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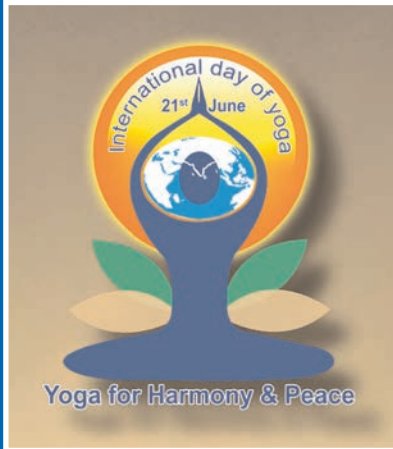
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ADVANCED ECONOMIES TO BE BACK ON TRACK BY 2024: IMF



Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

25. Economies worldwide have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and are slowly coming back into the recovery path. The First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund said the war in Ukraine

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DAVOS (TIP): Advanced economies will be back on track by 2024 but developing economies will be 5% below where they would have been otherwise, IMF's Gita Gopinath said on Wednesday, May

'HOW MANY MORE LIVES?' US officials, members of Congress and other prominent Americans ask

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN DECRIES DEATH OF SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH GRADERS



Uvalde softball team players comfort each other following a vigil held at the Uvalde County Fairplex in Uvalde, Texas, on May 25, 2022. Screengrab /NBC News

UVALDE, TX (TIP): 19 students killed in Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas shooting, and the 18-year-old shooter is dead.

The Teen gunman shot his grandmother before killing 19 students and 2 adults.

By now, the story of American gun violence is unsurprising. Mass shootings happen frequently. The list from just the past decade includes supermarkets in Buffalo and in Boulder, Colo.; a rail yard in San Jose, Calif.; a birthday party in Colorado Springs; a convenience store in Springfield, Mo.; a synagogue in Pittsburgh; churches in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and in Charleston, S.C.; a Walmart in El Paso; a FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis; a music festival in Las Vegas; massage parlors in the Atlanta area; a Waffle House in Nashville; a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla.; and a movie theater in Aurora, Colo.

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Quad moving to action-oriented cooperation: Foreign Secretary of India



Leaders of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). From L to R: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pose for photo at the entrance hall of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan in Tokyo on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Photo / PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): The second Quad in-person summit held in Tokyo on Tuesday, May 24, was marked by action-oriented cooperation among Quad partners as also between its partners for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, aimed at peace, stability and prosperity

in the region, said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra while summing up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day Japan visit. The Foreign Secretary identified several areas where forward movement will take place during the second year of

CONTD ON PAGE 36

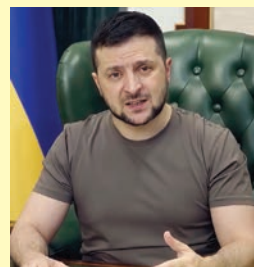
WILLING TO TALK DIRECTLY TO VLADIMIR PUTIN AND NOT VIA INTERMEDIATORS, SAYS ZELENSKY

DAVOS (TIP)

: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday, May 25, that he was only willing to talk directly to Vladimir Putin and not via intermediaries, according to AP.

He said if the Russian President "understands reality, there is the possibility of finding a diplomatic way out of the conflict".

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Ukrainian President wants a direct dialogue with President Putin

UK LECTURER STRUCK OFF FOR HARASSING SIKH COLLEAGUE

LONDON (TIP): A qualified nurse and senior lecturer at a UK university has been struck off the country's medical register over misconduct, which involved the harassment of a Sikh colleague over his religious beliefs and mocking his turban as a "bandage" and "hat". The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) held a virtual hearing of the case against Maurice Slaven last week, over allegations of racial harassment of a fellow Sikh lecturer identified only as Colleague 1. The NMC Tribunal received a fitness to practice referral in March 2019 after Colleague 1 alleged

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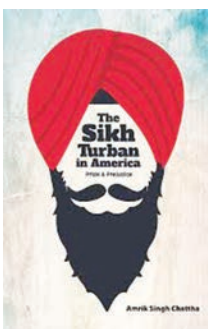


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GUEST COMMENTS

Unending tragedy: On U.S. school shootings and gun control debate

THE U.S. MUST IMPOSE A BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS, AND EXPAND CHECKS FOR GUN OWNERSHIP

The U.S. once again faced the grim consequences of its unwillingness to tackle gun violence at its source when a man shot dead at least 19 children and two adults, including a teacher, at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. The shooting marks the worst such attack in the U.S. since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School attack in 2018, when a former student of the school in Parkland, Florida, opened fire, killing 17 people and wounding 17 others. A similar major shooting that led to outrage yet saw no permanent reform in guns laws occurred at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012, in which 20 first graders and six school employees perished. The Uvalde tragedy has also shaken the nation for it comes scarcely 10 days after a shooting at a supermarket store in Buffalo, New York, which officials described as a racist hate crime, claiming 10 lives. Overall, there have been at least 26 school shootings in 2022 alone and at least 118 incidents since 2018, according to reports that have

tracked this statistic over the past four years. Last year witnessed 34 school shootings, the highest number during this period; there were 24 incidents each in 2019 and 2018 and 10 in 2020. Addressing the nation after the Uvalde attack, U.S. President Joe Biden made an urgent plea for common-sense gun control reform, saying, "When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?... I am sick and tired of it. We have to act... these kinds of mass shootings rarely happen elsewhere in the world... It's time to turn this pain into action."

Yet, it would be unrealistic to hope for meaningful change in the U.S.'s view on the Second Amendment, which assures citizens of the right to bear arms. Several Presidents, mostly Democrats, have tried and failed to get even basic gun control laws passed through Congress. Former President Barack Obama, for example, came away frustrated after Capitol Hill rejected no fewer than 17 attempts by his White House to bring common-sense gun control to the floor of Congress. While

conservative lawmakers seek to score political points by fiercely defending the constitutional right to bear arms, it is common knowledge now that at the heart of the U.S. Congress's refusal to stamp out gun violence in schools and other public spaces is shadowy lobbying on Capitol Hill by the deep-pocketed and well-networked National Rifle Association and, along with them, the entire gun manufacturing industry. If Mr. Biden genuinely wishes to clamp down on this violence, which has ripped into America's soul for several generations now, he may have no choice but to follow in Mr. Obama's steps and use his presidential power of executive actions to enforce gun control measures. These should, at a minimum, include an assault weapons ban, expanded background checks for gun ownership and boosted funding for federal enforcement agencies regulating gun proliferation.

(The Hindu)

Fiscal federalism

SUPREME COURT RULING ON GST COUNCIL SHOULD GUIDE CENTRE, STATES

The Supreme Court's assertion that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is not only an avenue for the exercise of cooperative federalism but also for contestation across Centre-state lines is a timely reiteration of the provisions in Articles 246A and 279A of the Constitution. According to Article 246A, Parliament and the state legislature possess equal powers to legislate on aspects of GST; Article 279A envisions that the Centre and the states can't act independently of each other. The council's voting system gives two-third weightage to the states' collective votes and one-third to the Centre's vote in a bid to provide a level playing field.

It's unfortunate that despite such clear-cut provisions, the BJP-led Union Government and

Opposition-ruled states have often been at loggerheads over the functioning of the council during the past five years. The one-nation-one-tax regime was rolled out in 2017 with the primary objectives of creating a unified national market and giving a boost to the 'Make in India' campaign; harmonization of laws, procedures and rates of tax between the Centre and the states and among the states; and establishing an environment that would facilitate compliance and reduce corruption. The new regime has been partially successful, hampered at times by Centre-state disagreements. The all-time high monthly GST collection of Rs 1.68 lakh crore last month augurs well for the future, but most states may find it hard to fend for themselves once the

five-year compensation plan for GST rollout ends next month. Punjab, for instance, stands to lose over Rs 15,000 crore annually if the Centre stops recompensing it.

The GST Council is the ideal forum for the states to voice their apprehensions and prepare an action plan depending on whether the Centre accepts their demand to extend compensation beyond June. Empowering the states to generate revenue on their own in the long run should form the basis of a workable fiscal model. With GST being a key driver of Indian economy, it is imperative to create a win-win situation for both the Centre and the states in the true spirit of federalism.

(Tribune, India)

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - A Refreshing Eid Celebration at the Indian Consulate, New York



Chief Guest Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Consul General of India is being welcomed with a bouquet by the organizers

NEW YORK (TIP): May 22nd at Indian Consulate in New York saw smiles on the faces of the Indian Muslim Community across the tri-state when they celebrated Ramzan Eid along with the Honorable Consul General of India. Mr. Randhir Jaiswal "Though it was delayed by almost three weeks," said the Consul General, "next time will be done close to the Eid Day." He was welcomed by great applause.

The program was organized by the leaders of the Indian Muslim community around the tri-state area. "It was a 'unique and refreshing experience,' programme started with the beautiful recitation of Holy Quran by Sumayya Fatima Ahmed. Saniya Ansari - the second generation Indian who explained to the hall full of the audience about 'What is Ramzan and why it is celebrated.'



New York State Senator Robert Jackson being honored

Mr. Ilayas Quraishi, member of the organizing committee and the Chief Operating Officer of the Parikh Worldwide Media, thanked the Honorable Consul General and the Staff of the Indian Consulate in New York for this event conducted after a long break. The event also saw the recognition of Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office of International Affairs. He reminded the audience that events like this provide a glimpse of the Diverse Culture of New York Celebrates.



A recitation from the Holy Quran



Consul General is being honored



Ladies being honored

State Senator Robert Jackson of the 31st district on the West Side of Manhattan embraced the event and 'Congratulated' the Consulate and the tri-state Muslim Community on the occasion of the recently completed Ramadhan month. He offered his tribute to the valuable contributions of the vast Indian community across New York.

Former Vice President District Council 37, Mr. Ahmed Shakir, opened the event by reminding the audience that the "Indian Muslim community of NY/NJ/CT come together to celebrate Eid & the 75th anniversary of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav of our great country India." Community leaders of all faiths attended & enjoyed the program.

The event saw great participation from the various sections of the society, enjoying the music and delicious food from local caterers. India



Ahmed Shakir is being honored

is a great nation of multiple countries in one country, which makes it 'sare Jahan se accha Hindustaan Hamara,' said Minhaj Khan, a part of the organizing committee while moderating the session.

A Cultural Organization Mohiban-e-Urdu, president and founder Mr. Tamkeen Khateeb closed the event by thanking the Consulate General office in New York. He requested the office of the Consulate General of India to conduct more such events to encourage the participation of different communities that make up the great nation of India.

The event's organizing committee thanked and requested the Consulate office for more participation in future events symbolizing the plural and secular values of the two great nations - India and the United States.

(Based on a press release)

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Indian American business leaders in a venture to launch America's first-ever professional Twenty20 cricket league

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): More than a dozen Indian-American business leaders including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen are among major investors in a venture to launch America's first-ever professional Twenty20 cricket league.

Major League Cricket (MLC), America's first professional T20 cricket league, announced May 19 its plans to deploy more than \$120 million to launch the US version of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Investment in MLC will "open a new era for the world's second most popular sport in the United States" and "transform US cricket landscape and fund the construction of world-class cricket stadia and training centers nationwide," it said.

The San Francisco based organization, which is partnering with ICC member USA Cricket, said it has completed an initial close of a \$44 million Series A and A1 Fundraising Round, which includes MLC's seed funding round, led by a group of America's most successful and respected business leaders.

With an additional commitment of \$76 million in further fundraising over the next 12 months in place, MLC plans to deploy more than \$120 million in the venture.

Investor groups in the initial round were led by: Satya Nadella (CEO of Microsoft) and Soma Somasegar (Managing Director, Madrona Venture Group), Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayan (Founding Partners at Milliways Ventures and Rocketship VC); Sanjay Govil (Founder and Chairman of Infinite Computer Solutions and CEO, Zyter); Anurag Jain (Managing Partner of Perot Jain, LP, Chairman of Access Healthcare) and Ross Perot Jr. (Chairman, The Perot Group); Tanweer Ahmed (CEO, PAK Foods, CEO, OUR Energy and Owner of Prairie View Cricket Complex); The Baheti Family (Owners of YASH Technologies).

"The significant funding committed by an outstanding group of investors will allow Major League Cricket to build first-class facilities and accelerate the sport's development across the country, bringing world-class professional cricket to the world's largest sports market," said Sameer Mehta and Vijay Srinivasan, co-founders, Major League Cricket.

"This investor group comprises leading business



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen are among major investors in a venture to launch America's first-ever professional Twenty20 cricket league.

executives and successful tech entrepreneurs who have led some of the world's most prominent companies," he said.

"They bring tremendous experience and expertise in support of MLC's plans to launch a transformative Twenty20 league and establish America as one of the world's leading homes for international cricket events."

The \$120 million investment into MLC will primarily be dedicated to building premier cricket-specific stadia and training centers to develop a new generation of American star cricketers, according to a press release.

This unprecedented infrastructure investment will transform the landscape for professional cricket and enable the United States to host global events over the next decade and beyond, it said.

Besides international games, world-class T20 action will be played annually with MLC bringing the best cricketers in the world to play in cricket-specific venues with natural turf wickets and first-class amenities for fans. "Cricket is one of the most popular sports in the world and the opportunity to invest in the launch of the first professional T20 league in the United States is an exciting venture we are delighted to be part of," said Venky Harinarayan and Anand Rajaraman.

"Cricket's grassroots growth in recent years across the US has been energizing to see and we are thrilled to be able to help take a sport we are both so passionate about to the next level as part of a fantastic group of investors in Major League Cricket."

"I share the vision Major League Cricket has for the launch of a world-class T20 cricket league and the potential for the United States to become one of the leading cricket nations in the world," said Soma Somasegar.

"I am delighted to be part of a dynamic group of investors who will help the sport reach that level through an unprecedented commitment of resources by MLC to developing the sport."

"The ceiling for cricket's growth in the United States is incredibly high, with the passion for the game at the grassroots level I've observed in Texas proof of its potential," said Anurag Jain.

"I am proud to be part of a group of investors committed to rapidly accelerating cricket's progress through Major League Cricket," he said. "The plans MLC have laid out to develop infrastructure and build a foundation for professional cricket to thrive nationwide puts the sport on a tremendous trajectory and I am excited to support this vision."

"To have the opportunity to invest in not just the launch of a world-class T20 league with Major League Cricket but in the sport's expansive rise across America with the development plans MLC has in place is a tremendous opportunity," said Sanjay Govil, "I am so pleased to join with a group of like-minded investors who also love the game and are committed to supporting cricket's growth in the US over the coming years," he added.

Additional Series A round investors included Mihir Worah, Former Chief Investment Officer, PIMCO; Preetish Nijhawan, Co-founder, Akamai; Manish Parikh, Co-founder and CEO, Icon Systems Inc; Vikram Ramani, CTO Banking, FIS Global Sankar Kaliaperumal, Managing Director, Accenture; Dhigha Sekaran, Director at Meta and former Microsoft Executive; Shantanu Narayen, Chairman and CEO, Adobe; Samir Bodas, Co-founder and CEO, ICertis; and Sanjay Parthasarathy, Chief Product Officer, Avalara, and a former Microsoft executive.

Indian American Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu resigns amid FBI corruption investigation

ANAHEIM, CA (TIP): Harry Sidhu, first mayor of Indian heritage of Anaheim city, home of the Disneyland Resort outside Los Angeles, has resigned in the face of a growing federal corruption investigation, according to media reports.

Indian born Sidhu, a Republican, has not been charged with a crime, and a statement from his attorney Paul S. Meyer said a "fair and thorough investigation" would exonerate the mayor, media reported.

Elected officials in Anaheim had formally urged Sidhu, who was first elected mayor of California's tenth largest city in November 2018, to step aside amid allegations that he sought to wring campaign donations from baseball stadium negotiations.

"In order to continue to act in the best interests of Anaheim and allow this great City to move forward without distraction, Harry Sidhu has resigned from his post as Mayor effective May 24, 2022," Meyer stated.



Indian born Harry Sidhu, a Republican Mayor of Anaheim city has resigned in the face of a growing federal corruption investigation

A Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit released this week alleged that Sidhu sought to turn the city's prolonged attempt to sell Angel Stadium - home of the major league Angels - to his personal advantage.

The city has spent years negotiating terms for selling the ballpark and the land on which it sits to a group led by Angels owner Arte Moreno.

According to an affidavit from FBI Agent Brian C. Adkins, cited by Politico, Sidhu used an intermediary to pass confidential information about those talks to an Angels representative and then sought to conceal his actions. An Angels representative did not respond to Politico's requests for comment.

The affidavit also alleges that Sidhu repeatedly discussed his intention to ask an Angels representative for half a million dollars or more in campaign donations in exchange for his work advancing the proposed stadium deal.

Meyer noted the affidavit showed Sidhu "never asked for a political campaign contribution that was linked in any way to the negotiation process."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Impact Project mobilizes 'Dream with Ambition' summit

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Impact Project hosted a first of its kind 'Dream with Ambition' summit and gala with a call by Vice President Kamala Harris to "continue to lead with conviction, continue to strive to do the impossible."

The May 18 event to engage and mobilize the South Asian community and celebrate the AAPI Heritage Month featured over 300 prominent community members, according to a press release from Indian American Impact.

Besides Harris, all four Indian American US House members Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Ami Bera as also celebrities, politicians, philanthropists and organizers attended.

The 'Dream with Ambition' summit was a successful educational experience for the guests as they explored the policy & advocacy and constituency subtopics of their choice, according to the release.

The event, it said, is Impact's latest push to energize and prepare the largest growing voting bloc in the country - South Asians - to integrate into their communities with knowledge on running for office, combating misinformation, mobilizing locally and all the tools with which to lead.

"As you all know, when my mother was 19, she came to the United States from India to become a breast cancer researcher," Harris, the first Indian American and first African American vice president recalled.



Vice President Kamala Harris speaking in a pre-recorded message to attendees at the Indian-American Impact Project summit May 18, 2022. Screengrab

"She raised my sister and me to believe that we could be anything and do anything, if we set our minds to it. She taught us to 'Dream with Ambition' and so many of you gathered here today have something special in common. You see what can be unburdened by what has been."

"Every day, in communities across our nation, you are advancing equality, opportunity and justice. You are inspiring the next generation of leaders, and in particular - the next generation of South Asian leaders," Harris said.

"Today my message to you is this - let us always remember, what brought us to this moment and continue to dream with ambition, continue to lead with conviction, continue to strive to do the impossible."

"Because you, and we all, are standing on the shoulders of so many who came before, and living their dreams," Harris said. "Our nation is counting on you, on Impact, and all of us to lead us forward."

"Historically, South Asians have been overlooked, underestimated, and underrepresented politically," said Indian American Impact executive-director Neil Makhija.

"But after witnessing so many community members and future leaders come together this week, it is clear that is a thing of the past," he said. "At Impact, it is crucial for us to empower young South Asians to mobilize their friends and families to get involved in the political process."

"As the fastest growing voting bloc in the country, we have strength in numbers and the future of the Democratic party needs to be reflective of the communities they serve."

"The significance of this event was made possible by our extensive panel of guest speakers and attendees," Makhija said. "Countless voices this week proved that our community is stronger when we collaborate and celebrate our intersectionality. It's incredibly encouraging to imagine the possibilities for our collective futures."

INDIAN AMERICAN LAWMAKERS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER BULLYING OF THE INDIAN ORIGIN STUDENT IN TEXAS



A video of the assault on 14-year-old Shaan Pritmani in the cafeteria of the school North shot by his classmates went viral and sparked anger on social media.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): All four Indian American lawmakers have expressed their deep concern over the assault of an Indian American in a targeted bullying incident at a school in Texas sparking outrage in the community.

US House members Ro Khanna, Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal and Raja Krishnamoorthi Monday, May 23, sent a joint letter to the administration of Coppell Middle School North in the Coppell Independent School District (CISD) in Coppell, Texas about the May 11 incident.

A video of the assault on 14-year-old Shaan Pritmani in the cafeteria of the school North shot by his classmates went viral and sparked anger on social media.

"This video has sparked widespread outrage in the Indian American community," the lawmakers wrote. "As Indian American members of Congress and representatives of our diverse communities, the possibility of a young Indian American being targeted in this manner is extremely disturbing."

In the aftermath of this horrific incident, school administrators decided to give Pritmani a longer suspension than the aggressor, prompting outrage around the country, they noted in a press release.

In their letter, the lawmakers noted that in a May 15 statement to the community, school superintendent Dr. Brad Hunt emphasized that "Bullying, both verbal and physical, as well as physical acts of aggression are never acceptable and do not align with who we are at CISD and our core values."

With that in mind they asked the school's administration to evaluate the determination for periods of suspension and consider whether an objective and thorough investigation was conducted.

The lawmakers also hoped that the school was taking concrete steps to ensure Shaan Pritmani is not facing ongoing bullying from assailant or other students as also steps to prevent bullying and for restorative justice and counseling for those involved.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin woman becomes the first Dalit female mayor in London Council



Mohinder K. Midha was elected for the next year's term of 2022-23 at a council meeting on Tuesday. Pic credit- Twitter/@midh_m

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin politician from the UK's Opposition Labour Party, Councillor Mohinder K Midha, has been elected mayor of Ealing Council in west London, becoming the first female mayor of a local London council belonging to the Dalit community.

"We are so proud that Cllr Mohinder Midha has been elected Mayor of Ealing for the next year," the Labour Party in Ealing said in a statement. Midha was elected for the next year's term of 2022-23 at a council meeting on Tuesday. "We are so proud that Cllr Mohinder Midha

has been elected Mayor of Ealing for the next year," the Labour Party in Ealing said in a statement. The election is being celebrated by the British Dalit community as a proud moment. "The first ever Dalit woman mayor in the UK. A proud moment for us," said Santosh Dass, chair of the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisation (FABO) UK, an umbrella group representing Dalit rights in the country. Midha, who was re-elected as a Labour councillor for the Dormers Wells ward in the Ealing Council in the May 5 local elections in London, had been serving as the Deputy Mayor for the council previously.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin businessman Sunil Chopra elected as mayor in UK for the second time

NIRPAL SINGH SHERGILL

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin businessman Sunil Chopra has been elected as the mayor of London Borough of Southwark for the second time. Delhi-born Chopra took the oath on Saturday at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close in Central London. Chopra was the mayor of the London Borough of Southwark in 2014-2015, and deputy mayor in 2013-2014, the first Indian-origin person to hold the prestigious office in the Borough. UK's Labor Party has gained victory over the Liberal Democrats in London Bridge and West Bermondsey seats under Chopra's leadership. These seats were held by the opposition party for decades. This victory is important as the London Borough of Southwark Council has only 2 per cent Indian-origin people.

Chopra entered UK politics in 2010 and was elected as the mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the first time in 2014. He has also served as the Deputy mayor three times. His political journey started long before that in the 1970s in Delhi.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Indian-origin businessman Sunil Chopra has been elected as the mayor of London Borough of Southwark for the second time.

INDIAN AMERICAN PHYSICIANS TO HONOR INDIA AT 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN TEXAS NEXT MONTH



NEW YORK (TIP): American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI), will honor India at its 40th annual convention in San Antonio, Texas

next month as it celebrates 75 years of India's Independence.

Co-sponsored by the Embassy of India & the Consulate General of India (CGI) - Houston, each day of the June 23-26 convention will have a specific theme, according to an AAPI press release.

"We are planning a historic convention in San Antonio to celebrate 40 years of AAPI that coincides with 75 years of India's Independence, with excellent educational sessions and other programs," AAPI president, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, said at a convention teaser on May 15.

"Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and from around the world will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and encourage legislative priorities in the coming year," she said.

Each day of the convention will have a specific theme. Starting from 'Unity in Diversity' to showcase one's own state dress code to 'Heritage India' for honoring and celebrating India's rich culture and diversity.

This will be followed by special performances by popular Bollywood singer Shaan and Mehfil. The food served each will match the theme chosen for each day.

For the first time, AAPI is planning to organize an In-Person Plenary Session on India-USA Healthcare Partnership with Indian Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on June 25.

The convention's theme, 'Heal the Healers - Rejuvenate And Rekindle Your Mind And Spirits,' was also featured in the teaser. "Our physician members have worked very hard during the Covid 19 pandemic and the 2022 convention is a perfect time to heal the healers with a special focus on wellness," said Dr. Jayesh Shah, convention chair and past president of AAPI.

Noted cricketer Sunil Gavaskar praised AAPI members for being part of the "greatest profession in the world." He said, "It's a unique honor to be part of the important AAPI convention in Texas. I am looking forward to meeting you all in Texas."

The convention will be held at the newly renovated Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center on San Antonio's colorful and vibrant River Walk.

Some of the major events at the convention include: Workshops and hands-on sessions on well-being, 10-12 hours of CMEs, Women's Forum, CEOs Forum, 'AAPI Got Talent', and Alumni and Young Physicians events.

It will also have Mehfil, Bollywood nite, fashion show, medical jeopardy, abstract posters/research contest, and exhibition and sale of jewelry, clothing, medical equipment, pharma, finance and many more.

"The most unique part of the convention is our Yoga-based Wellness Package which is thoughtfully created with world-renowned speakers. The experience can transform and inspire you," said Dr. Hetal Nayak.

Indo-American Press Club inducts new leadership in New York

NEW YORK (TIP): Kamlesh C. Mehta and Aashmeeta Yogiraj have become the new chairman and president respectively of the Indo-American Press Club (IAPC), the largest organization of Indian descent journalists.

Mehta and Yogiraj were sworn in at a ceremony at the Indian Consulate in New York on May 21 to inaugurate the new team of office bearers, while IAPC general secretary CG Daniel and several others were given the oath virtually, according to a press release.

Mehta was administered the oath of office by Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York, while Yogiraj was administered the oath by Ginsmon Zachariah, Founding Chairman of IAPC.

Four distinguished community leaders/professionals were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Awards for their and contributions to the larger society.

Special Guest of Honor, former New York Mayor Bill De Blasio presented the award to Pamela Kwatra, a trailblazer and the only Indian American woman recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor award in 2008.

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, only the fourth woman elected as president of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in its nearly four decades-long history was honored for her visionary leadership of AAPI.

Also honored was Dr. Thomas Abraham, who has been serving the community for the last 49 years since he moved to New York as a graduate student at Columbia University.

Sudhir M. Parikh, a physician by profession and currently the



Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, chairman and publisher of Parikh Worldwide Media Inc, and chairman of ITV Gold is being recognized

chairman and publisher of Parikh Worldwide Media Inc, the largest Indian-American publishing group in the United States, and chairman of ITV Gold, a 24x7 TV news channel, was also recognized.

Jaiswal, Blasio, Dr. Prabhakar Kore, member of Indian parliament, and Kevin Thomas, New York state were given special recognition at the event.

Jaiswal praised IAPC for its "significant contribution to promoting India-US friendship and the welfare of Indian diaspora in the United States."

Blasio described Kwatra as a trailblazing businesswoman, a community leader, and a political force with executive chops, who worked with elan on important projects.

Mehta vowed to "work together with dedication to enhance the working conditions of our journalists, exchanging ideas and offering educational and training opportunities to our members, aspiring young journalists and media

professionals around the globe."

In her presidential address, Yogiraj, Director - Programming & Marketing, JUS Broadcasting Corporation, said, "While media as an entity has certainly evolved to fit modern times, its invaluable service to society persists."

A souvenir with colorfully designed pages, depicting the history and objectives of IAPC, edited by Parveen Chopra, past president of IAPC, and Dr. Mathew Joys was released.

A visual presentation of the Nine Years of IAPC history presented by Dr. Mathew Joys, IAPC BOD member from Las Vegas and Shan Justus from Texas provided a glimpse of the trajectory of IAPC's growth since its inception in 2013.

The closing ceremony included scintillating dances traditional folk and Bollywood dances by The Arya School of Dance.

The hybrid event was also streamed simultaneously on social media platforms and watched live on YouTube by several members and supporters of IAPC. (Press Release)

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR SOLAGES CALLS UPON ELECTED OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION IN VIEW OF THE KILLINGS IN UVALDE

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Lawrence) has condemned the senseless violence that killed 19 schoolkids and 2 adults. In a statement issued to The Indian Panorama, the legislator says:

"My heart goes out to the families and victims that were lost to the senseless violence in Uvalde. No parent should have to endure the tragedy of burying their child - it is simply unacceptable," Legislator Solages said. "The devastation from the epidemic of gun violence has gone on for too long in this country, and it is a travesty that we have not strengthened gun safety legislation."

"There must be a mechanism that alerts authorities when anyone, especially an 18-year-old, purchases assault rifles, body armor and large amounts of ammunition," Legislator



"My heart goes out to the families and victims that were lost to the senseless violence in Uvalde", said Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages. File photo

continued. "Our kids are depending on us, and they deserve better. As part of a comprehensive response to this multifaceted crisis, we must work to keep guns out of the hands of those who wish to do harm by expanding safe storage laws, banning assault weapons, implementing red flag laws, implementing universal background checks, and expanding federal Medicaid for mental health services."

"No one should feel unsafe in their communities. I will use the platform afforded to me as a Nassau County Legislator to advocate for the change that is so desperately needed. Locally, I am seeking to draft legislation to create databases for the sale of body armor and ammunition to better protect our County Police, and I am calling on all other elected officials to stand up and take action."

CRY America's 'Heroes for Life' Gala Raises \$1 Million

BOLLYWOOD STAR AND CHILD-RIGHTS CHAMPION HELPS CRY'S ANNUAL GALA EVENT ROAR BACK FROM TWO-YEAR QUARANTINE



Lalithamma (left) and Vivek Anand Oberoi

NEW YORK (TIP): Call it the most "feel-good" road movie yet to be made: A Bollywood heartthrob and a salt-of-the-earth social reformer from rural India race coast-to-coast via plane, train and automobile on a two-week fundraising mission benefiting kids in post-pandemic India.

"Heroes for Life," Child Rights and You CRY America's annual gala series, returned after a two-year pandemic break to honor the organization's U.S.-based donors and field workers across 30 CRY America-supported projects in villages and slums throughout India.

The gala series ran from May 14-22, with sold-out events in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, New York City and Houston, with a virtual event in Seattle. This year's fundraising total smashed previous records, raising over \$1 million.

CRY America is a 501c3 registered non-profit that supports projects in India and the U.S. that ensure access to education and health care for underprivileged children, as well as protection from child labor, early marriage and trafficking.

Galas featured veteran Bollywood actor Vivek Anand Oberoi ("Saathiya," Amazon's Emmy-nominated "Inside Edge") as celebrity guest who spoke about the importance of supporting the cause of children. Lalithamma, director of People's Organization for Rural Development (PORD), a CRY America-supported project in Andhra Pradesh shared her work during the pandemic.

The pandemic took a particularly cruel toll among underprivileged communities in India. With the ongoing lock downs and school closings, child marriage, trafficking and child labor rates spiked, accompanied by increased incidence of malnutrition, gaps in learning, and abuse of girl children.



"When we all act together - project partners, donors, volunteers - incredible changes happen." CRY America CEO Shefali Sunderlal

CRY America CEO Shefali Sunderlal noted that project workers were given special permissions by the Indian government as essential workers during the

pandemic, and they went the extra mile to ensure that challenges faced by their communities and children were addressed, while CRY America's donors maintained their funding support unabated throughout the crisis.

"We had to pivot from our regular plans for the year and get a grasp on what was happening in the field where our project partners work," said Shefali at the May 20 New York gala, held at the Taj Pierre.

"Our project workers risked their lives to undertake community awareness programs on COVID protocols, distribution of PPE kits, and ensure testing and vaccination efforts across their villages," she continued.

Sunderlal highlighted CRY America's model for lasting change, to which collective, community-driven action is central. She emphasized that the organization does not create parallel institutions, but rather works with the government and communities to ensure that public schools, health centers, and other public social programs and facilities remain functional and truly benefit underprivileged communities.

Other innovations implemented by CRY America projects included "bridge schools"-supplemental classes to ensure children were caught up on missed course work; home/community kitchen gardens to improve nutrition among children, and the organization of "children's collectives," where girls and boys meet to talk about pandemic-related anxieties, hopes and future plans.

"Most of my heroes have worn saris - [CRY America partner] Lalithamma is a living example of that - she is calling me a celebrity, but in my heart, I want to celebrate her!" Vivek Anand Oberoi, Bollywood star and celebrity guest

Oberoi brought star power and charisma to the CRY Gala event series, making his grand entrance nightly with a bevy of dancers and select hit songs from his 20-year film career. In addition to making a special address to the attendees, he led the evening's pledge sessions, telling stories about the importance of philanthropy and appreciating the donors with personal thanks and photo ops.

Oberoi cited his mother's dedication as a palliative care worker as inspiration for his long track record of philanthropy, which he termed as "karmic investment."

"I've been blessed with a lot of awards in my career, and I appreciate that recognition because that's what I do," said Oberoi, summing up. "But to me, the kids I have helped survive cancer and rescued from child marriage are my living, breathing wards - the best kind! Because that inspires me to do more, and gives me a purpose beyond what I do."

"The world is full of two kinds of people-those who need help, and those who can help," said Oberoi, closing his New York City remarks. "Everytime you find yourself among those who can help, you need to count your blessings. Heroes like Lalithamma and CRY do all the hard work; we write the checks, and we share in that karmic capital."

Lalithamma, Director, People's Organization for Rural Development, dubbed a "superhero in a sari" by Oberoi, took the stage nightly to share her story from growing up as a victim of gender discrimination herself to her work today to empower girls in her district.

Lalithamma founded PORD in 1992 to focus on girls' education as a means of preventing early marriage. Her team's dedication was her strength over the COVID pandemic, said Lalithamma. Lockdowns and closures

produced peripheral ills affecting children. Through awareness campaigns and supply distributions, PORD stopped 62 child marriages, and its vaccination drive resulted in zero COVID cases among district children.

Lalithamma shared the compelling journey of Revathi, a child who benefited from PORD's help. Just as Lalithamma herself had been discriminated against decades prior, Revathi had been forced to drop out of school by her grandmother in order to assist with work. Through a series of meetings, Lalithamma and her team convinced her grandmother to allow Revathi to return to school. On career rolled, she became interested in educating other girls about menstrual hygiene, a traditionally taboo subject in the conservative villages. Recognizing her leadership potential, Lalithamma mentored her to become a killed public speaker. Revathi's outreach work netted her a Youth Changemaker Award from the Ashoka Foundation, and her newfound confidence fuelled her pursuit of a college degree in technology. Today, Revathi works at (India technology company) Wipro, and continues her hygiene programs among girls.



Time for music and dance

As no gala would be complete without glitz, music, and dance, the series featured Bollywood dance performances, musical numbers and comedians across the cities. All galas ended with guests taking to the dance floor in celebration to the jubilant beats of current and classic Bollywood hits.

CRY America's "votes of confidence" toward its time-tested model for change and the impact created for children came thanks to the hundreds of guests who attended and their generous donations.



Bay Area Gala Guests, Palo Alto Crowne Plaza, May 14, 2022



Houston Gala, Royal Sonesta, May 22, 2022 Photo/ Murali Santhana

"CRY's donors and volunteers are our 'Heroes for Life' who ensure that our work for children can continue and grow," said Sunderlal.

(Press Release)

Quo Vadis, Mother Russia?

BY PATRICK J.
BUCHANAN



"DURING SOME OF THE COLDEST DAYS OF THE COLD WAR, U.S. PRESIDENTS LIKE DWIGHT EISENHOWER, RICHARD NIXON AND RONALD REAGAN SOUGHT TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON WHICH TO STAND WITH RUSSIA TO AVOID CONFLICT.

IKE INVITED THE "BUTCHER OF BUDAPEST," NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, FOR A 12-DAY U.S. VISIT IN 1959. NIXON INITIATED A "DETENTE" WITH LEONID BREZHNEV, WHO HAD ORDERED THE WARSAW PACT TO CRUSH THE "PRAGUE SPRING" IN 1968. REAGAN AND MIKHAIL GORBACHEV NEGOTIATED THE DISMANTLING OF AN ENTIRE CLASS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE 1987 INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY."

Where does Mother Russia go from here? Bitter at their losses in the Cold War and post-Cold War years, many Russian nationalists are urging the regime to align with today's great power antagonist of the United States, Xi Jinping's China.

"The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century," said Russia's new ruler Vladimir Putin in his 2005 state of the nation address.

"As for the Russian people," Putin went on, "it became a genuine tragedy. Tens of millions of our fellow citizens and countrymen found themselves beyond the fringes of Russian territory."

From Putin's standpoint, the statement was then and remains today understandable.

Consider. When Putin entered his country's secret service, Berlin was 110 miles deep inside a Soviet-occupied East Germany. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria were member states of the Warsaw Pact.

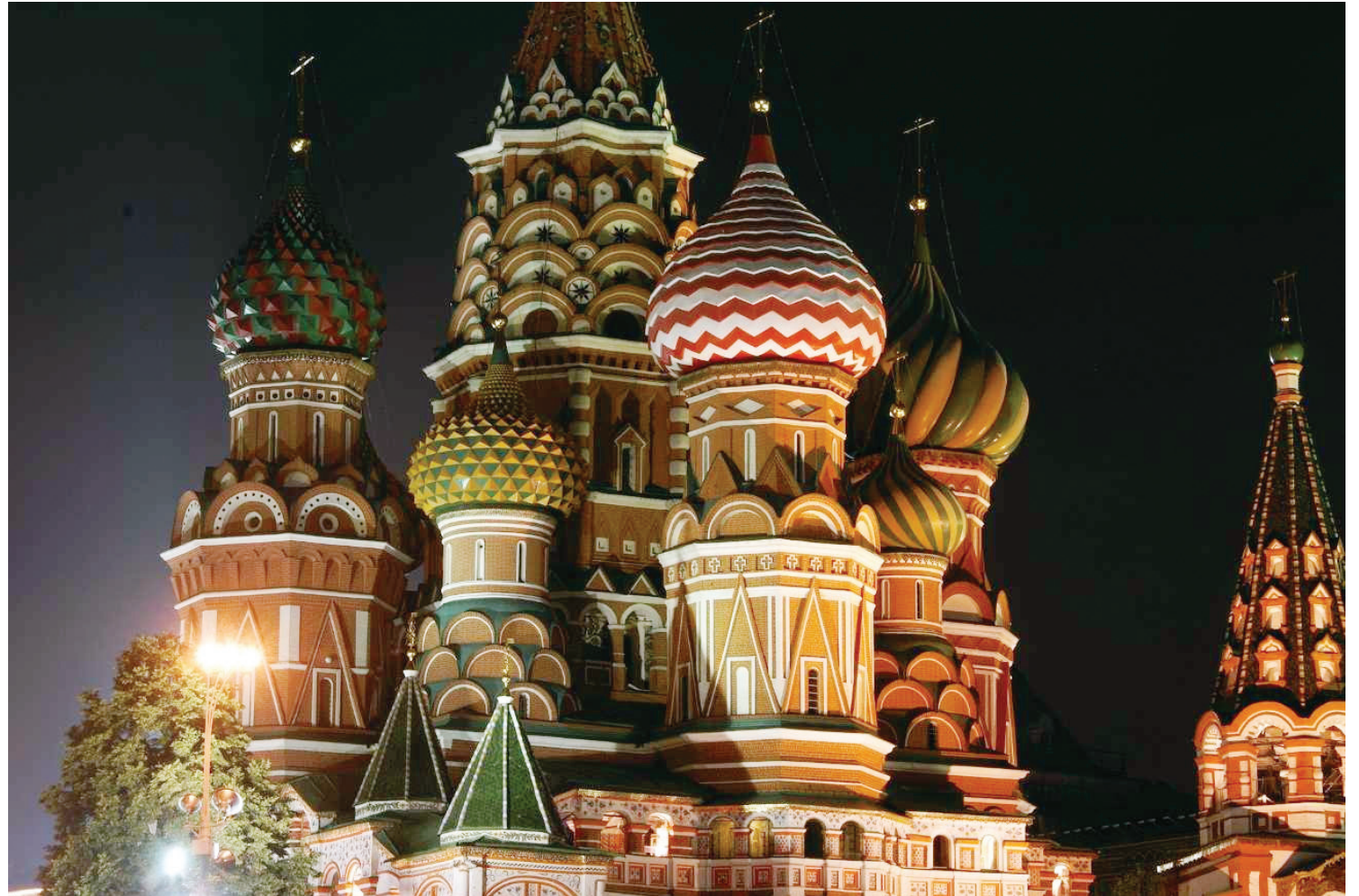


Image Source/ PixaBay

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were republics of the USSR. Ukraine was the most populous and ethnically closest of the Soviet republics to Russia itself.

And today? Berlin is the capital of a united, free and democratic Germany, a member of NATO, that is beginning a rearmament campaign triggered by Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria are members of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Former Soviet republics Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are also members of that Western alliance established to contain Russia.

Sweden and Finland, neutral through the Cold War, are applying for membership in NATO.

Ukraine, backed by the U.S. and NATO, is fighting a war to push the Russian army out of its territory, a war that has the support of almost every country on the continent of Europe.

Even the falls of the British and French empires at the end of World War II do not match as geo-strategic disasters the collapse of the Soviet Empire and breakup of the Soviet Union since the end of the Cold War.

How goes the Russian war in Ukraine launched on Feb. 24?

Russia has enlarged the territory it controls in Crimea and its Luhansk and Donetsk enclaves in the Donbas. And now, with the fall of Mariupol, Moscow controls the entire Sea of Azov and has completed its land bridge from Russia to Crimea.

But Russia has failed to capture and been forced by the Ukrainian army to

retreat from Kyiv and Kharkiv, the largest cities in Ukraine, and Putin has seen his forces humiliated again and again.

Yet, withal, Russia today remains a great power.

The largest nation on earth with twice the territory of the U.S., Russia has the world's largest nuclear arsenal and exceeds the U.S. and China in tactical nuclear weapons. It has vast tracks of land and sits on huge deposits of minerals, coal, oil and gas.

But Russia also has glaring weaknesses and growing vulnerabilities.

While Putin has built up impressive forces in the Arctic, the Baltic Sea, with Finland and Sweden joining the Western alliance, is becoming a NATO lake. Russian warships sailing out of St. Petersburg to the Atlantic have to traverse the coastal defenses of 11 present or future NATO nations: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Britain and France.

Among the questions that Russia, shrunk in so many ways from the great U.S. rival of the Cold War it once was, must answer is, "Quo Vadis?"

Where does Mother Russia go from here?

Bitter at their losses in the Cold War and post-Cold War years, many Russian nationalists are urging the regime to align with today's great power antagonist of the United States, Xi Jinping's China.

This is a recipe for a Second Cold War, but how would that war avail the Russian nation and its people?

In any Russia-China alliance, there is no doubt who will be senior partner. And

it is not the U.S. that covets and wishes one day to control the resources of Russia from Novosibirsk to the Bering Sea.

China's population of 1.4 billion people is 10 times Russia's. East of the Urals, China's population is 50 to 100 times the size of Russia's in Siberia and the Far East.

What of a U.S.-Russia detente as Moscow's future rather than Cold War II?

During some of the coldest days of the Cold War, U.S. presidents like Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan sought to find common ground on which to stand with Russia to avoid conflict.

Ike invited the "Butcher of Budapest," Nikita Khrushchev, for a 12-day U.S. visit in 1959. Nixon initiated a "detente" with Leonid Brezhnev, who had ordered the Warsaw Pact to crush the "Prague Spring" in 1968. Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev negotiated the dismantling of an entire class of nuclear weapons in the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty.

Given the hostility Putin has generated by his invasion of Ukraine, Western leaders may be unable to bring Russia in from the cold. But if we isolate Russia, push it out of the West, Moscow has only one direction in which to go - east, to China.

In 230 years, the United States has never gone to war with Russia. Not with the Romanovs nor with the Stalinists, not with the Cold War Communists nor with the Putinists.

U.S. vital interests dictate that we maintain that tradition.

(Patrick Joseph Buchanan is a political commentator, columnist, politician and broadcaster)

Quad makes pragmatic push to cement ties

BY GURJIT SINGH



The Quad Summit held in Tokyo on Tuesday; May 24 was the fourth such occasion in the past two years. The four leaders met at a virtual summit in March 2021 followed by the first-ever physical summit in September 2021 in Washington DC. Thereafter, in March 2022, another virtual meeting took place, and the Tokyo physical summit of 2022 shows the quick turnaround time for Quad summits since the Biden administration took over.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden are seniormost among the Quad leaders, while Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is a more recent entrant. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese participated in the summit soon after his election victory.

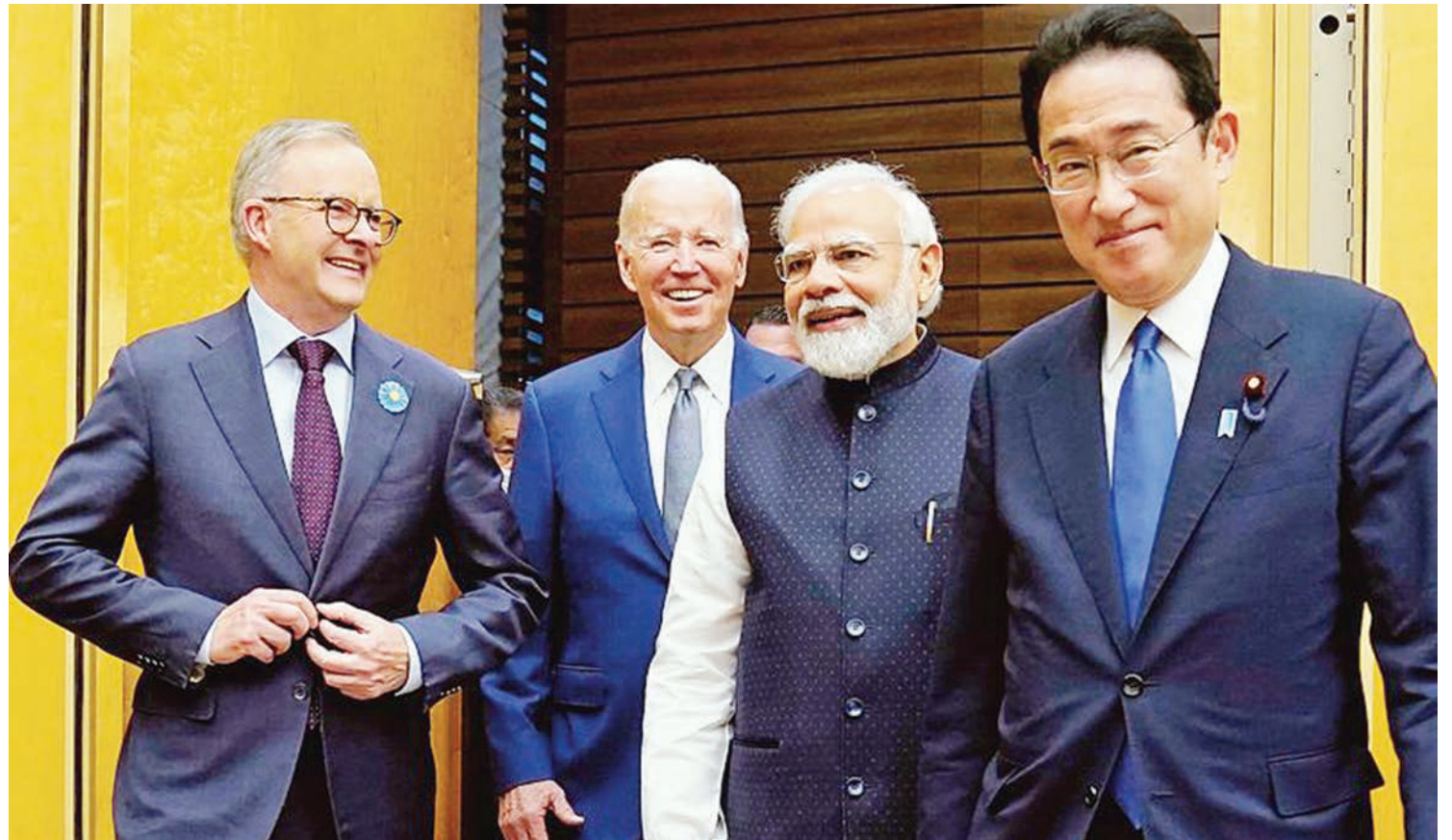
A salient difference between the Quad summits of 2021 and 2022 is the context. Undoubtedly, the Quad assimilated to pose a challenge to China's hegemonic intent in the Indo-Pacific. The US pivot to Asia was inadequate and required the support of like-minded and willing countries like India, Japan and Australia. While Japan and Australia are US allies, India is an important strategic partner.

The summits of 2021 reduced the rhetoric on security and strategy and focused more on functional cooperation, particularly targeting ASEAN, whose centrality was trumpeted. It became evident that to challenge China, the main arena was the South China Sea, where China made serious inroads into fulfilling their strategic ambitions and winning over ASEAN countries with large economic cooperation. Japan was a major economic partner of ASEAN, but by itself could not match the strategic economic outreach of China and thus the Quad adjusted its positions. Since ASEAN prefers not to take sides between China and the USA, the readjustment of Quad's public position was to bring alignment with ASEAN concerns.

The 2021 summits focused on Covid, better health security and the Quad vaccine initiative; they also looked at the Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group, climate issues, hydrogen, education and people-to-people exchanges. Critical and emerging technology remains an important area where there is serious competition with China which leads to cybersecurity.

The March 2022 summit convened after the Ukraine crisis, whose broader implications were discussed. The US remains keen to aggregate the Quad to provide strategic and humanitarian support to Ukraine, the same way that are planned for the Indo-Pacific. India remains lukewarm to this. The Ukraine crisis, portraying Russia as enemy number one, has the potential of derailing the concerted challenge to China in the Indo-Pacific. For India, it is not Russia but China, which is the main

"Though Biden wants Quad to look at Russia's Ukraine invasion and North Korea's nuclear threats, he views the Quad partnership of four major democracies in the Indo-Pacific as vital to challenge China's growing influence in the region. The balance among these threats varies between the Quad partners."



Quad leaders. L to R: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

threat. The Indo-Pacific policies which the Quad pursues ought to remain focused on China and should cover Russia only if Russia becomes more active in this region.

The convening of the fourth Quad summit in Tokyo, came on the back of the US showing more interest in the region, despite the Ukraine crisis. Biden hosted a summit with the ASEAN leaders on May 12-13 and then proceeded on a tour of South Korea, where he met the new President Yoon Suk-yeol, and the Prime Minister of Japan. The intent was to deepen security cooperation with both and encourage them to impose further sanctions on Russia amid the Ukraine war.

Though Biden wants Quad to look at Russia's Ukraine invasion and North Korea's nuclear threats, he views the Quad partnership of four major democracies in the Indo-Pacific as vital to challenge China's growing influence in the region. The balance among these threats varies between the Quad partners.

There are four, among many things that the Quad is coordinating on, in which India has a direct interest. To deal with Covid, the Quad vaccine initiative has already agreed to manufacturing facilities in India. There is another group dealing with decarbonized green shipping lines in the Indo-Pacific, which will use hydrogen as fuel. India with its new hydrogen policy is keen to get this

technology and perhaps be a manufacturing base for hydrogen.

Thirdly, the Quad infrastructure coordination group is looking at quality infrastructure in the region. This is again an area of Indian interest, as through this India can enhance its profile in its neighborhood. The fourth important group deals with critical technologies and cybersecurity. India has an interest in both, particularly in setting up semiconductor production in the country, to become part of an independent supply chain and not remain dependent on China-based supplies. Cybersecurity is an area of extreme importance for India. The Quad cybersecurity and semiconductor initiatives are good outcomes from the summit.

The six major takeaways from this summit are: (i) The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, which brings commitment for a faster, wider and accurate maritime awareness of almost real-time maritime movement in regional waters; (ii) Quad will seek more than \$50 billion of infrastructure assistance and investment in the Indo-Pacific, over the next five years. This will keep debt stress in firm view to differentiate from the BRI; (iii) The Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) with mitigation and adaptation as its two themes was launched. Q-CHAMP includes ongoing activities

under the Quad Climate Working Group on green shipping and ports aiming for a shared green corridor framework and others. Its coverage includes new cooperation in clean fuel ammonia, carbon recycling, cooperation and capacity-building support to advance high-integrity carbon markets; (iv) The Quad will increase interoperability and security through the signature of a new Memorandum of Cooperation on 5G Supplier Diversification and Open RAN (radio access networks); (v) The Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains, launched at the summit, advances Quad cooperation on semiconductors and other critical technologies, providing a cooperative foundation for resilience against various risks; (vi) The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) has brought 13 countries together to discuss an economic future together. This is the first time India is an economic arrangement in the Indo-Pacific. It included all RCEP countries except China, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and adds India and the USA. Its success is that it gets seven ASEAN countries to join the consultations process.

The Quad is on the right track and is getting better at implementing its ideas and securing adherents as well as acceptability. That is the way to challenge China's hegemony in the region.

(The author is a former ambassador)

Punjab: Limited role is pushing Conventional parties to political hibernation

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



Pushed to the edge and left with limited role both in the state and at the Centre, the majority of political powers of yesteryears have been forced into a political hibernation.

Ruing the rise of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as the new ruling outfit, the conventional power brokers in this border State of Punjab - Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party - are finding themselves pushed to the edge.

They have virtually become mute spectators to the political developments that have been unfolding since the new regime of Bhagwant Singh Mann took over reins of the State in March.

After taking all five Rajya Sabha seats in March, AAP is all set to take the remaining two seats, elections to which are scheduled for June 10 with May 31 as the last date for nominations. None of the other parties - Congress, SAD or BJP - will have any say in the process that for the first time in recent decades will witness a complete wash out by the ruling party in the State.

While both Congress and BJP are making meek and feeble efforts of evincing interest in the bye election to Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, silence of the Shiromani Akali Dal is intriguing.

The Election Commission has announced the schedule for filling three Lok Sabha seats - Sangrur, Rampur and Azamgarh - that are presently vacant.

The bye-elections will be held on June 23 and results will be announced on June 26. June 6 will be the last date for filing of nominations.

Besides ruling AAP, other parties, too, have to announce their candidates for the June 23 bye-election. Bhagwant Mann's sister has already been campaigning in the area. She avoided answering if she would be interested in contesting. "Party will decide, she quipped.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's Sanyukat Shiromani Akali Dal may be interested in contesting the bye-election by fielding Parminder Singh Dhindsa, who along with former Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, were among the losers in the last Assembly elections.

The Rajya Sabha Elections for 57 seats, including two from Punjab will be held on June 10, 2022.

Of these 57 seats, 11 are from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu with six seats each.

Other States where the Rajya Sabha election will be held are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Haryana.

Sangrur Lok Sabha seat fell vacant in March after the incumbent Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was elected to the State Assembly from Dhuri.

Political analysts are expecting the Election Commission to announce the schedule for filling all three vacant Lok Sabha seats in time for the Presidential election in July this year.



Political powers of yesteryears have been forced into a political hibernation

The ECI is expected to announce the Election schedule for the 16th Presidential Election in June as the tenure of the present incumbent Ram Nath Kovind is till July 24. The new incumbent is mandated to take over on July 25.

Again, the role of Punjab politicians in the Presidential election will mainly veer around AAP while Congress, SAD and BJP with small or little presence in the State Legislature or Parliament presence will have their limited roles.

Never before Punjab witnessed such a political scenario with three of major players pushed to the edge.

After their humiliating defeats in the February Assembly elections, problems have been aggravating for almost all the conventional parties.

Congress, for example, has been going through its worst phase.

The party continues to be tormented by exits of its senior leaders. After the former Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Sunil Jakhar said goodbye to the party, former Union Ministers, Ashwini Kumar and Kapil Sibal have also left the party. They both represented Punjab.

Navjot Singh Sidhu, who followed Sunil Jakhar as President of the Punjab unit has been sentenced to undergo one-year rigorous imprisonment in an old case.

On the eve of the Assembly elections early this year, Congress lost its high profile Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who later floated his own party Punjab Lok Congress. Close on heels of his exit from Congress, two other MLAs - Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi and Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa - too left the party and joined BJP. Now Sunil Jakhar, too, has joined BJP.

Shiromani Akali Dal is understandably lying low after its worst ever drubbing in any election. It recently lost its veteran leader Tota Singh.

While one of its breakaway groups, Sanyukat Shiromani Akali Dal led by Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (His term as member of Rajya Sabha ended in April this year), objected to its alliance

partner BJP going out alone electioneering in Sangrur for ensuing bye-election, SAD has been watching the developments silently. Even the third partner of the alliance, Punjab Lok Congress, has till now not shown any inclination in contesting the Sangrur bye election. BJP has appointed Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi to assess the atmosphere in the constituency before taking a final decision.

Weakened or marginalized Opposition notwithstanding, the ruling AAP is not without its problems.

Dismissal of the Health Minister, Dr Vijay Singla, by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, on corruption charges is not without its widespread ramifications. The public perception and image that the AAP government is "honest, clean and sincere" has suffered an image set back.

Dr Vijay Singla incidentally happened to be the first ever Cabinet Minister from Mansa. He had defeated popular folk singer Sidhu Moosewala in the Assembly elections.

Several senior AAP legislators are continuing to lobby for their induction in the Bhagwant Mann Cabinet.

Besides Cabinet expansion, the party has to choose its nominees for the two Rajya Sabha seats and also for the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. This is an opportunity for correcting the impression that Delhi would decide about Punjab representation in the upper House of Parliament.

It is time for Bhagwant Mann to act on his own than emulating what Delhi had done before or wants to be done now.

(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)



Annual AAPI CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



- **CME:** Earn 10-12 Hours of CME Credits
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- **PRODUCT THEATERS:** World Class Pharma Companies
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- **INVITED DIGNITARIES:** Meet & Hear Distinguished Guests from all across the Globe
- **VIP GUESTS:** Peter Jay Hotez, MD, PhD, AMA President Elect Dr. Jack Resnick Jr.; AMA BOT Chair Dr. Bobby Mukkamala; Director, National Drug Control Policy Rahul Gupta, MD; President-Elect, Texas Medical Association Gary W. Floyd, MD, FAAP; Cricket Legend Sunil Gavaskar; India's Ambassador to the US Hon. Taranjit Sandhu
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- **WELLNESS TALKS:** Sadhavi Saraswati ji; Dr. Sat Bir; Sharath Jois; Eddie Stern
- **WOMEN'S FORUM:** TRAILBLAZING TITANS TELL THEIR TALES: Dr. Juby A. Jacob-Nara; Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli; Dr. Sowjanya Mohan; Ms. Rosemary Hickman
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- **AAPI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** Activities
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JACK DORSEY STEPS DOWN FROM TWITTER'S BOARD AS ELON MUSK FIGHTS OVER FAKE ACCOUNTS



Jack Dorsey

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Jack Dorsey has stepped down from the Twitter board of directors, as Tesla CEO Elon Musk fights with the micro-blogging platform to reveal the actual number of fake/spam accounts.

Bill Gates 'poured' millions into attacking Elon Musk, Tesla CEO tweets 'wait until you find out what he put in your vaccine'

DORSEY QUIT AS TWITTER CEO IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, HANDING OVER THE BATON TO INDIAN-ORIGIN PARAG AGRAWAL WHO WAS THEN THE CTO OF THE COMPANY.

At the time, Twitter noted that Dorsey would stay on the board "until his term expires at the 2022 meeting of stockholders".

Dorsey has categorically said that he will never be the CEO of Twitter again, as reports of him rejoining the micro-blogging platform surfaced after the \$44 billion takeover by Musk.

Dorsey, who is now running financial payments platform Block (earlier Square), also said that no one should be the CEO of Twitter.

At the shareholders' meeting on Wednesday, Twitter's board voted to oust board member and Musk ally Egon Durban, CEO of private equity firm Silver Lake Partners, reports TechCrunch.

Durban led Musk's deal team during the 2018 failed effort to take Tesla private.

Musk has put the \$44 billion Twitter deal on hold over the presence of fake/spammy accounts and wants the micro-blogging platform to come clean on the actual number of bots.

(Source: IANS)

Biden set to nominate Indian-American diplomat Gautam Rana as ambassador to Slovakia

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) US President Joe Biden is set to nominate career diplomat Gautam Rana as the new US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovakia, the latest Indian-American to be named for a key position.

In a statement on Wednesday, May 25, the White House announced the president's intent to send Rana's nomination for further ratification.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, US - with rank of Counselor, Rana is currently Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Algeria and was the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim there from August 2020 to February 2022.

Earlier, Rana served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the US Embassy in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Among other positions, Rana was Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan on



Gautam Rana

File photo

the National Security Council staff and the Deputy Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the US Embassy in New Delhi.

Rana also served as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of

State, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and worked in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the UAE, the White House release read.

Rana earned B.A and B.S degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, a J.D from the Vanderbilt University School of Law and an M.A degree from the National Defense University.

In addition to English, he speaks Hindi, Spanish, and Gujarati.

Last month, Biden nominated Indian-American diplomat Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen as his envoy to Mali, the third such nomination of an Indian-American in over a month.

In March, President Biden nominated two Indian-Americans as US envoys. He nominated diplomat Puneet Talwar as the country's ambassador to Morocco and political activist Shefali Razdan Duggal as his envoy to the Netherlands.

US states divided on gun controls, even as mass shootings rise

OLYMPIA (TIP): Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was quick to react to this week's carnage at a Texas elementary school, sending a tweet listing the gun control measures the Democratic-controlled state has taken. He finished with: "Your turn Congress."

But gun control measures are likely going nowhere in Congress, and they also have become increasingly scarce in most states. Aside from several Democratic-controlled states, the majority have taken no action on gun control in recent years or have moved aggressively to expand gun rights.

That's because they are either controlled politically by Republicans who oppose gun restrictions or are politically divided, leading to stalemate.

"Here I am in a position where I can do something, I can introduce legislation, and yet to know that it almost certainly is not going to go anywhere is a feeling of helplessness," said state Sen. Greg Leding, a Democrat in the GOP-controlled Arkansas Legislature.

He has pushed unsuccessfully for red flag laws that would allow authorities to remove firearms from those determined to be a danger to themselves or others.

After Tuesday's massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that left 19 students and two teachers dead, Democratic governors and lawmakers across the country issued impassioned pleas for Congress and their own legislatures to pass gun restrictions. Republicans have mostly called for more efforts to address mental health and to shore up protections at schools, such as adding security guards.



Photo for representational purpose only

Image / courtesy istock

Among them is Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has repeatedly talked about mental health struggles among young people and said tougher gun laws in places like New York and California are ineffective. In Tennessee, GOP Rep. Jeremy Faison tweeted that the state needs to have security officers "in all of our schools," but stopped short of promising to introduce legislation during next year's legislative session: "Evil exists, and we must protect the innocent from it," Faison said.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has repeatedly clashed with the GOP-controlled Legislature over gun laws. He has called for passage of universal background checks and "red flag" laws, only to be ignored by Republicans. Earlier this year, the Democrat vetoed a Republican bill that would have allowed holders of concealed carry permits to have firearms in vehicles on school grounds and in churches located on the grounds of a private school.

"We cannot accept that gun violence just happens," Evers said in a tweet. "We cannot accept that kids might go to school and never come home. We cannot accept the outright refusal of elected officials to act."

On Wednesday, a day after the Texas shooting, legislative Democrats asked that the Wisconsin gun safety bills be taken up again, apparently to no avail. Republican Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos did not return messages seeking their response.

In Pennsylvania, an effort by Democratic lawmakers Wednesday in the GOP-controlled Legislature to ban owning, selling or making high-capacity, semi-automatic firearms failed, as House Republicans displayed their firm opposition to gun restrictions. The GOP-majority Legislature has rejected appeals by Democratic governors over the past two decades to tighten gun control laws, including taking steps such as expanding background checks or limiting the number of handgun purchases one person can make in a month.

The situation is similar in Michigan, which has a Democratic governor and Republican-controlled Legislature. On Wednesday, Democrats in the state Senate were thwarted in their efforts to advance a group of bills that would require gun owners to lock up their firearms and keep them away from minors.

"Every day we don't take action, we are choosing guns over children," said Democratic Sen. Rosemary Bayer, whose district includes a high school where a teen was charged in a shooting that killed four in November and whose parents are charged with involuntary manslaughter; accused of failing to lock up their gun. "Enough is enough. No more prayers, no more thoughts, no more inaction."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Bollywood Legend Hema Malini Supports ISKCON Naperville

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): May 15th, 2022 marked an important time in history for ISKCON Naperville; a special fundraising dinner for the construction of the new temple, ISKCON Radha Shyamasundar. With any big endeavor, comes a big price. However, nothing is too big nor too intimidating for the devotees of ISKCON Naperville.

The fundraising event was held at Ashyana Banquet Hall. The large banquet room was filled with promise and excitement, as all who attended were eager for the completion of this important project. Temple President Premananda Devi Dasi addressed the crowd of over 500 by reminding them what brought them all together: "Why build this temple? When Srila Prabhupada founded this institution, he listed seven purposes of ISKCON". She then reiterated Srila Prabhupada's fifth stated purpose: "To erect for the members, and for society at large, a holy place of transcendental pastimes, dedicated to the personality of Krishna."

What made this year's fundraising event exceedingly more memorable, was the attendance of famed Member of Indian Parliament and esteemed Bollywood actress, Hema Malini. She began her career as a bharatanatyam dancer. Hema Malini was able to land her first film role as a dancer in 1963 and starred in over 200 movies throughout her career.

She became a devotee of Krishna after she was introduced to the holy place of Vrindavan, where she would later serve as a Member of Parliament. She explained, "I was offered some other places, but I refused. I said I am not interested in being a politician or Member of Parliament from anywhere. If it is given to me, Matura, then I am interested because it is Krishna's place and I am connected to Krishna. I want to serve there, not as a politician, but you have to be politically connected so you are able to do a lot of work with the help of our government." In addition, she has also been helping clean up the Ganga and Yamuna rivers apart from supporting many more important projects in the region.

Also in attendance was ISKCON communications director Anuttama Dasa and his wife, Rukmini Devi Dasi. Their presence was a gift and inspirational to many. Anuttama Dasa stated to the audience: "...This is the purpose of this ISKCON society; to help us. How do I get the envy out of my heart? How do I get the anger out of my heart? How do I get the greed out of my heart? So that I can become a force for change, for the better - and how can we do that as a community?"

ISKCON Naperville devotees have been working tirelessly to support Prabhupada's mission. "The world is looking for that type of leadership. By building the temple that you're all contributing to, it actually



Hema Malini addressing the crowd after she unveiled the signage
Photo / Tarin Butterfield



Hema Malini with Srimad Bhagavad Gita



People listening to Hema Malini at the event

Photo / Suresh Bodiwala

becomes a place where we can come together and we can show our appreciation for Krishna; for all our gifts. We also can come together and say, 'Lord, I want to be a force for good in the world,'" said Anuttama Dasa.

The three-story temple will include a commercial kitchen, snack bar, classrooms, a playground, yoga studio, multipurpose hall, gift shop - and most importantly, Sri Radha Shyamasundara. This temple will not only be a place of worship, but a pillar for the

community and people of all faiths. With the help of generous donors and hardworking devotees, temple construction is scheduled to conclude in the upcoming winter. Hema Malini expressed her great fortune to have been present at the unveiling of the temple signage by stating, "It was so wonderful to be there, it just felt like I'm still in Vrindavan because of the same atmosphere."

Press release / Acyuta-Bhava Dasa & Tarin Butterfield

Photographs / Asian Media USA

DIGITAL ECONOMY IS SPACE FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BETWEEN INDIA, US: USIBC PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Describing the digital economy as a goose that lays golden eggs, the head of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) has called for the creation of structures, regulations and the legal framework to ensure the continued vitality and growth of this key sector in the US and India.

Addressing the 7th India Ideas Conclave in Bangalore on Sunday hosted by the India Foundation, at the panel "Commerce & Industry 2.0." President of the USIBC Atul Keshap discussed India's impressive development, the success of government-led digitization efforts, and the country's status as the fastest-growing large economy.

"Digital economy trade is the goose that lays the golden eggs between both of our countries...My appeal to you would be that we make sure that we create the structures,

and the regulations, and the legal framework to ensure the continued vitality and continued growth of the digital economy in the United States and India," Keshap, also a former top American diplomat, said.

"There is a sweeping revolution happening in India, and it is going to have an enormous positive impact on India, on America, and on the entire world. After centuries of disruption, India is returning... to its historic stature as one of the largest and most dynamic and prosperous economies on earth," Keshap said.

The former State Department diplomat, who recently served as the Chargé d'affaires of the US Embassy in India, was speaking on transformations in infrastructure, economic policy, and the digital economy among other areas.



During the panel discussion, Keshap expressed optimism that US-India cooperation could help address some of the global economic challenges.

"We can have a dispositive impact in building a dependable, resilient, free world supply chain for all of the things that we must have - the critical materials of fueling and powering and supporting innovation societies - things like semiconductors and rare earth," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



TERRORISTS KILL TELEVISION ACTOR IN J&K'S BUDGAM

A woman television actor was shot dead by terrorists in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday, May 25. Her nephew also sustained injuries in the attack.

A top police officer told India Today that terrorists fired upon the actor Amreen Bhat and her 10-year-old nephew outside their residence in Hishroo Chadoora. Both of them were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, the officer said.

While Amreen Bhat was declared brought dead, her nephew is receiving treatment for bullet injuries in his arm.

According to Kashmir Police, three terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were involved in the incident.

"No words are strong enough to condemn heinous terror attack in Budgam. Deepest condolences to the family of Amreen Bhat and prayers for fast recovery of her injured nephew," said Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The entire area has been cordoned off by the police. Further probe is underway.

Punjab health minister Vijay Singla arrested after CM Mann sacks him for corruption

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

Soon after Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann sacked him from the state cabinet on Tuesday May 24, health minister Dr Vijay Singla was arrested on charges of corruption. In a video message shared on social media, Mann said he decided to sack Dr Singla after learning the minister was allegedly demanding 1% commission for tenders passed. The state health department floats tenders worth thousands of crores for buying medicines, equipment and other material.

The chief minister said that he had directed the police to register a case against Dr Singla after which he was arrested.

Mann said he had received a formal complaint that the minister was indulging in corruption. "I am taking strict action against him. I am removing him from the cabinet," he said, adding when confronted, Dr Singla confessed to the wrongdoing.

"I could have brushed the complaint under the carpet since neither the media nor opposition parties were aware about it. But since the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party has adopted zero tolerance against corruption, I immediately sacked the minister," he said.

Tweeting his appreciation for the decisive and prompt action, Kejriwal said: "Proud of you Bhagwant. Ur action has brought tears to my eyes. The whole nation today feels proud of AAP."

Mann said that such an incident had



happened only for the second time in the country.

"In 2015, Kejriwal had sacked his food and civil supplies minister after a video of his seeking bribe was shown to him. I want to tell everyone that I won't tolerate corruption of even Rs 1. We had taken an oath in martyr Bhagat Singh's Khatkar Kalan village. We promised we would run a corruption-free government," he said.

Hailing Mann's decision, AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha tweeted, "The Aam Aadmi Party is the only party that has the integrity, courage and uprightness to take action against their own on grounds of corruption. We saw it in Delhi, now we are witnessing it in Punjab. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION. Commendable decision by CM @BhagwantMann."

Dr Singla, a dentist, is the AAP MLA from Mansa. He had defeated the Congress candidate Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popular as singer Sidhu

Moosewala, by more than 99,000 votes.

A HISTORY OF CORRUPT ACTIVITIES

The first thing Vijay Singla did in the health department was to shield the corrupt officials. Singla also tried to cover up the health department scams which came to light during the Congress regime. According to sources, officials in the health department who sought a favourable posting were asked to pay a month's salary to Singla's network.

An alleged deal between Singla's network and the owners of de-addiction centres has also come to light. The deal was reportedly made with the help of Singla's relative who owns the centres.

The supply of some medicines besides buprenorphine (used to treat opioid disorders) made during Singla's tenure is also being investigated. The utilisation of the emergency response and health system package worth Rs 198 crore is also likely to be probed. The funds were allocated by the union government. Vijay Singla's activities are likely to delay the setting up of the 75 mohalla clinics which were recently announced by chief minister Bhagwant Mann. Singla had awarded over 60 tenders during his tenure. This includes the tenders to purchase equipment for the proposed mohalla clinics. These tenders are also likely to be delayed as the government has ordered a screening of the entire process.

The police will question the minister, his officer on special duty (OSD) and those who were awarded the tenders to find out whether Singla received any bribes.

Karti Chidambaram appears before CBI in visa scam case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram reached the CBI headquarters on Thursday, May 26, to join the investigation into an alleged scam pertaining to the issuance of visas to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the home minister, officials said.

A special court had ordered him to join the CBI investigation within 16 hours of his arrival from the UK and Europe, where he had gone with the permission of the Supreme Court and the special court.

The MP returned from his trip on Wednesday, May 25. He arrived at the CBI office on Thursday morning to answer questions related to the case.

Speaking to reporters outside the CBI headquarters, Karti said the case against him was "bogus", and claimed that he had not facilitated the issuance of visa to any Chinese national.

The case pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as bribe to Karti and his



close associate S Bhaskararaman by a top executive of Vedanta group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, for re-issuance of project visas for 263 Chinese workers employed there, the CBI FIR said. The agency has already taken Bhaskararaman in custody.

According to the CBI, the work for setting up the power project was being executed by a Chinese company and was running behind schedule. Source: PTI

Navjot Sidhu to work as clerk at Patiala jail for Rs 90 daily wage

PATIALA (TIP)

Convicted in a 1988 road rage case, former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu will work as a clerk at the Patiala Central Jail. Sidhu will be trained for three months and will be taught how to brief lengthy court judgments and compile jail records.

Sidhu, as per the jail manual, will not be paid for the first 90 days. After the completion of his training, he will be entitled to get wages between Rs 40 and Rs 90 per day. His wage will be decided on the basis of his skills and the earnings will be credited to his bank account.

Navjot Sidhu, according to a jail official, will work



from the barracks itself as he is a high-profile prisoner.

The jail files will be sent to him in the barracks as he will not be allowed to move out of his cell. According to the jail authorities, Sidhu started working as a clerk on Tuesday. He will be working in two shifts — 9 am-noon and 3 pm-5 pm.

Meanwhile, security has

been tightened inside the barracks where Sidhu has been lodged. Five wardens and four jail inmates have also been asked to keep an eye on Sidhu. The cricketer-turned-politician was sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court on May 19 in a 1988 road rage case. He surrendered on May 20 before the trial court in Patiala.

A medical board made a diet chart for Navjot Singh Sidhu who was diagnosed with obesity and metabolic disorder. The diet chart is yet to reach the jail. Sidhu has been surviving on a salad-and-fruit diet. He had refused to eat dal roti saying he was allergic to wheat. Source: India Today

ED RAIDS MULTIPLE LOCATIONS LINKED TO MAHARASHTRA MINISTER ANIL PARAB, OTHERS

The ED on Thursday, May 26, raided multiple locations in Maharashtra as part of a money-laundering probe against state transport minister Anil Parab and others linked to alleged irregularities in a land deal in coastal Dapoli area of Ratnagiri district and other charges, officials said.

Locations in Dapoli, Mumbai and Pune are being searched after the federal agency filed a fresh case under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Parab, 57, is a three-time Shiv Sena legislator in the Maharashtra Legislative Council and is the state transport minister.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) action pertains to the allegations of purchase of a parcel of land at Dapoli by Parab in 2017 for a consideration of Rs 1 crore but it was registered in 2019. Some other charges are also being probed by the agency.

It is alleged that the land was subsequently sold to Mumbai-based cable operator Sadanand Kadam in 2020 for a consideration of Rs 1.1 crore. In between, a resort was built on the same land from 2017 to 2020.

Source: PTI

Kapil Sibal dumps Cong, files RS Sabha nomination with SP backing

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Days after advising the Gandhis to step aside and let another leader have a chance at Congress presidency, veteran leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday, May 25, officially quit the party and filed Rajya Sabha nomination as an Independent candidate with the backing of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh.

"I want to be an independent voice in the Rajya Sabha and work to bring anti-BJP forces together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," declared Sibal, a prominent minister in the erstwhile Congress-led UPA government and more recently a member of the G-23 group that rooted for reforms in the party to make it battle-ready.

Sibal (74) said he had resigned from the Congress on May 16, the day the party's Udaipur conclave concluded. He, however, refrained from attacking the parent party today. "All Congress leaders are like my family. I had a duty to speak so long as I was in the party, but now I have moved on. I am not far away from the Congress ideology. I joined because of Rajiv ji but the fact I am leaving after 30 years says something," said Sibal. While other G-23 members Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma have compromised with the party and landed roles in key committees announced yesterday, Sibal was left alone in the anti-Gandhi space. He is a two-term Rajya Sabha MP (first elected in 1998 with RJD support) and a two-term Lok Sabha member from Chandni Chowk.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who accompanied Sibal for nomination filing in Lucknow, said the former minister's "articulation against the BJP's excesses would be of value".



Kapil Sibal files his papers for the Rajya Sabha seat in Lucknow. Source: PTI

Interestingly, Sibal's bonhomie with the SP comes days after senior party leader Azam Khan, jailed for 27 months, secured bail in the case of alleged land grab in UP. Sibal was Khan's counsel in the Supreme Court.

The RS term of Jalandhar-born Sibal, who attended Chandigarh's St John's School, expires in July.

Source: TNS

Medically certified deaths due to Covid-19 exceed official death toll in 2020

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Latest data released by the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) offers fresh evidence that India's official Covid-19 mortality numbers could be underestimates.

Deaths due to Covid-19 were the third leading cause of death among medically certified deaths in 2020, accounting for 160,618 (8.9%) of the total 1,811,688 deaths, according to data on medical certification of deaths released by ORGI under the ministry of home affairs on May 25. The statistics on Medical Certification of Cause of Deaths (MCCD) are collated from the Civil Registration System (CRS).

This number is higher than what is reported as India's official death toll from Covid-19 in 2020. As collated from Covid-19 bulletins issued by states by HT it is 149,036. This means that 11,582 or 7.2% of medically certified deaths from Covid-19 were not recorded as such in Covid-19 bulletins across states. This is despite the fact that medically certified deaths are less than a quarter of all registered deaths and not all deaths are registered. In 2020, there were 8,062,070 registered deaths but only 1,811,688 deaths were medically certified. The level of registration was not reported in the 2020 CRS report.

To be sure, medically certified deaths as a share of registered deaths among states that reported both MCCD data

and CRS data in 2020 were the highest since 1991, the earliest year for which the recent MCCD reports give data.

22.5% of 8,062,070 registered deaths were medically certified in 2020, 0.5 percentage points more than the previous high recorded in 2017 (22%). The total number of registered deaths in the CRS were 8,115,882 in 2020, but the MCCD report tabulates level of medical certification only in relation to CRS deaths from states that also report MCCD data. Only the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 and the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in 2019 and 2020 have not reported MCCD data in recent years.

A bulletin of the Sample Registration System (SRS), also released by ORGI on May 25, shows that the pandemic also seems to have halted the declining trend of death rates in India in 2020.

India's death rate was 6.7%, 6.5%, 6.4%, 6.3%, 6.2%, and 6% from 2014 to 2019. Instead of declining further in 2020, the death rate remained constant at 6%. To be sure, this was not the trend in both rural and urban India. Death rate decreased from 6.5% in 2019 to 6.4% in 2020 in rural areas but increased from 5% to 5.1% in urban areas. Unlike the CRS, which is based on official records of registration of births and deaths, SRS data is based on a sample survey.

Source: HT

Court hands life term to Yasin Malik in terror-funding case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A Delhi court on Wednesday, May 25, awarded life imprisonment to Yasin Malik, one of the foremost separatist leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, in a terror funding case, saying the crimes were intended to strike at the "heart of the idea of India" and intended to forcefully secede J&K from Union of India.

Special Judge Praveen Singh awarded varying jail terms to Malik for offences under the stringent anti-terror law—Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the IPC, rejecting the NIA's plea for capital punishment.

He said the crimes for which Malik was convicted were of very serious nature.

"These crimes were intended to strike at the heart of the idea of India and intended to forcefully secede J&K from UOI. The crime becomes more serious as it was committed with the assistance of foreign powers and designated terrorists. The seriousness of crime is further increased by the fact that it was committed behind the smokescreen of an alleged peaceful political movement," the judge said.

The judge said the manner in which the crimes were committed was in the form of conspiracy whereby there was an attempted insurrection by instigating, stone pelting and arson, and a very large-scale violence led to shutting of the government machinery.

He, however, noted that the manner of the commission of crime, the kind of weaponry that was used, led him to a



Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik surrounded by security personnel at Patiala house court in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Tribune Photo

conclusion that the crime in question would fail the test of rarest of rare case as laid down by the Supreme Court.

The court sentenced the JKLF leader to life in jail for two offences under Section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) of IPC and Section 17 (raising funds for terrorist act) of the UAPA.

During the hearing, Malik contended he had given up violence in the year 1994.

"After the ceasefire in the year 1994, he had declared that he would follow the peaceful path of Mahatma Gandhi and engage in a non-violent political struggle. He has further contended that since then there is no evidence against him that in the last 28 years he had provided any hideout to any militant or had provided any logistic support to any terrorist organisation," the court noted from Malik's submission.

Source: PTI

India in history this Week

MAY 27, 2022, TO JUNE 2, 2022

27 MAY



1964 Jawaharlal Nehru, formerly known as the first Prime Minister of independent India and the founder of modern India, died. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 11 times.

1962 Ravi Shastri, the most prolific all-rounder of the Indian cricket team, was born on this day.

2008 The central government has withdrawn the ban imposed on cement exports.

2016 Hungapan Dada, a brave soldier of the Indian Army, died. He was posthumously awarded the 'Ashoka Chakra'.

2010 India successfully test-fired the Dhanush and Prithvi 2 missile equipped with nuclear technology at Balasora district in Chandipur, Odisha. Prithvi 2 missile is an earth-to-earth ballistic missile with a range of 350 km. While Dhanush is the naval version of the Prithvi missile.

28 MAY

1883 Birth of Hindutva leader and poet Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.



1923 The birth of Nandamuri Tarak Rama Rao, one of the most popular names in South India. After achieving immense success in films, NTR took a political stance and held the post of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh three times.

1970 The All India Trade Union Congress was formally partitioned.

1989 Marthakavali David became the first woman Christian priest of India and second in the world.

1996 Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigned.

29 MAY

1987 Former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh died on 29 May.

1972 Prithviraj Kapoor, who had a distinct identity in Indian cinema, passed away.



1865 Ramanand Chatterjee, the leading personality of the journalism world, was born.

1906 Eminent Hindi essayist Kanhaiyalal Mishra Prabhakar was born.

1936 Gandhiji's son changed his religion and gave birth to a new controversy.

1968 Famous Wrestler Dara Singh set a record as a world wrestling champion.

30 MAY

1867 Dar-ul-Uloom was established in 1867 in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh.

1919 Rabindranath Tagore returned the title 'Sir' in 1919 in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

1987 Goa became the 25th full state in the country.



2012 Vishwanathan Anand became the World Chess Champion for the fifth time in 2012.

1909 Pandit Mukharam Sharma, the famous legend, screenplay and story writer of Indian Hindi films, was born in 1909.

1606 Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, died.

1991 Umashankar Dixit, a pioneer of the Indian Independence Movement, a priest of humanity and a pioneer of nationalism, died in 1991.

1955 N. M. Joshi died in 1955. He was the father of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India.

31 MAY

1774 The first postal service office was opened in India in 1774.

1867 Praya Samaj was established in Bombay in 1867.

1921 The flag of the Indian National Congress was adopted in 1921.

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



1964 The electric tram last ran in Bombay in 1964.

2010 The law to reserve 25% seats for poor children in every private school recognized in India was enacted in 2010.

1577 Noor Jahan, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, was born.

1725 One of the heroines of India, Ahilyabai Holkar was born.

1931 Purn Singh, one of the distinguished essayists of India, died.

1988 India's famous politician, freedom fighter, journalist, litterateur and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dwarka Prasad Mishra died in 1988.

1942 Vinod Mehta, founder and famous journalist of Outlook was born.

01 JUNE

1819 Establishment of Serampore College in Bengal.

1835 Calcutta Medical College commenced functioning.

1874 The East India Company was dissolved.



1929 Birth of Nargis Dutt, who played the most memorable mother of Hindi films in the film Mother India.

1930 India's first deluxe train Deccan Queen was introduced between Bombay VT and Pune.

1955 The Untouchability (Prevention) Act came into existence.

02 JUNE

1988 Bollywood's legendary actor, director, producer and showman Raj Kapoor died on this day.



2014 Telangana officially became the 29th state of India.

1908 Sir Aurobindo was arrested in the Maniktola bombings.

1956 Mani Ratnam was born in Tamil and Hindi cinema's finest filmmakers. Very few people know that his full name is Gopal Ratnam Subramaniam.

1756 British stronghold Fort William in Bengal was surrendered to Siraj-ud-Daulah

1900 The demise of Shri Ram Sharma Acharya, a freedom fighter, social reformer and leader.

Imran Khan leads rally for early polls, supporters detained

ISLAMABAD (PTI) : A defiant former PM, Imran Khan, on May 25 marched towards Islamabad with hundreds of his supporters who were removing the barricades placed by the government to stop them, even as Pakistan's Supreme Court directed the authorities to allow the protest rally in the national capital and restrained them from arresting Khan.

A THREE-MEMBER BENCH ORDERED THAT THE GROUND BETWEEN G-9 AND H-9 SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE RALLY BY PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF (PTI).

Issuing directions on a petition filed on May 24 by Islamabad High Court Bar Association President Mohammad Shoaib Shaheen, the court also ordered a bipartisan committee of the government and PTI to settle the terms and conditions for holding the rally in a peaceful manner.

Meanwhile, Khan in the evening said his long march had entered Punjab and was heading towards Islamabad. He started his march from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with a large caravan to demand the removal of the government and an immediate national election.

"No amount of state oppression and fascism by this imported government can stop or deter our march," tweeted the 69-year-old former premier, who has been



leading the march mounting on a truck.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to social media to oppose the protest launched by Khan to force early elections.

"It has been my conviction that Pakistan will progress only through sheer hard work. Politics of dharna is detrimental to progress & stability," he said. His statement came as Khan told his followers to reach the D-Chowk in Islamabad. He announced a sit-in until the government announced early elections.

Khan was ousted from power last month through a no-trust vote. The

authorities had blocked major roads leading to Islamabad using shipping containers and trucks and arrested several supporters of Khan in a bid to derail the march.

Earlier in the morning, the police fired teargas and chased Khan's supporters who hurled stones near Lahore, leaving several injured. The clashes between the police and Khan's supporters were also reported at several places.

A crackdown started in various cities and the police arrested hundreds of PTI workers and some of its leaders to stop them from joining the protest known as "Azadi March". (PTI)

Pakistan condemns sentencing of Yasin Malik by Indian court in terror funding case

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on Wednesday condemned the sentencing of Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik by an Indian court in a terror funding case, saying Islamabad will continue to provide all possible support to the Kashmiris.

A Delhi court on May 25 handed out life sentence to sentenced Malik, one of the foremost separatist leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the crimes were intended to strike at the "heart of the idea of India" and intended to forcefully secede J&K from Union of India.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said "India can imprison Yasin Malik physically but it can never imprison the idea of freedom he symbolises. Life imprisonment for valiant freedom fighters will provide fresh impetus to Kashmiris' right to self-determination."

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who had written to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet asking her to urge India to acquit Malik from all charges, "strongly" condemned the sentencing.

"Pakistan stands with Kashmiri brothers and sisters, will continue to



provide all possible support in their just struggle," he said in a tweet.

Pakistan Army Spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar also condemned the life sentence given to Malik on what he called "fabricated charges." He said such "oppressive tactics cannot dampen the spirit of people of Kashmir in their just struggle".

The Foreign Office summoned the Indian Charge d'Affaires here and conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation of the sentence given to Malik.

It said that the international community must take immediate stock of

the "aggravating situation" in Kashmir and press India to fulfill its obligations under the international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The Foreign Office in a statement earlier said that the foreign minister, as part of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in Kashmir, sent the letter to Bachelet on May 24.

The Foreign Minister urged the High Commissioner and the Human Rights Council to take immediate cognisance of India's targeting of indigenous Kashmiri leadership through motivated cases, particularly the treatment meted out by Malik.

Separately, Foreign Minister Bilawal has written a letter to the Secretary-General of the OIC, Hissein Brahim Taha, apprising him of the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Kashmir.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. (PTI)

WORLD BANK RULES OUT BRIDGE FINANCING TO CRISIS-HIT SRI LANKA

COLOMBO (TIP): The World Bank has ruled out bridge financing or new loan commitments to crisis-hit Sri Lanka until the island nation's economy sets up an adequate macroeconomic policy framework, the global lender has said.

The statement by the World Bank came on May 24 following reports that the Washington-based institution was planning to support Sri Lanka to overcome the financial crisis in the form of a bridge loan or new loan commitments.

However, the Bank has said that they are reshuffling the already allocated resources to provide essential medicines and other cash assistance to the vulnerable.

"Recent media reports have inaccurately stated that the World Bank is planning support for Sri Lanka in the form of a bridge loan or new loan commitments, among other incorrect assertions," the Bank said in a statement.

"We are concerned for the people of Sri Lanka and are working in coordination with the IMF and other development partners in advising on appropriate policies to restore economic stability and broad-based growth. Until an adequate macroeconomic policy framework is in place, the World Bank does not plan to offer new financing to Sri Lanka," it said.

It expressed hope that Sri Lanka is making continuous efforts towards economic stability.

"We are currently repurposing resources from previously approved projects to help the government with some essential medicines, temporary cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households, school meals for children of vulnerable families, and support for farmers and small businesses," the statement said.

Sri Lanka is nearing bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas to toilet paper and matchsticks. For months, people have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks.

Sri Lanka has suspended repayment of about USD 7 billion in foreign loans due this year out of USD 25 billion to be repaid by 2026. The country's total foreign debt is USD 51 billion.

Sri Lanka in the midst of its worst economic crisis has started a negotiating program with the IMF.

The island however is in need of USD 4-5 billion bridging finance to arrest the crisis where shortages of essentials had led to street rioting.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis has created political unrest with a protest occupying the entrance to the president's office demanding his resignation continuing for the past 40 days. The crisis has already forced prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, to resign on May 9. (PTI)

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This year, the Memorial Day falls on May 30



Memorial Day is considered a federal holiday in the United States in which we honor and mourn members of the military who have passed while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

WHEN IS MEMORIAL DAY 2022?

Men and women who've served and sacrificed their lives in the U.S. Armed Forces are honored on Memorial Day on May 30.

The history of Memorial Day

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day began with an idea from General John Logan as a way to honor the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. The first celebration on May 30, 1868, was held at Arlington National Cemetery with a crowd of 5,000 people decorating the graves of over 20,000 military personnel with flowers. Most experts believe General Logan planned the first Decoration Day for that day because Northern and Southern states would have flowers in bloom by then, though others believe the date was ideal because it didn't coincide with the anniversary of any battles.

Various Washington officials, including General Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home, among others, made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers, and singing hymns.

Many also came prepared with a picnic lunch.

It wasn't until after World War I that Memorial Day was expanded to honor all veterans who died in any American war. In 1971, Decoration Day became officially known as Memorial Day and Congress passed an act declaring it a national holiday. That same year, Memorial Day was moved from May 30 to the last Monday in May by President Lyndon B. Johnson. "This will...enable families who live some distance apart to spend more time together," President Johnson noted in his official statement regarding what is now known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

New York was the first state to declare Memorial Day an official holiday, followed by other northern states, but the southern states had their own designated day to honor fallen Confederate soldiers. The observances remained separate until the completion of World War I, when Memorial Day was changed to honoring the fallen Americans who fought in any war. Some southern states continue to honor the Confederate dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Georgia; May 10 in North and South Carolina; and June 3 in Louisiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Why don't we say "Happy Memorial Day"?

While it's tempting to say "Happy

Memorial Day", and you may not have ill intent when saying it, it's important to remember the meaning of the holiday before you say this. Memorial Day is a day to honor those who sacrificed their lives while serving in the military. As the Code of Support Foundation points out, it's a deeply personal day for many who lost loved ones in the service. Some think saying "Happy Memorial Day" puts the holiday is a more cheerful light, as opposed to the day of honor and remembrance it's meant to be. Instead of saying "Happy Memorial Day," the Code of Support Foundation offers an alternative phrase: "I wish you a meaningful Memorial Day."

Memorial Day traditions

There are a number of Memorial Day activities that families enjoy participating in every year, but there are also a few meaningful Memorial Day traditions you can honor.

Memorial Day poppies

People wear poppies to honor America's war dead in a Memorial Day tradition that dates back to the poem "In Flanders Fields," written in 1915 by John McCrae. Inspired by the poem's image of red poppies scattered through cross-shaped grave markers, American Moina Michael and France's Anna E. Guerin started selling artificial poppies as a fundraiser for children affected by the war. Now, many Americans pin a poppy on their shirt as a sign of

BY THE NUMBERS

- 620,000 – the number of soldiers who died on both sides of the Civil War.
- 1868 – the year when President James Garfield delivered a very long speech on Memorial Day.
- 2500 – the number of motorcyclists who participated in the first Rolling Thunder rally.
- \$1.5 billion – the number of dollars typically spent on meat and seafood in preparation for Memorial Day weekend.
- 60% – the percentage of American households who attend or host a barbecue on this day.
- 1.5 million – the number of people who watch the National Memorial Day Parade.
- 900,000 – the number of people who gathered for the Rolling Thunder Memorial Day motorcycle rally in 2019.
- 260,000 – the number of graves at Arlington National Cemetery adorned with flags in 2019.
- 45 million – the number of men and women who have served in a time of war for the U.S.
- 3 P.M. – the time of day when a moment of silence is observed by Americans throughout the country on this day.



respect.

National Moment of Remembrance

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, President Bill Clinton signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act" in December of 2000. The law encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Hang your flag at half staff

Federal guidelines say the flag should be displayed at half-staff only until noon, then go up to full-staff until sundown.

Playing "Taps"

During the Civil War, a U.S. general thought the bugle call signaling bedtime could use a more melodious tune, so he wrote the notes for "Taps" in 1862. Another officer later used the bugle song for a funeral, fearing the traditional firing of rifles might sound like an attack. Now, "Taps" is a

Continued on P19

From P18



traditional part of Memorial Day celebrations.

Visit a local veterans cemetery

Some of the graves in a veteran cemetery are well maintained and decorated by families. Bring flowers and lay them by a grave that doesn't have any.

HOW TO OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY

Pay your respects

Lay flowers on the grave of a family member or friend who died while serving. If you don't personally know any fallen soldiers, visit a local cemetery anyway. After all, they made the ultimate sacrifice for you.

Participate in the National Moment of Remembrance

By doing so, you'll be joining millions of Americans in national unity to honor Memorial Day for what it truly is — a day to remember those who laid down their lives in service of their country and its citizens.

Fly the flag

If you have an American flag at home, be sure to fly it at half-mast until noon, then raise it to full mast for the rest of the day. The practice of lowering and then raising the flag has been observed for over 100 years to symbolize America's persistence in the face of loss.

CREATIVE WAYS TO DECORATE FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Unfurl those flags

Often people store their American flags and raise them only during patriotic holidays. This is definitely one of those days.

Line your walkway with mini flags

Nothing honors our deceased veterans like dozens (or even hundreds) of flags in your front lawn and entryway.

Red, white, and blue layered cake

It's a decoration you can eat.

Stars and Stripes windsocks

It's festive, fun, and patriotic. Need we say more?

Symbolic flowers

Even if you haven't lost a loved one who served in the military, you can still honor the fallen with flowers at home. Red, navy, and blue dahlias combined with white rose silk flowers can make a stunning visual combination.

WHY MEMORIAL DAY IS IMPORTANT

Reflection

While the outdoor grilling, parades, and beautiful summer weather are some of our favorite perks of Memorial Day, the last Monday in May is the best time of year to quietly reflect on the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They make us feel inspired and challenged to be better — and that's a wonderful feeling!

Summer — almost

We know, we know — summer officially begins on June 21. But in the minds of all Americans, summer actually begins on Memorial Day. That means it's totally okay to dust off the grill, fill up the pool, and unplug.

Family

Since Memorial Day is a federal holiday with a built-in three-day weekend, we have an extra day to catch up on quality time with family members. For those of us with relatives who died while serving in the military, Memorial Day is sacred.

2022 Memorial Day Events

Arlington National Cemetery

The Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony takes place at the Amphitheater. The president of the United States typically delivers an address at the Memorial Day ceremony. Numerous military and government organizations also conduct services. All ceremonies and special events are free and open to the public.

National Memorial Day Concert

The National Memorial Day Concert

MEMORIAL DAY TIMELINE

1864: Beginning of a Tradition



Women from Pennsylvania place flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers after the Battle of Gettysburg.

May 5, 1866: Birthplace of Memorial Day

Waterloo, New York, begins hosting an annual community service in remembrance of soldiers whose lives were lost.

May 5, 1868: It's Official

Major General John A. Logan issues General Order No.11, making the day official.

2020: Virtual Solidarity

The organization American Veterans (AMVETS) holds a virtual motorcycle rally in honor of Memorial Day.

will be broadcast on Sunday, May 29, 2022, at 8 p.m. Eastern.

National Memorial Day Parade

Hosted by the American Veterans Center, the National Memorial Day Parade returns in person for 2022 along Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. The event begins at 2 p.m. Monday, May 30, 2022.

National WWI Museum and Memorial

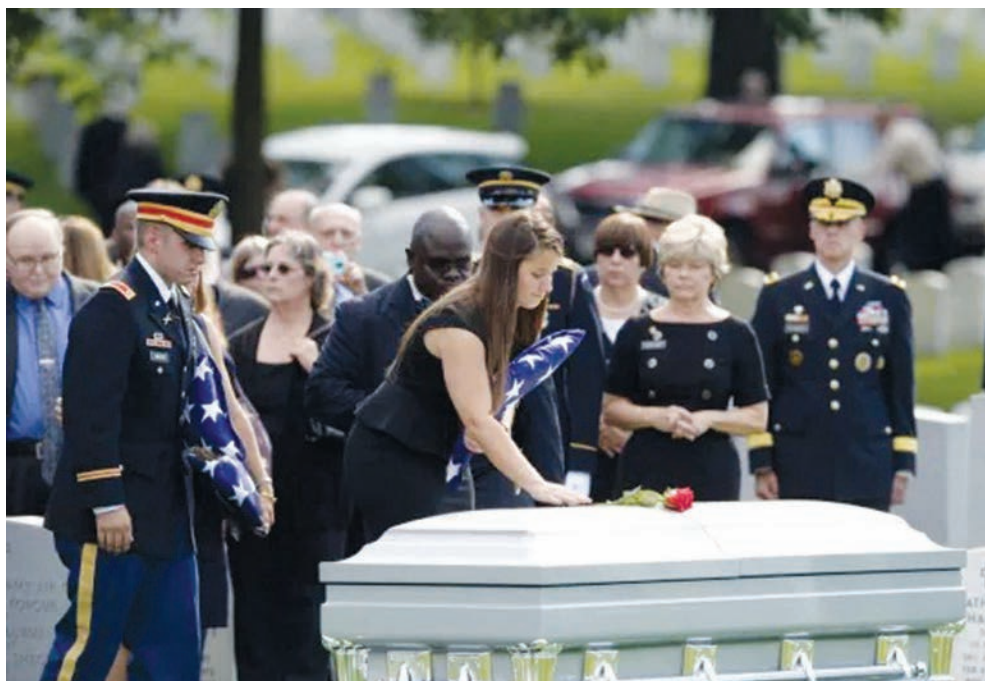
The National WWI Museum and Memorial's annual ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri, will feature keynote speaker Retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan. It takes place from 10-11 a.m. Monday, May 30, 2022, and is free to the public. The museum is also hosting a slate of other events and observances on Memorial Day and during the days leading up to the holiday.

"Rolling To Remember" rally

A series of events to honor the nation's prisoners of war and missing-in-action is set to take place over the Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C. The "Rolling To Remember" rally is scheduled to conclude with a ride by thousands of bikers from RFK to the National Mall on Sunday, May 29. The motorcycle demonstration ride, hosted by AMVETS, is also a call for action to prevent veteran suicides.

Heroes Honor Festival

The Heroes Honor Festival, hosted by military-empowerment nonprofit Engage Your Destiny and sponsored by Fox Nation, takes place at Daytona Speedway in Florida on May 27-28. The event, with planned appearances by Gov. Ron DeSantis and entertainers Toby Keith and Ann-Margret, is free for veterans and their families.





Jacqueline shakes leg with child star

Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez who is known for her dancing skills, recently shook a leg with child actress Aadya Sharma, who plays Dance Rani in social thriller 'Escapade Live'.

The 'Kick' actress took to her Instagram to share a video of herself where she can be seen showing the young talent some of her signature moves, Jacqueline Fernandez opened the platform to Dance Rani, who then added her twists to the thumping choreography. With dynamic energy and joyful spirits, the duo offered the audience a glance at the spectacular dance duet.

Jacqueline wrote in the caption, "#EscapadeLive ki sabse choti magar sabse talented, Dance rani ke saath faceoff karke mujhe toh bahut maza aaya! Aap bhi iski story follow kijiye."

Aishwarya Rai's modelling bill from '92 surfaces; she was paid Rs 1,500!

A copy of actress and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's modelling invoice from the initial phase of her career has surfaced on the internet.

The bill dates back to May 23, 1992, roughly two years before she won the coveted Miss World title in 1994. It shows that the actress received Rs 1,500 in lieu of her work for a magazine shoot.

A copy of the bill shared by a Reddit user details the nature of contract and work that the 'Guru' actress undertook.

It specifies that Aishwarya, who was "aged about 18 years" at the time, "agreed to work as a model" for a firm called Krupa Kreations for a magazine catalogue shoot. The bill carries her signature at the bottom, and tells that the deal was signed in Mumbai.

A Twitter user named Vimal Upadhyay shared pictures from the magazine shoot on Twitter in a series of tweets, complete with the catalogue photos and the magazine cover.

One of the tweets read, "Hello, Today I am celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Fashion Catalogue published by me. Aishwarya Rai, Sonali Bendre, Niki Aneja, Tejaswini Kolhapure were few of the models posed for this Catalogue (sic)." Meanwhile, Aishwarya recently marked her 21st appearance at the ongoing 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, where she is a regular fixture at the red carpet.

Source: IANS



Sonnalli Seygall: People assume I don't eat food, it's amusing and sad

Sonnalli Seygall is one of the fittest actors in Bollywood and shares a deep connection with food. One might not believe that she is a foodie in real life but we don't blame anyone. Narrating a funny incident at a friend's house, Sonnalli recently shared with Hindustan Times how people assume she doesn't eat food and survives on salad.

She said, "Once I had the funniest incident. I was invited for lunch by one of my friends, rather a new friend. She told me 'My mom has cooked for you please come.' I went without having my food because of course when someone invites you over you, don't eat from your house and go. I went straight to her place from my workout class. They served me carrot juice, shots made out of ginger and herbs, and different types of salad. I had all that and I was waiting for the main course. Then I realised that lunch was over. Turns out they ate daal chawal before me. Their reaction was 'But you must not eat dal chawal na'. I told them to give me whatever they ate."

"They assumed that I don't eat food or carbs, it amuses me and makes me sad at the same time. People have such wrong ideas about food and diet. Hence I have started vlogging about fitness and health," Sonnalli said.

Source: HT



Raai Laxmi recalls shooting for 'DJ Been Bajade'

Actress Raai Laxmi who was seen in the music video 'DJ Been Bajade' shares about working on a Sajid-Wajid song for the first time. The music video is choreographed and directed by Mudassar Khan and presented by Taaleem Music.

'DJ Been Bajade' has been composed by Sajid-Wajid.

Sharing her experience, Laxmi said, "It's my first time working on a Sajid-Wajid song and it has been really amazing. DJ Been Bajade presents a new genre of Naagin songs that Sajid has created and the song just got me hooked ever since I first heard it. My choreographer for the song is Mudassar Khan and it was my second time working with him."

"He is fantastic as always and his vision is always fun to translate on-screen. This is my first Bollywood single and it's already trending everywhere. It's a very peppy number and I just love that I got to explore my dancing skills more here. It was indeed a great experience and the audience's reception to it has made it better."

The song is sung by Sajid and Purva Mantri, with lyrics are written by Danish Sabri.

Meanwhile, professionally Laxmi has some interesting projects in the pipeline across four languages and she will also be seen showing her amazing dancing skills in yet another big-budget Tamil film.





Laura Dern defends age gap between her and Sam Neill in 'Jurassic Park'

Actress Laura Dern thinks that the age gap between her character and Sam Neill in "Jurassic Park" was "appropriate at the time." Starring alongside the 74-year-old actor as the romantic leads in the dinosaur blockbuster back in 1993, the actress has now commented that their 20-year age gap was only appropriate back when the movie was made, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). The 55-year-old star also expressed her shock that the media picked up on it. "At the time, the age gap was a completely appropriate age difference for a leading man and lady!" she said. "It never occurred to me until I opened a magazine and there was an article called 'Old geezers and gals'. People like Harrison Ford and Sean Connery acting with much younger people.

Warner Bros. considered replacing Amber Heard in 'Aquaman 2'

The president of DC Films testified Tuesday that the studio considered replacing Amber Heard for "Aquaman 2" out of concern that she lacked chemistry with star Jason Momoa.

Heard was ultimately cast in the sequel, but her lawyers have argued that she nearly lost the job and could not renegotiate for more money due to the backlash over her domestic abuse allegations against Johnny Depp. Heard is seeking \$100 million in a defamation counterclaim against Depp.

Walter Hamada, the head of Warner Bros.' DC unit, was the first witness called by Depp's side as they begin their rebuttal of Heard's counterclaim in court in Fairfax, Va. Appearing by video deposition, Hamada testified that the abuse allegations played no role in casting decisions in "Aquaman 2."

However, he said the studio did delay picking up its option for several weeks as it considered whether to recast the role of Mera, who was Aquaman's love interest in the first film.

"They didn't have a lot of chemistry together," Hamada said. "Editorially they were able to make that relationship work in the first movie, but there was a concern that it took a lot of effort to get there."

Hamada said that the chemistry was created in post-production, using "movie magic," including the film's score. He said it is not uncommon for two leads to lack chemistry. "You know it when you see it, and the chemistry wasn't there," he said.

Heard was paid \$1 million for the first "Aquaman," and \$2 million for the sequel. That pay was consistent with her original contract, but Heard's agent has testified that she should have been able to renegotiate for more money due to the global success of the first film. However, Hamada testified that under his leadership at DC Films, he has made a point of not automatically renegotiating for sequels.



'Top Gun' Tom Cruise engages in dogfight with 'The Late Late Show' host James Corden

Hollywood star Tom Cruise recently took 'The Late Late Show' host James Corden aboard a plane in a special video, four years after he asked the latter to jump out of one, reports 'Deadline'. The actor picked up Corden, who revealed he was leaving the late-night world in April, for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the desert, piloting him in a vintage fighter plane for the afternoon. In the video, Tom can be heard saying, "I'm very excited that James is doing this. Was he the first late-night show I asked? Hell, no. He was just the first one the only one who said yes." As per 'Deadline', Cruise and Corden then ended up in a dogfight in the classic plane. Just when Corden thinks he's survived, Cruise informs him the two will be going up again - this

time in a jet fit for modern aerial warfare.

First, however, is the Top Gun training. "You are my goose," says Cruise. "When you say I am your Goose, it makes me feel excited and then I realize that Goose dies at the end of the film," replies Corden. Corden, who is better known for driving with celebrities in cars around LA rather than planes in the desert, and Cruise do get to bust out a few bars of Kenny Loggins' classic Top Gun tune Danger Zone during their overnight campfire stay. "This is crazy," says Corden, not underplaying the situation, which makes for a perfect Late Late Show viral segment. "You can be my wingman, anytime," concludes Cruise as they disembark. "You know what? I think I'm good," laughs Corden.



TRIBECA RETURNS @ 21

BY MABEL PAIS

The Tribeca Film Festival of New York (c) is here once again! Launching its 21st edition, the 2022 Tribeca Festival™ has a lineup of feature and short narrative, documentary, and animated films. The Festival takes place from June 8-19 and spotlights everything from breakout independent shorts to renowned global features.

The features program spans ten categories - narrative competitions, topical documentaries, anticipated new films - and showcases 111 feature films and 16 online premieres from 151 filmmakers across 40 countries. The lineup includes 88 world premieres, 2 international premieres, 7 North American premieres, 2 U.S. premieres, and 11 New York premieres. There are 32 directors returning to Tribeca with their latest projects, and 50 first-time directors. More than 64% (81) of the feature films are directed by female, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ filmmakers - 46% (58) female directors, 34% (43) BIPOC directors, 8% (10) LGBTQ+ directors.

This year, Tribeca also presents a series of exciting live conversations and performances. Among many special appearances and conversations, the Festival will also host members of the Women's National Basketball Association's (WNBA) New York Liberty squad.

OPENING, CLOSING, CENTERPIECE FILMS



SHE'S BACK IN THE NEW YORK GROOVE

Opening Film, Poster

Photo / TribecaFilm.com/Festival

The Tribeca Festival™ opens on June 8 with the world premiere of HALFTIME, a Netflix documentary by director and Tribeca alum Amanda Micheli that follows global superstar Jennifer Lopez, as she reflects on her milestones and evolution as an artist, and navigates the second half of her career.



Closing Film

Photo / TribecaFilm.com/Festival

The Festival closes on June 18 with the world premiere of the documentary LOUDMOUTH, written and directed by Josh Alexander. The Reverend Al Sharpton, who has been at the center of the national conversation around race since the late

1980s, and who is the blazing subject of this extraordinary film, will participate in a conversation following the screening.

The 2022 Tribeca Festival™ VENGEANCE Vengeance as its Centerpiece Gala selection. The world premiere is set to take place Sunday, June 12. B.J. Novak's feature directorial debut, Vengeance is a darkly comedic thriller about a journalist who travels from New York City to West Texas to investigate the mysterious death of a young woman. Novak stars in an ensemble cast.

"This 2022 feature film program leaves us proud and humbled by the boundless ingenuity and passion of our indefatigable filmmaking community," said Festival Director and VP of Programming Cara Cusumano. "Whether a comedic breath of fresh air or a trenchant expose of the most urgent contemporary issues, this year's official selections again remind us of the vitality and urgency of independent film in a world that needs it more than ever."

SHORTS

This year's shorts program, in partnership with Meta, includes 43 shorts in competition, 10 music videos, 9 Tribeca Online Premieres, and 18 special screening shorts from 25 countries worldwide. Recipients of the Tribeca Festival awards for Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short, and Best Animated Short qualify for consideration in the Academy Awards' Short Films category, provided the film complies with Academy rules. Tribeca also grants a Student Visionary Award to a rising filmmaker with emerging talent and potential. The shorts will be presented in 9 distinct thematic programs.

"We're excited to have music videos in our programming, and curated a crazy late-night program - one about love in all shapes and sizes, and a peaceful program where our audience can just escape and chill out. Each year my co-programmer Ben Thompson and I try to do something different, and this year is no exception," said Tribeca Vice President of Filmmaker Relations and Shorts Programming Sharon Badal.

TRIBECA AT HOME

Additionally, the 'Tribeca at Home' platform will allow U.S. audiences to enjoy an array of thought-provoking and compelling narrative, documentary, and short films, online from June 9 through June 26.

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION

Tribeca's U.S. Narrative Competition showcases extraordinary world premieres that will vie for the Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature, and the Awards for Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Performance.

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

The New-York based Festival breaks its geographical boundaries with the International Narrative Competition, welcoming filmmakers from abroad to join a global platform for contemporary world cinema. These films will compete for Best Narrative Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Performance.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Over Tribeca's 20-year history, the non-fiction film selections have exhibited work from emerging and renowned filmmakers, including future Academy

Award® winners. This year's films will compete for Best Documentary Feature, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing.

SPOTLIGHT NARRATIVE

Anticipated premieres from acclaimed filmmakers and performers are the focus of the Spotlight Narrative section which continues to be a launching pad for the most buzzworthy new films.

SPOTLIGHT DOCUMENTARY

Documentaries consistently make waves at Tribeca as notable filmmakers and major stories are represented in this section through high-profile premieres.

VIEWPOINTS

Viewpoints, which includes narratives and documentaries, recognizes distinct voices in independent filmmaking by creating a home for bold directorial visions and embracing distinct characters and points of view.

MIDNIGHT

Always surprising and boundary-pushing, Tribeca Midnight is the destination for the best in horror and genre discoveries.

MIDNIGHT: TRIBECXPLOITATION! Grindhouse IS Art House

A series of Cult Classics, shot right here on the Mean Streets of NYC and presented in glorious color by their directors; the incredible Abel Ferrara, Roberta Findlay, and Frank Henenlotter!

MOVIES PLUS

Tribeca's unique Movies Plus events bring the film experience off the screen with live conversations and performances after each screening.

TRIBECA CRITICS' WEEK

Tribeca Critics' Week presents a curated slate of feature films from critics including Inkoo Kang of The Washington Post, Chris Murphy of Vanity Fair, Tambay Obenson and Eric Kohn of IndieWire, and Jourdain Searles writer for Bitch Media, Okayplayer, and The Hollywood Reporter.

TRIBECA ONLINE PREMIERES:

A selection of compelling films will be available for U.S. online audiences.

For more updates on the complete list of programming for the 2022 Tribeca Festival in the coming days, follow @Tribeca and #Tribeca2022 on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and at tribecafilm.com/festival.

The Tribeca Festival

The Tribeca Festival™ brings artists and diverse audiences together to celebrate storytelling in all its forms, including film, TV, VR, gaming, music, and online work. With strong roots in independent film, Tribeca is a platform for creative expression and immersive entertainment. Tribeca champions emerging and established voices; discovers award-winning filmmakers and creators; curates innovative experiences; and introduces new technology and ideas through premieres, exhibitions, talks, and live performances.

For more information, visit tribecafilm.com/festival
(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Cuisine, Health & Wellness and Spirituality)

HASAN MINHAJ RETURNS AS THE KING'S JESTER

BY MABEL PAIS

Hasan Minhaj is welcomed by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) with a brand-new one-man show, 'The King's Jester.' This one-man show will mark the comedian's return to his storytelling roots four years following the global success of his Netflix Comedy Special 'Homecoming King' which garnered rave reviews and won a 2018 Peabody Award.

Hasan Minhaj was the host and creator of the weekly comedy show 'Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj' that premiered on Netflix in October 2018. The series explored the modern cultural and political landscape with depth and sincerity through his unique comedic voice. The show received a 2019 Peabody Award, a 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for "Outstanding Motion Design," and was recognized for a 2020 Television Academy Honor.

In 2017, Minhaj earned rave reviews for his performance hosting the 2017 White House Correspondents' Dinner, and for his one-hour Netflix comedy special 'Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King,' which earned him a 2018 Peabody Award. A first generation American, Minhaj joined 'The Daily Show' (Comedy Central) with Jon Stewart as a correspondent in November 2014, where he was Jon's last hire. He continued on in that role after Trevor Noah took over as host the following year and remained on the show through August 2018.

He's the co-founder and chief executive officer for 186K Films that will produce its first feature 'For The Culture' with Amazon Studios. Minhaj is co-writing the script with Prashanth Venkataramanujam and will star in the film.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Victoria Theater Lizzie & Jonathan Tisch Stage, NJPAC

Saturday, June 4th at 7:00 PM and 10PM

Sunday, June 5th at 8:00 PM

TICKETS

For Updates & Tickets to the performance, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102 or call 888.GO.NJPAC



Hasan Minhaj

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

(888.466.5722).

SECURITY & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

This event will be a phone-free experience. Use of phones will not be permitted in the performance space. For more information, visit NJPAC.org

For COVID Safety protocols, visit the website for updated attendance requirements.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., has the most diverse programming and audience of any performing arts center in the country, and is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts.

NJPAC has attracted more than 9 million visitors (including over 1.7 million children and families) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and



Hasan Minhaj in 'The King's Jester.'

Photo / Tyler Babin

lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

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Location and Directions:

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



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SENEGAL PRESIDENT SAYS 11 NEWBORN BABIES DIE IN FIRE AT REGIONAL HOSPITAL

DAKAR (TIP): Senegal's President Macky Sall said on May 25 that 11 newborn babies died in a fire at the neonatal section of a regional hospital in the town of Tivaouane, around 120 km (74.56 miles) east of the capital Dakar.

"I have just learned with pain and consternation the death of 11 newborn babies in the fire that occurred in the neonatology department of the Mame Abdou Aziz Sy Dabakh hospital in Tivaouane," Sall said in a tweet without giving further details about the fire.

"To their mothers and their families, I express my deepest sympathy," Sall, who is on a state visit in Angola, added.

Senegal's health minister, Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr, said on private Senegalese television TFM that "according to preliminary investigation, a short circuit triggered the fire".

Sarr, who is in Geneva for the World Health Assembly, said he would cut short the trip and return to Senegal immediately.

Demba Diop Sy, the mayor of Tivaouane, one of Senegal's holy cities and a transport hub, said police and fire service were still at the hospital, but did not provide further details. Reuters

DRILL AROUND TAIWAN TO WARN US: CHINA



BEIJING (TIP): China's military said on May 25 it recently conducted an exercise around Taiwan as a "solemn warning" against its "collusion" with the United States, Chinese state media reported.

US President Joe Biden angered China on Monday by appearing to signal a change in a US policy of "strategic ambiguity" on Taiwan by saying the United States would get involved militarily if China were to attack the island. But he said on Tuesday there was no change to US policy. The Chinese People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command said it had recently carried out a patrol and drill in the airspace and sea around Taiwan.

"This is a solemn warning against recent collusion between the United States and Taiwan," said spokesman for the command, Shi Yi said, according to state television. — Reuters

No need for patronising lectures, Xi tells UNHRC chief as she heads to Xinjiang to probe rights violations against Uygurs

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping on May 25 told visiting UNHRC chief Michelle Bachelet that no one can claim perfection in human rights protection and there is no need for patronising lectures, as he downplayed the allegations of massive human rights violations against Uygur Muslims and their mass incarcerations in the volatile Xinjiang province.

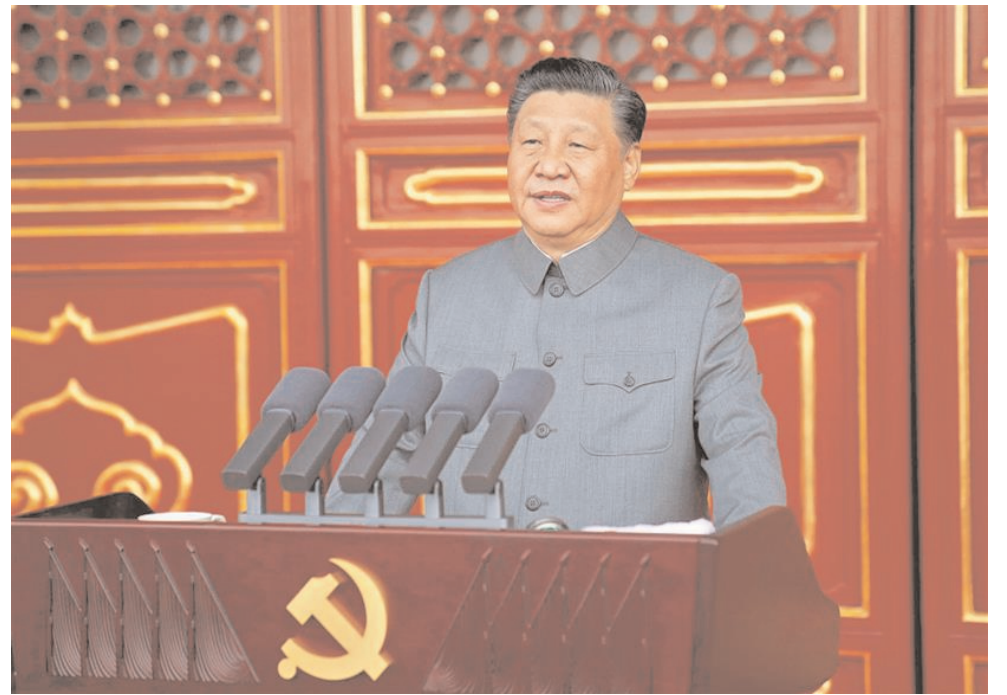
Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, arrived in Guangzhou on Monday after a long drawn out negotiation process with Beijing to probe the allegations of internment of over a million Uygur Muslims of different ages as part of its crackdown on Islamic militants.

China alleges that the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which is allegedly linked to radical outfits like al-Qaeda and Islamic State, actively fomented a separatist insurgency in Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, bordering Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan and several Central Asian countries.

Beijing terms the mass camps as re-education centres to impart skill education.

China has also been accused of carrying out a campaign of "sinicization" of Islam which broadly meant bringing it in tune with the policies of the ruling Communist Party.

In his meeting with Bachelet through a video link on Wednesday, President Xi elaborated on major issues related to the development of China's human rights cause and made it clear that the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government are committed to the comprehensive protection and safeguarding of human rights.



Xi pointed out that in terms of human rights protection, no one can claim perfection and there is always room for improvement, an official press release here said.

"When it comes to human rights issues, there is no such thing as a flawless utopia; countries do not need patronising lecturers; still less should human rights issues be politicised and used as a tool to apply double standards, or as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," he said in an apparent reference to the US and EU countries terming China's crackdown in Xinjiang as "genocide".

Earlier, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Bachelet in the southern city of Guangzhou and briefed her on China's stance.

In February, UN Secretary General

Antonio Guterres met with Xi and expressed his expectation that the Chinese authorities will allow for a credible visit of the UN High Commissioner to China, including Xinjiang.

Ahead of Bachelet's visit, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the purpose of the visit is to promote exchange and cooperation, not investigation based on the presumption of guilt. We oppose anyone to use this for political manipulation to pressure China".

Coinciding with Bachelet's visit, the BBC has released "huge cache of data" hacked from Chinese police computer servers in Xinjiang showing thousands of photographs of incarcerated Uygurs from the heart of China's highly secretive system as well as a shoot-to-kill policy for those who try to escape. (PTI)

75 people missing, one dead after migrant boat sinks off Tunisia

TUNIS (TIP): Seventy-five people were missing after a crowded boat of migrants sank off Tunisia on May 25, the International Organisation for Migration said and a security official said, as the numbers risking the dangerous crossing to Europe increase.

THE IOM SAID 24 PEOPLE HAD BEEN RESCUED FROM THE BOAT, WHICH DEPARTED FROM THE BEACHES OF ZAWARA IN LIBYA AND SANK OFF THE COAST OF SFAX.

A Tunisian security official told



Reuters that the coastguard had recovered a body as they continue to search for 75 others who were missing.

In recent months, dozens of people have drowned off the Tunisian coast, with an increase in the frequency of attempted crossings from Tunisia and Libya towards Italy.

Hundreds of thousands of people have made the perilous Mediterranean crossing in recent years.

Figures from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) showed that more than 1,23,000 migrants arrived in Italy in 2021, compared to more than 95,000 in 2020. (Reuters)

Quebec confirms 15 monkeypox cases, more expected elsewhere in Canada

TORONTO (TIP): The Canadian province of Quebec confirmed 15 cases of monkeypox as of Monday, the Quebec health department said on May 24, with more cases from other parts of the country expected.

Nearly 20 countries where monkeypox is not endemic have reported recent outbreaks of the viral disease, with more than 230 confirmed or suspected infections mostly in Europe.

Canada's federal health minister said more samples from other parts of the country were being sent to a laboratory in Winnipeg for testing.

"We expect more cases to be confirmed in the coming days," Jean-Yves Duclos said in a statement. It wasn't immediately clear what symptoms the people infected were showing, nor how serious their condition might be.

Monkeypox is a rare viral infection similar to human smallpox, though milder, first recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1970s. The number of cases in West Africa has increased in the last decade.

Canada confirmed its first two cases



of monkeypox last week after authorities in Quebec said they were investigating 17 suspected cases.

Duclos said the federal government began "pre-positioning of the vaccine Imvamune and therapeutics from our National Emergency Strategic Stockpile in jurisdictions across the country." A small shipment of the

Imvamune vaccine was sent to Quebec on Tuesday, he said.

"I want to reiterate to Canadians that this is a different situation than we saw ourselves in with the emergence of COVID-19," Duclos said, noting that unlike the coronavirus pandemic Canada has a supply of vaccines on hand already. (Reuters)

200 BODIES FOUND IN MARIUPOL AS WAR RAGES IN UKRAINE'S EAST

KYIV (TIP): Workers digging through rubble found 200 bodies in Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities said May 24, another grim discovery in the ruined port city that has seen some of the worst suffering of the 3-month-old war.

The bodies found in the basement of a collapsed apartment building were in a state of decomposition and a stench permeated the neighbourhood, said Petro Andryushchenko, an adviser to the city's mayor.

Mariupol, which the Russians recently claimed full control over, has endured some of the worst suffering of the war and became a worldwide symbol of defiance for the diehard defense put up for months by fighters at a steelworks.

The announcement of the discovery of the bodies came shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of waging "total war," seeking to inflict as much death and destruction as possible on his country.

"Indeed, there has not been such a war on the European continent for 77 years," Zelensky told Ukrainians Monday night, on the eve of the three-month anniversary of the start of the war. He pointed to a missile attack that killed 87 people last week in the town of Desna, 55 kilometers north of Kyiv, one of the deadliest single strikes in the war.

"And it was only four missiles," he said, noting the many hundreds of such strikes since the beginning of the war on Feb. 24. The conflict began with expectations that Russia might overtake the country in a blitz lasting only days or a few weeks. But stiff Ukrainian resistance, bolstered by Western weapons, has bogged down Moscow's troops, forcing them to pursue more a limited objective.

The Kremlin is now focused on the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas, where Russian forces have intensified efforts to encircle and capture Sievierodonetsk and neighboring cities, British military authorities said Tuesday. That's the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region that remains under Ukrainian government control. Russian forces have achieved "some localized successes" despite strong Ukrainian resistance along dug-in positions, the U.K. Defense Ministry said, but the fall of Sievierodonetsk and the area around it may cause logistical problems for the Russians.

"If the Donbas front line moves further west, this will extend Russian lines of communication and likely see its forces face further logistic resupply difficulties," the ministry said. In its effort to secure a victory in the Donbas, Moscow has withdrawn some forces from around Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv. (AP)

North Korea fires suspected ICBM and 2 other missiles: Seoul

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea test-launched a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile and two shorter-range weapons into the sea on May 25, South Korea said, hours after President Joe Biden ended a trip to Asia where he reaffirmed the US commitment to defend its allies in the face of the North's nuclear threat.

If confirmed, it would be North Korea's first ICBM launch in about two months amid stalled nuclear diplomacy with the United States. Breaking its 2018 moratorium on long-distance launches, North Korea in March claimed to have test-launched its longest-range missile as part of its development of functioning nuclear-armed missiles that can reach the American homeland.

The launches took place as North Korea made a much-disputed claim that its first domestic covid-19 outbreak was weakening.

After an emergency national security council meeting, the South Korean government said North Korea fired a suspected ICBM and two short-range ballistic missiles.

"North Korea's sustained provocations can only result in stronger and faster South Korea-US combined deterrence and can only deepen North Korea's international isolation," the South



Korean government statement said.

South Korea's military said the suspected ICBM reached a maximum height of 540 kilometres (335 miles) while traveling 360 kilometres (223 miles) east after being fired from the North's capital region.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North apparently lost the second missile 20 kilometres (12 miles) into flight, while the third missile flew 760 kilometres (472 miles) on an apogee of 60 kilometres (37

miles).

A JCS statement said the US and South Korean militaries fired two surface-to-surface missiles in response to demonstrate the allies' striking capabilities. It said the allies had detected North Korea's preparations for the launches in advance. It said South Korea's air force on Tuesday conducted an "elephant walk" involving 30, fully armed F-15K fighter jets parading along a runway in formation. (AP)

Stop making these makeup mistakes

We have all been there - forgotten to blend our eyeshadow correctly or used the wrong contour shade. Makeup beginners know what we are talking about. There are a few of these things that might be making you look older. We list down some dos and don'ts to ease the learning curve for you.

Foundation

Moisturise and use primer before application and match the foundation to your overall body tone, not just the skin on your face.

Concealer

Use a concealer that is one or two shades lighter than your foundation, not your skin. Do not conceal under-eye circles without using a corrector first.

Powder

Set the foundation with translucent setting powder and not powder foundation or compact.

Contour

Use a taupe matte bronzer for a natural-looking contour instead of a warm-toned bronzer.

Highlight

Highlight the high points of your face i.e. cheekbones, nose and cupid's bow, but steer clear of the apples of your cheeks, especially if you have large pores.

Blush

Apply blush to the apples of your cheeks and blend upwards, not below the apples.

Brows

Use a product that is a shade or two darker than your natural hair colour;



MAKEUP MISTAKES THAT MAKE YOU LOOK OLDER

- Applying too much concealer
- Overusing mascara on the lower lashes
- Selecting the wrong lipstick tone
- Applying dark eyeshadows the wrong way
- Overusing lower lid eyeliner
- Putting rouge on the apples of your cheeks
- Highlighting your eyebrows too much



but steer clear of black brow products altogether for that natural brow.

Eyes

Always prime eyelids for eyeshadow application, and use a warm-toned crease colour instead of a shimmery one.

Eyeliner

Use a pencil or gel eyeliner for precision and if you are going in for a cat eye, blend the eyeliner in for a

subtle lift. Always blend eyeliner on the lower lashline.

Lashes

Curl the lashes with a heated curler before mascara application. If you are going for falsies, pick the ones with a thinner band.

Lip Liner

Outline your lips using small strokes instead of dragging the liner across.



This is how your bedroom will help you sleep better

Get a good mattress

A good mattress is an investment in health. If your mattress is too hard or soft or lumpy, it will keep you up all night. Most people wake up with neck and muscle pain because of a bad mattress. It's a good idea to try out your mattress before paying the whole amount.

Make your room dark

We need a dark, calm environment to sleep better. Most modern devices like digital clocks, televisions, phones, light up your bedroom and interrupt sleep. Remove them from your bedroom or put them away in a drawer.

Cut off the noise

Is your fan and AC noisy? Is your room too hot or cold? Install a good thermostat to control the air temperature in your room.

Healing sounds

Play soft music - like soft wind chimes, birds chirping or even the sound of falling water in your bedroom. You could keep a small fountain near your bedside.

Get greens indoors

Keep a small plant on your dressing table or bedside to purify the air. This also increases humidity and helps you breathe better.

Why Vitamin C is good for your skin

Vitamin C is one of the most effective nutrients for your skin and is known for various benefits. Vitamin C infused in skincare products protects skin from sun damage and harmful rays. This ingredient also helps to smoothen out dark spots for a clearer skin. It helps to boost collagen production, which helps to hold the skin together, making it tighter and brighter. This ingredient also rejuvenates skin, keeping dryness at bay and improving skin's clarity and glow.



How to get Vitamin C

This vitamin can be included by various fruits like oranges, grapefruits, and lemons to name a few. A medium sized orange has about 70mg of Vitamin C, which is one of the popular sources. Apart from this many Vitamin C skincare products like serums, cream, lotions work great for topical use.

FOOD

CHEESE CHICKEN KEBAB

INGREDIENTS

200 gm chicken breasts, 3 tablespoon vegetable oil, 2 cup mozzarella, 3 cup yoghurt (curd), 2 tablespoon ginger paste, 1/2 cup chana dal, 2 tablespoon garlic paste, 5 green cardamom, salt as required, 10 peppercorns, 1/2 cup fresh cream, 2 tablespoon coriander leaves, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon green chilli, 1 tablespoon caraway seeds, 1 1/2 egg

Method

- Firstly, wash chicken breasts under running water and pat them dry. Now place them over a chopping board and cut them into cubes of about 2 inches each. Now, grate the cheese and keep it aside. Then, grind the cardamoms to make a fine powder.
- Next, add green chillies and water into a blender and blend well to make a fine paste. Also, crush the peppercorns and keep them aside. Meanwhile, place a frying pan over medium flame and add chana dal. Roast the chana dal and let it cool. Now, grind the dal to make a fine powder.
- Now, take a bowl and add eggs, caraway seeds, cardamom powder, green chilli paste, ginger paste, garlic



paste, coriander leaves, roasted chana dal powder, turmeric powder, cream and yoghurt and mix them well.

- Then add salt, grated cheese and crushed peppercorns and mix well again. Add the chicken cubes in the bowl and coat the cubes well. Let the cubes rest in the mixture for half an hour. Now place the chicken into skewers.
- Place a frying pan over medium flame and pour oil in it. Once the oil is heated, place the skewers onto the pan. Fry the chicken cubes until golden in colour. Garnish and serve!

Monkeypox likely spread by sex at 2 rave parties in Europe: Expert

A leading adviser to the World Health Organization described the unprecedented outbreak of the rare disease monkeypox in developed countries as “a random event” that might be explained by risky sexual behaviour at two recent mass events in Europe.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Dr David Heymann, who formerly headed WHO's emergencies department, said the leading theory to explain the spread of the disease was sexual transmission among gay and bisexual men at two raves held in Spain and Belgium.

Monkeypox has not previously triggered widespread outbreaks beyond Africa, where it is endemic in animals. “We know monkeypox can spread when there is close contact with the lesions of someone who is infected, and it looks like sexual contact has now amplified that transmission,” said Heymann.

That marks a significant departure from the disease's typical pattern of spread in central and western Africa, where people are mainly infected by animals like wild rodents and primates and outbreaks have not spilled across borders.

A German government report to lawmakers, obtained by the AP, said it expected to see further cases and that the risk of catching monkeypox “mainly appears to lie with sexual contacts among men.” The four confirmed cases in Germany have been linked to exposure at “party events including on Gran Canaria and in Berlin, where sexual activity took place,” it said.

To date, WHO has recorded more than 90 cases of monkeypox in a dozen countries including Britain, Spain, Israel, France, Switzerland, the U.S. and Australia. On Monday, Denmark announced its first case, Portugal revised its total upwards to 37 and Italy reported one further infection.

Madrid's senior health official said on Monday that the Spanish capital has recorded 30 confirmed cases so far.

Enrique Ruiz Escudero said authorities are investigating possible links between a recent Gay Pride event in the Canary Islands, which drew some 80,000 people, and cases at a Madrid sauna.

Heymann chaired an urgent meeting of WHO's advisory group on infectious disease threats on Friday to assess the ongoing epidemic and said there was no evidence to suggest that monkeypox might have



A German government report to lawmakers, obtained by the AP, said it expected to see further cases and that the risk of catching monkeypox “mainly appears to lie with sexual contacts among men. Photo: Reuters

mutated into a more infectious form.

Monkeypox typically causes fever, chills, rash, and lesions on the face or genitals. It can be spread through close contact with an infected person or their clothing or bedsheets, but sexual transmission has not yet been documented.

Most people recover from the disease within several weeks without requiring hospitalization. Vaccines against smallpox, a related disease, are also effective in preventing monkeypox and some antiviral drugs are being developed.

In recent years, the disease has been fatal in up to 6% of infections, but no deaths have been reported among the current cases.

WHO said confirmed cases have so far been the less severe West African group of monkeypox viruses and appeared to be linked to a virus that was first detected in exported cases from Nigeria to Britain, Israel and Singapore in 2018-2019.

The UN agency said the outbreak is “a highly unusual event” and said the fact that cases are being seen in so many different countries suggests the disease may have been silently spreading for some time.

Source: AP



Study finds low glycemic index diet helps heart patients lose weight

According to a study presented at the ACNAP-EuroHeartCare Congress 2022, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology, eating low glycemic index foods promotes a healthier body shape in patients with coronary artery disease.

The glycemic index (GI) ranks carbohydrate-containing foods according to how quickly they affect blood sugar levels. High GI foods cause a rapid increase in blood sugar and include white bread, white rice, potatoes, and sweets.

Low GI foods are digested more slowly and gradually raise blood sugar; they include some fruits and vegetables such as apples, oranges, broccoli, and leafy greens, pulses such as chickpeas, lentils, and kidney beans, and whole grains such as brown rice and oats. Meat, poultry, and fish do not have a GI rating because they do not contain carbohydrates.

Observational studies have previously indicated that high GI diets are associated with increased risks of cardiovascular disease² and type 2 diabetes.³ This randomized controlled study assessed the potential benefit of a low GI diet on body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, hip circumference, and waist-to-hip ratio in patients with coronary artery disease.

Between 2016 and 2019, the study randomly allocated 160 patients aged 38 to 76 years old to three months of either a low GI diet or routine diet. Both groups continued to receive standard therapies for coronary artery disease. Patients in the low GI group were advised to consume low GI foods and exclude high GI foods while continuing their usual consumption of protein and fat.

The routine diet group was advised to consume the recommended diet for coronary artery disease which limits fat and some proteins such as whole milk, cheese, meat, egg yolks, and fried foods. Dietary adherence was assessed with a food frequency questionnaire. Anthropometric indices were measured at baseline and three months.

The average age of participants was 58 years and 52 per cent were women. Anthropometric indices were similar between groups at baseline. At three months, all body measurements had decreased within both groups compared to baseline but the changes were only significant in the low GI group.

Source: ANI

Working long hours? This is what you can do for your sight

Long working hours has been known to cause some strain in the eyes, and in the pandemic, it has become a waking reality for many working professionals. If you are someone who spends hours staring at computer screens, you may want to consider taking a break for the sake of your eyes and their health.

According to Grand Master Akshar, a yoga master, spiritual guru and lifestyle coach, we can adopt a natural lifestyle that supports our overall well-being. We can begin by practising yoga regularly, reducing the time spent on gadgets and digital screens, consuming foods that are good for our eyesight, etc.

“You can also practise pranayama, meditation, Surya Sadhna, and yoga poses for better eye health. Remember to wear sunglasses whenever you are out to protect your eyes from harmful UV radiation,” he says.

The expert lists simple ways to



avoid eye strain, which are:

- Protect and preserve your eyes by reducing screen time.
- If you end up sitting for long periods of time in front of a computer, try to take regular breaks.
- Avoid using dim lighting when you are reading.
- Avoid fluorescent lights as they can also cause your vision to deteriorate.

He adds that yoga can help fight these mistakes by “strengthening

your eyesight and enhancing your vision”.

“Yoga is a holistic practice that adds to our overall well-being. You can perform physical postures known as asanas, breathing techniques/pranayama, meditation exercises, mudras, and more. It is recommended that you practise poses like Hasta Uttanasana, Surya Namaskar and pranayama techniques like Brahmari pranayama,” the expert explains.

Consume a diet rich in vitamin A: Consuming fresh fruits and vegetables are scientifically proven to be excellent for your eye health. Start eating more green leafy vegetables, plenty of carrots, sweet potatoes, and other orange coloured fruits or vegetables that are loaded with beta carotene.

Surya Namaskar for eye health: Surya Namaskar or sun salutation should be done early in the morning. This is considered to be beneficial for the eyes. Source: The Indian Express

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Apple likely to launch new HomePod by early 2023

Tech giant Apple is likely planning to launch a new version of its HomePod smart speaker in late 2022 or by early 2023.

According to reliable supply chain analyst Ming-Chi Kuo, the tech giant is targeting the fourth quarter of this year or the first quarter of next year for launching the next HomePod model, 9To5mac reported.

Presumably, this will be a larger model than the HomePod mini, but one with features that help bring the cost down from \$300 like its predecessor.

Apple currently sells the \$99 HomePod mini as the only model. The original HomePod with much more impressive sound was discontinued last year after a price cut from \$349 to \$299.

Kuo went on to say that while he views smart speakers as “undoubtedly one of the essential elements of the home ecosystem”, he doesn’t think Apple has realised how to be successful in the smart speaker domain. The analyst, recently, predicted that the tech giant is developing a new version of the Apple TV set-top box with the goal of lowering the cost structure.

Source: IANS

Did NASA find a mysterious doorway on Mars?

For the past 10 years, NASA's Curiosity rover has been trundling around the surface of Mars, taking photos in its quest to understand the history and geology of the red planet and perhaps even find signs of life.

Last week, it took a photo, which appeared to show a doorway carved into the rock. It's the sort of thing that on Earth might indicate an underground bunker, such as an air-raid shelter.

Seeing is not always believing

At first sight, the picture is totally convincing. At second sight, maybe not. The passage seems to go in only a short way before the steeply descending roof meets the floor.

And then those killjoys at NASA tell us it's only about 45 cm high. Still, who said Martians had to be the same height as us? But then geologists point out several straight-line fractures can be seen in this site, and the “doorway” is where they happen to intersect.

Such a pity. It would have been so exciting if it had been a real doorway. Instead it joins the face on Mars, the spoon on Mars, the cube on the Moon, and all the other things seen in photos from space that turn out not to be as exciting as we thought.

Faces in the clouds

Worse, the “doorway” joins the even longer list of wacky images like the cornflake that looks like Australia, the cats that look like Hitler, and so on. And who hasn't seen a face in the clouds?

The sad fact is that when presented with an unclear or unfamiliar image, humans try to turn it into a familiar-looking object. Scientists call our tendency to do this “pareidolia”.

It's easy to understand why it happens. We likely evolved this tendency because spotting important things like predators or faces, even when the light is



Photo twitter@MarsCuriosity

poor or they are partly obscured, gave us an advantage. And getting false positives – seeing a predator where there is none – is better than not seeing a predator who then eats you.

No signs of life

Reasonable explanations won't deter the conspiracy theorists who say the doorway really is evidence of life on Mars, and maintain that scientists are engaged in some sort of cover-up. If I were trying to do a cover-up, I wouldn't be releasing the photos! So a conspiracy doesn't seem very likely.

But there's also a lesson here for serious searchers for alien life. As astronomer Carl Sagan said, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

Source: PTI

Try these tips to free up space on your iPhone

Here are some useful tips on how to get some storage space back on your iPhone. First, here's how to see the storage space left

Clear your WhatsApp data, please

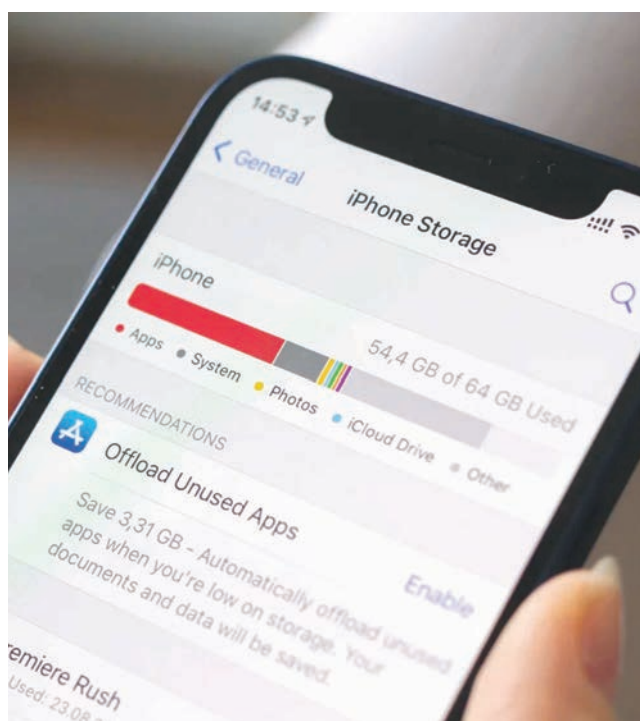
If you are part of multiple groups on WhatsApp from school to college to parenting to RWA, it is likely that you have a lot of unread messages and videos/photos taking up your phone's space. Clearing up your WhatsApp space is most important for many iPhone users, especially in India, given we are hugely dependent on this app for our daily communication.

Go to the Settings, and tap on WhatsApp, so you can see how much data it has occupied. And don't be surprised if it is in double digits, especially if you are a part of many active groups.

Next, go to WhatsApp>Settings>Storage and Data and Manage Storage. WhatsApp will show all of the space it is occupying. Right on top you will see 'Review and Delete Items'. This includes files larger than 5MB. Just delete most of them and these will likely be videos.

Then you can individually see each chat and how much space it is occupying on your phone. Tapping on each chat will show all of the items that you probably need to delete. Remember it is not just videos or photos which take up space, even a lot of PDF files end up doing the same thing. Now that you've deleted some of these videos, photos and files, you should see some extra space on your device.

And if you want to backup all of these photos before deleting them, you can do that as well. Just make sure that in the Chat backup you have turned on the 'Include Videos' option. To ensure that forwarded videos and photos do not end up on your camera roll, just make sure that 'Save to Camera Roll' is toggled off in the



WhatsApp settings.

Turn on the iCloud backup

If you have not already, it is best to buy some extra iCloud online storage space and start backing up photos and videos to the cloud. The 'Apple One' service comes with access to Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple Arcade and iCloud+ storage. The base individual plan costs Rs 195 per month and will give 50GB of cloud storage. The

Family plan costs Rs 365 per month and lets you share the storage with 5 other people and gives 200GB of cloud storage. Remember you can back up all your photos, videos and iPhone data to the iCloud. Just go to the Settings app and tap on the name that you see right at the top. This should open up details about your Apple ID, subscriptions, etc.

Just tap on iCloud, and you will be able to see how much of your iCloud storage is currently occupied. Make sure to turn on Photos and iCloud Backup for your device. This will ensure that all your older photos are backed up to the Cloud and there's some free space. Only optimised versions are saved on the device.

You can manage this space better by going to iCloud on a desktop as well and seeing which photos, etc, should be deleted.

Downloaded videos, podcasts

If you are an avid podcast listener or love to download content on Netflix or any of the streaming apps, you might find that they too are squatting on some GBs worth of storage space. The iPhone storage setting does show an option to 'Review Downloaded Videos'. If you find there are videos like this, you can just delete them from the Settings app itself. Just tap on edit and it will show you an option to delete the videos.

For the Apple Podcasts app too, you can delete all those downloaded apps straight from Settings. Just tap on the Podcasts app in the Storage settings, and see the amount of space each episode occupies.

Tap Edit, and then you will see a Menu to delete some of these episodes. You can go with deleting all episodes to make it easier and save space. I recently deleted 10GB worth of episodes on my device.

Source: The Indian Express

ADVANCED ECONOMIES TO BE BACK ON TRACK BY 2024: INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Advanced economies will be back on track by 2024, but developing economies will be 5% below where they would have been otherwise, IMF's Gita Gopinath said on Wednesday. Economies worldwide have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and are slowly coming back into the recovery path.

The First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund said the war in Ukraine has been a major setback to the global recovery.

"We had a serious downgrade to the global growth rate and the world continues to face headwinds because we have a cost of living crisis. Prices of commodities, including fuel and food, are going up around the world," she said.

Gopinath said central banks are trying to tackle this high level of inflation and are raising interest rates sharply, which they need to do, but that will also have consequences for global finance and trade.

She was speaking at a special session on 'What next for global growth?' during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2022. Gopinath said there are very divergent recoveries around the world.

BRITISH RETAILER MARKS AND SPENCER EXITS RUSSIA



British clothing-to-food retailer Marks and Spencer on Wednesday announced a full exit from Russia following the country's invasion of Ukraine.

After halting product shipments to Russia at the start of March, Marks and Spencer said it had decided "to fully exit" its Russian franchise run by Turkish conglomerate Fiba Group.

The exit, plus disruption to M&S operations in Ukraine run also by franchisee Fiba, is costing the British company £31 million (\$39 million, 36 million euros).

"Unfortunately, our Ukrainian business has also been partially closed as a result of war impacts, and we are working with our partner to reopen as and when possible," the company added in a statement.

An M&S spokeswoman confirmed to AFP that the group's "brand will no longer be used in Russia".

Its exit from Russia comes also after Marks and Spencer last year shut more than half its stores in France as Brexit affected supplies of fresh and chilled products.

M&S on Wednesday said it had taken a charge of £10.3 million following the French shakeup.

Inflation fight may have fiscal impact, but govt not looking to borrow more

Even as the Centre's recent measures to check runaway inflation and supply-side issues, through a combination of duty cuts and policy tweaks may end up having a fiscal impact, it is not looking at resorting to additional borrowings for the current financial year, a government source said.

The Centre is monitoring the revenue streams amid continuing tax buoyancy and a renewed focus on disinvestment, even as the proposed stake sales in Railways subsidiary CONCOR and downstream petroleum company BPCL is likely to draw out longer than expected. The source said the government is also exploring the possibility of increasing its exposure to Russian oil, but the terms of the discount is a matter under active discussion.

"It (the recent measures) may hit (the fiscal math). But we have to see how tax revenue grows as months pass. Last year, GST collections had improved mid-year onwards...at this moment, we do not need extra borrowing," the source said.

The total revenue implication of the excise duty cuts is seen at Rs 2.2 lakh crore a year. This, coupled with an additional outgo of Rs 1.1 lakh crore on account of fertiliser subsidies, is expected to put pressure on government finances.

Most of the inflationary pressures and supply-related constraints are being seen arising from the global uncertainty due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the source added. "The situation is constantly changing. We are facing problems largely emanating from outside and have to be ready and work on strengthening the economy," the source said, adding that the government is not considering any revision in the inflation target of 2-6 per cent set by the Monetary Policy Framework of the Reserve Bank of India.

The current price situation leaves less scope for rationalisation of GST rates on goods and services as of now, the source noted.

The source said the government is going to continue with the rupee-ruble payment arrangement with Russia. "We have heard that ruble payment is being done by Europe. India had a Rupee-Ruble payment structure earlier. I don't think we have



The total revenue implication of the excise duty cuts is seen at Rs 2.2 lakh crore a year. This, coupled with an additional outgo of Rs 1.1 lakh crore on account of fertiliser subsidies, is expected to put pressure on government finances.

arrived at any decision yet. Some discussions are happening. We have a mechanism already. We have to see if the existing system is workable in the current global situation. We are exploring that and some more related things," the source said. Asked if India can increase its dependence on Russia for oil needs, the source said, it is subject to some payment mechanism being worked out.

The government is also looking at ironing out supply-chain and logistics-related issues for cement. "Cement prices have gone up as not enough supply is available and there is some reported cartelisation. The installed capacity for cement is lying idle in southern India. The government has received representations from industry in southern India for movement of cement. Logistics issues have to be resolved, we are looking into the matter," the source said. *Source: The Indian Express*

Musk to provide \$6.25 billion more in equity to fund Twitter deal

Elon Musk said on Wednesday, May 25, he will secure an additional \$6.25 billion in equity financing to fund the \$44-billion offer for Twitter Inc, reducing the billionaire's margin loan to zero and signaling he is working to complete the deal.

The world's richest man and Tesla Inc's top boss is also in talks with shareholders, including Jack Dorsey, for additional financing commitments to fund the deal, Musk said in a regulatory filing. Musk originally took a \$12.5-billion margin loan against his Tesla stock to help fund his purchase of Twitter. But he reduced it to \$6.25 billion earlier this month after bringing in co-investors.

Last week, Musk had said his offer would not move forward until Twitter shows proof that spam bots account for less than 5% of its total users, hours after suggesting he could seek a lower price for the company.

Twitter shares jumped around 6% in extended trading. Musk could not be immediately reached for comment.

In April, Musk had lined up \$46.5 billion in debt and equity financing to buy Twitter, with Musk himself committing to put in \$33.5 billion.

Source: Reuters



UK Risks Car Collapse as Jaguar Land Rover Looks Elsewhere for Batteries

Almost a decade after playing home to Europe's first mass-produced electric car, the UK is at risk of becoming a footnote in the global auto industry's shift to battery-powered vehicles.

The UK lacks the cell and pack factories automakers will need to support their transition away from the internal combustion engine. In what could be a fresh blow to British carmaking, the country's top auto manufacturer, Jaguar Land Rover, is in talks with Northvolt AB and SVolt Energy Technology Co. about supplying batteries for a range of EVs it may assemble in Slovakia, according to people familiar with the matter.

Unless battery investment picks up, carmakers may only accelerate their exodus from what was once the world's second-biggest auto manufacturing base. The last few years, the UK fell outside the top 15.

"It's about to be too late to preserve the UK role as a major automotive producer," said Andy Palmer, the former CEO of Aston Martin who also helped spearhead Nissan's creation of the Leaf EV built in Sunderland, England. "Unless there's either a carrot or a stick to incentivize battery production in the UK, it's only a matter of time before the automobile industry here becomes a niche industry that caters to brands such as Rolls-Royce and Bentley." As the move to electric vehicles redraws manufacturing maps, the UK is endangered by scarce supply of raw materials, expensive energy, meager government incentives and potential Brexit-related tariffs. While the country has pumped hundreds of millions of pounds into battery-technology research, this has spurred minimal production.

Source: Bloomberg



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MONTHLY HOROSCOPE JUNE 2022



Aries

POSITIVE: Ganesha says you're ready to triumph over a problem you've been battling.

FINANCE: A previous investment could be the source of a sudden cash inflow. A raise in salary or promotion are also possibilities. Impatience and harsh communication can result in a financial loss.

LOVE: Your marriage is likely to be enjoyable, and things will go your way. You and your spouse are both likely to benefit from relationship rejuvenation. Spending quality time together can help to improve your bond. However, keeping your vows is crucial to maintaining a happy partnership.

BUSINESS: When it comes to your workplace or a project at hand, avoiding miscommunications may ensure a month of success.

EDUCATION: Because of admittance to new courses or higher education, a change in domicile or native place may occur.

HEALTH: Planetary transits imply that you prioritize your health. To avoid stressful days, it is advisable to better arrange your days. A poor diet can result in unexpected health problems. Heavy activity is not recommended for those who participate in sports.



Taurus

POSITIVE: Ganesha says be grateful for the second chances that life provides.

FINANCE: You are always the first to lend a hand when it comes to money. However, to be unduly generous this month, you would exercise little restraint. You might not want to spend money without first considering your options.

LOVE: It's an excellent moment to talk to your lover and ask your parents for permission to marry. People who have recently broken up and are looking for a second shot in their personal lives can take advantage of this opportunity. Your ability to speak with your companion may be readily welcomed.

BUSINESS: You would be able to advance in every element of your career.

EDUCATION: Gaining information and learning this month may be straightforward, and you may appreciate learning from a variety of sources.

HEALTH: We're not only talking about physical health when we talk about wellbeing; we're also talking about mental health. As a result, this is the month when some of you may start practicing yoga or other forms of exercise to stay physically and psychologically fit.



Gemini

POSITIVE: Ganesha says maintaining a positive attitude, staying calm, and creating preparations for the month ahead may help you reach your professional and personal

objectives.

FINANCE: This month is a great time to get a raise and make a lot of progress.

LOVE: Those in a romantic relationship should spend quality time with their partner. There will almost certainly be communication, and your relationship may benefit as a result. Now is an excellent time to start planning if you haven't spent quality time together in a long time.

BUSINESS: Long-term projects may provide the promised outcomes if you put in the effort. Analyzing your job and project could help you make better work decisions.

EDUCATION: Punctuality in studies, self-study, and completion of all outstanding work is strongly advised. You may continue to feel lost but obtaining professional assistance may be beneficial.

HEALTH: Ignorance or carelessness with food might lead to major health issues. Physical activity and meditation may help you preserve your health this month.



Cancer

POSITIVE: Ganesha says have faith in your ability to succeed. Everything will turn out fine.

FINANCE: Your financial situation is in excellent shape this month. Again, don't gamble with your money in any form, as it's dangerous and could hurt your future returns.

LOVE: This month's horoscope for love and relationships predicts a mixed bag of luck for you. Your sweetheart may become your soulmate. This is a good moment to start a new relationship, especially if you've had a previous disagreement that produced serious problems.

BUSINESS: Unusual business-related work outings could be beneficial.

EDUCATION: Based on their monthly learning, students may obtain credit and recognition for their competition accomplishments. You must overcome your egocentrism and listen to wise counsel.

HEALTH: When dealing with a challenging situation, maintain a calm demeanor to avoid tension. Avoid eating outside because it may induce stomach distress or digestive difficulties. Signs require eight hours of sleep and a well-balanced diet to be healthy. You may have some health concerns.



Leo

POSITIVE: Ganesha says being gentle to oneself is the key to happiness.

FINANCE: You should be careful with your money and avoid making impulse purchases. Specific changes are being made to indigenous professional lives.

LOVE: You should endeavor to dispel any misconceptions they may have about your relationship. Single natives should not rush into a relationship at this time. When the time comes, you might meet your partner.

BUSINESS: The work pressure may lessen, and you may feel more at ease, but this change may be challenging. Avoid getting into a confrontation with a coworker; else, your reputation will suffer.

EDUCATION: It's possible that your degree of preparedness is outstanding and will continue to increase. Take some time to impart some discipline if you're working and learning together around this time.

HEALTH: Avoid overthinking, especially in your work life; otherwise, you may find yourself experiencing mental stress and worry. Regular exercise and meditation will maintain your body in good shape and your mind in good shape.



Virgo

POSITIVE: Ganesha says as the month progresses, you may experience a combination of positive and negative emotions. You can

choose the best strategy for your situation.

FINANCE: You may benefit from favorable planetary help in your money issues this month. If you make major purchases while in this circumstance, you may find it difficult to meet your responsibilities.

LOVE: Keep in mind that whatever you say, do, or react to could have a long-term impact on your loved one's heart. This is a fantastic moment to improve your connection.

BUSINESS: During this period, you may make some extremely valuable contacts that will help your firm grow. Keep calm to avoid putting yourself into trouble because of your ego.

EDUCATION: You may be unsatisfied with your performance since it does not excite you or your mentors. As the month goes on, though, your knowledge and diligence may help you thrive in your studies and examinations.

HEALTH: This month, you must make up for the dearth of celestial blessings by paying great attention to and taking care of your health.



Libra

POSITIVE: Ganesha says you should anticipate having greater energy this month.

FINANCE: Once the month begins, you can locate some amazing revenue opportunities. However, you should exercise caution because you are prone to making hasty decisions that could put you in danger. You need to be patient. It's time to take a breath and reflect.

LOVE: You might be able to spend some quality time with your significant other. However, there may be some ego confrontations. Remove your negative mindset. Allow your partner to speak freely about their thoughts and feelings.

BUSINESS: Because there may be stiff competition, you must maintain a close check on your output and performance. You'll get some positive exposure to

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 30 TO JUNE 05, 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, will be able to upscale your personality and your work. Your dire need to always have someone's support will lapse as you will be able to function independently. As far as your finances are concerned, things will be well managed with the blessings of Jupiter in your 10th house. If you desire to start new connections this week, don't attempt since it won't take you down a pleasant path and will leave you unhappy. You must avoid a conflict with your spouse this week, maintain your calm. In terms of health, you'll be OK.



TAURUS : This week you will be able to make progress on your corporate fronts. You will be able to make good profits in the first half of the week but the latter half of the week will bring minor repercussions of your bad decisions which you made earlier. Some things you've been planning for since long will be put to execution in the latter half of the week. This week, you may be justified if you and your partner are quarreling. When it comes to romantic relationships, stay away from Pisces natives as they will prove to be very incompatible with you. This week, you may get cramps and stomachaches, so watch what you consume.



GEMINI : Dear Gemini, this week will bring you an abundance of blessings along with good luck and positive fortune. You will be considered to be an ideal candidate to be a part of a team by your colleagues. In the first half of the week, you will reap the profits of your earlier investment and this will surely stabilize finances. This week, your romantic relationship will progress further since your companion will begin the subject of marriage. You'll be alright in terms of health. This week, meditate to improve your attitude.



CANCER : This week, you will put a lot of effort into yourself. You've been positively accepting criticism for a long and by the end of the week, you will bring positive changes by learning from your own mistakes. You will be surrounded by people who will surely wish you well. As far as your business and work are concerned, this week is going to be very smooth and sleek. There are very less chances of you getting into any problem on your professional front and hence, you must choose this week to take big risks. Your partner will be able to summon the fortitude to tell their parents about your connection, which will give you a rough indication of how you should proceed. Everything will be OK with your health.



LEO : Dear Leo, you have been missing assurances about your decisions and this was making you a little less confident but, the energies of the transition of Jupiter in your 11th house and the good position of the moon will certainly bring you positivity and belief in yourself. In the latter half of the week, few financial problems are likely to arise as Keta will transit in your Zodiac making unfavorable conditions. This week, your love life will get good energy. Your partner will certainly find good reasons to get over insignificant past issues. Your health will not necessitate much, but your apathy toward it and inadequate habits will be frustrating.



VIRGO : People who have been long away from work will surely resume their work this week. There are high chances of you landing up at a debate or significant discussion on your professional fronts. Your second house is giving a signal that you are going to be given a role of leadership or role which includes a lot of decision making. Your chemistry looks to be strong this week. Singles must avoid misleading their relationships at all costs. You must keep your feelings in check this week. You'll discover what you can do to make your marriage better. Notwithstanding your frenetic haste, you will make the right decision this week. This week, your health will be unaffected.



LIBRA : This week will not only bring gratitude and awareness to your life but it will also give you chance to prove yourself in your professional world. New ventures are likely to get the required boost along with financial assistance. People who have been finding it difficult to get a job might settle for a little less due to the hasty behavior hence you must be careful Dear Libra natives. Discussing marriage is not on the list this week therefore avoided. You'll need to pay particular attention to your health. It is recommended that you postpone your trip plans until next week.



SCORPIO : This week, you will be able to focus on new beginnings. As far as your professional front is concerned, there are high chances that you might face minor inconveniences due to disagreements with your seniors. In the second half of the week, you will bring better amendments to your way of working. This week you may now contemplate matrimony on the sentimental front since your pathway looks to be brighter. The first half of the week may not be ideal for new couples, but the second half will be excellent. Attempt to monitor what and how you ingest.



SAGITTARIUS : This week, you will be able to create a better understanding with everyone around you. In your professional life, you will uplift your standard, and this will bring you appraisals or promotions. In the latter half of the week, you must avoid lending or borrowing money from anyone else. People working in the manufacturing industry will have a hard time managing their finances this week. Your health should be a major priority because you are susceptible to cardiac issues. There's no need to be worried; alternatively, use your stress-free days to better yourself.



CAPRICORN : This week, you will seek peace and tranquility. You will be more inclined towards spirituality and this will help you get answers to the problems which has been bothering you. This week you will be burdened with lots of accountability and responsibilities. In the first half of the week, you'll be able to make out your graph of strengths and weaknesses regarding your work preferences. While a husband and wife may have disagreements concerning their offspring, reflecting calmly might help. Your health should be fine this week, but your tolerance will suffer in the latter half of the week.



AQUARIUS : Venus this week will bring you courage and confidence. You will gain something significant this week. Your financial fronts will be very well settled this week. In case you have to been thinking of changing your job, this week will be very suitable. It's going to be a better week overall on professional fronts. Married couples will have a fabulous experience together and can explore the prospect of starting a family in the romantic aspect. You are just a few steps away from establishing a huge change in your romantic life this week. You might be worried about developing a fever or congestion, but having a good rest will help.



PISCES : This week you will gain respect and recognition. Students will be making good choices this week. You are likely to represent your firm on a higher platform this week. In case you have been facing financial stress for long, you will be blessed with financial inflow this week with the blessings of Jupiter in your 12th house. Refrain from making any love declarations this week since certain people around you will give off negative vibes. In this difficult time of the week, married couples should reflect on their past experiences and find motivations to remain united. Your wellness will not require much, but your careless attitude toward it and unhealthy habits will cause you to regret it later.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 30 TO JUNE 05, 2022 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY30 : Ganesha says it's high time to get a gift from your parents which you have for the rest of your life. Your grilling skills will keep you away from your foes and bilked people. In short you are a perfectionist in your area. Your partner proves to be lucky for you as your nuptials are followed by a lot of surprises and monetary increments for you. You utilize your time by increasing your intellectual powers of dealing with enigmatic problems. You may get into a fuss because of this gambling so play wisely by putting all your experiences with you.

MAY 31: Ganesha says a long term investment which they had made for you will come to you soon. Academically the things will be in your favor and you are likely to enroll yourself somewhere. Your area of interest will promise you to bring a lot of harmony, support, name and fame in the near future. You thoroughly and wisely use your valuable time to accomplish your goals. Your guidance is utmost important for you as well as for others. Indirectly you helped others to be on the right track. Your outspoken nature will take away others' worries.

JUNE 1 : Ganesha says you need to make certain guidelines and follow them to get success and increase your financial well being. Your footprints will be followed by others. You create new

opportunities which are likely to bring a revolution. You do the work in your way. You are a one man army. You are well aware of your rights and duties and make others follow them as well. You are a good citizen of your country and keep abreast yourself with any updates related to any change in law and order.

JUNE 2 : Ganesha says you have the capability of dealing with your professional as well as personal life together. Time to implement your past experience and lessons learned in the upcoming new venues. Respect and accolades will follow you. You ought to be a technical person with honed skill of manipulating things. Circumstances will force you to toil hard and move your business to an ever expanding overseas destination. Instead of planning and discussing all the time you believe in implementing the ploy, it is a high time to start a new venture. Your jolly nature and good sense of humor will tie people with you all the time.

JUNE 3 : Ganesha says you are a highly intellectual person with knowledge of every domain in your kit. Work is everything for you so whatever you start its good time for it and surely you will accomplish it. Your first love will always be your work with whom you tend to spend maximum time which in return will provide you awesome glory, honor and surprises. Always ready

to help others means a friend in need is a friend in deed. You should learn that love is always known by deeds not by words so hurry until the tides will flow in your favor. Too much expectation from others may strain you so believe in yourself.

JUNE 4 : Ganesha says this time promises to bring positive vibes for you. You have immense talent which is God gifted and you need to unlock them by sheer hard work. Your retrieval power is incredible. Physically and mentally you will be sound as your area of interest will get diverted to some frisk and frolic activities. New opportunities are waiting for you which you will deal with in a wise manner. You are a nature lover and criticize its wear and tear. Your friends will provide timely help to you. You appreciate others' actions which make you loved by near and dear ones.

JUNE 5 : Ganesha says circumstances will force you to follow your ideals path in your ventures. You will easily surpass all your hindrances well. Hidden talent in the field of art and music is a tangible symbol signifying distinction in your life. You are likely to set your own venture in this named and famed industry. Your ideas will not only get popular at the domestic level but also at the international market. This ensures you a smooth and contented life both in terms of your bank balance and health.

COND FROM PAGE 30

show off your skills near the end of the month. The planets may make it easier for entrepreneurs to make money.

EDUCATION: Breaking down barriers and expanding mental boundaries by widening knowledge and abilities can be beneficial.

HEALTH: Seasonal effects cause a sense of unease as the month begins. You may, nevertheless, be able to maintain proper health control.



Scorpio

POSITIVE: Ganesha says go offline, treat yourself, exercise, drink water, pray, laugh till you weep, cry until you laugh again, and set your limits. Be free.

FINANCE: This month, if you keep focused on your work, you can be provided with some fantastic possibilities. Your income is expected to remain steady, and you may be able to achieve your goals.

LOVE: This month, your love life may be full of ups and downs. You and your partner might get into an argument. Your love life may be perplexing until the end of the month when it will gradually improve. Singles may be able to find the perfect partner this month.

BUSINESS: This month, do not be slow because your health may demand some attention to resolve the issue, as it may be a major aspect for you. Keep your focus and avoid getting too comfy with your task. You may need to be patient and work hard this month to achieve your objectives.

EDUCATION: This month, students may achieve considerable academic improvement.

HEALTH: You may experience mental tension as a result of attaching emphasis to unimportant things. This week, avoid an erratic diet and practice yoga and meditation.



Sagittarius

POSITIVE: Ganesha says you might not only be able to conquer all of life's obstacles, but you might also gain a huge competitive advantage over others.

FINANCE: For the most part, this appears to be a prosperous time in terms of money and finance. The

circular flow of revenue may increase this month, and you may be offered a slew of wonderful opportunities.

LOVE: Spend quality time with your lover to make them feel special. Make an effort to spice up your love life and deepen your relationship.

BUSINESS: You will have to deal with the highs and lows of life this month. Your superiors and coworkers, on the other hand, maybe completely supportive.

EDUCATION: You must maintain a good attitude and improve your abilities. Maintain a high degree of concentration because your efforts and success rate may influence your success.

HEALTH: This month will be fruitful in terms of health. You might be able to strike the right balance between your personal and professional lives.



Capricorn

POSITIVE: Ganesha says you may be dressed to impress, and those around you may notice your seeming confidence.

FINANCE: This month, your financial resolve and potential may be put to the test. You should steer away from speculative investments because they may not produce the expected outcomes.

LOVE: If you're looking for a change, talk to your partner; according to your monthly forecasts, you might discover one soon. Making your soul partner feel unique and deepening your bond by spending time alone with him or her.

BUSINESS: You are always working to develop your career and this month could be very profitable for you. At work, you must avoid overworking yourself. In your intellectual efforts, you should be more eager and focused.

EDUCATION: It may help you keep your cool, especially if you're unsure about your academic abilities or achievement.

HEALTH: Remember that a healthy glow on the skin originates from a healthy sense of self-worth; hence, remind yourself of all your positive qualities.



Aquarius

POSITIVE: Ganesha says advancements and happier days are on the way.

FINANCE: Despite challenges at work,

you may have a consistent flow of cash throughout the month, allowing you to relax about your finances.

LOVE: Spend some time with each other while ignoring the strains and problems of your daily lives. Don't worry; the sweet nothings you exchange with your partner might just help you lay the foundation for a loving relationship. Singles may have to wait for a little longer this month.

BUSINESS: This is a fantastic time to develop your business goals and build your network of contacts and professional ties. This month maybe both beneficial and challenging in your professional life. You must be willing to accept changes to keep a strong professional reputation.

EDUCATION: If you are sluggish in your preparation, you run the danger of losing marks due to a simple error.

HEALTH: Relax and unwind this month when it comes to your health, as you will stay in terrific shape. Your physical fitness level will rise.



Pisces

POSITIVE: Ganesha says presume in yourself so strongly that you become magnetic to anything you desire.

FINANCE: This month, careful planning may result in significant savings.

LOVE: This month could be particularly good for marriage connections. This month may be filled with happiness and peaceful celebrations at home. Allow some room for your partner or spouse to feel at peace with you.

BUSINESS: Avoid office politics by not telling your coworker about your approach until it's time to put it into action. You'll have to wait a long for advancement, so focus on your talents and patience.

EDUCATION: It would be more beneficial to study. Aiming to build and stick to a routine is a smart place to start.

HEALTH: Avoid getting into fights and stressing out, as this might lead to health issues. The stars are advising you to venture out into nature and enjoy the benefits of good health. Avoid getting into fights and stressing out, as this might lead to health issues. You should get out in nature and enjoy the benefits of good health.

Somvati Amavasya

Somvati Amavasya is a very important day in Hinduism. Amavasya which falls on Monday is called Somvati Amavasya. Somvati Amavasya falls only once or twice in a year. This fast is observed by married women. Somvati Amavasya fast is observed by married women for the long life of their husbands.

Somvati Amavasya Vrat is also known as 'Ashwath Pradakshina Vrat' in the scriptures. 'Ashwath' means Peepal tree. Lord Vishnu resides on the Peepal tree. Therefore Lord Vishnu is also worshiped on the day of Somvati Amavasya. On this day, bathing and charity are considered to be the best of all. According to the words of sage Vyasa, on this day, by meditating, fasting, fasting, one gets the virtuous fruit of thousands of cows.

It is believed that in the Mahabharata, Bhishma, explaining the importance of this day to Yudhishtira, said that a person who bathes in the holy rivers on this day will be prosperous, healthy and free from all miseries. It is also believed that taking a bath gives peace to the souls of the ancestors.

Significance

As per the legend, the significance and importance of Somvati Amavasya was narrated by Lord Krishna himself to King Yudhishtira.

It is believed that the devotees who observe a fast of Somvati Amavasya are bestowed with moral and noble children as well as with a long life.

People who undertake a holy dip in the sacred rivers such as the Ganges on this day get rid of their past and present sins as well as can eliminate all the obstacles.

In Hindu culture, the tree of Peepal holds much significance as it is believed that Peepal tree is sacred and it is an abode of the deities. Hence if devotees worship and offer prayers to the Peepal tree on the day of Somvati Amavasya then they are blessed with good fortune.

Married women also keep a Somvati Amavasya Vrat for their husband's longevity.

It is also believed that if the unmarried women observe fast on this day then they are blessed with a good and suitable match.

It is a vital day for performing Pitra tarpan which includes offerings to the deceased ancestors to get bestowed with their blessings and peace in life.

Individuals who suffer from Pitra Dosha can be relieved by observing the fast of Somvati Amavasya.

By performing Homa, Yajna, donations, charities, and puja ceremonies on this day, the devotees can eliminate all sorrows and obstacles from their life.

Rituals

Devotees must take a holy bath before sunrise and wear fresh and tidy clothes.

The devotees must observe a fast of Somvati Amavasya and worship Peepal tree.

After offering prayers to the Peepal tree, married women tie a red or yellow colored sacred thread around the trunk of the tree by taking 108 Parikrama (rounds) of the tree in a row.

After that, devotees offer vermillion, sandal paste, milk, and flowers to the tree and sit under it and recite the sacred mantras.

Devotees should also worship Lord Vishnu and recite Shani Mantra

Devotees must also take a dip in sacred rivers in order to attain prosperity and pray for the salvation for the forefathers.

Devotees must make donations and perform charities of clothes, food, money and other essentials to the needy.

Observing a silence vow (Maun Vrat) by the devotees is also regarded as very beneficial and fruitful.

Somvati Amavasya Vrat Katha

The story of Somvati Amavasya states that once there was a Brahmin family whom a monk used to visit. In that family there were seven sons and one daughter. All the sons were married but the girl was still unmarried. The monk used to ask for alms and bless all the



Important information

Somvati Amavasya 2022

Monday, 30 May 2022

Amavasya Tithi Start : 29 May 2022 at 02:55 PM

Amavasya Tithi End : 30 May 2022 at 05:00 PM

daughters-in-law to have a blissful conjugal life. But the parents of the daughter were worried and anxious that he never offered blessings to their daughter.

After a few days, the parents called a pandit and showed him the Kundali of their daughter. When the Pandit analyzed the horoscope of the girl, he informed the parents about an inauspicious and unfortunate yoga of her becoming a widow. They asked for remedial action. The Priest suggested the girl visiting an island named Singhal where she would find a washerwoman. If that washerwoman will apply Sindoor on her forehead along with the girl observing a strict fast of Somvati Amavasya, she can get rid of that inauspicious yoga.

The girl left for the island with one of her brothers. When they reached the seashore they had to figure out the ways how to cross the river. Thus, to find a way they sat under a tree and started to discuss their further journey. On that particular tree, a vulture had its nest and lived with its vulture chicks. But whenever the vulture gave birth, a snake used to eat those new-born in the absence of the vulture.

On that day also when the girl and her brother were sitting under the tree, the vultures went out and the infants were left alone in their nest. Before the snake could have killed them, the girl projected what could happen so she killed the snake in order to save the infants.

When the vultures returned they were so happy to see their children safe and alive. Hence, they helped the girl to reach the house of that washerwoman. The girl

served the washerwoman with utmost dedication. With the penance and true devotion of the girl, the washerwoman got pleased and applied vermillion on her forehead.

After that, the girl left the place and was going back to her home. On her way, she stopped at a peepal tree, there she offered prayers, performed Parikrama around the tree and observed a Somvati Amavasya Vrat. When the fast was completed, with the effect of the fast and the Sindoor, the inauspicious yoga of the girl's kundali was canceled.

Thus, since that particular day, devotees and mainly the Hindu women observe a fast of Somvati Amavasya to get blessed with a happy and blissful conjugal life and long life of their husbands.

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

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

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History This Week

May 27 to June 2

WHAT IS HISTORY? AN ECHO OF THE PAST IN THE FUTURE; A REFLEX FROM THE FUTURE ON THE PAST. - VICTOR HUGO

MAY 27

May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

Birthday - Legendary Wild West figure Wild Bill Hickok (1837-1876) was born in Troy Grove, Illinois. He was a frontiersman, lawman, legendary marksman, army scout and gambler. On August 2, 1876, he was shot dead during a poker game by a drunk in the Number Ten saloon in Deadwood, in the Dakota Territory. In his hand he held a pair of eights and a pair of aces which became known as the 'dead man's hand.'



Hubert H. Humphrey Twitter photo

Birthday - American politician Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978) was born in Wallace, South Dakota. Humphrey was a mainstay of liberal Democratic politics, championed civil rights, and was considered by political friends and foes alike to be a truly decent man. He served as vice president under Lyndon Johnson. In 1968, Humphrey was the Democratic candidate for president, but lost to Republican Richard Nixon in a very close race.

MAY 28



Amnesty International

May 28, 1961 - Amnesty International was founded by London lawyer Peter Berenson. He read about the arrest of a group of students in Portugal then launched a one-year campaign to free them called Appeal for Amnesty. Today Amnesty International has over a million members in 150 countries working to free prisoners of conscience, stop torture and the death penalty, and guarantee human rights for women.

Birthday - William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806) was born at Hayes, Kent, England. Following in his father's footsteps, he became British prime minister at age 24 and served from 1783 to 1801 and again from 1804 to 1806. Pitt was influenced by Adam Smith's economic theories and reduced Britain's large national debt brought on by the American Revolution.



Jim Thorpe

Birthday - All-around athlete Jim Thorpe (1888-1953) was born near Prague, Oklahoma. He won the pentathlon and decathlon events at the 1912 Olympic Games and also played professional baseball and football.

MAY 29

May 29, 1453 - The city of Constantinople was captured by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul. This marked the end of the Byzantine Empire as Istanbul became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

May 29, 1660 - The English monarchy was restored with Charles II on the throne after several years of a Commonwealth under Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell.

May 29, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the Virginia Plan was proposed calling for a new government consisting of a legislature with two houses, an executive chosen by the legislature and a judicial branch.

May 29, 1865 - Following the American Civil War, President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation granting general amnesty to Confederates. The amnesty excluded high ranking Confederates and large property owners, who had to apply individually to the President for a pardon. Following an oath of allegiance, all former property rights, except slaves, were returned to the former owners.

Birthday - American revolutionary leader Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Studley, Virginia. He is best

remembered for his speech in 1775 declaring: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."



Oswald Spengler

Birthday - German historian Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) was born in Blankenburg-am-Harz, Germany. He authored the influential book *The Decline of the West* which argued that civilizations rise and fall in regular cycles.



John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Birthday - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963) the 35th U.S. President was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was the youngest man ever elected to the presidency and the first Roman Catholic. He was assassinated in Dallas, November 22, 1963, the fourth President to be killed by an assassin.

MAY 30



The Pennsylvania Evening Post

May 30, 1783 - The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first daily newspaper published in America.

May 30, 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel

Chester French.

May 30, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska were retaken by the U.S. 7th Infantry Division. The battle began on May 12 when an American force of 11,000 landed on Attu. In three weeks of fighting U.S. casualties numbered 552 killed and 1,140 wounded. Japanese killed numbered 2,352, with only 28 taken prisoner, as 500 chose suicide rather than be captured.



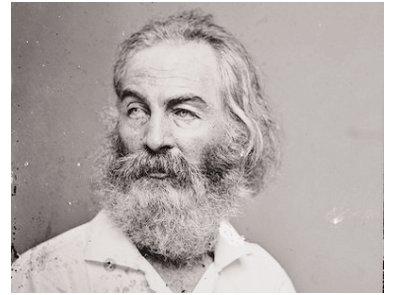
Peter the Great

Birthday - Founder of the Russian empire Peter the Great (1672-1725) was born near Moscow. He vastly increased the power of the Russian monarchy and turned his backward country into a major power in the Western world. Among his accomplishments, he completely overhauled the government and the Greek Orthodox Church as well as the military system and tax structure. He built St. Petersburg, established printing presses and published translations of foreign books, modernized the calendar, simplified the Russian alphabet and introduced Arabic numerals. He died at age 52 and was succeeded by his wife Catherine.

MAY 31

May 31, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Seven Pines occurred as Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army attacked Union General George McClellan's troops in front of Richmond Virginia and nearly defeated them. Johnston was badly wounded. Confederate General Robert E. Lee then assumed command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee renamed his force the Army of Northern Virginia.

May 31, 1889 - Over 2,300 persons were killed in the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. Heavy rains throughout May caused the Connemaugh River Dam to burst sending a wall of water 75 feet high pouring down upon the city.



Walt Whitman

Birthday - American poet Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was born in Long Island, New York. His poem *Leaves of Grass* is considered an American classic. His poetry celebrated modern life and took on subjects considered taboo at the time.

JUNE 1

Birthday - Founder of Utah and patriarch of the Mormon church Brigham Young (1801-1877) was born in Whittingham, Vermont. Called the "American Moses," he led thousands of religious followers across the wilderness to settle over 300 towns in the West, including Salt Lake City, Utah.



Marilyn Monroe

Birthday - Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen). Following an unstable childhood spent in foster homes and orphanages, she landed a job as a photographer's model which led to a movie career. She later married baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. Beneath her glamorous movie star looks she was fragile and insecure and eventually succumbed to the pressures of Hollywood life. She died in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills on August 5, 1962. Best known for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953), *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), *Bus Stop* (1956), *Some Like It Hot* (1959), and *The Misfits* (1961).

(Read more on
www.theindianpanorama.news)

contd from page 1

'HOW MANY MORE LIVES?' US OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER PROMINENT AMERICANS ASK

Even school shootings happen often enough that we know some of the names: Sandy Hook Elementary School, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Oxford High School, Santa Fe High School, Columbine High School. Robb Elementary School in Uvalde has joined this horrific list.

If American gun violence is no longer surprising, it still is shocking. On an average day in the U.S., more than 35 people are murdered with a gun. No other affluent country in the world has a gun homicide rate nearly as high.

"We have to act," Biden says after Texas massacre, but offers no specifics: "I hoped when I became President, I would not have to do this, again," Biden said, decrying the death of "beautiful, innocent" second, third and fourth graders in "another massacre."

Their parents "will never see their child again, never have them jump in bed and cuddle with them," he said.

"As a nation, we have to ask, 'When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?'"

"We have to act," he said and suggested reinstating the assault weapons ban and other "common sense gun laws."

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATIC SENATOR CHRIS MURPHY: "Spare me the bullshit about mental illness ... We don't have any more mental illness than any other country in the world. You cannot explain this through a prism of mental illness because we're not an outlier on mental illness. ... We're an outlier when it comes to access to firearms and the ability of criminals and very sick people to get their arms on firearms.

That's what makes America different."

UTAH REPUBLICAN SENATOR MITT ROMNEY: "Grief overwhelms the soul. Children slaughtered. Lives extinguished. Parents' hearts wrenched. Incomprehensible. I offer prayer and condolence but know that it is grossly inadequate. We must find answers."

WEST VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC SENATOR JOE MANCHIN: "That makes no sense at all, why we can't do common-sense, common-sense things and try to prevent some of this from happening."

PETE BUTTIGIEG, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION: "How many more lives? How many more children? And how much longer before we reject the choices that have made ours the one country where this happens routinely? It is not inevitable, it is horrific. It must end."

REPUBLICAN TEXAS GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT: "Texans are grieving for the victims of this senseless crime & for the community of Uvalde.

"Cecilia & I mourn this horrific loss & urge all Texans to come together."

ADVANCED ECONOMIES TO BE BACK ON TRACK BY 2024: IMF

has been a major setback to the global recovery.

"We had a serious downgrade to the global growth rate and the world continues to face headwinds because we have a cost of living crisis. Prices of commodities, including fuel and food, are going up around the world," she said.

Gopinath said central banks are trying to tackle this high level of inflation and are raising interest rates sharply, which they need to do, but that will also have consequences for global finance and trade.

She was speaking at a special session on 'What next for global growth?' during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2022. Gopinath said there are very divergent recoveries around the world.

"While advanced economies, as per our estimates, will basically get back to where they would have been in the absence of pandemic in 2024, but emerging and developing economies would be 5% below where they would have been in the absence of the pandemic," she said.

The panelists discussed that the recovery from the Covid crisis has been deeply uneven within and between countries, depending on their access to fiscal resources and vaccines.

As food, fuel and resource crises now risk further derailing an equitable recovery, they discussed how a broader set of foundations for growth can ensure long-term economic prosperity and a return to international convergence. (Source: PTI)

QUAD MOVING TO ACTION-ORIENTED COOPERATION: FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA

Quad's existence, as stated by US President Joe Biden. The Quad will focus on common efforts to respond to the Covid pandemic, in particular post-pandemic recovery, and strengthening health security.

Shedding more light on the Quad's flagship venture - the Indo Pacific Economic Framework - he said the concept is structured around four pillars: trade, supply chains, infrastructure, clean energy and decarbonization and, tax and anti-corruption. Collective discussions will be initiated and final contours of this would emerge based on discussions among the Quad countries.

The intention is to promote infrastructure delivery, bridge infrastructural gaps in the Indo-Pacific region and do it in a manner that does not burden countries with unsustainable debt, and infrastructure projects.

Kwatra also mentioned a new Indo-Pacific partnership in maritime domain awareness to help countries bolster their capabilities to respond to natural disasters as also to combat illegal fishing. The Quad will also shape and build partnerships for greater cybersecurity and for transparent, trusted and reliable supply chains across the region, especially in critical and emerging technologies.

The PM put forward specific proposals. They include solid initiatives in climate finance and sustainable developments; building appropriate platforms for the industry and businesses between Quad countries and the Indo-Pacific countries and mechanisms to strengthen partnership among "likeminded countries" in areas of common interest.

The Quad leaders also issued strong condemnation of all forms of terrorism, and a call to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Mumbai and Pathankot terror attacks. (Source: TNS)

WILLING TO TALK DIRECTLY TO VLADIMIR PUTIN AND NOT VIA INTERMEDIATORS, SAYS ZELENSKY

Speaking to an audience at the World Economic Forum in Davos, he also said Ukraine would fight until it recovered all of its territory.

"Moscow should withdraw its troops back to the lines in place before Russia began its invasion on February 24. That might be a first step towards talks," he said, adding Russia had been playing for time in its talks with Ukraine.

UK LECTURER STRUCK OFF FOR HARASSING SIKH COLLEAGUE

he had been racially harassed on a number of occasions by Slaven since the start of his employment in October 2016 to December 2018. According to the evidence before the tribunal, Slaven is said to have subjected Colleague 1 with questions like "Where's your bandage" and/or "Why aren't you wearing your bandage" with reference to his turban.



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Best places in Kovalam

Travelling to a city like Kovalam can be immensely enriching. A visit to an ancient temple can help you really appreciate the bygone times and India's cultural heritage. A walk near the beach can be a rare opportunity to think, self-discovery and personal growth. And, spending time exploring the art galleries, aquarium or simply picnicking and learning yoga by the side of a dam could also prove to be a worthwhile occupation. So, go ahead and click to get acquainted with our picks of the best places in Kovalam to explore accompanied or alone, based on a range of options like beaches, rivers, temples, cultural hubs and so on. So, get set and pack your bags — time waits for no one.

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH

So named because of the lighthouse perched on top of Kurumkal Hill, the southernmost beach of Kovalam—Lighthouse Beach—is one of the most stunning beaches in India. You'll be tempted to spend a laidback afternoon at the beach but do make the effort of climbing up the spiral staircase of the red and white watchtower which will offer you the most spectacular views of the pristine waters and vast sandy stretch. The lifeguards here are quite alert and will give you pointers on which parts of the beach are safe to swim in on that particular day, as well as high-tide timings. The line of restaurants and shacks on the beach serve up fresh seafood, and there are a number of hotels (to suit every budget) on Lighthouse Road that leads up to the beach.

VIZHINJAM ROCK CUT CAVE TEMPLE

A small, 8th century rock cut temple, Vizhinjam Rock Cut Caves may not be grand enough, but patrons of ancient Indian architecture may appreciate the one-celled shrine with a loose sculpture of Vinandhara Dakshinamurthi in this granite sculpture. Located about 17 kilometres from the city of Thiruvananthapuram, the cave remained nondescript for many years. It features Tripurantaka (Shiva) carrying a bow and arrow in two of his four hands and HIS divine consort Parvati. Visit it only if you have a serious thing for ancient temple architecture.

VIZHINJAM MARINE AQUARIUM

This gem of an aquarium is actually full of marine wealth such as fishes, corals and other aquatic fauna. Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium also boasts unique technique of Image Pearl production which involves embedding a pearl oyster into a mould of any shape, made of shell cement. After a couple of months, what you get is a lovely pearl shaped like the mould in which it was set. Find this spot at the busiest fishing harbours in Vizhinjam, near Theatre Junction.

NAPIER ART MUSEUM & GALLERY & SHRI CHITRA ART GALLERY

Kovalam is a friendly city with a rich history. And, the Napier Art Museum,



in Thiruvananthapuram, named after the erstwhile Governor of Madras, Lord Napier, has documented that for posterity very well. There's plenty for all types of visitors to see, from ivory carvings, traditional ornaments, zoological garden etc. Make sure to hit the Shri Chitra Art Gallery, in the vicinity, to appreciate the works dating back to the Mughal and Rajputana times.

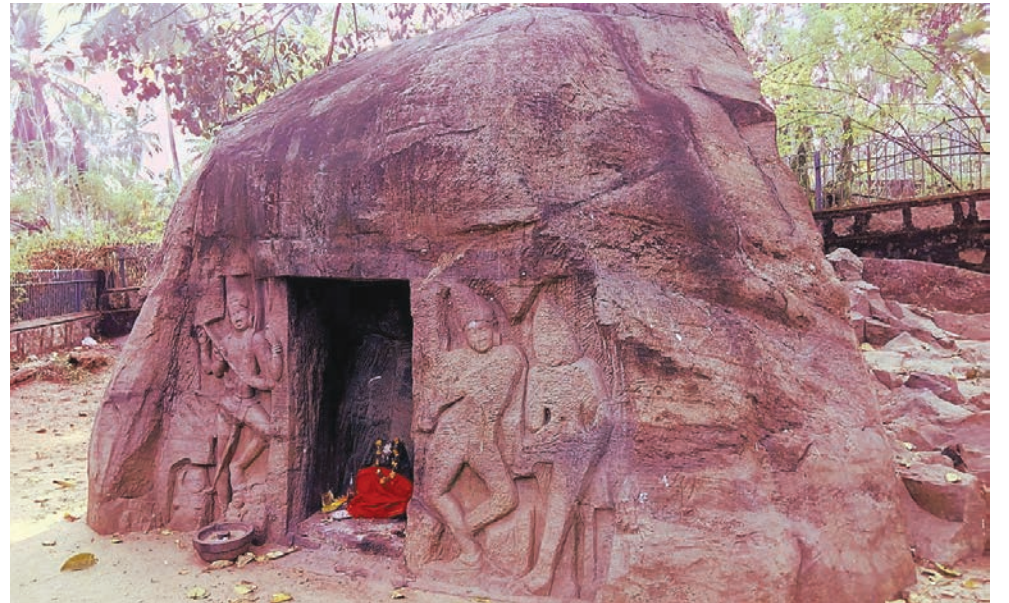
PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE

The Padmanabhapuram Palace, located near Thuckalay in Kanyakumari, continues to attract history buffs and connoisseurs of antiquity. Currently maintained for posterity by the Govt. of Kerala Archaeology Department, this palace was erected around 1601 AD by the ruler Iravi Varma Kulasekhara Perumal, and was rebuilt in 1750 by the founder of modern Travancore, King Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma (1706-1758). King Marthanda Varma dedicated the kingdom to his family deity Sri Padmanabha, a form of Lord Vishnu and ruled the kingdom as Padmanabha dasa or servant of Lord Padmanabha.

The features of this palace are especially noteworthy. The clock tower in the palace complex has a 300-year-old clock, which still keeps time. There's large hall with a capacity to accommodate around 1000 guests, and it was once upon a time a space for holding ceremonial feasts on auspicious occasions. Interestingly, the palace has a secret passage, now blocked, through which the king, his immediate family members, and their entourage could escape to another palace, located several miles away in case of a serious threat. The palace complex also has old Chinese jars, all gifts by Chinese merchants, weapons, brass lamps, wood and stone sculpture, a variety of furniture, large mirrors made of polished metal, paintings portraying the history of Travancore and a wooden cot made of up to 64 wooden pieces of a variety of medicinal tree trunks.

KARAMANA RIVER

Karamana River, with its starting point near the southern point of the



Western Ghats at Agastyar Koodam, flows westward to merge with the Arabian Sea at Panathura near Kovalam. In between, the river passes through a small, namesake suburb in Thiruvananthapuram called Karamana. You've got to appreciate the expansive green patches of tropical flora dotting the gorgeous lake. Karamana River has its own unique charm and ways to entertain tourists. Visit the Thiruvallam Boat Club located on the river bank, and buy a ticket or two for canoe rides, houseboat cruises, kayaking etc.

VELLAYANI LAKE

You've got to visit the lake that came

into being due to the divine intervention of a holy sage. According to the local lore, once upon a time, a thirsty beggar visited a meditating saint in search of water. When the saint, however, saw that his vessel has only a few drops of water, not enough to quench the thirst of the humble seeker, he took the drops in his palm and threw them as far as he could with sacred intentions. Wherever the drops of water fell, turned into a vast lake and thus served the sage's purpose. Vellayani Lake is located about 7 kms from Kovalam, and is a celebrated venue for holding the annual boat race event during Onam. Tourists always drop by here to enjoy a boat ride.



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UK GOVT APPROVES SALE OF PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB CHELSEA BY SANCTIONED ROMAN ABRAMOVICH

Roman Abramovich's 19 years as Chelsea owner is closer to ending after the British Government approved the sale of the Premier League club by the sanctioned Russian oligarch to a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly.

The government had to be sure that Abramovich, who was sanctioned over his links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, did not profit from the enforced sale of the club that his investment turned into one of the most successful in European football.

The reigning FIFA Club World Cup winners and 2021 European champions will be sold for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) — the highest price ever for a sports team — once Premier League approval is granted.

Chelsea has been operating under a government license since Abramovich's assets were frozen in March and it expires on May 31.

"Following extensive work, we are now satisfied that the full proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or any other sanctioned individual," the British government said in a statement released Wednesday.

"We will now begin the process of ensuring the proceeds of the sale are used for humanitarian causes in Ukraine, supporting victims of the war."

"The steps today will secure the future of this important cultural asset and protect fans and the wider football community." It was a hotly-contested sale process following Russia's invasion of Ukraine three months ago and Boehly's group had to guarantee 1.75 billion pounds (\$2.2 billion) of investment in the team to be chosen as the new owners.

IPL: Patidar's 112 not out guides RCB to 14-run win over LSG

KOLKATA (TIP)

Rajat Patidar owned the big stage with a magnificent hundred as Royal Challengers Bangalore beat debutants Lucknow Super Giants by 14 runs in the IPL Eliminator here on Wednesday, May 25.

RCB will now take on Rajasthan Royals, losers of first qualifiers, in qualifier 2, while Lucknow's journey ended following the defeat here.

Invited to bat, Patidar, the 28-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, produced an innings for the ages as he towered over his more illustrious colleagues with an unbeaten 54-ball 112-run knock that had as many as 12 fours and 7 maximums to power RCB to a huge 207 for 4.

In reply, skipper KL Rahul slammed a 58-ball 79 to keep Lucknow in the hunt but Josh Hazlewood (3/43) dealt a twin blow in the penultimate over as LSG finished at 193 for 6.

Gujarat Titans skipper Pandya hails 'match-winner' Miller after reaching final

Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya said David Miller's quality was never in doubt after the South African powered them to the Indian Premier League final in their debut season with victory against the Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday, May 24.

Miller struck a blistering 38-ball 68 and shared an unbeaten 106-run stand with Pandya (40) to help Gujarat chase down a formidable 189 with seven wickets in



Rajat Patidar of Royal Challengers Bangalore raises his bat after scoring a century. Photo: PTI

hand.

"A lot of people counted David Miller out but for us he was always a match-winner from the time we bought him at the auction," said Pandya.

"What he did today we always expected from him. But for us it was important to give him the importance, give him that love and give him the clarity as to what we expect from him." Miller, who

managed just 124 runs from nine games for Rajasthan last season, smashed three successive sixes off Prasidh Krishna in the final over to seal the match in style and send Gujarat to the final on their home ground in Ahmedabad.

"I am generally proud of the way he has lifted his game," said Pandya, adding that he was proud to play with Miller.

Source: Agencies

Nadal sails into French Open third round with 300th major win

Rafa Nadal produced an imperious show on Wednesday, May 25, to secure his 300th Grand Slam match victory, dismantling local hope Corentin Moutet 6-3 6-1 6-4 to book his spot in the French Open third round.

Nadal counts 13 Roland Garros titles among his overall 21 majors -- the highest among men -- and despite his injury-blighted buildup to the claycourt tournament he has looked at his usual best in the first two rounds.

The Spaniard, whose preparations were hampered by a rib injury and a foot problem, was not keen to talk about his physical condition.

"I can't try to go very deep in a tournament if I'm worried about my physical issues every single day," he told reporters.

"So if something happens, I am gonna accept it. But for the moment I am focused on the tennis."

The Spaniard, who turns 36 next week, will next meet Dutch 26th seed Botic van de Zandschulp with a potential quarter-final looming against world number one Novak Djokovic who defeated him in last year's semi-finals.



Playing under the lights at Court Philippe Chatrier, Nadal peppered the red clay with winners from both his forehand and backhand in the first two sets to leave Moutet stranded.

In his first career meeting with the 23-year-old French wildcard, Nadal broke Moutet's serve four times in the first two sets but uncharacteristic errors at the start of the third allowed his opponent to take a 2-0 lead.

Nadal immediately broke back, however, to get the set back on serve and after another exchange of breaks, the Spaniard broke Moutet again to seal victory on his first match point.

Source: Reuters

India's Murali Sreeshankar claims long jump gold in Greece

India's premier long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the gold medal at the 12th International Jumping Meeting in Kallithea, Greece with an effort of 8.31m. The Tokyo Olympian is the current national record holder with a jump of 8.36m, which he had achieved last month.

Sreeshankar was followed by Swede Thobias Montler, who claimed silver with an 8.27m jump, and Jules Pommery of France, who bagged bronze with an 8.17m effort in the 10-man field.

Only the top three jumpers crossed the 8m-mark.

Jeswin Aldrin, meanwhile, finished fifth after he hit the 7.69m mark at the 17th Iberoamerican Meeting in Huelva, Spain.

Filip Pravdiva of Croatia (7.91m), Uruguay's Emiliano Lasa (7.82m) and Peruvian José Luis Mandros (7.77m) completed the top three of the seven-man field.

"Sreeshankar consistently jumping far. In 12th International Jumps Meeting, Kallithea, Greece, event part of World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze.



Performance 8.31 meters," Athletics Federation of India tweeted.

Competing in his first outdoor international meet since the Olympics campaign, Sreeshankar warmed up on Wednesday evening with jumps of 7.88 and 7.71 metres before leaping 8.31 metres. Sreeshankar came into the competition on back of his excellent domestic form where he repeatedly breached the 8m mark. The Kerala athlete logged 8.14m and 8.17m at the season-opening Indian Open Jumps Competitions in Thiruvananthapuram before breaking his own national record at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode after a close battle with Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin.

Source: PTI



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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



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