Energy.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the inaugural dean," Majumdar said in the release.

INDIAN-ORIGIN DR. KAMAL BAWA ELECTED TO US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Dr. Kamal Bawa has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences.

BENGALURU (TIP): Dr. Kamaljit S. Bawa, aka Kamal Bawa, a noted, Indian born, conservation biologist and President of the Bengaluru, India-based Ashoka Trust for Research and Ecology and Environment (ATREE) has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences. Election to the 170-year-old Academy is a recognition of the significant contributions to science by its members, ATREE said in a press release on May 5. Bawa is also an elected fellow of the Royal Society (London) and the American Philosophical Society.

"The election is the reaffirmation of our important work on the ecology, conservation, and management of tropical forests that are declining all over the world but are critical to humanity's well-being," said Bawa.

Biodiversity in tropical forests and other natural habitats is an important source of many ecosystem services and for the mitigation of climate change. ATREE, founded by Bawa is well recognized for its work on assessing and managing biodiversity, climate change, and water. A Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Bawa has done extensive work in the Himalaya for a number of years on a wide range of issues from biodiversity conservation to climate change.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Kris Kolluri tapped to lead NY & NJ's Gateway Program



Kris Kolluri, an Indian American infrastructure management expert, has been tapped to lead New York and New Jersey's Gateway Program

NEW YORK (TIP): Kris Kolluri, an Indian American infrastructure management expert, has been tapped to lead New York and New Jersey's Gateway Program, including redevelopment of the Portal North Bridge and a new Hudson River tunnel.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy jointly announced the nomination of Kolluri as the CEO of the Gateway Development Commission, on May 6.

The Commission is a partnership between New York, New Jersey and Amtrak that coordinates delivery of the Gateway Program with its partner agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and NJ TRANSIT.

Kolluri will be considered by the Gateway Development Commission's Board at its next upcoming meeting, anticipated on May 16, according to a press release from the New York governor's office.

"With his extensive resume, Kris Kolluri brings an extraordinary record

of public service and I am confident he will serve New York and New Jersey well as CEO of the Gateway Development Commission," Hochul said.

"The Gateway Hudson Tunnel is critical to the Northeast corridor serving more than 800,000 passengers daily and is a key component of our plan to build back stronger than ever," she said.

"Moving the Gateway Program, and specifically the Hudson Tunnel Project, forward is critically important for our region, and I am confident that Kris Kolluri's leadership will help us realize these much-needed projects," said Murphy.

"Kris has years of infrastructure management and operations experience, as well as years of government experience, that will be vital as we continue working with our federal partners to get the Gateway Program fully funded and completed."

"I am honored to be nominated by Governors Phil Murphy and Kathy Hochul to be Chief Executive Officer of the Gateway Development Commission. I look forward to meeting the Commissioners and supporting their important work," said Kolluri.

"There is a clear and present opportunity and desire among federal, state, and bi-state partners to advance the Hudson Tunnel Project and the Gateway Program," he said. "In the short term, the HTP is poised to move forward and the Commission has a critical role in overseeing the successful delivery of this project."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN STUDENT DIES IN MISSOURI CAR CRASH



Telangana student dies in US car crash
Photo for representational purpose only

HYDERABAD (TIP): In a tragic incident, a postgraduate student from Telangana died when the car in which he was travelling was hit by a truck near the city of Warrensburg in Johnson County of state of Missouri. He was declared dead by doctors who attended him after being taken to the hospital.

Identified as Sareddy Kranthi Kiran Reddy (25), the boy hailed from Annaram village in Miryalaguda Mandal of Nalgonda district.

According to family sources, who received the news from the university, Reddy was travelling with three other friends in his car when they were hit by a truck. He is said to have succumbed to his injuries almost instantly after the accident.

The accident occurred on Monday, and the family was informed on Tuesday morning. Kranthi Kiran's brother Chandrakanth is also studying in the USA.

The University, where Kranthi Kiran studied, informed the victim's parents, Srinivas Reddy and Aruna, about the tragedy.

The family is in shock and has asked the state government for help to bring the deceased's body back from the US for last rites. (Source: TNS)

INDIAN-ORIGIN VETERAN SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKETER HOOSAIN AYOB DIES AT 81



South Africa's Indian origin legendary fast bowler Hoosain Ayob has died following a prolonged illness

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): South Africa's Indian origin legendary fast bowler Hoosain Ayob has died following a prolonged illness, never having played for the country due to apartheid. He was 81.

Ayob had been internationally recognized as one of the greatest players in the history of the country but wasn't allowed to represent it because of apartheid.

He succumbed to a kidney ailment in a hospital on Saturday morning while visiting family in Port Elizabeth.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Judges and a view of the audience

38th Edition of FIA's 'Dance Pe Chance' dazzles after 2 years of hiatus

CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCES



CONTD FROM PAGE 3

that also instills our motherland's culture through the form of dance.

FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai thanked all the judges, sponsors and FIA executive team along with all female DPC team that worked tirelessly to bring this complex event together. He also invited the community to participate in numbers for the India Day Parade in Manhattan in Aug. of this year.

Over \$ 20,000 were given in cash prizes, the first price being of \$ 5,000.00 which

was won in a tie between Aum Dance Creations and Atma Dance Studios.

Dance pe chance over its nearly four decades has seen the participation from nearly 19 thousand children and the competition aims at bringing the diverse cultures of India, inspire creativity and encourage teamwork combined with competitiveness among children to make them face the future better and making them aware of their roots which lay in the diverse cultures and traditions of India. With support and compliments

from FIA executive team and with the help of sponsors and supporters and unlike any other dance competition this year as well, all meals and close to 400 tickets were given to the participating students to stay committed to FIA's vision of engaging next generation of Americans of Indian origin with our culture and our motherland.

For the first time ever, the half-time show showcased a grand performance by Actress Mannara Chopra (also the Master of Ceremonies) who along with

the help of Choreographers Sandesh Shetty and Deepa Pais, did a medley performance that concluded with a thunderous applause from the audience

FIA thanks its sponsors ICICI Bank, Parikh Worldwide Media, TV Asia Bansal Foundation, Arista Care, Dr Rashmi and Navin Mehta Foundation, New York Banners-Stands, Royal Albert Palace and it's Media Partners ITVGold, TV Asia, South Asian Times, Radio Zindagi and The Indian Panorama.

(Based on a press release)

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Revisiting Roe vs Wade

"THE JOB OF A JUDGE IS TO INTERPRET THE LAW MADE BY THE LEGISLATURE, AND APPLY IT TO SPECIFIC CASES, BUT NOT TO MAKE LAW. ROE VS WADE (AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD VS CASEY) CLEARLY MADE LAW, WHICH WAS THE FUNCTION OF THE LEGISLATURE. HENCE IT SHOULD BE REVERSED."

BY JUSTICE
MARKANDEY KATJU



A controversy is raging in America over Justice Alito's leaked draft judgment proposing to overturn the US Supreme Court's verdict in Roe vs Wade delivered in 1973 regarding the right of abortion. It is believed 4 other judges in the court intend to concur with Justice Alito, making it a majority judgment.

I believe Justice Alito's view is correct and would like to give my reasons. Of course, it is only a draft opinion, but knowing the judicial philosophy of the majority judges it is highly likely it will be confirmed in the final verdict.

In Roe vs Wade the US Supreme Court set up a trimester system of pregnancy in women. In the first trimester (the first 3 months of pregnancy) no restrictions could be placed on a woman to abort. In the second trimester, too, abortion was permissible, though the state could put some restrictions e.g., it should be done by qualified medical personnel, in licensed clinics, etc. In the third trimester no

abortion was permissible unless a qualified doctor certified that the life of the woman would be in danger without abortion.

In Planned Parenthood vs Casey, 1992, the right to abortion enunciated in Roe was reiterated, but the trimester system was replaced by the viability test (i.e., at what stage of the pregnancy would the fetus be able to survive outside the woman's womb), and the undue burden test (i.e., does the restriction on abortion place an undue burden on the pregnant woman e.g., taking the husband's consent).

I am not going into the questions as to when does life begin, when is a fetus viable, what are undue burdens, etc.

My simple point is that under the separation of powers theory (that each of the 3 organs of the state have their own spheres of operation and should not encroach into each other's domains), it is for the legislature, not the judiciary, to make laws, and both Roe vs Wade as well as

Planned Parenthood vs Casey made laws.

I am personally in favor of the right to abortion, but then this right should be enacted by the legislature, not created by judges. There is nothing specific in the US Constitution which gives a right to abortion. Some states in America have enacted this right, but others have not.

The rights of people in the US Constitution are mentioned in the Bill of Rights and several Amendments to the Constitution, e.g., the 14th Amendment, but the right to abortion is nowhere contained therein.

Of course, there is a theory of 'unenumerated rights', i.e., there are some rights which though not expressly mentioned in the Constitution can be said to be part of it, but I do not subscribe to this view. To accept it would mean that any judge, according to his whim and fancy, can declare anything as an 'unenumerated right' and enforce it. This would lead to chaos.

In his book, ' The Nature of the Judicial

Process ' Justice Cardozo of the US Supreme Court observed " A judge is not a Knight Errant roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty and goodness".

In his dissenting judgment in Griswold vs Connecticut, Justice Hugo Black warned that ' unbounded judicial creativity will make this Court a day-to-day National Convention '.

In Lochner vs New York the celebrated Justice Holmes of the US Supreme Court in his dissenting judgment criticized the majority of the court for becoming a super legislature by inventing a 'liberty of contract' theory thereby enforcing its particular laissez faire economic philosophy.

The job of a judge is to interpret the law made by the legislature, and apply it to specific cases, but not to make law. Roe vs Wade (and Planned Parenthood vs Casey) clearly made law, which was the function of the legislature. Hence it should be reversed.

(Justice Katju, is a former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

CANADIAN POLITICS

JUDI TYABJI & SANDI HAWKINS PLAYED PIONEERS

BY PRABHJOT
SINGH



More women of Indian descent preferred federal politics than provincial politics. But Judi Tyabji and Sandi Hawkins were exceptions.

JUDELINE KIM MARY TYABJI, also known as Judi Tyabji, was the first woman of Indian origin to be elected to any legislature in Canada. In 1991, Judi Tyabji was declared successful from the newly created Riding of Okanagan East. Representing Liberals, she defeated a sitting Cabinet Minister and senior NDP leader. She was not only the youngest MLA on record till that time but also the only successful Liberal candidate from the entire interior region of the province. She also had the distinction of being the first legislator to give birth to a child.

Though her first attempt to get into the British Columbia legislature in a byelection from Boundary Similkameen and then re-election in 1996 as a nominee of a party (Progressive Democratic Alliance) she and her second husband Gordon Wilson had floated, were unsuccessful, she remained active on the political front. She subsequently contested municipal elections and won.

Born in Kolkata (then Calcutta) on January 2, 1965, to English and Indian parents, she moved to Canada in mid 70s and graduated from University of Victoria and joined Liberal party. Her father Alan Tyabji was into wine business.

After retiring from politics, she took to writing, broadcasting and print media.

In 1996 when **JUDI TYABJI** failed to get into British Columbia for the second successive time, another woman of Indian descent, Satinder Kaur Ahluwalia, popular



as Sandi Hawkins in provincial politics, was elected on Liberal ticket from Okanagan East. She was re-elected in 2001 in the new riding of Kelowna-Mission, and elected for a third term in 2005.

Before her election to the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Hawkins worked as a registered nurse in general duty, intensive care, management, education and consulting. She set up her own company as a lawyer with an interest in medical-legal issues. She received both her Bachelor of Nursing and her Bachelor of Law degrees from the University of Calgary. Ms. Hawkins had a post-graduate certificate in neuroscience nursing from the Montreal Neurological Hospital. She was recognized as one of the first nurses in Canada to be certified in neuroscience nursing by the Canadian Nurses Association.

A nurse, lawyer and politician, Sindi Hawkins was a warm-hearted woman with a ribald sense of humor who was later diagnosed with leukemia in 2004. Once cancer was detected, she decided not to contest the 2009 elections and died in September 2010 at the age of 52. During her treatment, it was her sister who was the donor twice for bone marrow transfusion.

Hawkins was passionate about high-quality health care and launched her own golf tournament to raise money for cancer. As a result of her public fight with the disease, the B.C. Southern Interior Cancer Centre was renamed the Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Cancer Centre.

She ran for the legislature in 1996 and became the first Sikh woman elected in the province's history. She held two ministerial positions, including the head of intergovernmental affairs and minister of health planning. As a member of the cabinet, she fought to increase the number of nurses in B.C. Under her watch, the province expanded medical campuses at the University of Victoria, University of Northern British Columbia and in the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

After Judi Tyabji and Sandi Hawkins, a number of women of Indian descent made a remarkable entry to Provincial politics. In British Columbia, the third woman of Indian origin to make it to the Provincial Parliament was Patty Sahota, also a Liberal.

In Ontario, it was Amrit Mangat who had the distinction of becoming the first Sikh woman to sit in the Provincial Assembly. In Alberta, Leela Aheer was first elected in 2015 and again in 2019. Other women of Indian origin to sit in the Alberta Provincial Assembly are Rakhi Pancholi of NDP and Rajan Sawhney of United Conservative. Rajan Sawhney also happens to be the Minister for Transportation,

She is also the Vice-President of the Sikh Society of Calgary and Director of Guru Nanak Public School.

After Amrit Mangat, a number of South Asian migrant women have been represented in the Ontario Provincial Assembly. They include Dipika Damerla, Indira Naidu Harris, Harinder Malhi, Nina Tangri (Associate Minister in Doug Ford government), Sara Singh, Goldie Ghamari (Parliamentary Assistant), and Doly Begum (from Bangladesh).

In British Columbia, Jinny Jogindera Sims has become the first South Asian migrant to remain Member of Parliament as well as Member of Provincial Parliament and a Cabinet Minister in her province. Rachna Singh, Nikki Sharma and Harwinder Sandhu are among other South Asian migrant women to sit in BC Assembly.

Provinces like Manitoba and Saskatchewan are yet to elect their first South Asian migrant woman MPP or MLA.

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

Opposition cedes space as Congress in decline

BY SABA
NAQVI



"THE OPPOSITION SPACE IS SO BADLY FRAGMENTED THAT IT SEEMS INCAPABLE OF REACHING THE CRITICAL MASS NECESSARY TO TAKE ON THE BJP. AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE THINLY-SPREAD-OUT CONGRESS THAT HAS A NOTIONAL PRESENCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY BUT LACKS DEPTH AND GETS QUICKLY UPROOTED. HENCE, IT KEEPS LOSING BASES TO REGIONAL FORCES, SUCH AS THE RECENT LOSS OF PUNJAB TO AAP. ATTEMPTS TO STAY AFLOAT IN THE FACE OF REGIONAL POWERHOUSES HAVE ALSO PRODUCED DISMAL RESULTS AS IN BENGAL AND UP..... RATIONAL THOUGHT DEMANDS THAT THE CONGRESS AND REGIONAL FORCES UNITE. IT NECESSITATES THAT THE CONGRESS PULL ITSELF UP BY ITS BOOTSTRAPS AND TIE UP WITH STRONG REGIONAL PARTIES - RULING OR IN THE OPPOSITION IN THE STATES. BUT THE IRRATIONAL IS HAPPENING. LAST WEEK, RAHUL GANDHI TRAVELLED TO TELANGANA, WHERE HE LAUNCHED A SCATHING ATTACK ON CHIEF MINISTER K. CHANDRASHEKAR RAO. KCR, HE TWEETED, HAD SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED THE DREAM OF THE PEOPLE OF TELANGANA WHEN STATEHOOD WAS GRANTED. HE ALSO SAID THAT TELANGANA WAS NOT RULED BY THE CM BUT BY A 'RAJA'."

It has been a year since two significant states, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, were won by two big regional parties, the TMC and DMK, even as the Left Front retained Kerala, giving rise to speculation that some kind of national Opposition could be mustered against the BJP in 2024. But a year down the line, after the BJP's recent win in state polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, and the continued disarray in the Congress, the vision of a grand Opposition coalition against the BJP has evaporated. Indeed, one may well say that in 2022, two years before the next General Election, the world's largest democracy is a country without a national Opposition.

This is cause for great concern in Opposition-ruled states: they are owed huge amounts in GST arrears and complain of being deliberately overlooked by the Centre. With inflation skyrocketing, they are coping with increased costs for infrastructure and development schemes even as avenues for raising revenue have shrunk since the roll-out of the GST. While they struggle for funds, both at the party and government levels, the BJP/RSS project of expanding to each part of the country, continues with purpose and is well funded. For instance, the BJP is opening offices in the districts of Tamil Nadu, a state where they have no real presence, yet are investing in the long game.

Opposition states are living through a particularly difficult era as all the niceties of cooperative federalism have been abandoned by the current Central dispensation. The onslaught is pretty ruthless and states not ruled by the national party, complain of being treated as hostile entities with enforcement wings of the Centre routinely used against them. For instance, in Maharashtra, two ministers of the ruling coalition are in jail, while a dozen are being investigated by Central agencies.

As prices soar in India and jobs are not created, in normal times the Opposition should have been emerging with strength and purpose. Instead, political narratives appear to be getting delinked from economic issues. Equally, the Opposition space is so badly fragmented that it seems incapable of reaching the critical mass necessary to take on the BJP. At the heart of the problem is the thinly-spread-out Congress that has a notional national presence across the country but lacks depth and gets quickly uprooted. Hence, it keeps losing bases to regional forces, such as the recent loss of Punjab to AAP. Attempts to stay afloat in the face of regional powerhouses have also produced dismal results, such as getting zero seats in Bengal and one in Uttar Pradesh. And when it comes to Congress vs BJP, even if the Congress wins, the BJP has a high strike rate in



Two years before the next General Election, the world's largest democracy is a country without a national Opposition. File photo

toppling the regimes through defections.

Rational thought demands that the Congress and regional forces unite. It necessitates that the Congress pull itself up by its bootstraps and tie up with strong regional parties - ruling or in the Opposition in the states. But the irrational is happening. Last week, Rahul Gandhi travelled to Telangana, where he launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. KCR, he tweeted, had single-handedly destroyed the dream of the people of Telangana when statehood was granted. He also said that Telangana was not ruled by the CM but by a 'Raja'.

It may be recalled that it was the Sonia Gandhi-led Congress that took political decisions that effectively destroyed the party's own bases in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh (the largest chunk of Congress MPs during the decade of UPA rule came from undivided Andhra Pradesh). Central to this success was chief minister YSR Reddy, a pioneer in designing popular welfare schemes (and having links with big business donors). But YSR's death in a plane crash in 2009, led to chaos that in turn resulted in the Congress national leadership taking decisions that in hindsight only finished them off in both Telangana, carved out of the state in 2014, and in Andhra Pradesh where YSR's son Jagan Mohan Reddy, denied power by the Congress, is now in power with his party named YSR Congress.

It's entirely possible that Rahul Gandhi feels compelled to speak up for what remains of his party in those parts; just as he would have been asked to do so by the Congress in Bengal. But surely it is time for the Congress leadership to get a reality check and recognize that 'the party is over' in many parts of India and the only way forward is to make arrangements with regional forces even if that involves giving up on what remains in the debris (the best template actually exists in Tamil Nadu where the Congress is the junior partner in the DMK-led alliance).

Presumably, political consultant Prashant Kishor had offered the blueprint of a national plan when he was negotiating to join the Congress last month. It may not have worked but the data with which the consultancy I-PAC, founded by Kishor, works would have been valuable as could have been the professionalism in calibrating other aspects of elections. Ironically, TRS is now reportedly a client of I-PAC just as Jagan Reddy was during the campaign that won him the state. But Kishor, meanwhile, after his talks with the Congress failed, has taken off for his home state Bihar where he has announced a padayatra and the beginning of a process that can culminate in the foundation of another political party/front.

Indeed, the great irony is that while there is not much of a national Opposition, the space is also getting very crowded. AAP is set to contest the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this year. The TMC has plans in the North-east, even as a foray into Goa was a disaster that did nothing to improve relations with the Congress. Kishor, consultant to various parties, has also begun a political process in Bihar where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is again making enigmatic moves.

The Congress, meanwhile, has not revealed any plan. Rahul Gandhi is reportedly deeply interested in philosophies of the world and perhaps believes in the live-life-one-day-at-a-time and what-will-be-will-be approach. Currently, the hopes seem to exist on a wing and a prayer, a phrase that comes from a fighter pilot trying to land his aircraft in World War II after a wing was destroyed. The Congress will have a brainstorming meeting in Udaipur between May 13 and 15. Let's hope the party leaders won't spend all the time trying to chase their own tails. The expectations are very low, so perhaps they can pull a surprise.

(The author is a senior journalist)

The Murky Business of Citations and Proclamations

BY DAVE
MAKKAR



"AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATE OR MUNICIPALITY CAN GET A CITATION OR PROCLAMATION FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO HIS/HER ELECTION FUND. THESE REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE, HISTORY OR PURPOSE OR HOW THESE CITATIONS WILL BE USED BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR AN ORGANIZATION IN USA OR IN INDIA."

Indian community organizations and its owners/leaders are quick to grab any opportunity that can bring money to them and undue recognition to a person or event that may not be of any benefit to the community living in USA. The latest fad is getting Citations and Proclamations for individuals including themselves like community service, or to visiting Religious Gurus from India or for celebrations of an event in a state of USA.

For years, a number of India Day Parades are organized in various parts of USA with additions of more joining this rat race. If we take a quick look the only purpose of these Parades is to make a quick name as well as quick money, or monetary favors for the organizers or to dispense monetary favors to the favorite vendors; with the least amount of effort, as well as a chance for them to be close to Bollywood celebrities, local officials and politicians. In nutshell, none of these organizations have anything to do with the rich culture and traditions of India or its 30 states or its religious diversity. All they do is parade themselves, their families, friends, vendors, Bollywood stars, local officials and US politicians in these "Insult India Parades". Some of them being paraded have taken Political Asylum in USA by labeling India as a tormentor state and some are of Pakistani origin.

The other murky business that Indian organizations and its owners/leaders love is conferring "Lifetime Achievement Awards" on individuals for picking up the full or partial tab of the event as w donation to their organization. Basically, this award is given to an individual for taking care of his own business and family!

Yet another manifestation of the murky business for last 3-4 years is getting Citations or Proclamations and it has been spreading very fast in America. An elected Representative of a State or Municipality can get a Citation or Proclamation for a contribution to his/her election fund. These representatives do not have to understand the cause, history or purpose or how these Citations will be used by an individual or an organization in USA or in India. Till 2020 most popular Citation was for a community service to an individual or organization

or for an event organized in honor of a visiting religious Guru from India.

A new chapter on Nov. 28, 2021 was added to this murky business of Citations by Sunil Hali & Nilesh Dasondi the Publisher & CEO of "The Indian Eye" by getting a Citation to the movie maker of The Kashmir Files from Mayor Thomas Lankey of Edison in New Jersey. This duo did the marketing of the film as "Truth Unfold" when in the very first scene of the TKF there is a Disclaimer: "Based on Fiction.". Even if one looked into the background of Vivek Agnihotri the maker of TKF; he has mostly made C-grade erotica and D-grade propaganda films only. He uses the following trick throughout the movie: he lures you with facts - such as the horrific exodus of Kashmiri Pandits - then distorts reality, mocks it, throws around some facts, distorts them, and so on. TKF is nothing but 'hatred, bigotry and untruth made to demonize Muslims & promote radical Hindutva as preached by Modi, BJP, RSS, VHP & other radical organizations. Hindutva has nothing to do with Hinduism.

Not to be left behind, FIA (Federation of Indian Associations) also got a Citation for film maker Agnihotri on Dec 9, 2022 from Rhode Island by using the services of Rep. Brian Kennedy for his yet to be worldwide release film "The Kashmir Files." Eventually the film was released on March 11, 2022 in India and other countries.

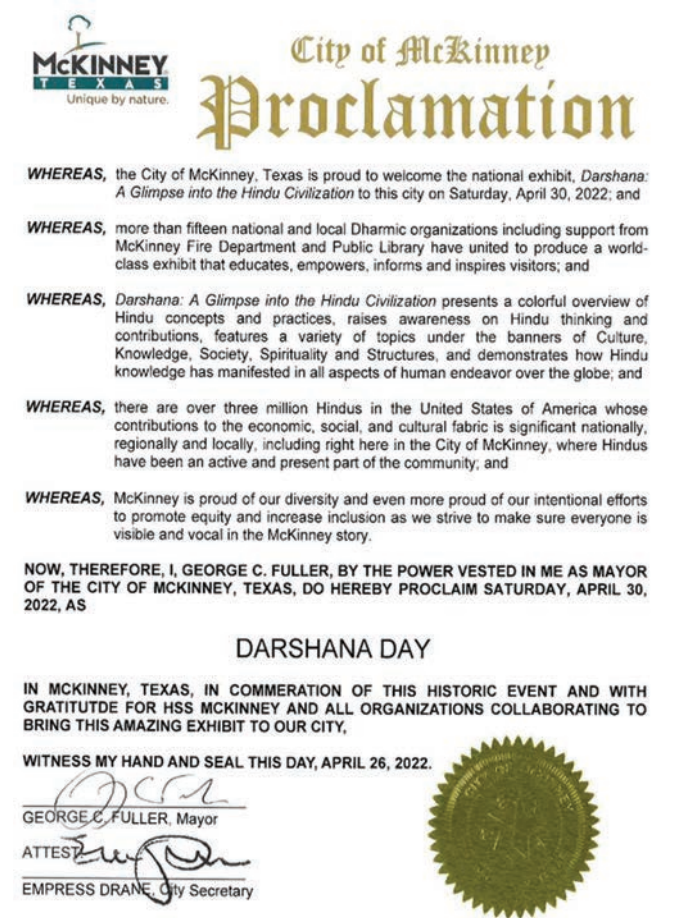
In Dec 2021, Ohio State Senator Niraj Antani a Modi sympathizer also got a Citation from Ohio state for the film maker Vivek Agnihotri for his yet to be publicly released film, "TKF".

There are 2 more recent examples that these Citations or Proclamations are easily available:

1. **SIKH INDEPENDENCE CITATION:** State of Connecticut General Assembly recognize April 29th as 36th Anniversary of "The Declaration of Sikh Independence"....!! The Consulate has expressed displeasure over the Citation congratulating on Sikh Declaration of Independence. The same Consulate never objected to film maker Agnihotri getting multiple Citations....!!



2. **DARSHAN DAY PROCLAMATION:** Mayor of McKinney City in Texas (USA) gave a Proclamation on the request of Mahesh Chamaria of Hindu Swayamsevak Singh (HSS) aka RSS declaring April 30th, 2022 as "DARSHAN DAY" for Photo Exhibition showing Hindu History....!!



CONTD ON PAGE 11

CONTD FROM PAGE 10

Agnihotri received the Citations in Nov. & Dec. 2021 and he along with Hindu Organizations and BJP's IT cell extensively used them in India and worldwide to promote his film KTF that was finally released on 630 screens on March 11, 2022 but later on it was increased to 4,000 screens after India's PM Modi, the main actor of 2002 Muslim massacre in Gujarat; himself praised the film for "bringing out the truth" and "presenting history in its correct perspective" before the country since this has been long "suppressed" by the "poori jamaat" (entire group).

FALSE CLAIM BY AV. GOT CITATION on 9TH DEC 2021 & USED IT ON 14TH MAR 2022

Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri @vivekagnihotri

HISTORIC:
First time in 32 years, any state in the world, the democratic & liberal state of USA -Rhode Island, has officially recognised Kashmir Genocide due to a very small film. Pl read this and decide who is the persecutor and who should get the punishment. This is #NewIndia



4:49 AM · Mar 14, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

A hate movie with a disclaimer "WORK OF FICTION" marketed as real story "TRUTH UNFOLD": made with a sole purpose to demonize Muslims intended to arouse the feelings of one community against another, and cash on the sentiment. The Kashmir Files box office collection in 31 Days: Rs. 331 Cr with the Endorsement of MODI, Top Brass of BJP, RSS, VHP, other fringe Hindu organizations, entire BJP ruled state govt.'s Machinery, Tax Free status & BJP IT cell promoting it 24x7. In the Indian State of Madhya Pradesh, the Chief Minister granted half-day paid leave to policemen to watch the film. Fanatic Hindu Organizations, individual leaders arranged Free Shows in India & Indian Embassy's & Consulates doing PR in Foreign countries AND Free Shows, transport & snacks in USA has helped Vivek Agnihotri to make millions of Dollars from TKF based on 'Hatred, bigotry and untruth' to demonize Kashmiri Muslims...!! On the other hand, without any kind of help that was given to TKF or by demonizing a particular community; an ENTERTAINER: RRR collected over Rs 900 Cr in 11 days in box office collections.....!!

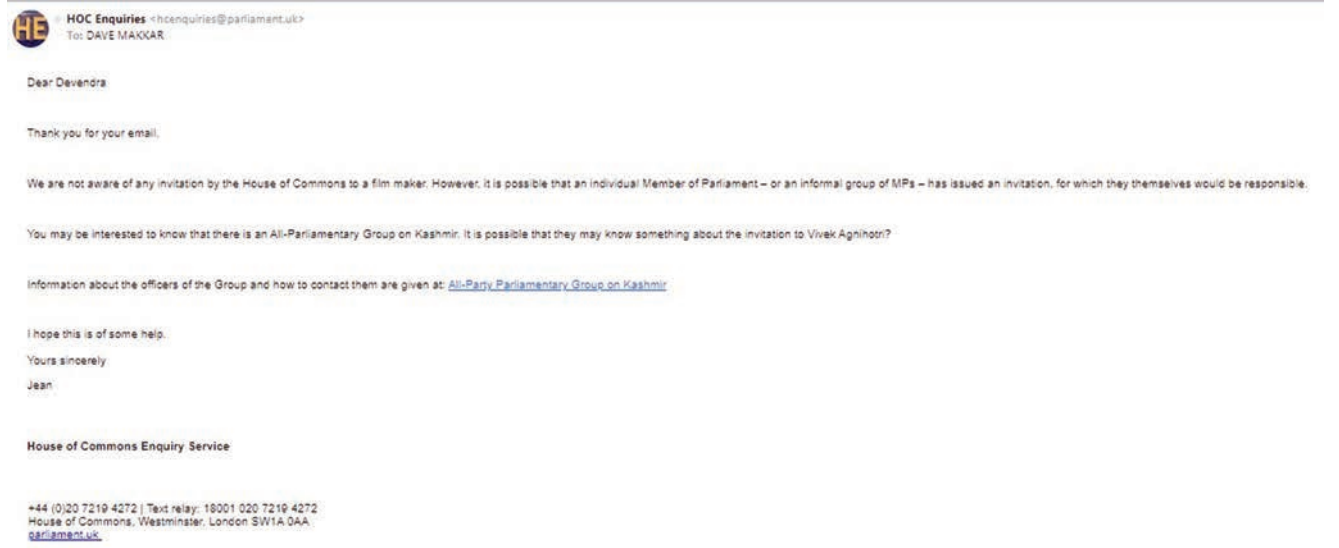
On March 14, 2022; Agnihotri Tweeted along with the Citation received from Rhode Island via FIA on Dec 9, 2021, "Historic- First time in 32years any state in the world, the democratic liberal state of USA - Rhode Island, has officially recognized Kashmiri Genocide due to a small film. Pl read and decide who is the Prosecutor and who should get Punishment. This is #NewIndia.

On March 15, 2022, a US based independent Kashmiri journalist Naik, spoke to the staffer of RI's speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, He responded that "Speaker Shekarchi was not aware of this citation that was requested by Rep. Brian Kennedy in off-session. It is not official position of the House. All citations requested by House members carry the pre-printed names of the Speaker and the



two leaders."
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy wrote in a statement to Naik: "I was contacted in December 2021 by an Indian-American from East Greenwich who is involved with the Federation of Indian Organizations of New England regarding securing a citation for Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri for the premiere of his film "The Kashmir Files" that was being presented at Rhode Island College on Dec. 9, 2021." "The description (written on Citation) was provided in the press information that was provided by the same Indian that had contacted me."

This writer got a written reply from British House of Commons on April 4, 2022 that "we are not aware of any invitation by the House of Commons to the film maker."
Pathetically, in Tri-state area media promoted a work of Fiction as "Truth Unfold". Publisher & CEO of a publication himself promoted the film to support Islamophobia in India and spread it among the Indian American community. Media outlets seem to have forgotten the basic principle of journalism that journalism is to educate and galvanize public with hard-hitting accuracy for holding those in



"The citation from the State was to simply recognize the premiere of this movie. I have not met the director nor was I present to view the movie. A citation is simply the acknowledgement of a special event. It does NOT hold the weight of a Resolution approved by the members of the House. This citation was strictly given to the movie director for the premiere of his movie. It is nothing more and it is NOT an endorsement of the State of Rhode Island and the House of Representatives."
On March 30, 2022, Organiser Weekly reported that "British Parliament invites film maker Vivek Agnihotri to speak about the plight of Kashmiri Hindus."

power accountable for their actions. They seem to be working as wholly owned subsidiary of Sudarshan TV, India in promoting half-truth and lies.
Through the Indian Panorama's especially its Publisher Prof. Saluja's gracious efforts to honor "Freedom of Expression" I make an humble appeal to the Indian American community living in USA; Please write to your state, county and municipal representatives to STOP this corrupt practice of issuing Citations & Proclamations for personal agenda and self-publicity.

(Dave Makkar is a social activist)

A Fundraising musical concert for Sai Baba Temple and Cultural Center



to Golden era to newer songs with some talented young and veteran singers from the local area.

The highlight of the musical concert was live music from young talented artists with their melodious voices of some beautiful devotional, romantic and peppy songs. More than 20 singers and musicians performed on the stage with some solo, duets and choruses which were applauded by many, and many performances received standing ovations.

The Middlesex County Commissioner and former Councilwoman of North Brunswick Shanti Narra, former Assemblyman of New Jersey State and current New Jersey State Utility Commissioner Upendra Chivukula, Chairman of MANA TV Sridhar Chillara, Chairman of Indus TV Vijay Garg and many prominent individuals from the Indian American community attended the event to extend their support in this noble cause. Mr. Chivukula and Ms. Narra both urged everyone to support and come forward to contribute toward this wonderful cause.

Talented Madhavi Bathula served as the host for this concert and did an amazing job to keep the audience engaged with her unique style.

The Sai Mandir, North Brunswick (Sai Pariwar), have acquired land in Central New Jersey area in North Brunswick Township, on Route 130, next to Shoprite Complex, to build Baba

NORTH BRUNSWICK (TIP): Sai Pariwar, Inc. organized fundraising musical concert on Sunday, May 8, 2022, attended by more than 300; County Commissioner Shanti Narra & State utility commissioner Upendra Chivukula attended; New Sai Temple construction to begin soon in North Brunswick, New Jersey:

Sai Pariwar, Inc. & Sai Mandir in North Brunswick, New Jersey, a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization which was established 22 years ago, organized a fundraising event on Sunday, May 8, 2022, at Balaji Temple Auditorium in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The fundraising event was attended by more than 300 people for a melodious Bollywood musical extravaganza with local talented group of singers and musicians who performed for more than four hours of musical melodies from old

Temple and Cultural Center, that will be the spiritual abode of not only Sri Shirdi Saibaba, but other Hindu Deities. Currently, the temple management is working with the township and architects to get construction permits approved which will be completed in the near future. The current temple in North Brunswick is in the warehouse areas and the property is very old with logistical challenges of parking and limited access to special needs and handicapped devotees. The new temple will allow the devotees an opportunity to have facility to worship at a location which is safer with ample parking, basic needs and equipped with technologies required in the 21st century.

The goal of Sai Pariwar is to raise 3 million dollars to complete the construction of new temple in the upcoming years. The Sai Pariwar Board of Trustees and committee are requesting all devotees to contribute generously and also reach out to their friends, families and other acquaintances for their generous support, so they can start meeting financial goals of construction and other work for the new temple. The new temple will bring Indian American communities and devotees together, so that our future generations will have a place to pray at Baba's feet and to carry

on our traditions, culture, values and heritage. The temple management is sincerely urging everyone for extending their generous contributions and support in this project while offering them the chance to reach our affluent and growing Indian community in Central Jersey area. Your generous donations/contributions will ensure temple management can meet the financial needs for the construction of a new temple in highly populated Indian Americans in Central Jersey area.

The major media supporters for this fundraising event were Indus TV, MANA TV/TV 5, GNN, ITV Gold, Parikh Worldwide media, TV Asia, Akila News, Radio Dil, Radio Zindagi, Divyabhaskar.com, masalajunction.com, Gujarat Darpan, Gujarat Samachar and Hi India. The contributions for the new temple construction can be given at www.saipariwar.org/donations. For further information about the new temple construction, donations or sponsorships for the future events, please feel free to contact Surendra Katthula aka Guruji at 732-306-9365 or Anil Bhatt at 732-727-2757 or visit Sai Pariwar website at www.saipariwar.org.

(Based on a press release issued by Dr. Tushar Patel and Surendra Katthula)

U.S. Congressional Candidate Victoria Virasingh (VA-8) Approaches Virginia Election

ARLINGTON, V.A.(TIP): Victoria Virasingh is a progressive Democrat running to represent Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Her campaign is breaking barriers, inspiring new voter participation in the political process, and getting backed by organizations across the country. As the only Democratic primary occurring in Virginia and one in a reliably blue district, this is certainly a race to pay attention to.



Victoria Virasingh is running to represent Virginia's 8th Congressional District

Virasingh, daughter of immigrants, was born and raised in Arlington. Given that 48 percent of residents in VA-08 are minorities, her lived experience as a Latina-Asian American provides her with unique insights to the everyday struggles that many in her community face. With valuable professional experience in government, non-profit, and private sectors, Virasingh is running for Congress to address these challenges once and for all, and she's leading the way for more young women

of color to follow. Virasingh is the both the first Latina and first Asian to ever be on the ballot for this race. She is the second woman to ever be on the ballot for this race and is the youngest to ever run for this position.

Being the first at anything is often trying. Nevertheless, Virasingh has risen to this occasion with a strong community cheering for her success. Her campaign submitted 1,628 signatures of locals who support her

candidacy, surpassing the required 1,000 signatures. In terms of financial support, she decided not to accept any money from PACs and has instead raised funds from over 1,000 individual donors.

Moved by Virasingh's compassion, pragmatism, bravery, and boldness, multiple national organizations have endorsed her campaign for Congress. One is Barrier to Entry PAC, which "supports candidates and campaign staff from working class backgrounds as they

carve their paths in the Democratic political space." Another is Her Bold Move who wants "to shatter every glass ceiling that still exists in our government - including the one in the oval office - by electing women to seats that have historically only been held by men."

Victoria Virasingh is the daughter of the district, a bold leader, and a fighter for the people. She's running for U.S. Congress in VA-08 to shape a future that works for all of us. Learn more about her campaign by visiting: <https://www.victoriaforcongress.com>. Early voting in Virginia begins Friday, May 6 and the primary election day is Tuesday, June 21. Victoria Virasingh will be the first name on the ballot! For more information about voting, visit the Virginia Department of Elections: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html>.

Midwest Punjabi Association (MPA) in collaboration with the Consulate General of India set the precedent for paying tribute to "The Martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre"



CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The celebration of Punjabi Virsa (Punjabi Heritage) organized by the Midwest Punjabi Association (MPA) in collaboration with the Consulate General of India set the precedent for paying the perfect tribute to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The event was organized on May 1st, 2022 at Ashton Place, Willowbrook, IL as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate Vaisakhi and pay tribute to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, CG Amit Kumar, Mayor Rodney Craig, Mayor Tom Daily, Mayor Dr. Gopal Lalmani, trustee Syed Hussaini along with other elected officials and community leaders graced the event. Mr. Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan, President, Midwest Punjabi Association gave a brief introduction of the event and briefed the guests about the past activities and upcoming initiatives of Midwest Punjabi Association. He proudly mentioned the guidance given by Mr. Ranjit Singh.

He said keeping in mind the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat, Midwest Punjabi Association has decided to pay tribute One author from Punjabi, one from regional language and one from our national language Hindi. We will continue and take forward the spirit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in all years to come. We all know Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan is a well-known name in the media industry and the Founder President of Adbhut Media Newspaper and Channel. Dhalwan is an entrepreneur with more than two decades of experience in wholesale & retail business. He is the Founder President of



Midwest Punjabi Association, (MPA) a Non-Profit Organization. He is also a member of cultural inclusion and diversity committee/commission Village of Hanover Park, IL. He is a community leader, social worker, and a Philanthropist.

CG Amit Kumar in his inaugural remarks commended the organizers for their unique initiative to throw light on the tragic event through writings and reflections of noted authors like Sardar Nanak Singh, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Subhadra Kumari Chauhan. He spoke about the impact of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on the national freedom struggle with the public sentiment across the length and breadth of India turning decisively against the colonial rule.

The master of the ceremony was Prachi Jaitly. The program started with rendition of Gurbani Kirtan by



Bhai Jagat Singh Dilliwal and Bhai Bhagat Singh Chicagowale, followed by presentations / recital of Gurudev Tagore's poems and poems from the Punjabi collection of poems Khooni Vaisakhi, written by Sardar Nanak Singh. A message from Amb (Retd) Navdeep Singh Suri, who is Nanak Singh's grandson and who translated the poems into English, was played. Navdeep Suri's video message was followed by the beautiful poetic tribute skillfully crafted by Charandeep Singh along with some of the finest poetic talents like Raj Lally Batala, Jasbir Kaur Mann, Rakesh Malhotra, Dr. Taufiq Ansari Ahmed, Dr. Afzal-ur-Rehman Afsar, Rakind Kaur, and Suneeta Malhotra. The narration of the performance was done by Prachi Jaitly.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIA LOGS 2,858 FRESH COVID-19 CASES IN 24 HOURS; DELHI RECORDS 899 NEW INFECTIONS

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India registered a total of 2,858 new cases in the last 24 hours, marking a 0.6% increase from yesterday. This brings the total caseload to 4,31,19,112.

The top five states which registered the maximum fresh cases are Delhi with 899 cases, followed by Haryana with 439 cases, Kerala with 419 cases, Maharashtra with 263 cases and Uttar Pradesh with 175 cases.

Of the new cases, 76.8% were reported from these five states, with Delhi alone responsible for 31.46% of the new cases. India's active caseload stands at 18,096. In the last 24 hours, the number of active cases has declined by 508.

A total of 11 deaths were reported in the country in the last 24 hours, increasing the total reported death count to 5,24,201.

India's recovery rate now stands at 98.74%. A total of 3,355 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours, which brings the total recoveries to 4,25,76,815 across the country.

India has administered a total of 15,04,734 doses in the last 24 hours, which brings the total tally of doses administered to 1,91,15,90,370. A total of 4,86,628 samples were also tested in the last 24 hours.

Earlier, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) developed India's first indigenous mRNA (Messenger RNA) vaccine technology to fight against Covid-19.

India bans wheat exports with immediate effect to control rising domestic prices

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India has banned wheat exports with immediate effect as part of measures to control rising domestic prices, according to official notification.

However, the export shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) have been issued on or before the date of this notification will be allowed, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 13.

'The export policy of wheat ... is prohibited with immediate effect...', the DGFT said. It also clarified that wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.

In a separate notification, the DGFT announced the easing of export conditions for onion seeds.

'The export policy of onion seeds has been put under the restricted category, with immediate effect,' it said.

The export of onion seeds was earlier prohibited.

Official data released this week showed that retail inflation surged to an eight-year high in April due to high prices of fuel and food items.

The ban on exports also comes amid disruption in global wheat supplies due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine which are major exporters of the foodgrain.

India's wheat exports surged to 7 million tonnes, worth USD 2.05 billion, in 2021-22 due to strong global demand. Of



the total wheat exports, around 50 per cent of shipments were exported to Bangladesh in the last fiscal, according to the DGFT data.

The country exported around 963,000 tonnes of wheat this year against 130,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

India was looking to export 10 million tonnes of wheat in 2022-23. The commerce ministry recently stated that India would send trade delegations to nine countries - Morocco, Tunisia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey, Algeria and Lebanon - to explore possibilities of boosting wheat shipments. India's wheat purchase have also declined sharply by 44 per cent to 16.2 million tonnes as of May 1 in the current Rabi marketing season due to heavy lifting by private traders and low

arrivals in Punjab and Haryana.

The government had procured 28.8 million tonnes of wheat in the year-ago period. The rabi marketing season runs from April to March. Private players have bought wheat at a price higher than the minimum support price amid increased demand for the grain for export. The Centre has set a target to procure a record 44.4 million tonnes of wheat in the 2022-23 marketing year as against an all-time high of 43.34 million tonnes in the previous marketing year.

Amid lower purchase for the central pool, the Centre has stopped the sale of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to bulk consumers and asked them not to wait for recommencement of the scheme for buying the grain. *Source: PTI*

NIA arrests Chhota Shakeel's two aides in D-Company case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today said it had arrested two close aides of Pakistan-based gangster Chhota Shakeel for allegedly handling the illegal activities and financial transactions of the crime syndicate controlled by fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

The accused, identified as Arif Abubakar Shaikh (59) and Shabbir Abubakar Shaikh (51), were arrested on Thursday, May 12, an agency spokesperson said, adding that the former was arrested from Goregaon West in suburban Mumbai, while the latter was held from Mira Road East in Thane district.

"Both of them were apprehended by a team of the NIA, which is probing the cases against D-Company — Dawood Ibrahim's syndicate," the official said, adding that the duo was closely associated with Shakeel and were involved in the cartel run by Ibrahim.

Of late during searches at multiple

The accused, identified as Arif Abubakar Shaikh (59) and Shabbir Abubakar Shaikh (51), were arrested on Thursday, May 12, an agency spokesperson said, adding that the former was arrested from Goregaon West in suburban Mumbai, while the latter was held from Mira Road East in Thane district.

locations in Mumbai and Thane, the NIA had also picked up many suspects for investigation, sources said, adding that the arrests of Arif and Shabbir were also in line with the agency's ongoing probe into the alleged D-Company's crime syndicate.

During their interrogation, the NIA team found that Arif and Shabbir had carried out some transactions with Chhota Shakeel, following which they were arrested.

The NIA had registered a suo moto case against the Dawood Ibrahim's crime syndicate on February 3. Meanwhile, the International Criminal Police Organisation has issued a Red Corner Notice against Shakeel. *Source: TNS*

Supreme Court refuses to stay delimitation process in J&K

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme court on Friday refused to stay the ongoing delimitation process in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Two Kashmir residents had challenged the government's decision to constitute a delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory.

The delimitation panel had recommended increasing the assembly seats from 83 to 90 in the union territory.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh also issued notice to the Centre and Election Commission of India and sought their responses within six weeks and said that the rejoinder affidavit shall be filed in two weeks thereafter.

The court has slated the hearing for August 30.

During the hearing, Justice S K Kaul asked the Senior Advocate Ravi Shankar

Jandhyala who was appearing for the petitioner, as to why the petition had raised issues on abrogation of article 370, which has essentially challenged the delimitation exercise undertaken in J&K pursuant to the notifications of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Justice Kaul stopped the counsel and said, "Be mindful of the language you use. Kashmir has always been a part of the country! Just a special provision was removed." The bench then noted that the petitioners have not challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and therefore pleadings concerning Article 370 are to be ignored.

The Court also asked Jandhyala as to why he had not challenged the constitution of delimitation that was formed two years ago.

The counsel responded to this by saying that delimitation is a process to be undertaken only by the Election Commission and not by any other body.

PAK-BASED JAISH BEHIND THE KILLING OF KASHMIRI PANDIT RAHUL BHAT

The terrorists belonging to Pak-based and globally proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad are suspected to be involved in the killing of the Kashmiri Pandit government employee Rahul Bhat in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district.

According to intelligence inputs, the Jaish-e-Mohammad group has been desperate to take action against the minority community in order to keep the terror plot boiling. "After the fall of Afghanistan to Islamist Taliban and globally designated Haqqani network the Jaish-e-Mohammad leadership based in Bahawalpur believes that they can also take on the might of Indian security forces," said a senior security official.

While the JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar runs a terror factory from Bahawalpur, the Pakistan government for the record has told the FATF that the terror kingpin cannot be located and presumably not in Pakistan.

The Jaish-e-Muhammad's desperation can be gauged by the fact that two of its terrorists were neutralised in an encounter with the security forces which had erupted after a search operation in an area adjacent to the Sunjwan military station in Jammu a fortnight ago. One of the terrorists had also worn a suicidal vest and had planned a suicide attack in Jammu, the security forces had said.

Babbar Khalsa, Pakistan's ISI behind Mohali explosion: Police

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

The Punjab Police has arrested five people in connection with the RPG attack at its Mohali office and pointed at the nexus of militant outfit Babbar Khalsa International and Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, May 13, Punjab Director General of Police V K Bhawra said a sixth accused is in police custody in a separate case.

The plot behind the incident has been traced and a nexus between militant outfit Babbar Khalsa International and gangsters at the behest of Pakistan's ISI has come to the fore, he said.

The DGP said key conspirator Lakhbir Singh, a resident of Tarn Taran, is a close associate of gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda.

Rinda is believed to be in Pakistan. Bhawra said the five arrested include those who provided shelter, logistic support and the weapon to those who carried out the explosion.

The three people involved in firing the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) are still wanted, he said. The DGP said Tarn Taran resident Nishan Singh, an



A minor explosion occurred on the third floor of Punjab Police's intelligence office in Mohali on Monday night, May 9, shattering windows and damaging property.

accused in the case, is already under the custody of the Faridkot police in some other case. He will be arrested in this case too, he said. Nishan Singh is facing several criminal cases, including one related to attempt to murder and another under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

In an audacious attack on Monday, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the state police's intelligence wing headquarters in Mohali's Sector 77.

Windowpanes on one of the floors of the building were shattered because of the explosion. No one was injured in the incident. Source: PTI

Supreme Court refuses to stop Varanasi's Gyanvapi Mosque survey

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, May 13, declined to immediately stop the survey of Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, saying the matter would have to be considered in due course.

Seeking an urgent intervention from Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi pleaded for a status quo in the case pending before the Varanasi civil court, which on Thursday directed a day-to-day survey of a mosque to inspect, conduct videography and collect evidence regarding the alleged existence of Hindu deities inside the mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

"A survey has been directed in relation to the Varanasi property. This is covered under the Places of Worship Act. Now, the court has ordered a court commissioner to conduct a survey. This has been a mosque since time immemorial," Ahmadi submitted.

The senior lawyer, who appeared for Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee that manages the Gyanvapi mosque, pressed for an order of the status quo.

But the CJI responded: "We have not seen the papers. We don't even know what is the matter. I don't know anything...how can I pass an order. I will read and then pass orders...let me see."

In a suit filed jointly by five Hindu women, the Varanasi court last month ordered an inspection of the premises through advocate commissioner Ajai Kumar Mishra. The civil court order was affirmed by the Allahabad high court on April 26.

The women asked for year-long access to pray at a shrine behind the western wall of the mosque complex. The site is currently



The Gyanvapi mosque management committee (Anjuman Intezamia Masjid) acting as the defendant denied the claims and rejected that Aurangzeb demolished a temple to construct the mosque. On 8 April 2021, a Varanasi court ordered the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct the requested survey.

opened for prayers once a year. The women also want permission to pray to other "visible and invisible deities within the old temple complex".

Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee filed a plea before the civil court to remove the advocate commissioner. A day ago, the civil court ordered a full survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque complex, rejecting the demands of the mosque management to limit the inquiry to certain parts of the precincts and remove the present surveyor.

The judge retained Mishra as the advocate commissioner, who was appointed last month to carry out the survey while adding two more lawyers, Vishal Singh and Ajay Pratap Singh, to the commission that will inspect, and conduct videography and collect evidence regarding the alleged existence of Hindu deities. It directed Mishra and Vishal Singh to conduct the survey.

Chintan Shivir: Congress moots 'one family, one ticket' formula, but waiver for the Gandhis

UDAIPUR (TIP)

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, May 13, set the ball rolling for comprehensive organisational overhaul saying the party was in dire need of reforms and extraordinary situations called for extraordinary measures.

Near-consensus has emerged in the party over the adoption of "one family, one ticket" formula, with waivers for leaders with an exceptional track record in an organisational role for at least five years.

The waiver would cover the party's ruling Gandhi family where party chief Sonia Gandhi and son Rahul have both been contesting Lok Sabha elections. Under the waiver, even AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would have qualified for the ticket by the 2024 General Election. She assumed charge as the UP general secretary in January 2019.

Kick-starting the three-day 'Chintan Shivir' of the party here, Sonia acknowledged serial electoral setbacks and the need for the Congress to change the way it worked, even as she assailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "keeping India in a state of permanent polarisation, brutalising minorities and resorting to wholesale reinvention of history".

Sonia's crisp 16-minute speech delivered mixed messages on issues confronting the nation and challenges confronting the Congress.

With G-23 members Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma seated in the front alongside Rahul Gandhi, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, Sonia said cadre unity and collective effort was the only way forward to the party's revival. The Congress chief questioned the PM on economic downslide and non-fulfilment of promises to farmers, calling upon the party to "fight the virus of divisiveness at all costs". But it was the issue of Congress' organisational atrophy that Sonia flagged most deeply, terming it "the most fundamental issue".

"The circumstances our organisation faces today are unprecedented. Such extraordinary situations demand extraordinary measures. Every organisation to live and prosper must reform itself. We are in dire need of reforms—changes in strategy, improvement in the organisation and transformation in the way Congress functions on a daily basis," she said to 422 delegates who were made to pack off cell-phones in hired lockers to prevent leaks to the media, as they proceeded to commence panel discussions at a posh local resort here. Source: TNS

India in history this Week

MAY 13, 2022, TO MAY 19, 2022

13 MAY

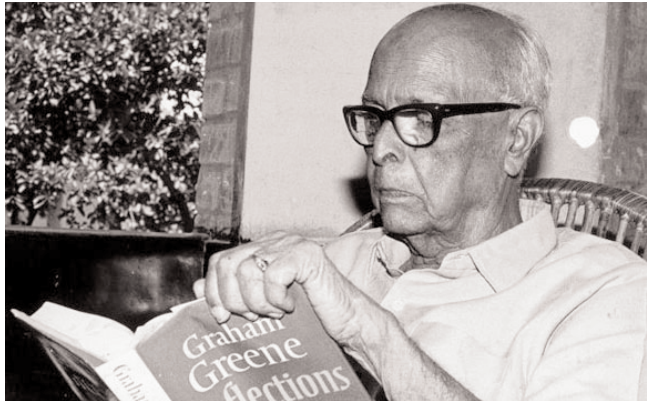
1905 Birth of former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

1952 The first session of Parliament was called in independent India.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan became the second President of the country.

1978 The country's first flag carrier INS Delhi was relieved

1998 India conducted two more nuclear tests, regardless of the criticism and pressure around the world.



2001 The death of RK Narayan, one of the biggest names in Indian literature.

1648 Construction of the Red Fort in Delhi was completed.

2000 Lara Dutta of India was elected Miss Universe.

1956 Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the spiritual leader who founded the Art of Living Foundation, was born.

1918 The famous Bharatanatyam dancer T. Balasaraswati was born.

14 MAY

1992 India banned LTTE, a Sri Lankan rebel organization known as the Tamil Tigers. Apart from India, many other countries also banned the Tamil Tigers.

1944 British troops captured Kohima in 1944.

2001 Seven agreements in India and Malaysia.

2010 Considering 22 between India and Russia in 2010 in defense, nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment etc.



1923 Mrinal Sen, the famous producer and director of Indian films, was born.

1981 Indian inventor and computer scientist Pranav Mistry was born.

1943 Allah Baksh died during the British rule, was a zamindar, government contractor, freedom fighter and politician.

15 MAY

1907 Birth of Sukhdev Thapar hanging on the noose hanging with Bhagat Singh and Rajguru.

1967 Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was born.

1817 Birth of social reformer Devendra Nath

Tagore.

1242 Sultan of Delhi Muizuddin Bahram Shah's army revolted and killed Sultan.

1933 India's First Army Commander in Chief Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa passed away.

2005 Indian aircraft landed in Canada after 20 years.

2008 Manjula Sood of Indian origin became the first Asian woman to become mayor in Britain.



1923 Indian comedian Johnny Walker was born in 1923.

1817 Eminent scholar and religious leader Devendranath Thakur was born in 1817.

16 MAY

2014 The demise of Indian industrialist Rustomji Homaji Modi.

1911 Construction of Tallah Water Tank in Calcutta (now Kolkata) completed. It was called the world's largest overhead water tank at that time.

1960 Start of international telex service between India and UK.

1975 Sikkim was incorporated into the Indian Union as the 22nd state.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as the tenth Prime Minister of India.



2008 The Supreme Court rejected the decision of the Kolkata High Court to ban the 27% OBC quota in postgraduate courses of central educational institutions.

17 MAY

1769 The East India Company imposed a variety of restrictions on weavers to ruin Bengal's textile industry.

1918 Birth of India's famous industrialist and top member of Tata group, Russian Modi



1987 Sunil Gavaskar retired from Test cricket.

2007 The fourth round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue commenced in Rawalpindi.

2010 Promoting the country's oldest traditional sports, Kabaddi, the Punjab government announced the hosting of the Kabaddi World Cup next month.

2014 The death of CP Krishnan Nair, the famous hotel industrialist of India and founder of the 'Hotel Leela Group'.

1865 Celebration of World Communication Day started.

2018 BS Yeddyurappa took the oath of office of Chief Minister of Karnataka for the third time.

1980 A record of standing for 33 hours on one leg was set by VS Kumar Anand.

1995 The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) was abolished by the three northeastern states of the country.

18 MAY

1912 The first Indian feature length film Sri Pundalik was released.

1974 India became a nuclear power country with its first underground atomic bomb test in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The trial was named 'Smiling Buddha'.

2008 Indian-origin writer Indra Sinha was awarded the Commonwealth Award in 2008 for her book Animal People.

1914 S. Tenth Governor of Reserve Bank of India. Jagannathan was born.

1933 HD Deve Gowda, the twelfth Prime Minister of India was born.

1966 India's famous botanist Panchanan Maheshwari died.

19 MAY

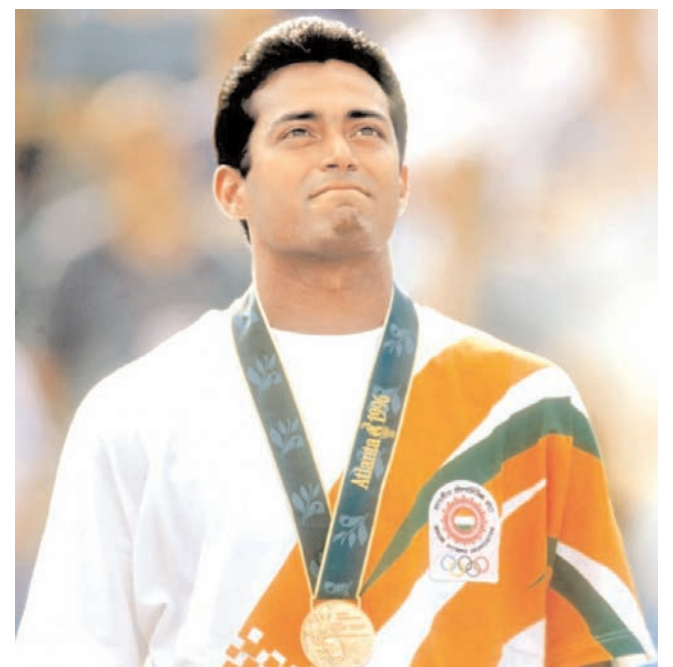
1913 Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was born, who later became the President of the country.

1954 The National Film Board was formed by the government in the country.

1969 Andhra Pradesh came under a terrible storm which took 608 lives. Not only this, around 20000 people were rendered homeless in this storm.

1971 The first naval submarine station was built at Visakhapatnam.

1980 TN Raina died when he was General of India.



1992 Tennis player Leander Paes was awarded the Arjuna Award.

1993 The government had decided to link the power with Indian Airlines.

1904 One of the first industrialists of India, Jamsetji Nusrawanji Tata was killed.

13 JANUARY 1938 -- 10 MAY 2022

Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma: More than just an exponent of Hindustani classical music

It's common to use words such as 'legendary', 'greatest', and 'iconic' to describe the life and times of illustrious artists. In most cases, the tributes are often befitting, and if anything, the words fall short, but how does one find words to summarise a stalwart such as Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma. One of the all-time greats in every sense of the word, Pandit ji was more than an exponent of Hindustani classical music. His death on 10 May 2022 at 84 from a cardiac arrest — Pandit ji had suffered kidney failure and had been undergoing dialysis for a while — marks not just the end of an exemplary career but also the end of an incredible journey that elevated the santoor.

Born in Jammu on 13 January 1938, Shiv Kumar Sharma's family was instrumental in reviving the santoor's fortunes and popularising it. Pandit ji's father, Uma Dutt Sharma, a renowned vocalist, became obsessed with the santoor, which at the time was mostly associated with Kashmir folk music and an accompaniment to Sufi vocals. He entrusted the young Shiv Kumar Sharma with the mission to make the strains of the santoor be heard across the world.

Like his father, Shiv Kumar Sharma also played the tabla, but it was the santoor that he committed his life to and gave it mainstream recognition and acceptance. Pandit ji made several modifications to the basic santoor — he extended its range to a full three octaves and 'created a smoother glissando to allow the player to sustain and slide between notes in perfect emulation of the 'human voice.' He also developed a style of performing all the ragas and also created 'rhythmic intricacies.'

For a film-crazy nation such as ours, once a musician is associated with film music, much of their 'other' work often remains underappreciated or under-celebrated. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was a rare exception. He composed the background score for a few scenes in V Shantaram's *Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje* (1955) and soon became one of the most sought-after session players for leading music composers. SD Burman also insisted that Pandit ji play the tabla on Guide's (1965) *'Moh se chhal.'* Through the 1960s and 1970s, Pandit ji toured the world and recorded his first solo album *Santoor & Guitar*, with Brij Bhushan Kabra. A few years later, Shiv Kumar Sharma collaborated with the equally illustrious Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia on the epoch-making *Call of the Valley* (1967), which became platinum. The album remained one of the highest selling Indian classical records of all time and a perennial favourite of several musicians, including Bob Dylan. Three decades later, both Shiv Kumar Sharma and Hariprasad Chaurasia came out with the sequel, *The Valley Recalls — In Search of Peace, Love & Harmony*.

In the 1980s, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia collaborated to compose film music, starting with Yash Chopra's

SULTAN OF STRINGS



Silsila (1981). The two came to be known as 'Shiv-Hari', and ushered in a new chapter in film music in the 1980s, a decade that needed all the inspiration in the world. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma's film work might have introduced him to a broader audience, the kind who might not have approached classical music on their own. Still, unlike the norm, Pandit ji did a greater favour to India's popular culture than what it could have possibly offered him.

This was an era where RD Burman, Laxmikant-Pyarelal and Kalyanji Anandji were the first names that came to mind when thinking of film music. Shiv-Hari's compositions in *Silsila* were rooted in classic Indian melody and were blessed with an arrangement style that made it accessible. One would have imagined that Yash Chopra took a significant risk with the two. Younger composers such as Rajesh Roshan were breaking new ground, and the understated Khayyam and Jaidev were in a league of their own. Still, Chopra went ahead with the two, and *Silsila* broke new ground in more ways than expected. For one, it had Javed Akhtar's lyrics, an experiment as good as any, and featured Amitabh Bachchan's vocals on many tracks, but Shiv-Hari merged the best of all worlds to come up with an album that remains one of the best in the history of Hindi films.

Silsila's commercial failure made Shiv-Hari a somewhat 'exclusive' brand. In Hindi films, a film's inability to set the cash registers ringing often leads to the talent associated with it getting blamed. In any case, Shiv-Hari were not the kind of composers that would chase producers, but one wonders if *Silsila* and the subsequent Chopra releases, *Faasle* (1985), a platinum disc in terms of sales, and *Vijay* (1988), the lowest ebb in Yash

Chopra's career, had been triumphant would it have changed the course of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia's film works. Their biggest success in films was *Chandni* (1989). This film revived the career of Yash Chopra and also contributed to the revival of melody in film music along with Anand-Milind's *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* (1988) and Raam-Laxman's *Maine Pyar Kiya* (1989).

Shiv-Hari composed music for two more Yash Chopra films — *Darr* (1993) and *Parampara* (1993) — both were action-dominated scripts, but the music did exceptionally well. The last film that they collaborated on was *Sahibaan* (1993). While fans of Shiv-Hari might not rate either *Darr* or *Parampara* highly, the two albums had songs that weren't standard Shiv-Hari compositions but completed the bouquet of their film sojourn. *Parampara*'s 'Aadhi raat ko' and the Qawwali 'Mujhe ishq ho gaya' (both penned by Anand Bakshi) are vastly underrated. While *Darr*'s 'Jadu teri nazar' remains eternally popular, thanks to being Shah Rukh Khan's breakthrough, it's the perfect cocktail of melody and an underlying fear in 'Tu mere saamne' (Udit Narayan, Lata Mangeshkar, Anand Bakshi) that speaks volumes about Shiv-Hari.

When one looks back at Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma's life, one sees how he shall remain an integral part of our conscious memory. What more could an artist ask than his name being synonymous with the instrument he played. A true crossover artist, Pandit ji created a sound that shall remain unparalleled and as unique as one can imagine.

(Source: Firstpost)

The writer, Gautam Chintamani, is a noted film historian and author.

Soulful music tracks composed for Bollywood movies

Beginning with a background score for Shantaram's 'Jhanak Jhanak Baje Payal', Pandit Shiv Sharma went on to compose music for several films directed by filmmaker Yash Chopra, including 'Silsila', 'Lamhe' and 'Chandni'.

Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Hariprasad Chaurasia began their collaboration under the name Shiv-Hari and recorded their first album titled 'Call Of The Valley' in 1967. The duo teamed up for around 8 Bollywood movies from 1981-1993. They even bagged four Filmfare Awards in the 'Best Music Director' category for Yash Raj Films' 'Silsila', 'Chandni', 'Lamhe' and 'Darr'.

Here is a list of the songs composed by the legendary duo Shiv-Hari, that breathed a fresh air into Bollywood music:

Rang Barse Bhige Chunar Wali (Silsila)

This lively song infused with the festive fervour gives Holi, the festival of colours, a different meaning altogether. The music perfectly blends with Amitabh Bachchan's masculine voice. This song is still a must on the occasion of Holi.

Tere Mere Hotho Pe... (Chandni)

The soulful romantic track featuring late actors Rishi Kapoor and Sridevi in the exotic and picturesque landscape of Switzerland is still one of the favourites for music lovers and die-hard romantics. There could not have been a better rendition of this iconic song.

Mere Haathon Mein Nau-Nau.. (Chandni)

Remembered as one of the most iconic songs of late Sridevi, the song is infused with a different energy. Lata Mangeshkar's voice and music by Shiv-Hari is a perfect blend of passion, longing and notoriety.

Jaadu Teri Nazar, Khushbu... (Darr)

Marking Shah Rukh Khan's iconic performance in a negative role, the film received equal accolades for its soulful music. The duo Shiv-Hari went on to win the Filmfare Award in the 'Best Music Director' category.

Dekha Ek Khwab To Ye... (Silsila)

The film starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, Jaya Bachchan and late Sanjeev Kumar, still remains a blockbuster for its gripping storyline and its iconic music score. The song 'Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum' still has the power to transport the listener in a valley full of tulips while the song 'Rang Barse' makes everyone groove. 'Dekha Ek Khwab To Ye Silsile Hue' is a track that is liked by love-struck couples, even today.

SHERPA WOMAN CLIMBS EVEREST FOR 10TH TIME, BREAKS OWN RECORD

KATHMANDU (TIP): A Nepali Sherpa broke her own record as the most successful female climber of Mount Everest by reaching the summit of the world's highest peak on May 12.

Lakpa Sherpa and several other climbers took advantage of favourable weather to reach the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit early in the morning, her brother and expedition organiser Mingma Gelu said. He said she was in good health and was safely descending from the peak.

Sherpa, 48, never got a chance to get a formal education because she had to start earning a living by carrying climbing gear and supplies for trekkers. Thursday's successful ascent was her 10th — the most times any woman has climbed Everest — and she has always said she wanted to inspire all women so they too can achieve their dreams.

A native of Nepal, Sherpa lives in the US with her three children in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Another Nepalese Sherpa guide, Kami Rita, reached the summit for the 26th time on Saturday, breaking his own record for the most climbs of Everest. Rita led a group of Sherpa climbers who fixed ropes along the route so that hundreds of other climbers and guides can make their way to the top of the mountain later this month.

Hundreds of foreign climbers and an equal number of Sherpa guides are set to attempt climbs of Everest in May, the month when weather conditions in the Himalayan peaks are most favorable for climbing. (AP)

TIBET AIRLINES' PLANE IN CHINA VEERS OFF RUNWAY, CATCHES FIRE; OVER 40 INJURED

BEIJING (TIP): Over 40 people were injured when a passenger plane of China's Tibet Airlines with 122 people on board veered off the runway and caught fire while taking off in the country's southwest Chongqing city on May 12.

All 113 passengers and nine crew members aboard the flight from Chongqing to Nyingchi in the Tibet Autonomous Region had been safely evacuated, Tibet Airlines said.

Over 40 people who sustained minor injuries had been hospitalised, China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported.

Video footage posted by China Central Television (CCTV) showed flames and billowing black smoke from the fuselage of the Tibet Airlines plane on the tarmac at Chongqing Jiangbei international airport, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. People could be seen running from the plane after escaping via an evacuation slide at the rear door. (PTI)

Imran Khan warns Pakistan government of dire consequences if poll dates are not announced

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, has warned that if a date for the general elections is not announced, the "sea of people" heading towards Islamabad would be detrimental to the interests of the government, media reports said.

The PTI Chairman has held a series of 'jalsas' in different cities, including Karachi, Mianwali, Lahore and Peshawar, as he rallies his party workers and leaders against the government ahead of the proposed march to Islamabad.

In his address during the Mardan jalsa, Khan said he is calling the people to Islamabad for a "revolution" that seeks "real independence" for Pakistan.

"From here, I am giving a message to the corrupt thugs... and the convict should also hear this: You will not make decisions for the country, but the citizens will decide who will rule Pakistan," Khan said. The PTI Chairman reiterated that the United States had "conspired" against his regime, while the current government's "Mir Sadiqs and Mir Jafars" were involved in it.



Khan said when he came to know about the "conspiracy", he went to the "people who could stop it".

"I told them that if this conspiracy succeeds, our economy will falter given its current condition," he said.

The ex-Prime Minister said he asked former Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin to tell those who "call themselves

neutral" that the economy will collapse, but unfortunately, they did not do anything.

"The dollar is nearing Rs 200, the stock market is plunging, everything is becoming expensive... the media should ask the people how expensive things are as they would do during our government," Khan said. IANS

Ranil Wickremesinghe returns as Lankan PM

COLOMBO (TIP): Opposition leader and former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th Prime Minister on May 12, days after his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign following violent protests over the worst economic crisis in the debt-ridden island nation.

The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took oath before President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a ceremony in the President's office after they held closed-door discussions over formation of a new government to address the economic crisis.

"My best wishes to the newly appointed PM, who stepped up to take on the challenging task of steering our country through a very turbulent time. I look forward to working with him to make Sri Lanka strong again," President Gotabaya tweeted along with a picture of him and Wickremesinghe.

Sri Lanka was without a government since Monday when Gotabaya's elder brother and former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters. The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine dead.

Mahinda quickly tweeted a congratulatory message to



Wickremesinghe. He is under protection at a naval base following violent attacks on his aides.

Members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and some from the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and several other parties said they would back Wickremesinghe in Parliament, according to reports.

However, several factions opposed the move to appoint Wickremesinghe as the new Prime Minister. — TNS/PTI

SRI LANKA OPPOSITION, PROTESTERS VOW TO CONTINUE ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's main opposition party joined anti-government protesters on May 13 in rejecting the appointment of a new prime minister, and insisted the president resign because of the country's disastrous economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed veteran opposition politician Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister late on Thursday, but the comments signalled it was not likely to resolve the political and economic disarray in the strategic Indian Ocean island nation.

A week of violent clashes between protesters and government supporters across the country has left 9 people dead and over 300 injured. The president's elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, quit as prime minister on Monday as violence spiralled and is in hiding in a military base.

The rest of the cabinet had quit earlier.

"It is clear the (new) prime minister is remote controlled by the president," said Eran Wickramaratne, a parliamentarian and senior member of the main opposition party, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya. "This country wants the Rajapaksas to go home. We are committed to that goal."

(Reuters)

MISSISSIPPI MASALA HERALDS DFW SAFF 2022

BY MABEL PAIS

Do you wish to attend a North Texas premiere-studded, gala-filled, power-packed, post-pandemic experience like none other?

Then, come to the 8th annual Dallas Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival (DFW SAFF). Festival pass holders will enjoy the benefits of in-person screenings, opening night and closing night galas, panel discussions and much more! The Festival takes place Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2022, at 5752 Grandscape Boulevard, The Colony, TX 75056.

But Wait!

MISSISSIPPI MASALA

A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING of the restored 4K version of Mira Nair's (facebook.com/pagli.ji.7) ground-breaking film *MISSISSIPPI MASALA, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year heralds the festival week.

*The screening takes place on Monday, May 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Dallas / Fort Worth (6770 Abrams Road, Dallas, TX 75231).

Synopsis: The vibrant cultures of India, Uganda, and the American South are blended and simmered into a rich and fragrant fusion feast in Mira Nair's luminous look at the complexities of love in the modern melting pot. Years after her Indian family was forced to flee their home in Uganda by the dictatorship of Idi Amin, twenty something Mina (Sarita Choudhury - facebook.com/sarita.choudhury.3) finds herself helping to run a motel in the faraway land of Mississippi. It's there that a passionate romance with the charming Black carpet cleaner Demetrius (Denzel Washington - facebook.com/Denzel-Washington-Actor-1709423736010479) challenges the prejudices of their conservative families and exposes the rifts between the region's Indian and African American communities. Tackling thorny issues of racism, colorism, culture clash, and displacement with big-hearted humor and keen insight, Nair serves up a sweet, sexy, and radical celebration of love's power to break down the barriers between us.

Watch the trailer - youtu.be/seHuOmdcJqg

To purchase tickets for this stand alone screening, visit drafthouse.com/dfw/show/mississippi-masala. Join the festival team afterwards for a drink and a nibble at the bar, to share highlights about the upcoming facebook.com/hashtag/dfwsaff2022

The entire Festival schedule and film lineup (May 20 to 22 at Grandscape in The Colony) is available at dfwsaff.com/schedule.

DFW SAFF FESTIVAL LINEUP

This year, the festival boasts 33 films, the most ever shown in a 3-day period at SAFF, which includes 25 shorts, 5 features, 2 documentaries and 1 web series (all five episodes). The entire schedule can be viewed at dfwsaff.com/schedule

OPENING NIGHT

Texas premiere of Iman Zawahary's Pakistani rom-com AMERICANISH

CENTERPIECE

North American premiere of Sushrut Jain's Bollywood drama THE TENANT

CLOSING NIGHT

Dallas premiere of Pan Nalin's flight LAST FILM SHOW

Opening Night Red Carpet & Screening
Grandscape Main Stage, The Colony, TX
Saturday & Sunday Programming
Theatres at Grandscape, The Colony, TX
After Parties (See below)



Mississippi Masala

Photo / dfw saff 2022



Opening Film

Photo / dfw saff 2022



Centerpiece Film

Photo / dfw saff 2022

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 20, 2022 - Opening Night
7 pm - Red Carpet/Cocktail Reception at The Stage At Grandscape

8 pm - Opening Remarks

8.15 pm - Screenings to begin:

Close Ties to Home Country (Short)

Americanish (Feature)

Post screening Q&A with talent

10 pm - Afterparty begins at The Grotto at Grandscape

Saturday, May 21, 2022

11:30 am - Doc Block

Kicking Balls (Short Doc)

Emergence: Out of the Shadows (Documentary)

Post screening Q&A

2:00 pm

Shankar's Fairies (Feature)

4:00 pm - LGBTQ Shorts Programming

The Syed Family Xmas Eve Game Night

Noor & Layla

My Mother's Girlfriend

Happy Marriage

Four Fifty Five mL

No Beloved

The Lip Readers

Coming Out With The Help Of A Time Machine

Post Screening Q&A

6:00 pm

Nirmal Pathak Ki Ghar Wapsi (Sony series - first 3 episodes)

8:00 pm - Centerpiece

Smile Please (Short)

The Tenant (Feature)

Post Screening Q&A

10:30 pm - Centerpiece Party at Galaxy Theatres lobby

Sunday, May 22, 2022

11 am

2 episodes of Nirmal Pathak Ki Ghar Wapsi*

12:15 pm - "Love, Lost & Found" Programming,

Presented by The Auntie Network

Me Against the World

The Song We Sang

Man & Wife

Jaan Jigar

A Short Hello

Dinner in Lockdown

Tea and a Rose

2:00 pm - Senior Citizens Programming, Presented by

AARP Texas

Master Ji (Short)

Is This Mrs. Varma? (Short)

It's Time To Go (Feature)

Post Screening Q&A

4:30 pm - Women's Shorts Programming

Antarvasna

Auntie

Sandstorm

Anita

Rising Lotus

Post Screening Q&A

6:30 pm - Closing Night

Lappad (Short)

Last Film Show (Feature)

8:30 pm - Closing Night After Party at the Windmills

Surprise live performance by special guests

The complete festival lineup, along with trailers, synopses and ticket information, is available on the festival's website, dfwsaff.com

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



Vidya Balan begins shooting for 'Neeyat' in UK

Vidya Balan, who was recently seen in Amazon Prime Video's Jalsa, has begun shooting for her next film. Titled Neeyat, the murder mystery will be directed by Anu Menon. Today, May 10, Vidya shared a picture from the sets of Neeyat with Anu and Vikram Malhotra.

Vidya Balan, who has earlier worked with Anu Menon in Shakuntala Devi, will be seen in her next film, Neeyat. Sharing a picture with Anu and Vikra Malhotra on Instagram, Vidya wrote, "Excited to begin shooting one of the most engaging scripts I have read in the recent times, with some of my favourite people - @directormenon & @ivikramix All I can say is expect the unexpected #Neeyat, Filming Begins (sic)."

Anu Menon announced Neeyat on April 29 and also revealed the names of the cast members.

Sonali Bendre to make OTT debut with ZEE5 series 'The Broken News'

Actor Sonali Bendre is set to enter the streaming space with "The Broken News", an upcoming original drama series from the streamer ZEE5. The show, an adaptation of the popular 2018 British series "Press", will also feature "Paatal Lok" star Jaideep Ahlawat and Shriya Pilgaonkar, who recently starred in the Prime Video show "Guilty Minds".

"The Broken News" will be directed by Vinay Waikul, who had recently helmed the crime-thriller Netflix series "Aranyak".

According to the makers, the show follows the story of two rival Mumbai-based news channels - Awaaz Bharati, an independent, ethical news channel, and Josh 24/7 News, which offers sensationalist and invasive journalism and "what transpires between the main characters in their quest for news".

Bendre, known for hit 1990s films such as "Sarfarosh", "Diljale", and "Major Saab", was last seen in the 2013 gangster drama "Once Upon A Time in Mumbai Dobaara!" in which she had a cameo. A cancer survivor, the actor made her small screen debut in 2014 with "Ajeeb Daastaan Hai Ye" and has also served as a judge on reality TV shows such as "Indian Idol" and "India's Got Talent".



Manoj Bajpayee slams Rs 1,000 crore films after success of RRR and KGF 2

The Family Man actor Manoj Bajpayee is one person who is known to speak his mind. He's a phenomenal actor who is rocking the OTT space after the popularity of The Family Man and The Family Man 2. Now in an interview with Puja Talwar, he took a dig at Rs 1000 crore films. He said that no one really concerned about how a film and everyone is talking about just numbers.

Said the actor, "Koi baat hi nahi kar raha hai ki film kaisi hai? Koi baat karne ko raazi nahi hai performances kaesi hai. Baki departments ki kya contribution hai? Kya hai na hum sab Rs 1000 crore aur Rs 300 crore aur Rs 400 crore mein phasein huye hai. Yeh jhagda kaayi saalon se chal raha hai aur mujhe lagta hai ki yeh khatam hone wala hai nahi (No one wants to talk about the film or the performances or contribution of the other departments. We are all stuck in collections of Rs 1000 crore, Rs 400 crore and Rs 300 crore. This debate has been going on for a long time and I don't think it will end)." Also Read - Alia Bhatt, Akshay Kumar and 7 more Bollywood celebs who were trolled for controversial advertisements

He went on to say, "Now critics are saying 'Why don't you make films like them? Why is your film not working?' It's been asked to those in the mainstream. Those in the mainstream are being put in the witness box by their own mainstream critics." The actor added that he was never a part of that world. He said



that he used to go sometimes to that world for some reason but would come back again.

The actor stated, "For us getting our film released in theatres was tough before. Now it gets tougher due to the Rs 1000 crore films. OTT has

been a boon." He also said that OTT was a boon for actors like him and for so many other talents, so many other faculties. "It's heart-warming to see all of them busy and consumed by OTT and such amazing work that they are doing," stated the actor.

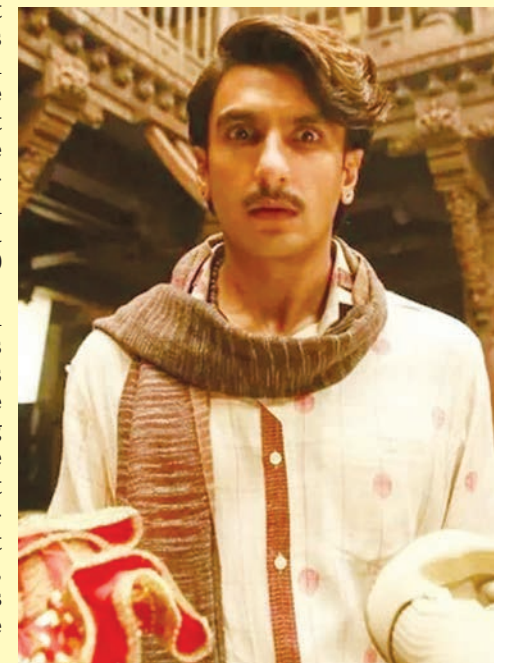
Ranveer Singh calls Jayeshbhai Jordaar as an estrogen film

Ranveer Singh, during a recent interview, opened up about his upcoming film Jayeshbhai Jordaar. Talking about his sensitive character in the film, Ranveer said that he is bringing a wave of estrogen in the testosterone-driven era. Recently, hyper-masculine films, including RRR and KGF: Chapter 2 have become a blockbuster, earning more than Rs 1000 crore at the box office.

Speaking about his film Jayeshbhai Jordaar, where Ranveer's character is sensitive, the actor said that he is bringing a wave of oestrogen in the testosterone era. "How about me coming with an estrogen film in this testosterone rage," he replied when asked about releasing a sensitive film in a hyper-masculine film era. He then recalled that he had been trained by Loyd Stevens, who trained Tarak for RRR. After he was advised to take a testosterone test, he found out that there was too much!

He said, "Loyd Stevens was my trainer for Ram Leela. First time I created that kind of physique, and my God he was expensive. He trained Tarak for RRR as well, a big-time trainer. He has a scientific approach. He asked me to get these tests, to check my testosterone, to check how much it is if I need supplements you know to fill that testosterone to make that body. The reports came back saying that I have too much of it. I can spare some."

Source: India Today





David Duchovny to write, direct and star in adaptation of his novel

Hollywood star David Duchovny will write, direct and star in 'Bucky F*cking Dent', which is based on his book of the same name, a novel that topped the best-seller list and was embraced by critics.

According to 'Variety', 'Bucky F*cking Dent' is set in New York during 1978, and follows an aimless thirty-something named Ted, who moves back in with his father Marty (Duchovny) after learning of his terminal illness.

Marty is looking to make up for lost time, but his health seems to deteriorate whenever his beloved Red Sox lose a game (a condition familiar to Boston sports fans of the era).

With help from a crew of neighbourhood old-timers and Mariana - Marty's Nuyorican grief counselor - Ted orchestrates an intricate plan to provide the illusion of a Sox winning streak to keep Marty's spirit up (and heart beating).

The film is described as "an ode to the bond between father and son" and a true underdog story.

Emily Blunt to star in criminal-conspiracy film 'Pain Hustlers'

Actress Emily Blunt will star in 'Pain Hustlers', a criminal-conspiracy film directed by 'Fantastic Beasts' director David Yates that will be introduced to buyers at Cannes.

According to 'Variety', from a script by 'The True American' writer Wells Tower, the film is produced by Lawrence Grey through his Grey Matter Productions banner and Wychwood Pictures.

The movie's official logline reads: "Dreaming of a better life for her and her young daughter, Liza Drake (Blunt), a high-school dropout, lands a job with a failing pharmaceutical start-up in a yellowing strip mall in Central Florida."

"Liza's charm, guts and drive catapult the company and her into the high life, where she soon finds herself at the centre of a criminal conspiracy with deadly consequences. In the vein of 'The Big Short', 'American Hustle' and 'The Wolf of Wall Street', 'Pain Hustlers' is a hilarious, dramatic and wild journey to the corrupt heart of the American dream."

BAFTA-winning filmmaker Yates is fresh off the release of his third 'Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore'.

Golden Globe winner Blunt most recently starred in 'Jungle Cruise', and will next appear in Christopher Nolan's World War II epic 'Oppenheimer'.

Source: IANS



Hayden Panettiere to reprise role as Kirby Reed in 6th 'Scream' movie



Hayden Panettiere is set to return for the sixth installment in the Scream franchise. Spyglass Media and Paramount Pictures announced Wednesday, May 11, that Panettiere will reprise her role from 2011's Scream 4, where she played Kirby Reed, a student and horror fanatic at Woodsboro High School who ultimately survived in that film.

The fan-favorite character's return comes after Spyglass and Paramount confirmed that four survivors from last year's Scream also will return for the new movie. Panettiere will star alongside Melissa Barrera, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Mason Gooding and Jenna Ortega.

The next Scream film will pick up with Sam Carpenter (Barrera), Mindy Meeks-Martin (Brown), Chad Meeks-Martin (Gooding) and Tara Carpenter (Ortega) -- the four survivors from the most recent Ghostface killings -- as they depart Woodsboro and begin a fresh chapter.

Principal photography on the film is scheduled to begin this summer, with the untitled movie set for a March 31, 2023, theatrical release.

The sixth Scream movie will be helmed by the filmmaking team behind the fifth installment. Radio Silence's Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett will direct, while James Vanderbilt and Guy Busick will co-write the screenplay.

Paul Weinstein, William Sherak and Vanderbilt will serve as producers on the new project, with original Scream screenwriter Kevin Williamson and Chad Villella executive producing alongside Spyglass' Gary Barber and Peter Oillataguerre, Ron Lynch, Cathy Konrad and Marianna Maddalena.

Panettiere is best known for starring in the NBC series Heroes and films like Remember The Titans and Custody.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: INDIAN EMBASSY TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN KYIV FROM MAY 17

KYIV (TIP): India on May 13 announced that its embassy in Ukraine would resume its operation from the Ukrainian capital Kyiv from May 17.

The embassy was temporarily operating from Warsaw in Poland since mid-March.

"The Indian Embassy in Ukraine, which was temporarily operating out of Warsaw (Poland), would be resuming its operation in Kyiv with effect from May 17," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

It said the embassy was temporarily relocated to Warsaw on March 13.

The decision to resume operation of the embassy from Kyiv came amid decisions by several Western powers to reopen their missions in the Ukrainian capital.

India had decided to temporarily relocate the embassy to Poland in view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the war-torn country, including the Russian military offensive around Kyiv.

India relocated the embassy after bringing back over 20,000 of its nationals from across Ukraine under its evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' that was launched on February 26 in the wake of the war in Ukraine. (PTI)

RUSSIAN SPY BOSS COMPARES US TO GERMAN NAZI PROPAGANDA MACHINE

MARIUPOL, UKRAINE (TIP): A Russian spy chief on May 11 compared the US State Department to the World War II Nazi propaganda machine constructed by Joseph Goebbels, saying Washington had launched an anti-Russia messaging campaign across social media.

Sergei Naryshkin, head of Russia's foreign intelligence agency (SVR), said the United States was encouraging the spreading of fake information on the popular Telegram messaging service in an attempt to "discredit" and "dehumanise Russia's political and military leadership in the eyes of the Russian people".

"Their actions have a lot in common with the traditions of the Third Reich's ministry of public education and propaganda and its head Joseph Goebbels," Naryshkin said in a statement published on the SVR website.

Naryshkin provided no evidence to support the claims of a US-backed information campaign. Russia regularly accuses the West of funding and supporting anti-Kremlin movements and has labelled dozens of independent human rights groups and media outlets in Russia "foreign agents" over recent years. (Reuters)

Ukraine accuses Russia of forcibly deporting over 2 lakh children

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine said on May 13 Russia had forcibly deported more than 210,000 children since its invasion on Feb. 24 and accused Moscow of wanting to make them Russian citizens.

Human rights ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said the children were among 1.2 million Ukrainians who Kyiv says have been deported against their will.

Reuters could not independently verify the figure given by Denisova or her allegations, for which she did not provide supporting evidence.

The Kremlin did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on Denisova's allegations concerning the deportation of large numbers of children and other Ukrainian nationals.

Moscow has denied intentionally targeting civilians since launching what it calls a special military operation in Ukraine and says it is offering humanitarian aid to those who want to leave Russia.

"When our children are taken out, they destroy the national identity, deprive our country of the future,"



Denisova said on national television.

"They teach our children there, in Russian, the history that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has told everyone." Russia has referred to "refugees" coming to Russia to escape fighting, particularly from the southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, which is in Russian hands after weeks

of siege and bombardment.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions, which define international legal standards for humanitarian treatment in conflict, prohibit mass forcible transfers of civilians during a conflict to the territory of the occupying power, classifying it as a war crime. Reuters

Ukraine pushes Russian forces back, restricts gas flow to Europe

KYIV/VILHIVKA (TIP): Ukrainian forces reported battlefield gains on May 11 in a counterattack that could signal a shift in the momentum of the war, while Kyiv shut gas flows on a route through Russian-held territory, raising the spectre of an energy crisis in Europe.

Following days of advances north and east of the second largest city Kharkiv, Ukrainian forces were within just several kilometres of the Russian border on Wednesday morning, one Ukrainian military source said on condition of anonymity. Before the advance, Russian forces had been on the outskirts of Kharkiv, 40 km (25 miles) from the border.

The gains appear to be the fastest that Ukraine has achieved since it drove Russian troops away from Kyiv and out of the country's north at the beginning of April. If sustained, it could let Ukrainian forces threaten supply lines for Russia's main attack force, and even put rear logistics targets within Russia itself within striking range of Ukrainian artillery.

In Vilhivka, a village east of Kharkiv held by Ukrainian forces, the thump of near constant artillery and swoosh of multiple rocket launchers could be heard from fighting at the front, now pushed substantially further east, where Ukraine has been trying to capture villages on the



banks of the Donets river and threaten Russian supply lines on the far side.

Further east, Ukrainian forces seemed to be in control of the village of Rubizhne, on the banks of the Donets.

"It is burned out, just like all Russian tanks," a Ukrainian soldier told Reuters near Rubizhne next to the ruins of one Russian tank. "The weapons are helping a lot, the anti-tank ones."

KHARKIV ADVANCE

Kyiv has so far confirmed few details about its advance through the Kharkiv region, maintaining secrecy about the positions of its own forces near the

frontline while speaking in general terms about overall gains.

"We are having successes in the Kharkiv direction, where we are steadily pushing back the enemy and liberating population centres," Brigadier General Oleksiy Hromov, Deputy Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of Ukraine's General Staff told a briefing, providing no specifics.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said successes were putting Ukraine's second largest city - under constant bombardment since the war's early days - beyond the range of Russian artillery. (Reuters)

Kim Jong-un's lookalike disrupts Australian election campaign; extends support to Gladys Liu, the candidate opposite PM Morrison

SYDNEY (TIP): A man impersonating North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on May 13 disrupted the Australian election campaign when he burst into an event that Prime Minister Scott Morrison was attending with lawmaker Gladys Liu.

The impersonator, who later identified himself by the stage name Howard X, started talking to the gathered media.

"Thank you very much. Gladys Liu is the communist candidate for Australia," he said, before he was interrupted by an aide to Morrison.

"Excuse me, you are going to have to leave. This is the most offensive thing I have ever seen in a campaign," said the aide, Nick Creevey.

The impersonator responded: "Excuse me, you don't tell the supreme leader what to do. I support Gladys Liu." The impersonator left the Melbourne venue soon after.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Liu said she was focused on delivering outcomes for the Melbourne communities she represents.

"I will not be distracted by my opponents and their grubby tactics," she



said.

The disruption appeared to have been orchestrated in part by longshot Queensland State senate candidate Drew Pavlou, who said on social media that he was good friends with Howard X and it was "one of the best things we have ever

managed." Pavlou had earlier claimed in posts that Liu had defended China's leadership and had ties to the regime. Pavlou described himself as a "young larrikin" who thought the election was boring and needed more excitement.

During the event at Extel

Technologies in Melbourne, Morrison praised Chinese Australians.

"I talk about the assertive and aggressive nature of the Chinese government, not the Chinese people," Morrison said. "You know, Chinese Australians are the greatest patriots you could hope for in this country."

The disruption came at a time of heightened tensions between Australia and China, most recently over a security pact that China signed with the Solomon Islands.

Howard X is well-known for his impersonation of Kim Jong-un. In 2018, he was detained and questioned when he arrived in Singapore days before a summit between the North Korean leader and former US president Donald Trump. His real name is Lee Howard Ho Wun.

Media reported the impersonator was being interviewed by police on Friday.

Australia's election will be held on May 21 and early voting began this week. Opinion polls have the centre-left opposition Labour Party tracking ahead of Morrison's conservative coalition. (AP)

North Korea reports first Covid-19 outbreak, orders lockdown in 'gravest emergency'

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea confirmed its first COVID-19 outbreak on May 12, calling it the "gravest national emergency" and ordering a national lockdown, with state media reporting an Omicron variant had been detected in Pyongyang.

The first public admission of COVID infections highlights the potential for a major crisis in a country that has refused international help with vaccinations and kept its borders shut.

As of March, no cases of COVID-19 have been reported, according to the World Health Organization, and there is no official record of any North Koreans having been vaccinated.

"A most serious emergency case of the state occurred: A break was made on our emergency epidemic prevention front where has firmly defended for two years and three months from February, 2020," official KCNA news agency said.

Samples taken on May 8 from people in Pyongyang who were experiencing fevers showed a sub-variant of the Omicron virus, also known as BA.2, the report said,

without providing details on case numbers or possible sources of infection.

The report was published after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un led a Workers' Party meeting on Thursday to discuss responses to the outbreak

Kim ordered all cities and counties of the country to "strictly lock down" their regions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and said emergency reserve medical supplies would be mobilised, according to KCNA.

"The state epidemic prevention work shall be switched over to the maximum emergency epidemic prevention system," KCNA said.

Although the North has never before confirmed a single coronavirus infection in the country, officials in South Korea and the United States have doubted that the country is COVID-free, as cases of the Omicron variant were widely reported in neighbouring South Korea and China.

The isolated North has enforced strict quarantine measures, including border lockdowns, since the pandemic began in early 2020. In July that year, Kim declared an

emergency and imposed a lockdown on Kaesong, near the inter-Korean border, for three weeks after a man who defected to the South in 2017 returned to the city showing coronavirus symptoms.

According to the latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO), 64,207 of North Korea's more than 24.7 million people received COVID-19 testing; all had been found negative as of March 31.

North Korea has declined shipments of vaccine from the COVAX global COVID-19 vaccine-sharing programme and the Sinovac Biotech vaccine from China, suggesting no civilians may have been vaccinated.

South Korea's presidential office told Reuters that President Yoon Suk-yeol, who was sworn in on May 10, will not link humanitarian aid to the political situation, opening the door to providing support to the North.

The news of the outbreak comes amid reports of preparations for an imminent nuclear test by the North, which has also aggressively pursued a ballistic missile programme, according to US and South Korean officials. (Reuters)

CHINESE FINDINGS ON MARS SUGGEST WATER EXISTED FOR LONGER ON PLANET'S SURFACE

BEIJING (TIP): Hydrated minerals discovered by China's robotic rover on Mars in a vast basin believed to be the site of an ancient ocean suggest water was present on the planet's surface for longer than previously thought, said Chinese scientists.

According to an analysis of data sent back by the rover, Zhurong, signs of water were detected in sampled minerals from just 700 million years ago, the scientists said in a paper published on May 11 in the journal Science Advances.

Mars is believed to have been wet until about 3 billion years ago, when the planet's second geological age, known as the Hesperian Epoch, ended. In the current Amazonian period, there is no surface water.

The soil containing the minerals Zhurong sampled had a hard crust that could have been formed by rising ground water or melted ice that had since evaporated, the Chinese scientists wrote.

The Chinese rover has been exploring the vast plain of Utopia Planitia since its landing on the planet in May last year. Zhurong has travelled about 2 kilometres from its landing site as it gathers data on the terrain.

In recent years, data from an orbiting probe operated by the European Space Agency had discovered water under the ice of the planet's south pole.

Almost all of the water on Mars is locked in its polar ice caps, with very small traces in the planet's thin atmosphere.

Locating subsurface water is key to determining the planet's potential for life, as well as providing a permanent resource for any human exploration. Reuters

ACLU SOLIDARITY TEAM DISCUSSES CRUCIAL ISSUES FACING AAPI

BY MABEL PAIS

EVENT DESCRIPTION



AAPI SOLIDARITY Poster

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

In New Jersey and across the country, we have seen an alarming rise in hate and bias incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. As we witness more verbal assaults, social media harassment, racist discourse in politics and media, and physical violence including murder - what can we do to better protect our AAPI communities and allow all of us to thrive?

Join The American Civil Liberties Union-NJ (ACLU-NJ) at NJPAC for this gathering of experts, advocates and grassroots activists as they discuss the community, artistic and policy responses to these crucial issues. The event is curated by the American Civil Liberties

Union of New Jersey.

MODERATOR



Amol Sinha, Moderator
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Acting Attorney General

PANELISTS

Rose Cuison-Villazor, Interim Dean, Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar at Rutgers

Amol Sinha, Executive Director of The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ), moderates a panel discussion of experts, advocates and grassroots activists on the topic. To learn more about Amol, visit aclu-nj.org/en/biographies/amol-sinha

OPENING REMARKS

Matthew Platkin, NJ

University School of Law in Newark.

Jeena Moon, Esq., board member of AAPI Montclair, Visa corporate attorney and member of Visa's Inclusion & Diversity Committee.

Jafreen Uddin, Executive Director of Asian American Writers' Workshop and Chair of the Adult Internship Committee for We Need Diverse Books.

Julie Xu, Senior Chinatown Tenants Union Organizer for CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities.

WHEN

Monday, May 16, 2022 @ 07:00 PM, virtual

HOW

To participate FREE, Register at njpac-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xBz8tcnCSQqmoN9sYFHBfA

Look out, prior to the panel, for an email that contains a film link to watch on your own time.

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

HRWFF RETURNS WITH 33RD EDITION

By Mabel Pais

The Human Rights Watch Film Festival (HRWFF), now in its 33rd year, will present a hybrid full edition of 10 groundbreaking new films, available both in-person and online nationwide in the U.S., from May 20 to 26, 2022.

For the first time in two years, the New York festival will be back with a full program of in-person screenings at Film at Lincoln Center and IFC Center, with in-depth discussions with filmmakers, film participants, activists and Human Rights Watch researchers. The festival will continue to offer the opportunity to watch all 10 new films online across the U.S. with a full digital edition of the film festival.

This year's edition highlights activism and features courageous individuals around the world standing up to powerful forces and demanding change. John Biaggi,

Director of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, said, "We are thrilled to be back in theaters after two years away, bringing our audience a full slate of powerful films tackling urgent human rights issues including China, Russia, the climate crisis and reproductive rights."

Lesli Klainberg, President of Film at Lincoln Center said, "History has shown that film not only empowers understanding, but also ignites urgent public dialogues about how to help the most vulnerable."

John Vanco, Senior Vice President and General Manager at IFC Center said, "IFC Center is proud to continue our partnership with the Human Rights Watch Film Festival and support their mission to use cinema to shine a light on important issues."

FILM LINEUP

REBELLION - OPENING NIGHT U.S. Premiere

Dirs: Maia Kenworthy & Elena Sanchez Bellot | 2021 | UK, Poland | Eng | Doc | 1h 22m

"Rebellion" brings viewers behind-the-scenes with Extinction Rebellion (XR), as the group confronts the climate emergency - reminding the world there is no time to wait. Emerging as action on climate change dangerously slipped from the political agenda, XR took bold steps to break through the deadlock: mass civil disobedience. It worked. "Rebellion" reminds viewers to question white Western environmentalism and push

CONTD ON PAGE 25



Opening Film

Photo / www.ff.hrw.org, 2022.

CONTD FROM PAGE 24

back against a fight that ignores structural racism and oppression.

In-person screening:

Friday, May 20, 7:00pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Walter Reade Theater

THE JANES - CLOSING NIGHT

Dirs: Tia Lessin & Emma Pildes | 2022 | USA | Eng | Doc | 1h 41m

Grand Jury Prize Documentary Nominee, Sundance Festival, 2022

Seven women were part of a clandestine network that built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable abortions in the pre-Roe v. Wade era. They called themselves "The Janes." This galvanizing documentary tells the story of the past and, potentially, the future.

In-person screening:

Thursday, May 26, 7:00pm, IFC Center

CLARISSA'S BATTLE

World Premiere

Dir: Tamara Perkins | 2022 | USA | Eng | Doc | 1h 30m

Single mother and organizer Clarissa Doutherd is building a powerful coalition of parents fighting for childcare and early education funds, from her own experience of losing childcare and becoming unhoused, desperately needed by low-and middle-income parents and children across the United States. "Clarissa's Battle" offers an insight into an erupting movement, as communities across the country follow Clarissa's successes, setbacks and indomitable resilience.

In-person screenings:

Saturday, May 21, 8:00pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Sunday, May 22, 5:15pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

DELIKADO

New York Premiere

Dir: Karl Malakunas | 2022 | Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, USA, UK | Eng, Filipino | Doc | 1h 34m

Official Selection, Hot Docs 2022

A small network of environmental crusaders, Bobby, Tata and Nieves - a charismatic lawyer, a former illegal logger and a fearless politician - are three magnetic leaders fighting to stop corporations and governments seeking to plunder increasingly valuable natural resources in Palawan in the Philippines.

In-person screenings:

Sunday, May 22, 8:00pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Tuesday, May 24, 9:00pm, IFC Center

ETERNAL SPRING

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Jason Loftus | 2022 | Canada | Eng, Mandarin Chinese | Doc | 1h 26m

In March 2002, members of the outlawed spiritual group Falun Gong hijacked a state TV station in China. Their goal was to counter the government narrative about their practice. In the aftermath, police raids sweep Changchun City, and comic book illustrator, Daxiong (Justice League, Star Wars), a Falun Gong practitioner, is forced to flee.

In-person screenings:

Monday, May 23, 6:15pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Tuesday, May 24, 6:30pm, IFC Center

MIDWIVES

New York Premiere

Dir: Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing | 2022 | Myanmar, Germany, Canada | Rohingya, Rakhine, Burmese | Doc | 1h 31m

Winner, World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award: Excellence in Verité Filmmaking, Sundance 2022

Hla is a Buddhist and the owner of an under-resourced medical clinic in western Myanmar, where



Closing Film.

Photo / www.ff.hrw.org, 2022.

the Rohingya (a Muslim minority community) are persecuted and denied basic rights. Nyo is a Rohingya and an apprentice midwife who acts as assistant and translator at the clinic. Risking her own safety daily by helping Muslim patients, she is determined to become a steady healthcare provider and resource for the families who desperately need her.

In-person screenings:

Saturday, May 21, 5:15pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Monday, May 23, 6:30pm, IFC Center

THE NEW GREATNESS CASE

World Premiere

Dir: Anna Shishova | 2022 | Finland, Croatia, Norway | Russian | Doc | 1h 32m

In "The New Greatness Case" with hidden camera footage, and an intimate relationship with the protagonists, the director, Anna Shishova, shows the complete repression of present-day Russia, and how young, free-thinking people are seen as a threat to the government.

In-person screenings:

Tuesday, May 24, 9:00pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Wednesday, May 25, 6:30pm, IFC Center

NO U-TURN

New York Premiere

Dir: Ike Nnaebue | 2022 | France, Nigeria, South Africa, Germany | Eng, Igbo, French, Nigerian Pidgin | Doc | 1h 34m

Special Mention, Documentary Award, Berlinale 2022

In his first documentary, "No U-Turn," Nigerian director Ike Nnaebue retraces the life-changing journey he made over 20 years ago. Overlaid with a powerful poetic commentary, this self-reflective travelog hints at the deep longing of an entire generation for a better life.

In-person screenings:

Tuesday, May 24, 6:15pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

Wednesday, May 25, 9:00pm, IFC Center

UP TO G-CUP

World Premiere

Dir: Jacqueline van Vugt | 2022 | Netherlands | Kurdish, Arabic | Doc | 1h 20m

Northern Iraq's first lingerie store not only sells underwear, but also acts as a meeting place where women connect to their bodies and sensuality after overcoming the traumas of oppression, war, and

conservative morality. Director Jacqueline van Vugt captures intimate stories about love, sex, shame, and war.

In-person screenings:

Monday, May 23, 9:00pm, IFC Center

Wednesday, May 25, 9:00pm, Film at Lincoln Center, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

YOU RESEMBLE ME

New York Premiere

Dir: Dina Amer | 2021 | France, Egypt, USA | Arabic, French | Drama | 1h 31m

Who was Hasna Ait Boulahcen? After the November 2015 Paris bombings, she was labelled "Europe's first female suicide bomber." Director Dina Amer, in this nuanced drama shows what happens when society fails to protect a child, and how discrimination, poverty, and abuse facing young people can allow radicalization to plant roots and grow, with devastating impact on the wider community.

DIGITAL SCREENINGS:

DIGITAL SCREENINGS for each film are available to watch at your own pace, any time between May 20-26, 2022 on the festival's digital streaming platform.

TICKETS

TICKETS can be purchased at the IFC Center, Film at Lincoln Center and Human Rights Watch. In-Theater tickets are available online or at the Film at Lincoln Center (FLC) and the IFC box offices. For individual film tickets or a Festival Pass at a discounted price, visit ff.hrw.org/newyork, filmlinc.org or ifccenter.com. The entire Festival can be rented on the festival streaming site May 20, 9 a.m. EDT until May 26, 11:59 PST. For more information and accessibility options for each digital presentation, visit ff.hrw.org.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL

For Details and Program updates, visit ff.hrw.org. For more information and accessibility options for each digital presentation, visit ff.hrw.org.

FESTIVAL IN-PERSON SAFETY PROTOCOLS

For Festival disclaimers, and other Safety Protocols, visit ff.hrw.org

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

Herbal pastes, oil massages to color hair

Here are a few homemade pastes and mixes that you can use to naturally colour your hair. Natural colouring causes less damage to the hair say experts. Skin care expert Vasundhara Ravi suggests a few oil massages and herbal mixes to darken your hair: "They will not darken your hair like a chemical mix, but they will colour your hair and help keep it healthy," she says.

HOMEMADE OIL

Take 50ml coconut oil, 50ml gingelly oil and 50ml olive oil. Mix all these and heat on low flame. In kadai, spurt 10gm mustard, 20gm curry leaves, 20gm dry amla and 20 henna leaves. Saute till they are almost dry. Now, add the oil and heat this mixture for another 10 minutes. Store it in an airtight bottle and keep it in direct sunlight for four days. Let the ingredients settle at the base. Now, use this oil and massage your scalp and hair every day. This oil helps darken your greying hair.

HENNA PASTE

Make a paste out of henna and apply over the hair for two hours and rinse. After a few hours, mix 100g of indigo (auri) powder with warm water and make a paste. Apply this paste all over the hair. Leave it on for 45 minutes and rinse. You will be surprised to see that your grey hair has turned black to an extent. Apply this paste once a week.

HAIR PACK

Make your own hair darkening



pack by mixing the following together: henna leaves 50gm, aloe vera gel 20ml, haritaki or kadukkai skin 5gm, fresh seedless amla 20gm. Grind all the above to a smooth paste, add the juice of half a lemon to this mixture and apply on the hair. Apply 10ml olive oil on hair prior to applying this pack. Leave on for 20 minutes and rinse to get a reddish-brown tint to your hair.

OLIVE OIL MASSAGE

Olive oil is an excellent hair darkener. Slightly warm 20ml of olive oil and apply it on the scalp and give a gentle massage for eight minutes. Leave it on for one hour. Wash with homemade shikakai. Apply this twice a week to get back your beautiful dark hair.

HENNA-AMLA-KADUKAI PASTE

Take henna powder 200gm, amla powder 25gm, kadukai powder 10gm, tulsii powder 10gm, tea decoction 100ml, eucalyptus oil 2ml, curd 100ml, lemon juice 10 drops, and olive oil 2tsp. Mix all the ingredients in an iron vessel and

soak overnight. Next morning, apply this mixture on the scalp and hair. Leave it on for two hours, and rinse. Do not apply shampoo while washing the hair. This paste gives a beautiful maroon tint to your hair. It also prevents further greying.

TO GET NATURAL BURGUNDY TINT

Henna leaves 100gm, beetroot one (small), aloe vera 100gm and multani mitti 2tsp. Make a hair pack by blending henna leaves, beet root and aloe vera. Mix some multani mitti to the mixture. Apply this on your hair and leave it on for one hour. This paste gives a burgundy tint to hair.

PREVENT PREMATURE GREYING

Take a handful of curry leaves, hibiscus leaves, karisalai leaves, coriander leaves and grind them together into a smooth paste. Add five drops of lemon juice to this paste. Apply on the scalp and the hair. Leave it on for an hour and then wash. Apply this paste once a week. Regular application of this pack can darken existing grey hair and it also prevents premature greying.

FOOD

Lamb Kofta

Ingredients:

Minced lamb - 250 gms, Breadcrumbs - 1/2 cup, Onion - 1, small, finely chopped, Egg - 1, beaten
Mint leaves - handful, finely chopped, Coriander leaves - handful, finely chopped, Cinnamon powder - 1 tsp, Cardamom powder - 1 tsp, Cumin powder - 1 tsp, Red chilli powder - 1/2 tsp, Turmeric powder - 1 tsp, Salt as per taste
Black pepper powder as per taste, Wooden skewers - few, soaked in cold water for 30 minutes, Olive oil - little,
Optional ingredients: Ginger garlic paste - 1 tsp, Red chilli flakes - 1/4 tsp

Method:

- Combine the minced lamb and breadcrumbs in a bowl.
- Mix well.
- 3. Add the onions, mint leaves, coriander leaves, cinnamon powder, cardamom powder, cumin powder, red chilli powder and turmeric powder.
- Sprinkle some salt and pepper powder.
- Mix well.
- Add the egg and mix again until all ingredients are evenly combined.
- Make small balls of the mixture and insert a skewer into the center.
- Gently press the mixture around the skewer and keep aside.
- Heat a grill pan over medium flame.
- Add some olive oil and grill the prepared koftas until golden brown on all sides.
- Remove and serve with naan/parathas and lemon wedges.



Comparing partner could make or break your relationship



Your happiness in a relationship and how much energy you devote to maintaining that relationship depend on how your partner compares with other potential mates you may have, suggests new research.

The findings suggest that how well our partner fulfils our ideal preference is not very important.

"We do not need ideal partners for relationship bliss. Instead, satisfaction appears to come, in part, from getting the best partner available to us," said one of the researchers Daniel Conroy-Beam from the University of Texas at Austin in the US.

For the study — published in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior* — the researchers surveyed 259 adults — 119 men and 140 women — who had been in relationships for an average of seven and a half years. Each participant rated the importance of 27 traits in an ideal mate and the extent to which they felt each trait described both their actual partner and themselves. Participants also reported their relationship satisfaction and happiness.

The study discovered that satisfaction was not reliably dependent on how a partner

compared with a person's idea of the perfect mate, but rather whether other potential mates better matched a person's ideal preferences. Those with partners more desirable than themselves were satisfied whether or not their partners matched their ideal preferences. But, participants with partners less desirable than themselves were happy with their relationship only if their partner fulfilled their ideal preferences better than most other potential mates in the group, Conroy-Beam said.

In a follow-up study, the researchers again tested relationship satisfaction but also surveyed participants' mate retention efforts — energy devoted to maintaining their relationships.

They found that people with partners difficult to replace, either because their partner was more desirable than themselves or their partner more closely matched their ideal preferences than others in the group, reported being happier and devoted more effort to mate retention. This included making themselves extra attractive for their partners and "mate guarding" — or shielding their partners from mating rivals to help keep their partners — Conroy-Beam said.

Stress may contribute to fertility issues in women: Study

Stress may directly impact female fertility and ovarian reserve -- the number and quality of eggs they produce, according to a small study conducted in mice.

Exposing female rats to scream sounds, researchers noted a decrease in estrogen and anti-mullerian hormone levels, which are vital for fertility.

Stress also reduced the number and quality of eggs, resulting in smaller litters, they said.

The findings, published in the journal *Endocrinology*, shed light on the role stress may play in female reproduction.

"We examined the effect of stress on ovarian reserve using a scream sound model in rats," said Wenyan Xi, from the Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an JiaoTong University in Xian, China.

"We found that female rats exposed to the scream sound had diminished ovarian reserve and decreased fertility," Xi said.

Ovarian reserve is the reproductive potential left within a female's ovaries based on the number and quality of eggs.

A female is born with a finite number of eggs and her body cannot create any more, the researchers said.

Diminished ovarian reserve is the loss of normal reproductive potential in the ovaries due to a lower count or quality of the remaining eggs, they said.

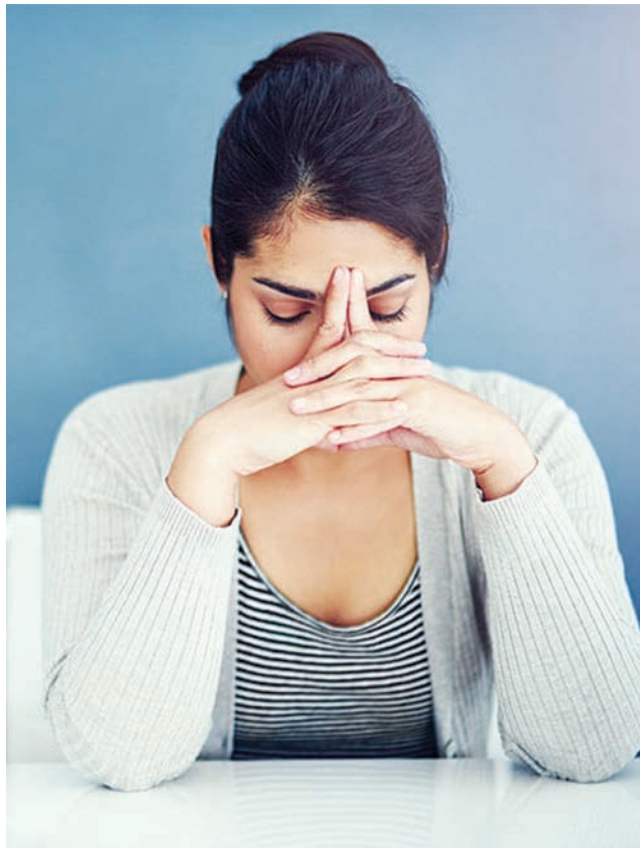
The researchers used a scream sound model to investigate the effect of stress on ovarian reserve in female rats.

They exposed female rats to a scream sound for three weeks and analysed the effect on their sex hormones, the number and quality of their eggs and their ability to get pregnant and have babies after mating.

They found the scream sound decreased the rats' estrogen and anti-mullerian hormone levels.

Estrogen is a group of hormones that play an important role in growth and reproductive development, and anti-mullerian hormone is made by the ovaries and helps form reproductive organs.

The scream sound also lowered the number and

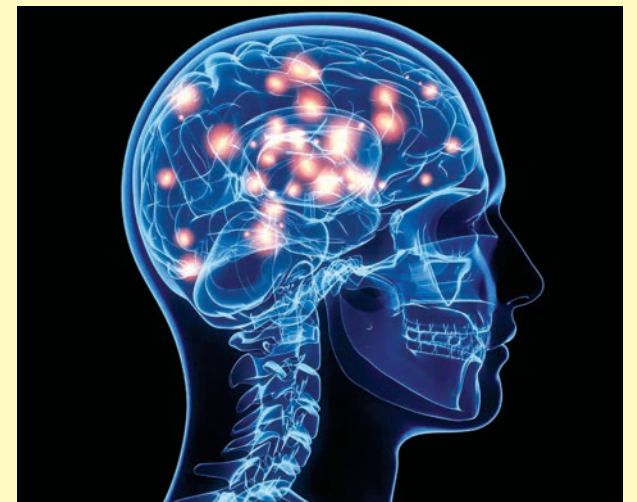


quality of the women's eggs and resulted in smaller litters, according to the researchers.

"Based on these findings, we suggest stress may be associated with diminished ovarian reserve," Xi said.

"It is important to determine an association between chronic stress and ovarian reserve because doing so may expand our appreciation of the limitations of current clinical interventions and provide valuable insight into the cause of diminished ovarian reserve," the scientist added.

Source: PTI



New drug that halts recurring brain tumour growth identified

An international team of scientists has identified a drug that blocks growth of the most aggressive brain tumour and how to most accurately identify which tumour will respond to the drug.

When a non-metastatic brain tumour - Meningioma - recurs after surgery and radiation treatment, a patient is out of options. No drugs are approved for these aggressive tumours, which occur in up to 20 per cent of cases and can lead to patient disability or even death.

But the new drug called abemaciclib, detailed in the journal *Nature Genetics*, is a cell cycle inhibitor, meaning it blocks the cell division cycle and inhibits tumour growth.

The scientists at universities of North-western, California, and Hong Kong demonstrated the effectiveness of the drug in select patients, mouse models, a 3D living tissue brain tumour (organoids) and cell cultures.

Investigators discovered that Meningiomas can be divided into molecular subgroups with different clinical outcomes and recurrence rates. This new method of classifying tumours allows scientists to predict recurrence more accurately than the current method of classifying the tumour.

Currently, after surgery, doctors examine a specimen of a tumour under a microscope and grade it one, two or three in its aggressiveness. But the grade is only about 70 per cent accurate, meaning some tumours will behave in a way that doesn't fit with how it appears under the microscope.

"Our study identifies which patients we should treat with this drug, because their tumours will likely respond to it," said Dr Stephen Magill, Assistant Professor of neurological surgery at North-western's Feinberg School of Medicine.

"We now have the potential to give them options and hope for a longer, symptom-free life." The team found that mice with Meningiomas treated with the medication lived longer and their tumours didn't grow as rapidly.

Source: IANS

Wonder teas that make you slim

If you are unhealthily starving yourself and still not losing weight, you are certainly doing it all wrong! While it's a known fact that gaining pounds is much easier than losing them, your approach towards weight loss is what matters. People try gymming, dieting and end up falling sick thanks to their desperate attempts and though we believe in exercising moderation when it comes to working out and following a particular diet, there's a secret mantra of losing weight that many of you don't know about. Slimming teas! Well, you read that right, sipping onto that comforting cup of tea can actually make you slim, but we are not talking about the regular tea, but some specific teas which have the ability to aid weight loss. Here's a look at 5 of those wondrous teas which can give out unbelievable results if you are serious about losing that flab.

Peppermint tea

Since it helps in speeding up the process of digestion, it's best to have a cuppa of this concoction daily in order to burn more calories than usual. What's more, it will also curb your food cravings, thereby making you eat just as much as you should eat.



Prepare mint tea by taking a spoonful of fresh/dried mint leaves and adding them to boiling water. Let the leaves boil for 5 minutes and then strain the water. Add honey, if you like you tea a little sweet.

Rose tea

The easiest to make and the most flavourful of the lot, rose tea is a blessing in disguise as it clears all the toxins inside the body. Also, since it prevents constipation, the intake of rose tea ensures your metabolism is in place.

You can prepare rose tea by mixing fresh rose petals with a spoonful of tea leaves and boiling the same for 4-5 minutes.

Green tea

Though it might be a part of your

daily diet already, green tea needs to be prepared in the right form (don't remove the tea bag/tea leaves before 3 minutes) for best weight loss results. A gift to mankind, the antioxidant catechins found in green tea not only boost metabolism, but also help in burning fat.

Oolong tea

Extremely popular in China and now widely available in India, courtesy the online shopping portals, oolong tea is nature's guard against obesity and can reduce cholesterol to a great extent.

Prepare oolong tea by putting a spoonful of tea leaves in boiling water and steeping the same for 4-5 minutes.

Black Tea

All of us have tasted black tea at least once in our lives, either when there's no milk in the fridge or when we are feeling too full. And well, despite having it quite regularly, most of us are not aware about its weight loss aiding abilities. Black tea helps controlling blood sugar levels and curbs the appetite to a great extent.

Can be simply prepared by boiling the tea leaves in water.

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Google is mocking Apple by dropping headphone jack in Pixel 6a

Google which took a dig at Apple for removing the 3.5 mm headphone jack has now announced to ditch the jack in its new device -- Pixel 6a.

Google even created a two-minute ad celebrating the headphone jack in the Pixel 5A that parodied Apple's elaborate design videos.

That video was titled, in part, "The Circle Comes Full Circle".

Google announced the new Pixel 6a during its I/O 2022 developer conference.

Nearly all smartphone manufacturers have moved on from the headphone jack which is a trend largely kicked off by Apple with the iPhone 7 in 2016.

Google is the latest tech company to abandon the headphone port in its next smartphone.

The company may wish to make a more convincing case to sell users wireless headphones, as it revealed the new Pixel Buds Pro at its event that can be pre-ordered for \$199 in select countries from July 21.

The wireless earbuds come with Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) with a custom 6-core audio chip that runs Google-developed algorithms and custom speakers. "Built-in sensors will measure the pressure in your ear canal to make sure you're comfortable even during long listening sessions," said the company. Later this year, Pixel Buds Pro will also support spatial audio.

Google's new 10-shade skin tone scale to boost inclusivity, cut AI bias

Tech giant Google has launched a novel 10-shade skin tone that will be incorporated into its products over the coming months to boost inclusivity and to reduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) bias.

In a blogpost on Wednesday, Google said it designed the Monk Skin Tone (MST) scale, in partnership with Harvard professor and sociologist Dr. Ellis Monk, to make it easy-to-use for development and evaluation of technology while representing a broader range of skin tones.

Skin tone plays a key role in how people experience and are treated in the world, and even factors into how they interact with technologies. Studies have shown that products built using AI and Machine Learning (ML) technologies can perpetuate unfair biases and not work well for people with darker skin tones.

"We're openly releasing the scale so anyone can use it for research and product development. Our goal is for the scale to support inclusive products and research across the industry - we see this as a chance to share, learn and evolve our work with the help of others," Tulse Doshi, Head of Product for Responsible AI and Product Inclusion in Search, in a blogpost on Wednesday.

"Updating our approach to skin tone can help us better understand representation in imagery, as well as evaluate whether a product or feature works well across a range of skin tones," Doshi said.

The feature could especially be important for computer vision, a type of AI that allows computers to see and understand images. When not built and tested intentionally to include a broad range of skin-tones, computer vision systems have been found to not perform as well for people with darker skin.



"The MST Scale will help us and the tech industry at large build more representative datasets so we can train and evaluate AI models for fairness, resulting in features and products that work better for everyone - of all skin tones," Doshi said.

Every day, millions of people search the web expecting to find images that reflect their specific needs. For example, when people search for makeup related queries in Google Images, one can see an option to further refine results by skin tone.

"In our research, we found that a lot of the time people feel they're lumped into racial categories, but there's all this heterogeneity with ethnic and racial categories," Dr Monk said.

"And many methods of categorisation, including past skin tone scales, don't pay attention to this diversity. That's where a lack of representation can happen and we need to fine-tune the way we measure things, so people feel represented," he added. *Source: IANS*

Astronomers capture 1st image of Milky Way's huge black hole

The world got a look on Thursday, May 12, at the first wild but fuzzy image of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy.

Astronomers believe nearly all galaxies, including our own, have these giant black holes at their centre, where light and matter cannot escape, making it extremely hard to get images of them. Light gets chaotically bent and twisted around by gravity as it gets sucked into the abyss along with superheated gas and dust.

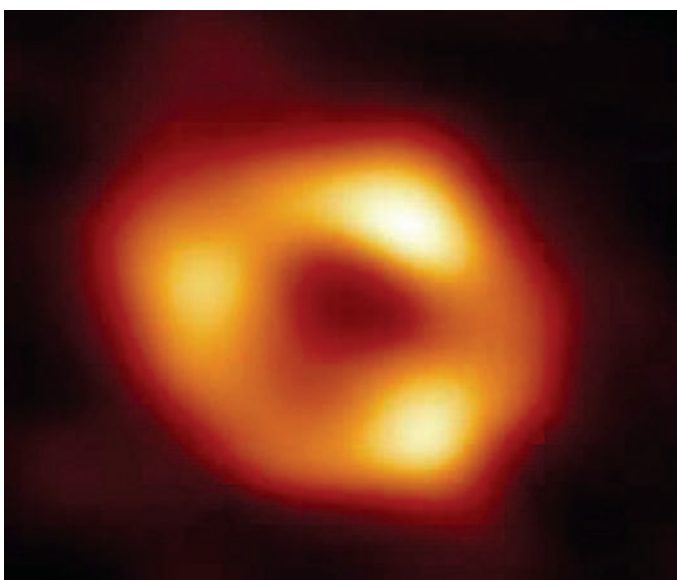
The coloured image unveiled Thursday is from the international consortium behind the Event Horizon Telescope, a collection of eight synchronised radio telescopes around the world. Previous efforts had found the black hole in the centre of our galaxy too jumpy to get a good picture.

The University of Arizona's Feryal Ozel called the black hole "the gentle giant in the centre of our galaxy" while announcing the new image.

The Milky Way black hole is called Sagittarius A(asterisk), near the border of Sagittarius and Scorpius constellations. It is 4 million times more massive than our sun.

This is not the first black hole image. The same group released the first one in 2019 and it was from a galaxy 53 million light-years away. The Milky Way black hole is much closer, about 27,000 light-years away. A light year is 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion kilometres).

The project cost nearly \$60 million with \$28 million coming from the US National Science Foundation. *Source: AP*



The University of Arizona's Feryal Ozel called the black hole "the gentle giant in the center of our galaxy" while announcing the new image. (Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration via AP)

Scientists grow plant in lunar soil, raise hopes of growing plants on Moon

That's one small pot of soil, one giant leap for man's knowledge of space agriculture: scientists have for the first time grown plants in lunar soil brought back by astronauts in the Apollo program. The ground-breaking experiment, detailed in the journal Communications Biology on Thursday, has given researchers hope that it may be possible to one day grow plants directly on the Moon.

That would save future space missions much hassle and expense, facilitating longer and farther trips.

However, according to the study's University of Florida authors, much remains to be studied on the topic, and they intend to leave no stone unturned.

"This research is critical to NASA's long-term human exploration goals," said Bill Nelson, the head of the US space agency. "We'll need to use resources found on the Moon and Mars to develop food sources for future astronauts living and operating in deep space."

For their experiment, the researchers used just 12 grams (a few teaspoons) of lunar soil collected from various spots on the Moon during the Apollo 11, 12, and 17 missions.

In tiny thimble-sized pots, they placed about a gram of soil (called "regolith") and added water, then the seeds. They also fed the plants a nutrient solution every day. The researchers chose to plant arabidopsis thaliana, a relative of mustard greens, because it grows easily and, most importantly, has been studied extensively. Its genetic code and responses to hostile environments -- even in space -- are well known. As a control group, seeds were also planted in soil from Earth as well as samples imitating lunar and Martian soil. The result: after two days, everything sprouted, including the lunar samples.

"Every plant -- whether in a lunar sample or in a control -- looked the same up until about day six," Anna-Lisa Paul, lead author of the paper, said in a statement. *Source: AFP*



TESLA PUTS INDIA ENTRY PLAN ON HOLD AFTER DEADLOCK ON TARIFFS

Tesla Inc has put on hold plans to sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes, three people familiar with the matter said.

The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with government representatives as Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the US and China, at lower tariffs.

But the Indian government is pushing Tesla to commit to manufacturing locally before it will lower tariffs, which can run as high as 100% on imported vehicles.

Tesla had set itself a deadline of February 1 to see if its lobbying brought a result, the sources with knowledge of the company's plan said.

When Narendra Modi's government did not offer a concession, Tesla put on hold the plans to import cars into India, added the sources, who sought anonymity because the deliberations were private. *Source: Reuters*

MUKESH AMBANI, BRITAIN'S ISSA BROTHERS FACE OFF IN FINAL BATTLE FOR BOOTS

Britain's billionaire Issa brothers and Indian tycoon Mukesh Ambani are preparing to face off in the final battle for the Boots drugstore chain, one of the UK high street's most recognizable names.

The Issas are seen as the party to beat ahead of next week's deadline for proposals, after they submitted the highest offer in the first round, people with knowledge of the matter said. The duo are going up against Ambani, who's been working on a bid together with buyout firm Apollo Global Management Inc.

Bidders are now sizing up Boots' billions in pension guarantees -- which they'll have to take on -- as they figure out how much they can pay for the business, the people said. They're also working around the clock to arrange financing in a difficult market, which has gotten that much tougher due to the war in Ukraine, soaring inflation and rising interest rates, according to the people.

That's a lot to sort through, and suitors are getting a few extra days to firm their bids up after the chain's owner Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. pushed back the May 16 deadline to later in the week, the people said. *Source: Bloomberg*

India's consumer inflation at 8-yr high of 7.79% may 'trigger' quicker rate hikes

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Sounding a red alert on India's CPI inflation at an 8-year high print of 7.79% YoY in April, Acuite Ratings has said it may trigger quicker rate hikes.

"If inflation pressures continue to mount there is a likelihood of additional hikes thereby taking the rate to its pre-pandemic level of 5.15 per cent or even higher in FY23. Additionally, we also expect CRR to be hiked by another 50 bps by H1FY23," Acuite Ratings said.

Given the tone of urgency in RBI's statement to support the altered inflation-growth dynamics, "we now revise our call and expect the RBI to hike repo rate by an additional 60 bps in the rest of FY23".

The increasing price pressures was in motion even before the onslaught of the geopolitical conflicts. However, lingering war between Russia and Ukraine, unprecedented level of sanctions, elevated oil and commodity prices along with prolonged supply chain disruptions have escalated the inflationary concerns both in the global as well as domestic economies, it said.

Globally most economies have shifted from an extended disinflationary phase to tackling strong inflationary concerns, causing key central banks monetary policy rhetoric to switch to extreme hawkishness and policy tightening in 2022 from pandemic-era accommodative policies.

"From domestic standpoint, for FY23, inflation drivers are likely to face considerable pressure from persistent hardening of input prices. The heightened pressure from commodity prices is also coinciding with unlocking of the economy post Omicron wave while vaccination coverage continues to gain traction. While we stick to our estimate of 5.9 per cent for FY23 CPI inflation, we now believe that there is a buildup of upside risks," Acuite Ratings said.

"Going forward, we expect the core inflation to remain sticky at elevated levels given upward revision of petrol and diesel prices by the OMCs in order to reduce the under-recoveries being accumulated by them at the current crude prices of USD 100 plus per barrel."



India's retail inflation rose by 7.79% in April, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Inflation in food items rose by even higher — 8.38% in April — according to the MoSPI's Consumer Food Price Index. *Photo: Reuters file*

Acuite Ratings said the government, however, may also consider a partial absorption of the increased prices through a further excise duty cut on petrol and diesel which could provide marginal comfort from inflation perspective. While the direct pass-through of elevated commodity prices can be seen through increasing prices of petrol and diesel and non-subsidized LPG, indirect pass through of unprecedented input cost pressures by manufacturers is visible through rising prices of certain personal care products within FMCG sector which will get reflected in the core CPI print in the coming months.

After moderating close to RBI's inflation target rate in September-21, headline CPI inflation has been rising incessantly with the print breaching the upper tolerance threshold in Q4 FY22, averaging at 6.34 per cent. It has started to gather steam in April-22 gaining strength from the geo-political crisis and rising to an eight year high of 7.79 per cent YoY from 6.95 per cent YoY in March-22. *Source: IANS*

US inflation hit 8.3% last month but slows from 40-year high

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Inflation slowed in April after seven months of relentless gains, a tentative sign that price increases may be peaking while still imposing a financial strain on American households.

Consumer prices jumped 8.3% last month from 12 months earlier, according to government data released Wednesday. That was below the 8.5% year-over-year surge in March, which was the highest rate since 1981.

But the consumer price index (CPI) for gasoline fell 6.1% in April compared to March, the Labor Department said. Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine is the main catalyst for the surge in gasoline prices. The war has also driven up global good prices.

On a month-to-month basis, prices rose 0.3% from March to April, a still-elevated rate but the smallest increase in eight months.

Consumer prices had spiked 1.2% from February to March, mostly because of a sudden jump in gas prices triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Nationally, the price of a gallon of regular gas has reached a record \$4.40, according to AAA, though that figure isn't adjusted for inflation.

The high price of oil is the main factor. A barrel of US benchmark crude sold for around \$100 a barrel Tuesday. Gas had fallen to about \$4.10 a gallon in April, after reaching \$4.32 in March.

Elon Musk puts plan to purchase Twitter on hold

Elon Musk tweeted on Friday, May 13, that his \$44-billion cash deal for Twitter Inc was "temporarily on hold" while he waits for the social media company to provide data on the proportion of its fake accounts.

Twitter shares initially fell more than 20% in premarket trading, but after Musk, the chief executive of electric car market Tesla Inc, sent a second tweet saying he remained committed to the deal, they regained some ground.

The shares were down 9.6% to \$40.71 in trading on Friday, a steep discount to the \$54.20 per share acquisition price.

Musk, the world's richest person, decided to waive due diligence when he agreed to buy Twitter on April 25, in an effort to get the San Francisco-based company to accept his "best and final offer." This could make it harder for him to argue that Twitter somehow misled him.

Since Musk inked his deal to acquire Twitter, technology stocks have plunged amid investor concerns over inflation and a potential economic slowdown.

The spread between the offer price and the value of Twitter shares had widened in recent days, implying less than a 50% chance of completion, as investors speculated that the downturn would prompt Musk to walk away or seek a lower price.

"Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," Musk told his more than 92 million Twitter followers. *Source: Reuters*

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 - MAY 16 TO MAY 22, 2022



Aries

Ganesha says, Blessing of Lord Shiva will be with you this week and hence you will be able to do anything you want this week. You will bring warmth into your home ties. If you recently lost someone, your grief will begin to dissipate this week, and you will begin to recover. The twilight will soothe you.

Your tactics will fail regularly this week, which may lower your morale. This week, your relationship fronts will be all well and settled. You will be able to bring some good changes in yourself and your partner will appreciate this. People who are married will find it difficult to deal with their spouse's mental health in the latter half of the week due to the weakening of the Venus in the latter half of the week. your health will not need any attention this week.



Taurus

You'll need to be extra proactive this week. You will be able to maintain a healthy level of involvement in both your personal and social lives. However, you'll have to be extra cautious about being overly protective of yourself. The Moon will continue to favor you. The first half of the week will make you feel a little drabber and more boring.

You'll have to keep pushing yourself higher but the latter half of the week will bring better results. Your relationship fronts will need some attention this week. Your partner and you will not be able to stay in a compatible zone this week therefore, you must be calmer. Your health will not need any attention this week hence, you can be carefree.

Gemini



This week, Gemini, you will engage in some multilayer thinking. The anguish you will experience will be drowned out by your inner power. You'll see several perspectives on the topics. This week, listen to your inner voice to get the answers. You won't be able to work with high-potential people this week. You will not benefit by stirring up disputes. This week, your relationship runs will not suffer at all. Your partner and you both will be able to walk past your issues.

People who are married will welcome harmony on the domestic fronts. This week, your health will not suffer any inconveniences. Overall, it's going to be a fruitful week.



Cancer

This week, you'll realize how much assistance is available to you, which will inspire you to take the first step. You will stop protesting change and embrace it wholeheartedly. This week, you will be able to on very good profits from the share market. You are advised to get indulged into intraday transactions.

You'll have to be more cautious this week with those who aren't your well-wishers and who seek to flood your head with distrust. This week, your relationship fronts will not demand any special kind of attention but, your partner in your both will need to stay close in terms of communication. This week, your Wellness and fitness will not be affected at all but, you must not stop your health regimen.



Leo

You will play the role of an ideological appointee this week. Your alert intellect will be equipped to handle with any scenario and discover reasonable answers. The kinds of ideas you'll come up with will astound you. This week, your ideas and creative inputs will be converted into practical results.

Your professional front will boom. You will give a bit more than you should this week, and this deed will put you in danger. As suggested by the presence of Venus in 7th house, you'll be able to make progress in your romantic life. Your health will not need any special attention this week. Small children must be kept away from heights.



Virgo

This week is likely to bring you an unanticipated fortune. People attempting to hurt you This week will be unable to accomplish so. Every deception you meet This week will be defeated with simplicity.

You will have a fantastic time as well. This week will be a day of laziness for you. During some times of the day, you will become highly unproductive due to changes in your first house. As suggested by the combination of alignment of the sun and the Venus in your Zodiac, you will be able to bring back your love life on track. Your health will need minor attention in the latter half of the week as minor headaches will bother you a little



Libra

You'll be able to decipher the significance of your visions this week. Your heart will dominate This week bringing you joy and success. You will get smarter by looking for logical outcomes in everything.

As suggested by the transitions taking place in your 6th house, you will be able to make good negotiations on your business fronts. Spending your energy on the wrong things will sabotage your attitude in the first half of the week. This week, your love life will not go through any changes. Your partner will be too busy to attend to everything you plan but, the sanctity of your relationship will be maintained. Your health will stay stable alright throughout the week.



Scorpio

You will feel more confident and optimistic this week. You will be able to create an awesome aura around yourself. You'll be surprised at the sort of outcomes your potential can produce. You will be unable to effectively manage your time this week. To make things go quicker, you'll have to look for leverage.

As suggested by the presence of Jupiter in your 11th house, you will shortly be able to earn a very good amount of wealth this week. This week, your love life will be all well. Your partner in new both will spend a good amount of time together and you are also likely to go on a trip. It's a good week for married couples to plan a baby. If you are suffering from issues related to blood pressure, this week you must be really careful.



Sagittarius

This week, you'll be able to make vital contacts, which will aid you much in your professional endeavors This week. This week you will receive an invitation to collaborate. The sun will provide his benefits. This week, your business will flourish as you will find the right people with heavy investments. You'll be able to take the advantage of the fruitful position of the moon in your Zodiac.

You will make the error of being unjust to someone this week, and it will come back to haunt you later. This week your love life will not go through any issues. Your partner will be able to understand you very well and hence, it's a very good week to express yourself. This week, your health will need attention.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 16 TO MAY 22, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

May 16

Ganesha says your friends and family members would provide good support to you. Professionally things look much better and you would move around with new confidence and energy. A change for the better in your business or career seems likely later in the year. Those involved in art, writing and other creative professions should expect recognition and monetary gains. Health would definitely need more attention. Meditation and yoga should be practiced for physical and spiritual gains.

May 17

Ganesha says today your confidence will grow. You would benefit from remarkable business entrepreneur skills. New projects and assignments would enhance your prosperity. You may spend some good time with your partner at home. This year will give some exhilarating news from overseas which will boost up the spirits of the entire family. Travelling would be beneficial for building new alliances.

May 18

Ganesha says the day would bring you financial gains and happiness. You shall leave no stone unturned to achieve your goals. Businessmen will

venture into new and more profitable avenues. Investment in stocks and real estate would be highly beneficial. Property disputes if any would get settled to your satisfaction. Time spent with friends would be worthwhile, as they would be supportive to your concerns. Meditation and Yoga will prove to be highly rewarding especially for spiritual as well as physical gains.

May 19

Ganesha says today you should expect new assignments and hold positions of important responsibilities. Your financial position stabilizes as past investments start raking profits. Improved finances bring in prosperity and happiness at domestic level. Good year for girls and women as far as love is concerned. Some gains through inheritance or expensive gifts from relatives cannot be ruled out. Frequent travel would be undertaken bringing good monetary rewards.

May 20

Ganesha says today an increase in responsibility or a change in job for some. New foreign contact or a financial transaction will bring handsome results. A sudden influence of a spiritual person will have a deep impact on your personality. Partner will be understanding and provide you with love and

affection. Ancestral gains for some. Friends will be supportive and helpful.

May 21

Ganesha says today your employer would appreciate your confidence and enthusiasm. You would be able to accomplish many tasks that you earlier thought were impossible. Monetary benefits would accrue from new contacts. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be exciting and intellectually stimulating. Family members will be supportive and friends will be helpful. Minor domestic tensions and stress will bother you. Health needs extra care therefore be careful of what you consume.

May 22

Ganesha says your communication skills and charms would impress those around you. Your income would improve, but your expenses would be erratic which would make it extremely difficult for you to save. New romance for those unattached, but your work is likely to suffer if you keep fantasizing about this special person. You should not let anything interfere with your career objectives if you desire to achieve your goals. Elders and children in the family will demand a lot of your attention.

CONTD FROM PAGE 30



Capricorn

Many matters will be certain for you this week. You'll have to be more conscious of the chores you complete. As Mercury shines in your house of profession, you will undoubtedly reap favorable benefits. This week, your 12th house will receive blessings from the Lord Sun which will enable your fortune and is more likely to make you wealthy. You won't be able to readily wipe the goo off people and stuff this week. You'll need to be more emotionally resilient. Your relationship will flourish this week. Your partner in you both will plan out your future together. Your health will need minor attention as you might suffer from nausea and dehydration very often this week.



Aquarius

This week, you'll be thrilled to notice the improvements you've instilled in others around you. You will be delighted to observe how others respond to your efforts. Keep up the good work, Aquarius. In the latter half of the week, you will earn a good number of profits. Your eighth house will be blessed by Lord Sun which will lead to acceptance of the best suitable job you applied for.

You will regret not being able to attend an important occasion this week in order to prioritize someone else. Your relationship will not suffer from any such issues this week but your partner will seek your help in order to complete their professional obligations. This week your health will need to be taken care of as you might suffer from issues related to

blood pressure.



Pisces

You will be able to exceed your ambitions this week. You'll try to break away from your overthinking. You'll see how even unanticipated events help you achieve

greater achievements. People in the field of engineering and manufacturing will earn very good profits this week. People in the field of telecommunication will suffer from minor losses in the latter half of the week.

You might have to have some difficult one-to-ones this week. Your perfectionist nature will be the root of the problem.

People who are looking out for perfect relationships will find a very compatible match in the latter half of this week. People who have been thinking of arranged marriages will find Taurus and Gemini to be the most compatible match for them. Your health will need some attention this week. By the end of the week, everyone will be fine.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Buddha Purnima, traditionally known as Vesak or Vesakha, is celebrated as Lord Gautama Buddha's Birthday. Vaishakh Purnima is also called Buddha Purnima. Gautama Buddha's name was first Prince Siddhartha Gautama. Buddha means 'Knowledgeable and knowledgeable person', Gautama Buddha is also known as Shakyamuni.

Buddha Purnima is the biggest festival day for followers of Buddhism. Buddha was born on the full moon day. Buddha attained nirvana on the day of full moon and left this world on the day of Vaishakh sukla full moon. This day is celebrated as Buddha Purnima in the whole world. Several types of celebrations have been organized on this day. Celebrations are organized according to customs and culture of different countries in different countries.

On this day devout Buddhists and followers assemble in various temples before dawn for the ceremonial and honourable hoisting of the Buddhist Flag.

Devotees bring simple offerings of flowers, candles and joss-sticks to lay at the feet of their teacher. They come together to make a special effort to refrain from killing of any kind and are encouraged to partake in vegetarian food for this day.

Certain temples observe the practice of displaying a small statue of Buddha in front of the altar in a basin filled with water and decorated with flowers. Devotees are allowed to pour water over the statue as a symbol of cleansing bad karma.

Buddha Purnima also includes talks given by monks who engage in reciting verses uttered by Buddha 25 centuries ago to invoke peace and happiness.

Celebrating this day does not involve festivities unlike other events, but works as a mean of making special efforts to bring happiness to the unfortunate, the aged, the handicapped and the sick.

Celebrations around the world

Japan

The festival here, is based on a different legend that says, a dragon appeared in the sky on Buddha's birthday and poured soma over him, which is a Vedic ritual drink. In the modern arena, Japan celebrates Vesak by pouring amacha, a sweet tea on statues.

Nepal

Nepal is home to Lumbini-birthplace of Buddha, and Swayambhu-the holy temple for Buddhists also known as the Monkey Temple. The main door of Swayambhu is opened only on this day; hence, people from all over Kathmandu valley are stimulated by the event. Pilgrims across the world gather in thousands to celebrate Buddha's birthday at his birthplace.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka celebrates Vesak for about one week! During this time, the selling of alcohol and fresh meat is prohibited with abattoirs also being closed. The celebrations here include giving of alms and erection of pandals wherein each pandal illustrates a story from the Jataka Tales. Food stalls are set up by Buddhist devotees that provide eatables and drinks to passersby. Also birds, insects and animals are released by the thousands in what is known as a 'symbolic act of liberation'; of giving freedom to those who are in captivity, imprisoned, or tortured against their will.

Apart from these, other Asian countries like Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore also participate in processions and prayers by monks and make this day a true symbol of spirituality.

What Do People Do?

Many Buddhists visit temples on Vesak to listen to monks give talks and recite ancient verses. Devout Buddhists may spend all day in one or more temples. Some temples display a small statue of Buddha as a baby. The statue is placed in a basin filled with water and decorated with flowers. Visitors to the temple pour water over the statue. This symbolizes a pure and new beginning.

Many Buddhists pay special attention to Buddha's teachings during Vesak. They may wear white robes and only eat vegetarian food on and around Vesak. Many people also give money, food or goods to organizations that help the poor, the elderly and those who are sick. Caged animals are bought and set free to display care for all living creatures, as preached by

Buddha Purnima



Important information

Date: Monday, 16 May 2022

Featured in religions: Buddhism

Date falls in: Full moon of the month of Vaishakh, usually in April (first), May or June (last).

Also called: Buddha's Birthday or Buddha Day

Buddha.

Public Life

Government offices, post offices and banks are closed in India on Vesak. Stores and other businesses and organizations may be closed or have reduced opening hours. Transport is usually unaffected as many locals travel for religious celebrations.

Background

Gautama Buddha was a spiritual teacher in India. Many scholars are uncertain when he lived. It is believed that Buddha was born at some time between sixth and fourth centuries BCE. Opinions among scholars are generally divided between those who place Buddha's death about 480 BCE and those who place it as much as a century later.

Buddha was an influential spiritual teacher during and after his lifetime. Many Buddhists see him as the Supreme Buddha. Festivals to honor Buddha were held for many centuries. The decision to celebrate Vesak as the Buddha's birthday was formalized at the first conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. This conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in May, 1950. The date was fixed as the day of the full moon in

May. Different Buddhist communities may celebrate Vesak on different dates in years when there are two full moons in May. This is because the Buddhist lunar calendar can be interpreted in different ways.

Symbols

The dharmacakra or dharma wheel is a symbol often seen during Vesak. It is a wooden wheel with eight spokes. The wheel represents Buddha's teaching on the path to enlightenment. The eight spokes symbolize the noble eightfold path of Buddhism.

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

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

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

contd from page 1

20 Punjabis in fray for Ontario provincial polls

fielded six Punjabi candidates each, New Democratic Party five, Green two and one will contest as an Independent. Most of the Punjabis are contesting from the 11 constituencies of Brampton and Mississauga suburbs of Toronto, dominated by the diaspora.

The Progressive Conservative Party has fielded Hardeep Grewal from Brampton East, Amanjot Sandhu from Brampton West and Deepak Anand from Mississauga Malton. Liberals have fielded Jannat Garewal from Brampton East, Harinder Malhi from Brampton North, Rimmy Jhajj from Brampton West, Aman Gill from Mississauga Malton, Ruby Toor from Brantford Brant and Manpreet Brar from Essex.

The NDP has fielded Sara Singh from Brampton Centre, Sandeep Singh from Brampton North, Navjot Kaur from Brampton West and Jasleen Kamboj from Thornhill. Green party has fielded Aneep Dhade from Brampton North and Mini Batra from Durham, while Manjot Sekhon is contesting from the Ontario party.

Seven Punjabis who won in 2018 are again trying their luck. Prominent among them are Nina Tangri from Mississauga Streetville, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Parm Gill from Milton, President of the Ontario Treasury Board Parbmeet Sarkaria from Brampton South and NDP national president Jagmeet Singh's younger brother Gurratan Singh from Brampton East. (Source: TNS)

\$44 billion Twitter deal 'temporarily on hold' over data on fake accounts; stocks slump

electric car market Tesla Inc, sent a second tweet saying he remained committed to the deal, they regained some ground.

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The spread between the offer price and the value of Twitter shares had widened in recent days, implying less than a 50% chance of completion, as investors speculated that the downturn would prompt Musk to walk or seek a lower price.

"Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," Musk told his more than 92 million Twitter followers.

Twitter is planning no immediate action as a result of Musk's comment, people familiar with the matter said. The company considered the comment disparaging and a violation of the terms of their deal contract, but was encouraged by Musk subsequently tweeting he was committing to the acquisition, the sources added.

Musk came to Twitter's office for a meeting on May 6 as part of the transaction planning process, a Twitter spokesperson said.

There was no immediate reaction from the investors that Musk tapped last week to raise \$7.1 billion in funding.

Spam or fake accounts are designed to manipulate or artificially boost activity on services like Twitter. Some create an impression that something or someone is more popular.

Musk tweeted a Reuters story from ten days ago that cited the fake account figures. Twitter has said that the figures were an estimate and that the actual number

may be higher.

The estimated number of spam accounts on the microblogging site has held steady below 5% since 2013, according to regulatory filings from Twitter, prompting some analysts to question why Musk was raising it now.

"This 5% metric has been out for some time. He clearly would have already seen it... So it may well be more part of the strategy to lower the price," said Susannah Streeter, an analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Representatives for Musk did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters.

Tesla's stock rose 4% on Friday morning. The shares have lost about a quarter of their value since Musk disclosed a stake in Twitter of April 4, amid concerns he will get distracted as Tesla's chief executive and that he may have to sell more Tesla shares to fund the deal.

There is plenty of precedent for a potential renegotiation of the price following a market downturn. Several companies repriced agreed acquisitions when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020 and delivered a global economic shock.

In one instance, French retailer LVMH threatened to walk away from a deal with Tiffany & Co. The U.S. jewelry retailer agreed to lower the price by \$425 million to \$15.8 billion.

Acquirers seeking a get out sometimes turn to "material adverse effect" clauses in their merger agreement, arguing the target company has been significantly damaged.

But the language in the Twitter deal agreement, as in many recent mergers, does not allow Musk to walk away because of a deteriorating business environment, such as a drop in demand for advertising or because Twitter's shares have plunged.

Musk is contractually obligated to pay Twitter a \$1 billion break-up fee if he does not complete the deal, and the language in the deal contract appears to cap any damages that Twitter can seek from Musk to that level.

But the contract also contains a "specific performance" clause that a judge can cite to force Musk to complete the deal.

In practice, acquirers who lose a specific performance case are almost never forced to complete an acquisition and typically negotiate a monetary settlement with their targets.

"The nature of Musk creating so much uncertainty in a tweet (and not a filing) is very troubling to us and the Street and now sends this whole deal into a circus show with many questions and no concrete answers as to the path of this deal going forward," Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives wrote in a note.

Musk has said that if he buys Twitter he "will defeat the spam bots or die trying" and has blamed the company's reliance on advertising for why it has let spam bots proliferate.

He has also been critical of Twitter's moderation policy and has said he wants Twitter's algorithm to prioritize tweets to be public and was against too much power on the service to corporations that advertise.

Nevertheless, Musk is targeting advertising revenue to more than double by 2028, according to slides he presented to investors that were reported by the New York Times.

Ads are expected to make up about 45% of Twitter's total revenue by that time, down from nearly all of its revenue today, according to the investor presentation.

Earlier this week, Musk said he would reverse Twitter's ban on former U.S. President Donald Trump when he buys the social media platform, signaling his intention to cut moderation.

Trump, who started a rival site called Truth Social, took to his own platform to weigh in on the fracas.

"There is no way Elon Musk is going to buy Twitter at such a ridiculous price, especially since realizing it is a company largely based on bots or spam accounts," Trump wrote in a post, adding that his site is much better.

Doyen of Punjabi singing Satinder Sartaaj to perform in New York on May 15

not familiar with much of their culture and suggested that a concerted effort should be made for the promotion of the rich Punjabi cultural heritage. Bolla had a lot of praise for Sartaaj who he described as a singer who truly promoted the best in the Punjabi culture. Bolla also praised Bajwa for his contribution to promoting Punjabi culture through his entertainment shows.

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja made a request to Sartaaj who, he said is a widely traveled man, and one who has interacted with lots of people, including the young, to suggest how best the objective of inculcating the Punjabi cultural values among the Punjabi youth could be achieved.

The event was well navigated by the well-known master of Ceremonies Sherry Datta and Pardeep Singh of the Global Punjab TV.

Ranil Wickremesinghe returns as Lankan PM

they held closed-door discussions over formation of a new government to address the economic crisis.

"My best wishes to the newly appointed PM, who stepped up to take on the challenging task of steering our country through a very turbulent time. I look forward to working with him to make Sri Lanka strong again," President Gotabaya tweeted along with a picture of him and Wickremesinghe.

Sri Lanka was without a government since Monday when Gotabaya's elder brother and former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters. The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine dead.

Mahinda quickly tweeted a congratulatory message to Wickremesinghe. He is under protection at a naval base following violent attacks on his aides.

Members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and some from the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and several other parties said they would back Wickremesinghe in Parliament, according to reports.

However, several factions opposed the move to appoint Wickremesinghe as the new Prime Minister.

Four-time PM

Wickremesinghe, a lawyer-turned politician who has been in Parliament for 45 years, has served as PM on four previous occasions

He was fired from the post by then President Maithripala Sirisena in October 2018. He was reinstated after two months

He is widely accepted as a man who could manage the economy with far-sighted policies, and is perceived as the Sri Lankan politician who could command international cooperation

Ex-PM of Sri Lanka sends wishes

Congratulations to the newly appointed Prime Minister. I wish you all the best as you navigate these troubled times. - Mahinda Rajapaksa, former Lanka PM

India hopes for political stability

The High Commission of India hopes for political stability and looks forward to working with the Government of Sri Lanka formed in accordance with democratic processes. India's commitment to the people of Sri Lanka will continue. - Indian High Commission

President of India congratulates

My best wishes to the newly appointed PM, who stepped up to take on the challenging task of steering our country through turbulent times. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Lanka President. (Source: PTI/TNS)

HISTORY THIS WEEK May 13 to May 19

"NO VOLUME OF HISTORY IS INSIGNIFICANT, EVEN THE WORST CHAPTERS. ESPECIALLY THE WORST CHAPTERS." - TERRI GUILLEMETS

May 13

May 13, 1846 - At the request of President James K. Polk, Congress declared war on Mexico. The controversial struggle eventually cost the lives of 11,300 U.S. soldiers and resulted in the annexation of lands that became parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. The war ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

May 13, 1943 - During World War II in North Africa, over 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in the last few days of the Tunis campaign. British General Harold Alexander then telegraphed news of the victory to Winston Churchill, who was in Washington attending a war conference. The victory re-opened Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean.



Pope John Paul II

May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of a Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.

May 14

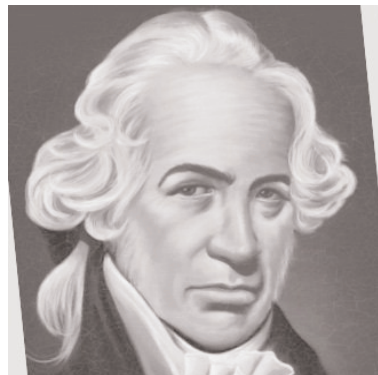
May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.

May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

May 14, 1796 - Smallpox

vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England. He coined the term vaccination for the new procedure of injecting a milder form of the disease into healthy persons resulting in immunity. Within 18 months, 12,000 persons in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

May 14, 1942 - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.



Gabriel Fahrenheit

Birthday - German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736) was born in Danzig, Germany. He introduced the use of mercury in thermometers and greatly improved their accuracy. His name is now attached to one of the major temperature measurement scales.



Thomas Gainsborough

Birthday - British landscape and portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk,

England. Among his best known works: The Blue Boy, The Watering Place and The Market Cart.

May 15



George Wallace

May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

May 16

May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.

May 17



New York Stock Exchange

May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.

May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

May 17, 1954 - In Brown v.

Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of public schools "solely on the basis of race" denies black children "equal educational opportunity" even though "physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may have been equal. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Thurgood Marshall had argued the case before the Court. He went to become the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

May 18



Napoleon Bonaparte

May 18, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.

May 18, 1998 - In one of the biggest antitrust lawsuits of the 20th century, American software giant Microsoft Corporation was sued by the U.S. Federal government and 20 state governments charging the company with using unfair tactics to crush competition and restrict choices for consumers. The lawsuits alleged Microsoft used illegal practices to deny personal computer owners the benefits of a free and competitive market and also alleged Microsoft extended its monopoly on operating systems to "develop a chokehold" on the Internet browser software market.



Frank Capra

Birthday - Hollywood director Frank Capra (1897-1991) was born in Palermo, Sicily. His quintessential American films were affectionate portrayals of the common man and examined the strengths and foibles of American democracy. Best known for It's a Wonderful Life (1946), Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939), It Happened One Night (1934) and You Can't Take It with You (1938).

May 19

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.

Birthday - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens." In 1945, he proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and served as president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. He led the longest and most costly war during the 20th Century against the French and later the Americans. On April 29, 1975, six years after his death, the last Americans left South Vietnam. The next day the city of Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.



Malcolm X

Birthday - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X (1925-1965) was born in Omaha, Nebraska (as Malcolm Little). While in prison he adopted the Islamic religion and after his release in 1952, changed his name to Malcolm X and worked for the Nation of Islam. He later made a pilgrimage to Mecca and became an orthodox Muslim.

(Read more on www.theindianpanorama.news)



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If you are looking for an adventurous getaway, now would be an ideal time for it. This time around, trek through the lesser travelled areas of the Himalayas, and experience the magic of clear skies, colourful landscapes, and uninterrupted views of the lofty peaks. Take your pick.

Lesser explored treks of the Himalayas

Solang Valley

Located near Manali, at an altitude of about 2,560 m, Solang Valley offers a beautiful view of the snowclad Himayan range. A trek from Manali to Solang (16 km) is one of the best ways to reach the place. The trek will take you through paths with picturesque surroundings and deodar forests. Moreover, you won't just find snow-capped mountains to gaze at; the trail is laden with apple orchards, a few old villages, and abundant lush green environs. Once at Solang, you can try out activities such as paragliding, zorbing, horse-riding, etc.

Naggar

A trek from Naggar, a quaint settlement in the Kullu district, to the village of Malana, takes about three days. Going through the Chanderkhani Pass is a part of the Naggar trek. It's a great opportunity not just to marvel at the beauty of nature, but also to experience the selfless hospitality of the rural folk living in these mountainous areas. On your trail, you will come across villages like Rumsu and pastures like Shillu Pathar that are ideal to camp for the night. The descent to the village of Malana is steep. Therefore, it is important to be careful while trekking.

Chahal

Chahal is a small village situated very close to the small town of Kasol. It is located on the banks of the Parvati River and provides a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle of Kasol. This is a short trek, but it nevertheless proves to be an enthralling experience. The road to Chahal is scenic; the path runs along the river, which has huge boulders where one can relax in the middle of the trek. For anyone taking a trek to Rasol or higher, it is a good idea to stop by Chahal to rest or stalk up on supplies.

Sandakphu

Sandakphu, a part of the Singalila Ridge, is the highest peak of West Bengal. With an altitude of 3,636 m, the summit is a surreal experience, and is a must-see for people who love adventure treks. It is one of the few places that offers trekkers a majestic view of four of the tallest mountains in the world - Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse and Makalu -



spread across India, Nepal, Bhutan and further. The trek to Sandakphu is a long one, and it is advisable to carry enough supplies to last through the journey. The distances between one pit stop and the next are quite long. Once you start your trek from Manebhanjan, which is about an hour's drive from Darjeeling, it takes nearly four hours to reach Chitre. The trail is quiet steep, with a mixture of rocky, gravel-filled paths, as well as levelled land, which are easier for walking. The trail towards Kalipokhri is beautiful and you see an abundance of exotic, colourful birds. By the end of the day, you reach the small Black Lake of Kalipokhri - the sacred lake that never freezes, with Buddhist prayer flags hanging over it. You can camp at Kalipokhri and head out to Sandakphu the next morning, which is a relatively easier trek of about 6 km.



Roopkund

Situated at an altitude of 4,463 m, this is a moderately challenging trek. The Roopkund, or Skeleton, Lake, (several human skeletons were found at the site in 1942) is one of the sites that attracts adventure lovers. The challenging terrain is accompanied by picturesque sights of snow-capped mountains and the Bedni Bugyal grasslands.



INDIAN AMERICAN SIKH ATTACKED IN A ROBBERY BID

Photo caption: Kuldeep Singh received multiple injuries, including fractures of the nose and a right hand finger.

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP): In less than a month and a half a third targeted attack on an Indian American Sikh has taken place in Queens neighborhood of Richmond Hill, which is considered a neighborhood dominated by Punjabis.

Kuldip Singh, 62 who hails from Dasuya in Hoshiarpur (Punjab) was taking a walk at around 10.30 in the morning of Sunday, May 8 near his home in 115 Street between Liberty Avenue and 107 Avenue in Richmond Hill when a Black young man between 25 and 30 years on a bicycle stopped by him, threw his bike on the road, took out a pistol and asked



Indian American Sikh attacked in a robbery bid

for money.

Kuldeep said told The Indian Panorama that he impulsively caught hold of the Black guy's right arm in which he was holding the gun. What followed was a kind of wrestling match between the two. The young man proved stronger than the old Kuldeep Singh and punched him ferociously.

As a result, Kuldeep Singh suffered a few injuries on many parts of the body, including a fractured nose and a fractured finger of the left hand. The assailant managed to escape.

The incident - the third attack on a Sikh- in the neighborhood has shocked and angered the community.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

MASSIVE FIRE AT MEDICAL COLLEGE IN AMRITSAR; THREE FLOORS OF THE BUILDING HAVE BEEN DAMAGED

AMRITSAR (TIP): A major mishap was averted at Government Medical College, Amritsar, after fire engulfed a hospital building near the X-Ray department. The hospital employees claimed the fire started from an electricity transformer in the parking area behind the building. The patients admitted in different wards of the building were timely evacuated by the hospital employees and their attendants.



Massive fire at medical college in Amritsar; lucky escape for patients - Video grab

The fire could be controlled only after 40 minutes when the fire tenders reached the place. The three floors of the building have been damaged. The hospital authorities stated that no one has received any injuries. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has expressed anguish over the incident. He wrote on Twitter that he was monitoring the relief work and Minister Harbhajan Singh had reached the spot.

The loss to the medical equipment and building is yet to be assessed. (Source: TNS)

contd from page 1

Delhi fire: Cops identify 7 bodies, 29 still missing; death toll likely to rise

the building during cooling operations on Saturday morning. Twelve injured were undergoing treatment at a hospital here.

They said the four-story building, which did not have a fire safety certificate, had a single entry and exit

point which could have been the reason for the high number of casualties.

"The building had a single escape route which is why there were so many casualties. Twenty-seven people have died," Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said.

Officials said there was only one narrow staircase for entry and exit which made escape from the burning building difficult.

Garg said it is suspected that an explosion in an AC may have triggered the fire.

Harish Goel and his brother Varun Goel, owners of a CCTV camera and router manufacturing and assembling company, from whose office the fire is suspected to have started, have been arrested, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma said.

Garg added it was difficult to ascertain whether the remains found on Saturday morning were of one person or more.

Of the 27 deceased, seven have been identified so far as Tania Bhushan, Mohini Pal, Yashoda Devi, Ranju Devi, Vishal, Drishti and Kailash Jyani, the DCP said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy, Manish Sisodia, visited the spot on Saturday. The chief minister announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured in the fire, which started from the first floor of the building.

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal said he was "deeply pained" by the loss of lives in the tragedy and called for immediate steps to prevent such incidents in the future. He also extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

Distraught relatives of those who have not been found yet thronged the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital on Friday night looking for information about them.

One of them, Ajit Tiwari, said his sister Monika (21) had started working for the company just a month back.

"She received her first salary on Thursday. We got to know about the fire at 5 pm but had no idea that the blaze occurred at her office building. When she did not return home by 7 pm, we started looking for her," he said.

Monika lives with her two brothers and a sister in Delhi's Agar Nagar. She is from Gonda district in Uttar Pradesh.

Another woman was seen frantically looking for her elder daughter, who also works at the CCTV camera packaging unit.

"My daughter Pooja has been working at the CCTV camera packaging unit for the last three months. We live in Mubarakpur and got to know about the incident at 9 pm. She has a cut mark

below her left eye. We are looking for her at various hospitals. She is the sole breadwinner of our family of four. Her two younger sisters study in a school," she said.

Ankit, who works at one of the offices in the building, said a motivational session was underway on the second floor when the fire broke out.

"I am very fortunate that I am alive. I could have also lost my life. A motivational session was going on at the second floor of the building when we noticed the blaze. We broke the glass windows and somehow managed to escape," he added.

Deepa Verma, Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini, said two teams, including senior experts, are working at the spot.

"They will collect samples for the purpose of identification and collection," she said, adding that these will be handed over to the investigating officer.

Charred human remains have also been found, so possibly a forensic DNA examination would be carried out to ascertain the identity of the deceased, she said.

According to DCP Sharma, an FIR has been registered against the owners of the CCTV camera packaging unit under sections 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 120 (concealing design to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

All floors of the building were being used by the same company, he said.

The building's owner, Manish Lakra, has also been booked, the police said.

So far, identities of all but one of the 12 injured people have been ascertained. According to a list released by the district magistrate of West Delhi, they are Satish (38), Pradeep (36), Ashu (22), Harjeet (23), Nitin (24), Avinash (29), Sandhya (22), Dhanvanti (21), Bimla (43), Ayesha (24) and Mamta (52). (Source: PTI)

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PREMIER LEAGUE: TOTTENHAM BEAT 3-0 ARSENAL TO TIGHTEN RACE FOR CL SPOT

Tottenham revived its hopes of beating Arsenal to the final Champions League qualification position by overwhelming its fierce north London rival in a 3-0 win in the Premier League.

Harry Kane scored twice — including one from the penalty spot — and Son Heung-min added the other just after halftime on Thursday to move Tottenham one point behind fourth-place Arsenal, which had center back Rob Holding sent off in the 33rd when the score was 1-0.

There are two games remaining for each team and fifth-place Tottenham's finish to the season looks easier than Arsenal's. While Spurs face two of the bottom four in Burnley and already-relegated Norwich, Arsenal must travel to Newcastle before a home game against a resurgent Everton.

"This type of game is not easy — when it's a game you must win, it's not easy," Tottenham manager Antonio Conte said.

"We knew tonight, there had to be only one result. We had concentration, and had the right calm and positive pressure."

RAFAEL NADAL SAYS FOOT INJURY A CONCERN AHEAD OF FRENCH OPEN

Rafael Nadal said that everyday training was a challenge and he would take a doctor with him to Roland Garros after the 21-times major winner was once again hampered by a chronic foot injury in his defeat by Denis Shapovalov at the Italian Open on Thursday, May 12.

Nadal, who only recently returned from a stress fracture in the ribs, struggled badly at the back end of his match against the Canadian as he went down 1-6 7-5 6-2 in the last-16.

"I had my foot again with a lot of pain. I am a player living with an injury - it is nothing new. It's something that is there," Nadal, a 10-times champion in Rome, told reporters.

"Unfortunately, my day-by-day is difficult, honestly. Even like this, I am trying hard... it can be frustrating that a lot of days I can't practice the proper way."

The 35-year-old missed the bulk of last season due to the foot problem before mounting a remarkable comeback to win the Australian Open in January and also prevailing in Acapulco.

"Since I came back, the foot has been tough," added the Spaniard. "Negative thing and toughest thing for me today is honestly I started to feel myself play much better. I started the match playing much better."

Nadal's preparation heading into the French Open, where he will be bidding for a record-extending 14th title, has been far from ideal after he was also knocked out of last week's Madrid Open by Carlos Alcaraz at the quarter-finals stage.

Source: Reuters

IPL: Punjab Kings demolish RCB by 54 runs

MUMBAI (TIP)

Punjab Kings buried Royal Challengers Bangalore under a deluge of runs as they kept their playoff hopes alive with 54-run victory, riding on superb half-centuries from Jonny Bairstow and Liam Livingstone in an IPL match here on May 13.

Bairstow (66 off 29 balls) and Livingstone (70 off 42 balls) propelled Punjab Kings to 209 for 9 in a must-win game and the scoreboard was always going to be telling as RCB were restricted to 155 for 9 in 20 overs.

While Punjab remain in the mix with 12 points from as many games, the margin of victory considerably improved their net run-rate to +0.210 and RCB despite having 14 points from 13 games are at a -0.323.

RCB will have to win their final game and move to 16 points but also now need to have some rub of the green with a few favourable results going their way.

It was another day and another failure for Virat Kohli (20), who got a faint under-edge tickle on his gloves before it hit his thigh pad and bobbed up to short fine leg off a Kagiso Rabada (4-0-21-3) delivery.

Rabada was literally unplayable on the day as he worked good pace and hit the ideal fuller length for better part of his spell.

Rishi Dhawan (4-0-36-2), perhaps the weakest link in Punjab attack, then made up for his lack of pace by hitting immaculate length as Faf du Plessis edged one to Jitesh Sharma behind stumps and Mahipal Lomror's rasping pull shot was taken by Shikhar Dhawan.

Rajat Patidar (26) and Glenn Maxwell (35) did add 64 runs but they were never in the game with both departing in quick succession.

And when Dinesh Karthik (11) was snuffed out by the brilliant Arshdeep



Liam Livingstone of Punjab Kings bats during the Indian Premier League 2022 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Punjab Kings, at the Brabourne Stadium, in Mumbai, Friday, May 13, 2022. Photo: PTI

Singh (4-0-27-1) with a wide yorker and a catch by short third-man on the circle, RCB fizzled out in a jiffy.

Earlier, Bairstow's opening blitzkrieg found its ideal match in Livingstone's finishing carnage.

While Bairstow laid the foundation with a 29-ball-66, Livingstone was equally good in his 42-ball-70 as the RCB bowlers had a day which they would like to forget in a hurry.

Bairstow, who was rusty during the earlier phase of the tournament, was back in his element with as many as seven sixes and four boundaries during a knock where he literally went hell for leather.

Such was his dominance that by the time six overs of Powerplay ended, Bairstow had hit seven towering sixes and Shikhar Dhawan (21 off 15 balls) rubbed salt to the wound with another

one which made it eight in all.

Punjab Kings, which had set the template of blazing Powerplay starts, got 83 in six overs with Glenn Maxwell (1/17 in 2 overs), Josh Hazlewood (0/64 in 4 overs) and Mohammed Siraj (0/36 in 2 overs) being treated with utter disdain.

While Maxwell did manage to get Dhawan, both Hazlewood and Siraj were guilty of bowling short on a pitch offering true bounce. Bairstow effortlessly pulled and flicked them into the stands and by the time, deliveries pitched up, they landed in the stands as well. It only helped that the boundary on one side was 66 metres only, which is a dream for any power-hitter.

Siraj had a forgettable first spell where he was hit for four sixes, while Hazlewood in his first over had gone for 22. The Australian had his worst IPL figures ever.

Source: PTI

Indian men make badminton history, beat Denmark to enter Thomas Cup final

BANGKOK (TIP)

HS Prannoy produced a lion-hearted effort in the decisive fifth match as the Indian men's badminton team scripted history by reaching the title clash of the Thomas Cup with a 3-2 victory over Denmark in an edge-of-the-seat semifinal here. India, who had last reached the semifinals in 1979, showed tremendous fighting spirit to outwit the 2016 champions.

While World Championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth and world No. 8 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept India in the hunt, it was once again left to HS Prannoy to take the team home when the tie was locked at 2-2.

Up against world No. 13 Rasmus Gemke, Prannoy suffered an ankle injury after slipping but he continued after taking a medical timeout. He looked in pain and his on-court movement also looked restricted. Despite the odds, he produced a sensational performance to come up trumps 13-21 21-9 21-12 to etch India's name in the history books.

India will now take on 14-time champions Indonesia, the most successful team in the history. Indonesia edged out Japan 3-2 in their semifinal.

Source: PTI



Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy got India its first win on Friday, May 13. (Twitter)



A World without Childhood Blindness

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May all be healthy!

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