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WE WISH
READERS A



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

JOE BIDEN SAYS U.S.
SENDING ANOTHER
MILITARY AID WORTH
\$150 MILLION FOR
UKRAINE



President
Joe Biden

File photo

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Biden seeks Congress to approve '\$33 billion spending package that will last through the end of September'

President Joe Biden has authorized the shipment of another \$150 million in military assistance for Ukraine for artillery rounds and radar systems in its fight against Russia's invading forces.

President Biden on Friday, May 7, said the latest spending means his administration has "nearly exhausted" what Congress authorized for Ukraine in March and called on lawmakers to swiftly approve a more than \$33 billion spending package that will last through the end of September.

"We are sending the weapons and equipment that Congress has authorized directly to the front lines of freedom in Ukraine," President Biden said in a statement.

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UN: Record 193 million went without enough food last year

THE FIGURES APPEARED IN THE GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISIS

ROME / NEW YORK (TIP): The United Nations (UN) said on Wednesday, May 4, that the number of people without enough to eat on a daily basis reached all-time high last year and is poised to hit "appalling" new levels as the Ukraine war affects global food production.

Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute food insecurity in 2021 due to what the UN said was a "toxic triple combination" of conflict, weather extremes and the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The UN said the total number of people without adequate food every day increased by 40 million last year, confirming a "worrisome trend" of annual increases over several years. The figures appeared in the Global Report on Food Crisis, which is produced jointly by

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute food insecurity in 2021 due to what the UN said was a "toxic triple combination" of conflict, weather extremes and the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. File photo

Arya Samaj of Long Island Celebrates Vaisakhi

PERFORMERS ENTHRALL, GUESTS THRILLED



Soormay group giving a thrilling performance of Bhangra

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Arya Samaj of Long Island celebrated Vaisakhi-Punjab's harvest festival on April 30 at Hicksville Middle School. Though the Samaj has been celebrating Vaisakhi since 2007 it is for the first time that the festival was celebrated on a large scale, Secretary of Arya Samaj of Long Island Mr. Veer Mukhi said. "The intention is to

spread India's rich culture and traditions", he added. Incidentally, the Arya Samaj of Long Island was founded in 2006.

The school auditorium with a seating capacity of around 300 was full, and the audience was treated to a delightful music and dance variety program.

CONTD ON PAGE 7

FACEOFF BETWEEN COPS OF 3 STATES OVER 1 ARREST

Bagga held by Punjab Police in Delhi, Brought back from Haryana by Delhi Police



Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga with PM Modi
Photo Courtesy/ Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga-Facebook

CHANDIGARH / NEW YORK

(TIP): In a dramatic turn of events that brought the police of three states face to face, BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga was arrested by the Punjab Police from his Delhi residence around 8.30 am today, stopped by the Haryana Police in Kurukshetra while being taken to Punjab and brought to the national

CONTD ON PAGE 36

RELIEF TO THOUSANDS AS US EXTENDS DEADLINE OF EXPIRING WORK PERMIT BY 1.5 YEARS

Includes those seeking green cards and spouses of H-1B visa holders



Photo for representational purpose only.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Biden administration has announced an automatic extension of expiring work permits for certain categories of immigrants, including those seeking green cards and spouses of H-1B visa holders who get employment authorization cards (EAD), for a year-and-a-half.

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Andy Singh

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GUEST COMMENT

I've had an abortion - and it should remain legal in America



BY PARVEEN
CHOPRA



I am a male, so I did not literally have an abortion. But it was my decision too, and I was fully involved in finding a provider and accompanying my girlfriend for the procedure. I believe every partner or spouse should be engaged in such a critical decision with implications ranging from health, moral and legal to financial.

My 'abortion' was over three decades ago in Chandigarh, India. My girlfriend was an Australian. What I remember is, we went to the local facility of the Family Planning Association of India. No (hard) questions asked. This was the protocol for medical termination of pregnancy, to use the official lingo, in India as far back as I can remember. So, I watch with dismay the pitched battles in America in this day and age over what should be a settled matter, as it is in much of the rest of the world, even Catholic countries. The worsening politics over it in a polarized America is still more worrying.

My girlfriend said at the time that she could have the baby and her country Down Under even supports single mothers. She knew I was not ready to get married as I was still in the process of deciding what to do with my life, career-wise. I could have married her to get instant immigration to Australia, which was difficult to get in those days with White Australia being the official policy there. But I decided against it. Even if we were not married, I would have

still felt connected in some ways to that child she was to bring to the world.

So we went through the clinical procedure, which took a couple of hours. I am sure, for the woman more than the man, it is a heart-wrenching experience and an episode indelibly recorded in her life story. But I remember it too and am reminded of it every time abortion debate hits the headlines here in America, as it did this week with the leaked draft judgement of the US Supreme Court overturning the five-decade old Roe vs Wade landmark decision, making abortion legal.

I hear the abortion critics' argument that the fetus too has a right to life. At what stage in the pregnancy life begins is an unsettled matter among the medical experts and religious people though. I am not competent to comment on pro-lifers' line of attack. My question is: whether the unaborted child can hope to have a good life? Bringing up a child outside of marriage by a single mother does not bode well emotionally or financially for the woman or the child. The newest Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barret glibly talked about adoption in such cases. That is a poor runaround.

Let us see who will be most affected when Roe is gone. According to an analysis of abortion data by The New York Times, a typical woman seeking abortion is poor; is unmarried and in her late 20s with some college education. Since the issue will now devolve to the states, abortion will be restricted in GOP ruled states, some of which have already been passing laws to that effect circumventing Roe. Abortion seekers in these states will suffer. Many who cannot afford to carry the child may

not have the means to travel to Democrat run states or a neighboring country to terminate the pregnancy. The result? "One of the things that I worry about the most is that we are going to see an increase in maternal deaths in this country" if Roe is overturned, said Lauren Ralph, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, as quoted by NBC News.

The other major argument against Roe vs Wade is that it was a bad decision. Justice Samuel Alito comments in the leaked draft opinion that 'the Constitution makes no reference to abortion.' My counterargument? Times change, societies evolve. So, the Constitution should get amended by the legislative bodies to keep up with the changing social and moral mores. Who would have thought of writing in same sex marriage protections two and half centuries ago in the US Constitution? Now it is the law of the land. That is indeed the argument of Roe defenders: that after Roe is overturned, many other private matters like gay marriage can go on the chopping block of the court.

Ironically, over 60% Americans have consistently supported legal abortions since 1995, according to Pew research. But a conservative majority of SCOTUS cobbled together by the Trump-McConnell machinations in the last administration is dragging law in the other direction. Democrats, led by President Biden, want to codify Roe but do not have the votes in the US Senate to do it.

(The writer is former editor of The South Asian Times. He can be reached at parveen.chopra@gmail.com)

Indian American groups urge Connecticut Assembly to rescind its 'Sikh independence' citation



THE CITATION : In the "official citation", the Connecticut general assembly congratulated the pro-Khalistan organization World Sikh Parliament "in recognition of the 36th anniversary of the declaration of Sikh independence"

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Americans have expressed outrage over a citation issued by the general assembly of the US state of Connecticut recognizing the anniversary of the so-called "declaration of Sikh independence".

In the "official citation" dated April 29, the Connecticut general assembly congratulated the pro-Khalistan organization World Sikh Parliament "in recognition of the 36th anniversary of the declaration of Sikh independence".

Scores of Indian American groups and powerful community leaders have been writing letters to the members of the Connecticut State Assembly and its leadership underlining that such a citation questions the territorial integrity of India and undermines a growing India-US relationship.

"This citation will be detrimental to the interest of our Connecticut. Thus, we urge you to rescind this citation," Milan Cultural Association of Connecticut said, noting that this citation is a highly condemnable move by the Connecticut administration and is not at all acceptable.

"This citation proves how oblivious it's of the real issue. The state has waded into the unknown and unwanted territory without talking and consulting the larger Indian American community in Connecticut," it said.

Federation of Indian Association (FIA), Ohio, said the Connecticut State Assembly's decision to issue the citation is an "irresponsible act".

"We have noted with deep concern a Citation by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut congratulating on Sikh independence. The irresponsible act calls into question the territorial integrity of India and lends credence to

forces which desire dismemberment of India," it said.

"This can never be the will or intent of the people of Connecticut," it said.

FIA, New England said that the citation appears to have been issued based on misinformation by some fringe elements with a parochial, nefarious and deplorable agenda of sowing discord in the community for their politically motivated subversive interests.

"It is a gross misuse, rather an abuse, of the august General Assembly of Connecticut," it said.

FIA, Tri-State (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) urged the elected members of the General Assembly of Connecticut to "mitigate this very sad and unfortunate action" and take the needed steps to "promptly rectify this illegitimate act of supporting subversive activities."

Ankur Vaidya, chairman of FIA, hoped that the facts will be checked, and that truth will prevail in the General Assembly of Connecticut.

"Such despicable and deplorable action by divisive elements with selfish hidden agendas must be collectively and strongly condemned," he said.

The Association of Indians in America, New York said that this "outrageous" citation is an affront to India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The so-called citation is nothing but a nefarious attempt to sow division in the Indian-American community on religious lines and a manipulation of the platform of the General Assembly of Connecticut," it said.

"We strongly appeal to the lawmakers to recall the citation," it said.

Jagdish Sewhani, president of the American Indian Public Affairs Committee, said this citation is "absolutely unacceptable".

"This irresponsible act of supporting the secessionist movement in India is absolutely unacceptable. The USA, the oldest democracy, and India, the largest democracy, share very close and strategic relationships," he said.

Thomas Abraham, chairman of Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International, called on the Connecticut Assembly to put out a statement disassociating itself from the citation.

"At this point, our state's interest is to attract Indian businesses and technology related companies to start their outfits in our state so as to create employment in the state. This public image of Connecticut being anti-India goes against our interests. We request that you issue a public statement to dissociate from this citation," he said.

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Gujarat and Maharashtra Day celebrated at the Indian Consulate, NY



Consul General of India Mr. Randhir Kumar Jaiswal addressing the gathering
Photo / Jay Mandal- On Assignment

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Federation of Indian Association and the Indian Consulate celebrated Gujarat Maharashtra Day on May 1, 2022 at the Indian Consulate premises in New York as part of the ongoing celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of Indian Independence.

The chief guests to grace the occasion were Ms. Archana Joglekar - a celebrated actress, director & a renowned Kathak exponent, and Ms.

Kaajal Oza Vaidya - a noted author, scriptwriter, radio jockey, and a motivational speaker.

The event was attended by Consul General Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, DCG Dr. Varun Jeph, FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai, FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Padma Shri Dr. H R Shah, Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Mayor of Edison Mr. Sam Joshi and FIA's Srujal Parikh, Alok Kumar. Smt Smita Miki Patel amongst others.

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Jaipur Foot USA Explores options to hold limb fitment camps to help soldiers and civilians injured in Russia-Ukraine conflict



From L to R: Nishant Garg, Prem Bhandari, Edward Mermelstein, Oleksii Holubov, Dilip Chauhan, Sarah Friedman

NEW YORK (TIP): Amid the ongoing Ukraine war, Jaipur Foot USA is looking at possibilities to hold limb fitment camps for needy soldiers and civilians injured in the conflict, a PTI report says.

Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari along with Joint Secretary, Jaipur Foot USA Nishant Garg met the Consul General of Ukraine in New York Oleksii Holubov on Tuesday, May 4.

They also met New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs

Edward Mermelstein, Deputy Commissioner- Trade, Investment and Innovation for New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs Dilip Chauhan and General Counsel for the Mayor's Office for International Affairs Sarah Friedman. During the initial meeting, Bhandari raised the issue of the possibility of organizing Jaipur Foot camps to help soldiers and civilians injured in Ukraine war.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Indian-origin British industrialist Lord Swraj Paul's wife Aruna passes away in UK

LONDON (TIP): The wife of leading NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul, Lady Aruna Paul, passed away peacefully at her home in London on Tuesday, May 3 night. She was 86.

"She was full of life and always trying to uplift people around her," said a close family member, confirming the news of her death.

Lady Paul is survived by her husband and three children - two sons Akash and Ambar and daughter Anjali.

Swraj and Aruna Paul, who were married for over 65 years, were a familiar presence together at diaspora events in London. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in December 2016, when Queen

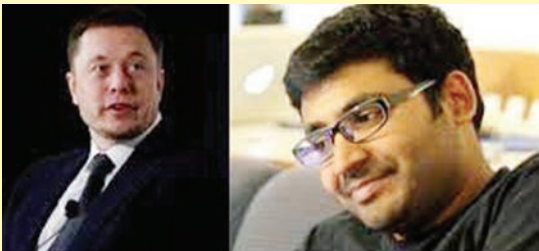


Lady Aruna Paul (left) passed away peacefully at her home in London on Tuesday, May 3 night. She was 86.

Elizabeth II sent her best wishes to mark the couple's wedding milestone.

Lord Paul, 91, is the founder of UK-based Caparo Group of industries, with operations in the US, India, Canada and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

INDIAN-ORIGIN PARAG AGARWAL TAKES UP FOR TEAM TWITTER, DEFYING ELON MUSK



If the incoming owner thinks Team Twitter is no good, Agrawal would be pushing back, lauding his folks for working constantly towards the betterment of the company.

NEW YORK (TIP): Ahead of Twitter's imminent takeover by Elon Musk, the world's richest man, its CEO Parag Agrawal replied to a quip by a parody account -- @NotParagAgrawal -- "I thought we were fired", with a "nope! we are still here".

The reticent Agrawal also launched into what analysts interpret as a dare. The embattled CEO wrote, "I took this job to change Twitter for the better, course correct where we need to, and strengthen the service. Proud of our people who continue to do the work with focus and urgency despite the noise." This comes when Musk has little doubt of incompetence going right up to the Twitter board. The battle lines have been drawn in his public tweets, as also gory annexes in the filings before the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

If the incoming owner thinks Team Twitter is no good, Agrawal would be pushing back, lauding his folks for working constantly towards the betterment of the company.

"Thank you but don't feel for me. What matters most is the service and the people improving it," he retorted in the face of a patronizing tweet which read, "I feel for the current ceo of Twitter (@paraga) - he had all these plans and now lives with the same uncertainty of his whole team." Musk's castigation Wednesday of Vijaya Gadde, Twitter's legal eagle and the one responsible for deplatforming a sitting US President, has hardened premonition that firing squads are not too far away.

The Politico reported that Gadde is distraught at Twitter selling out to Musk and when news came out, she sobbed. Musk hit back that the platform's (read Gadde's) decision regarding a news story in 2020 was "incredibly inappropriate".

He followed this up on Wednesday night with a meme that took fresh potshots at Gadde. Following his tweet, a number of Twitter trolls have hurled racist slurs and abuses at Gadde, 48, an immigrant at the age of three.

Gadde found support in present employees, including Twitter spokesperson Trenton Kennedy. Likewise, CEO Dick Costolo.

Attacking Musk for posting a meme of podcaster Joe Rogan and Vijaya Gadde, Costolo wondered what was going on. He asked Musk as a reply, "What's going on? You're making an executive at the company you just bought the target of harassment and threats." In another tweet, Costolo put it bluntly, "Bullying is not leadership." Never one to back off, when Tweepie pointed to "a video mocking Twitter employees for being too sensitive was flagged by Twitter for sensitive content", Musk replied with two emojis of "ROFL!" He also batted for encryption at the level of Signal and plans to serve the 80 per cent who are neither far left nor extreme right.

Twitter is due to report its first-quarter earnings on Thursday before trading opens on Wall Street.

Indian Girl Single-Handedly gets Ambedkar in American Curriculum of a San Jose College

PRABHJOT SINGH

TORONTO (TIP): An Indian student in San Jose City College in California has taken upon herself the onerous task of spreading knowledge about Dr B.R. Ambedkar. Thanks to Aruna Masoorkar's efforts, life, history and works of Dr BR Ambedkar have been included in the American curriculum of the college.

As the only Indian Buddhist student at her institution, Aruna Wasudeo Rao Masoorkar, who worked as an Air Hostess with Indian Airlines before emigrating to the United Arab Emirates and later went to the United States for studies,

successfully organized the 131st birth anniversary of one of the main architects of Indian Constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar. Aruna comes from Nagpur.

It was the first of its kind major event sponsored by her college.

As a Committee Ambassador for Student Equity & Achievement Program and the voice of students in her college, she was pleasantly surprised to find that hardly anyone in her college ever heard about Dr. Ambedkar.

"They all became curious as I expressed my interest to celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar. Initially they thought I may be wanting to talk about Vaisakhi celebrations as most of them knew about various Indian festivals, including Diwali and Vaisakhi, besides a few Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, but had no idea about Dr B.R. Ambedkar, a pioneer of building a movement of empowering weaker and unprivileged classes of society.

"The Dean of the college immediately arranged a special meeting and offered US \$1,700 for holding the event. I requested all Professors to have their students write a one-page essay on Bodhisattva Dr. B R Ambedkar. They appreciated the idea, granting students extra grade credit of 3%-7% besides agreeing to include the history of Dr. Ambedkar in the American curriculum at the college. They also advertised the in-person event in newspapers, emails and verbally encouraged



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

students to attend.

"The Director and Professor of Journalism invited me to her class to make a presentation about Dr. B R Ambedkar. She assigned her students to create a special project on him for their final exam, advising them to interview me to know more about Dr Ambedkar's life, struggles, achievements, and the current situation in India.

"The students, Professors, administrative staff and all my friends assisted me in organizing this event as the college radio station broadcasted Dr Ambedkar's songs on air, and interviewed me live on the day of celebrations," said Aroona Masoorkar.

The Mayor of San Jose and the Congresswoman also sent their greetings for Bodhisattva Dr BR Ambedkar's birthday.

In her interview with the College Radio, she not only talked about Dr Ambedkar but also about Buddhism and minorities in India.

It took her almost two weeks to organize the first ever event commemorating the birth anniversary of a great Indian Humanitarian leader. She had also invited Ash Kalra, an elected member of the California State Assembly. Since he was away to Santa Clara to attend Assembly meetings, he sent his representative Tuan Nguyen to read his message. Ash Kalra, born in Toronto, represents Democrats in the State Assembly.

Aruna presented a blue pen with the words "Bodhisattva Dr BR Ambedkar" printed on it and a big Buddha statue each to all the guests, crew members of radio station, and Professors and grey pen and a small Buddha statue each to all the students. They acknowledged it as a thoughtful souvenir that they would cherish for the rest of their lives while remembering to practice humanity.

It was just the beginning. Now many people in the San Jose area at least know about Babasaheb Ambedkar, said Aruna Masoorkar.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories)

Indian-origin girl presents PM Modi with his portrait in Berlin



Manya presented the Prime Minister his portrait

BERLIN (TIP): It was a dream come true for two small Indian-origin children in Germany who received praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they

won his heart by their talent.

Modi, who arrived here on the first leg of his three-nation Europe trip, was given a rousing welcome from the Indian

diaspora in the country.

Ashutosh and Manya Mishra were among kids who were waiting for the prime minister at Hotel Adlon Kempinski along with the elders of the community. Ashutosh sang a patriotic song for Prime Minister Modi, who enjoyed listening to him.

Modi praised the boy's talent and said "Shaabash (well done)."

Little girl Manya presented the Prime Minister his portrait. He took a picture with Manya and also signed the portrait for her.

"I made it for him... with my mother's help," said Manya, who studies at a Berlin school.

"It was a wonderful experience meeting Prime Minister Modi. He is my icon. He signed the painting I made of him and said to me 'Shabash'," she said.

Sharing her experience of meeting Prime Minister Modi, Manya said, "My dream came true."

INDIAN AMERICAN RICHARD VERMA TO BE APPOINTED TO BIDEN'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD



Richard Verma is to be appointed a member of President Biden's Intelligence Advisory Board.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Indian-American lawyer diplomat Richard Verma, also a former US ambassador to India, as a member of his Intelligence Advisory Board.

The President's Intelligence Advisory Board is an independent element within his Executive Office. A White House statement said Biden has announced his intent to appoint Verma to his Intelligence Advisory Board. Verma, 53, is currently the general counsel and head of Global Public Policy for Mastercard. He oversees the company's law and policy functions in the US and around the world.

TWO INDIAN-AMERICANS AMONG TOP 50 IT LEADERS



Krishna Kumar Edathil (Top) and Nikhil Deshpande (Bottom)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Two Indian-American technocrats, Krishna Kumar Edathil from Texas and Nikhil Deshpande from Georgia, have made it to the coveted StateScoop Top 50 2022 list.

Indian American student entrepreneurs honored by University of Texas

DALLAS (TIP): Kashish Dhal, an Indian Engineering Graduate Student, won the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Maverick Entrepreneur Program Award for his business proposal to develop autopilot software for drones. The software will leverage artificial intelligence to assist industry inspectors and first responders by increasing their working efficiency and keeping them out of dangerous environments.

The Award Fund was established to reward UTA students who explore and express their business ideas in a competitive environment. At an annual event, all UTA students are invited to submit a video of their competitive ideas, and winners are asked to present their ideas to the judges in phase one. Winners of phase one are awarded up to \$15K in cash prize money and invited to participate in phase two, where they can be awarded an additional \$25K, totaling \$40K in cash prize money.

In 2021 winners, Kashish Dhal and Mahinder Singh won \$15000 (first prize) and \$10,000 (second prize), respectively. They were among five student teams winning the awards university-wide. Before winning this award, Kashish Dhal and his team also won NSF I-Corps Award (\$50,000) in April 2021 and the campus-level Blackstone LaunchPad Ideas Competition (\$1,000) in November



The \$ 15,000 prize. Kashish Dhal (left) and Dr. Harbans Lal

2021. Dr. Harbans Lal, a community leader, attended the Award Ceremony and congratulated the winning students on behalf of the Indian community. He also invited all the Indian students competing for the award to dinner in appreciation of their so well in their education.

Indians apprehended on sinking boat in failed smuggling attempt to enter US from Canada

NEW YORK (TIP): Six Indian nationals, aged 19-21 years, were arrested by the US border authorities after they were apprehended on a sinking boat during a failed attempt to be smuggled into America from Canada.

The US Customs and Border Protection said in a statement Thursday, May 5, that with assistance from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, and the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD), U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Massena Border Patrol Station apprehended seven individuals in connection with a failed smuggling attempt



6 Indians apprehended on sinking boat in failed smuggling attempt to enter US from Canada

Photo for representation only

early Thursday morning.

Six of the subjects, all ranging from ages

19 to 21 years old, are citizens of India and have been charged with Improper Entry by Alien in violation of US law. The seventh subject, a United States citizen, was charged with Alien Smuggling, which is a felony and carries a penalty of a fine and up to 10 years in prison for each violation.

Last week, suspicious activity was reported to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, which notified the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department about a boat containing multiple individuals travelling from Canada near Ontario toward the United States.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Gujarat and Maharashtra Day celebrated at the Indian Consulate, NY

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Randhir Jaswal welcomed the guests and said that the Indian Diaspora from both the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, not only in America but in other countries as well, continues to contribute towards the economic and social progress of the countries they live in.

DCG Dr. Varun Jeph, in his speech said that people from both the states are leaders in Finance, Business, Entrepreneurship and they also stand out for their rich cultural traditions and heritage.

FIA president Mr. Kenny Desai said that the state of Gujarat is the 'Karmabhoomi' of Lord Krishna and has been the land of many notable figures hailing from different fields like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Bhakt Narsi Mehta, Vikram Sarabhai, PM Sh Narendra Modi, and the Industrial houses of Ambanis and Adanis. He mentioned that Maharashtra has been the guardian of Hindu Sanatan Dharam and has produced bravehearts like Chattrapati Shivaji, Baji Rao Peshwa and Ahilyabai Holkar. He said that people from both states have contributed to the Economic, Industrial and Financial growth of India.

FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya in his speech said that he was born and brought up in Baroda in Gujarat which had a significant Maharashtrian Influence and as such had the best of both cultures. He also emphasized the need to engage other Indian Communities and have events and gatherings where all the members from the various Indian communities can participate. He said that CG Sh Jaiswal has done a tremendous job in this direction to bring the communities together. He also lauded the efforts of the officials and staff of the Indian Consulate for doing an unprecedented job and in being accessible to all.

One minute's silence was observed in the memory of founding member, Past President and Vice Chairman Emeritus Late Mr. Yashpal Soi. Mr. Vaidya remembered him for his selfless service and dedication to the cause of FIA and lamented the loss FIA has suffered in his passing away.

Guru Archana Joglekar spoke about the folk of Maharashtra. She explained in detail about the culture and folk tradition of Maharashtra. She also spoke about the shared culture of both states.

Ms. Kajal Oza Vaidya said that both the states should be seen in unison and commended the fact that the twin states took to the path of progress and development and have excelled in the fields of enterprise, culture, commerce, and entertainment. She said that today's gathering is proof of the fact that our country lives in our hearts.

Padma Shri Dr. H R Shah said that he is honored to be there for the event and gave a brief outline of the history behind the Gujarat Maharashtra day when the two states came into being.



The Maharashtrian folk dance Laavni by the students of 'Archana Nritalya' run by Guru Archana Joglekar
Photo / Jay Mandal- On Assignment



A Garbha performance

Photo / Jay Mandal- On Assignment



Organizers with the Consul General

Photo / Jay Mandal- On Assignment

Ms. Sam Joshi Mayor of Edison said that it was an honor to be present and spoke about his vision to have a satellite office of IIT India in Edison. He thanked the FIA for their initiatives which go a long way in keeping the Indian Community in touch with their Indian roots.

Event Chair, Past President, and member of Board of Trustees of FIA, Sh. Srujal Parikh said it's a great honor to celebrate the event and took pride in the fact that Gujarat is the Land of Lord Krishna & Mahatma Gandhi. He recognized and felicitated the sponsors, supporters, partner associations, and members in their effort to make the event successful.

Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh said that he shares a

personal bond with Maharashtra as he did his schooling from Mumbai. He attributed his success to the State of Gujarat as it accorded him his higher education.

The audiences were regaled with cultural performances from both the states and especially the 'Garbha' and 'Laavni' which they thoroughly enjoyed. The Maharashtrian folk dance was performed by the students of 'Archana Nritalya' which is run by Guru Archana Joglekar.

It was a well-attended event and was an absolutely packed house.

(Based on a press release)

Indian American groups urge Connecticut Assembly to rescind its 'Sikh independence' citation

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

GOPIO has written to Connecticut State Senators and Assembly Representatives who introduced this citation to dissociate themselves from it.

"There are 20 million Sikhs living peacefully with all other communities all over India and this citation goes against the integrity of India," said Ashok Nichani, president of Connecticut

chapter of GOPIO.

The citation has resulted in outrage among Indian Americans with many of them urging President Joe Biden's administration to condemn it.

Meanwhile, the Indian Consulate in New York condemned the citation and termed it an "attempt by some mischievous elements to use the name of the Assembly for their nefarious purposes".

"These vested interests seek to divide communities and promote bigotry and hatred," the consulate said.

The Consulate statement read :

"We condemn the so-called Citation of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in the USA regarding an illegal act.

"This is an attempt by some mischievous elements to use the name of

the Assembly for their nefarious purposes. These vested interests seek to divide communities and promote bigotry and hatred. Their agenda of violence has no place in democratic societies like the USA and India.

The Embassy of India in Washington D.C. and the Consulate General of India in New York will take up this issue appropriately with the concerned US lawmakers."

Arya Samaj of Long Island Celebrates Vaisakhi



Master of Ceremonies Gita Setia recited Vedic Invocation and sang a Punjabi song



Vivarta Arts Dance group performing a dance



An exciting Gatka performance by Akal Gatka group



Prachi Makkar sang 'boliyan' and 'tappe' and brother Surya Makkar thumped the 'dhol', and the guests could not resist dancing

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

The master of ceremonies Gita Setia gave a wonderful recitation of the Vedic Invocation which was followed by national anthems of America and India. Gita, who is a trained vocalist, cast a magic spell with a Punjabi song.

Vivarta Arts Dance group gave graceful dance performances.

Prachi Makkar and Surya Makkar- the

sister-brother duo -made many in the audience come forward and dance to their Punjabi boliyan. Both are extremely accomplished. While Prachi sings with equal ease the thrilling boliyan and tappe- the two forms of Punjabi folk singing, and mata ki bheta, Surya plays with equal mastery six different musical instruments.

The audience was literally excited to watch a thrilling performance of Gatka- the Sikh martial art. The vigor of the performers was appreciable. The Akal Gatka Group founded by Sardar Daler Singh and ably supported by his brother

Sardar Gurmej Singh is one of the best known Gatka groups in America.

Then came Bhangra, the king of folk dances which has become a rage internationally. The fleet footed dancers of Soormay group sent waves of delight with their graceful motions. Bhangra is a folk dance of Punjab which is a must on every festive occasion.

Earlier, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Editor, The Indian Panorama, who was the keynote speaker and the chief guest was honored by the Arya Samaj of Long Island. Dr. Urmilesh Arya presented him a bouquet and Dr. Yashpal Arya, Chairman of ASLI



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama is being honored. L to R: Veer Mukhi, Secretary, ASLI, Dr. Urmilesh Arya, Dr. Yashpal Arya, Chairman, ASLI, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja



ASLI Trustees with Jon Kaiman, Deputy County Executive Suffolk County.

L to R: Indu Jaiswal, Amba Sharma, Mr. & Mrs. Deepak Seth, Dr. Yashpal Arya, Veer Mukhi, Dr. Urmilesh Arya, Dr. Jagan Nath Pahuja, Dr. Nutan Anand, Gita Setia, and Dr. Azad Anand

honored him with a shawl and a plaque.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Saluja paid rich tributes to Swami Dayanand Saraswati who founded the Arya Samaj on April 10th in 1875. He congratulated the organizers for celebrating Vaisakhi in the month of the founding of the Arya Samaj.

Prof. Saluja said it was natural for human beings to express their joy on occasions which brought them happiness. Quoting from the Sikh Scripture, Shri Guru Granth Sahib which says "Nachan Kuddan man ka chao" which means it is human desire to sing and dance, he said Vaisakhi is celebrated in this spirit of joy when the farmers have harvested their crops and are prosperous. He added that the harvest festival is celebrated all over India by different names. Also, this is the time of the beginning of new year in many parts of the country.

Prof. Saluja acknowledged the presence of Mr. Jon Kaiman, the Deputy Executive of Suffolk County and his staff Mr. Mohinder Singh Taneja, besides recognizing and thanking his family and the media. He thanked the Arya Samaj of Long Island for inviting and honoring him.

Me. Jon Kaiman said he has a long relationship with the Indian American community who he has always found very supportive of him, and assured of his support to the community always.

It was left to the Secretary, Mr. Veer Mukhi to thank the guests, performers and the media, and invite all to a "sumptuous vegetarian dinner, catered by Raj Bhog, Hicksville".

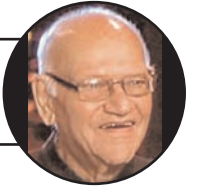


Performers with the Chief Guest Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Deputy County Executive Suffolk County, Jon Kaiman, and organizers of the event

A voice in the wilderness

PURSUIT OF POLITICS OF HATE & DIVISIVENESS CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR THE COUNTRY

BY JULIO
RIBEIRO



"I AM GENUINELY WORRIED (IN FACT, CONVINCED) THAT THE PURSUIT OF THE POLITICS OF HATE AND DIVISIVENESS SPELLS DISASTER FOR THIS COUNTRY. IT WILL AFFECT THE ECONOMY, SOMETHING THAT THE PM IS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT. WHEN DISTURBANCES BECOME A NORMAL FEATURE OF LIFE ON THE STREETS, THE SENTIMENTS OF INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN ARE IMPAIRED. IF THE BIGGEST MINORITY IN THE COUNTRY IS ALIENATED THROUGH SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS ON THEIR MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD AND THEIR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, NO AMOUNT OF INCREASED INVESTMENT IN INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE AND IN UNIFORMED POLICEMEN ON THE STREETS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPRESS THE NATURE AND THE EXTENT OF DESPERATION THAT WILL BE UNLEASHED. ALSO, THE REGIME'S POLICIES (UNSTATED BUT UNDERSTOOD BY ITS FOLLOWERS) WILL SPAWN VIGILANTES DRAWN FROM THE LUMPEN ELEMENTS WHO WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BRING UNDER CONTROL AFTER THE DESIRED RESULTS ARE ATTAINED."



Be warned: If the Muslims are alienated, no amount of surveillance and cops on streets will be enough to suppress the desperation that will be unleashed.
Photo / Courtesy Tribune

I have no quarrel with the 200 prominent retired judges, bureaucrats and armed forces veterans who came out in favor of our Prime Minister, and, by association, with the Sangh Parivar, in reply to the public letter our Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG) published last week. My views may not be exactly similar to that of the 107 other ex-colleagues of the IAS, IFS, IPS, and other Central services who signed the CCG letter. It is not practical to expect over a hundred to voice exactly the same views but the mathematical principle of the lowest common denominator will always apply when so many sign a common letter. So it must be with the subsequent letter signed by the 200!

It is alleged that the Constitutional Conduct Group is attempting to spread mistrust and grab international attention. Nothing could be more ridiculous than that!

Why I have no grouse against the 200 is that I do believe that they too have a right to influence public opinion. There could be many more 'left of center' advocates in my group. If at all, there may be only a sprinkling of these in the larger group or, more probably, none at all! In my own extended family, many voices and opinions will be heard. Also, in my circle of friends. The religious fervor to counter Islamic fervor has definitely crept in after 2014.

What alarmed me is that the group of 200 has questioned our motives! It was alleged that we as a group are attempting to spread mistrust in the country and grab international attention. Nothing could be more ridiculous than that!

I am genuinely worried (in fact, convinced) that the pursuit of the politics of hate and divisiveness spells disaster for this country. It will affect the economy, something that the PM is greatly concerned about. When

disturbances become a normal feature of life on the streets, the sentiments of investors and businessmen are impaired.

If the biggest minority in the country is alienated through systematic attacks on their means of livelihood and their religious practices, no amount of increased investment in Intelligence and surveillance and in uniformed policemen on the streets will be sufficient to suppress the nature and the extent of desperation that will be unleashed.

Also, the regime's policies (unstated but understood by its followers) will spawn vigilantes drawn from the lumpen elements who will be difficult to bring under control after the desired results are attained.

My ex-colleagues allege that my group is 'actually fueling the politics of hate that they seek to combat by engineering hate against the present government'. Is this 'engineering hate' something in which former IAS, IFS, and IPS officers are adept? Perhaps some who have worked in an Intelligence agency are used by governments (every government, in fact) to use 'dirty tricks', if required. But among the 108 who signed the CCG letter, there is none experienced in such skullduggery.

The other group parrots the Sangh Parivar's mantra against the Partition of the country, against jihadi terrorism and secularism. Also, there is the constant reference to violence in West Bengal. No regime in power in Bengal could deal with the volatile nature of the enraged Bengali and his propensity to adopt violence as an instrument of keeping the opponents in check.

Jihadi terrorism is a constant headache. The Indian State has never failed to meet this threat head-on. The belief that one religion is the only true one (which it is not) is the cause

of much misunderstanding. It is an age-old problem, of Abrahamic religions in particular, and will continue till education and wisdom dispel such notions. Many practices in Islam, like hijab, are abhorrent to modern cultures. But repression and laws will not end such practices. Only reformers like Kemal Ataturk in Turkey of old can influence rigid minds.

The Parivar has consistently called those like us who consider ourselves secular as pseudo-secularists! What that term signifies I do not know, just like I am not able to figure out what second-class citizenship that members of a minority, like me, would be consigned to in a Hindu Rashtra means! The Parivar keeps such interpretations vague, thereby spreading fear and inducing subjugation.

The peeve about the Partition and the complicity of Mahatma and Nehru cost Gandhi his life and turned Nehru into a permanent whipping boy of the Parivar. Extremists like Pragya Thakur have found favor with the Parivar.

If the Partition had not taken place, one scenario is that the Hindu-Muslim ratio would be closer to 60:40 than the present 80:20 that Yogi Adityanath talks about. Would jihadi terror be better controlled if Muslims constituted 40% of the population? My friends in the group of 200 should ponder over the probabilities.

Since my ex-colleagues are better placed than the group of 108 to influence the thinking of those in power, I appeal to them to use their clout with the government to order the Parivar's stormtroopers to desist from tormenting Muslims.

Pro-Modi and anti-Modi views are almost evenly divided among those who are Hindus. This is the position among my Hindu friends of many years. There are many also who maintain a studied silence in the presence of a Christian friend, I presume. I respect them as well. Those descended from forward castes are, I admit, more likely to be protagonists of a Hindu Rashtra. They have nothing to lose, maybe something to gain.

A body called Hindus for Human Rights has come out strongly against the persecution of the Muslims. They belong to different religion-based or community-based organizations from around the world, mainly the US. There are individual Hindus who have also signed the petition. I salute these true followers of Hinduism, a way of life to which my ancestors in Goa belonged. Their open letter assured me that the CCG is not alone in its cry for justice and compassion!

(The author is a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer)

Third World War talk that could be hyperbole

M.K.
NARAYANAN



Apart from the grave consequences in an unlikely West versus Russia nuclear stand-off, there are other inhibiting factors

Amidst signs of a further escalation in conflict levels, vis-à-vis the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war - and accompanying new rhetoric of an even wider conflagration in the offing - concerns about the possibility of a Third World War have gone up by several notches. During the past few days what is further evident is that both sides seem intent on enlarging the scale of the conflict, rather than trying to end it.

Battle cry and response

This past week, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), buoyed by the perceived success of Ukraine's resistance to Russia's aggression, have further raised the stakes by pledging additional packages of lethal weapons to Ukraine (amounting to several millions of dollars), which the West had, till now, refrained from supplying Ukraine.

'NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST ABOUT THE EXTENT OF RUSSIAN PERFDY IN THE CONTEXT OF UKRAINE'.

Again, in what can only be perceived as a battle cry, the U.S. Defense Secretary, Lloyd Austin, at a meeting of 43 NATO and other countries (held at the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe) declared that what had transpired was a demonstration of the resolve of nations from around the world to support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression.

Russia's response has been equally threatening. When asked about the prospect of a Third World War, Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, is on record that the risk, including the possibility of nuclear war, was not inconsiderable and that the situation must not be underestimated. Mr. Lavrov added, "NATO, in essence, is engaged in a war with Russia through its proxy and is arming that proxy." He further added that "war means war".

The implicit threat by Russia of using nuclear weapons cannot be disregarded. Mr. Lavrov is not the only one to talk of nuclear weapons, for former Russian President, and currently Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev similarly warned Sweden and Finland (which are currently not members of NATO) that if they decide to join the U.S.-led military alliance, Russia would not hesitate to deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles to meet the threat this posed. He ominously added that in such an eventuality, there would be 'no more talk of a nuclear free Baltic'.

Nuclear weapon use is taboo

All the signs are, hence, far from reassuring, and concerns about a nuclear holocaust appear real. Yet, it would be premature to arrive at the conclusion that a Third World War, accompanied by the use of nuclear weapons, is around the corner. One fact stands out loud and clear, viz., that since 1945, and despite occasional 'nuclear sabre rattling' by the nuclear weapon powers, the use of nuclear weapons has remained taboo.

Since the first two atom bombs were dropped on Japan, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons has only increased multi-fold. Nuclear weapons are also no longer the monopoly of any one single power. A nuclear attack by any one of the major nuclear powers - Russia, the United States or China - would bring instant retaliation. Again, the nuclear balance today is unfavorable to the West, for Russia and China, between



them, have a combined strength of nuclear weapons which is bigger than that of the West. More to the point, if the two sides were to engage in a nuclear conflict, there would be no victors, and it could only result in a nuclear Armageddon.

Apart from grave consequences in the event of a nuclear stand-off, there are other inhibiting factors that make a Third World War an unlikely prospect. One current reality is that there are many degrees of separation as regards the Ukraine-Russia conflict, between the views held by the West and quite a few other countries across the world. Not all countries again are in agreement with the West about the extent of Russian perfidy in the context of Ukraine, and this segment includes sizeable sections of the emerging world. Even some countries in Europe not affiliated to NATO remain skeptical about the reasons adduced for U.S. support to Ukraine and hew to the view that the ulterior objective is to restore global belief and faith in U.S. authority and power and make 'America great again'. There is even less support to the hackneyed theme that Russia today represents 'the Empire of Evil'. A latent fear among such uncommitted countries is that all-out support to the West, and allowing it to act as judge, jury and executioner, could create problems for many of them in the future.

Europe's real concern

Countries across Europe are also concerned about the costs of the war, more specifically, the cost of rebuilding Ukraine after the conflict. There are many little-known facts in this context on what a prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict could mean for both Europe and the world that are worth mentioning. For instance, Ukraine and Russia are generally referred to as the 'breadbasket' of Europe. A prolonged conflict would have serious consequences for Europe as far as food security is concerned. Furthermore, Europe is still to recover from the adverse impacts of a prolonged novel coronavirus pandemic, and an extended war could damage the economies there even further. As it is, the WTO has downgraded Europe's trade forecast to 3% from 4.7% for this year. Again, just two companies in Ukraine produce around 50% of the global total neon output - it is a critical gas required for the lasers used in a chip production process known as lithography, 'where machines carve patterns onto tiny pieces of silicon'. Chip shortages are expected to cause production cuts in the audio, computer and electronic industries. Given all this, a Third World War is hardly the preferred choice of most people, more so in Europe.

Signs of a Russian restraint

There is little doubt that Russian President Vladimir Putin's foray into Ukraine was a serious blunder - a point made by many western leaders, and quite a few others as well. Nevertheless, Russia has not since displayed the same degree of 'foolhardiness' that could provoke a wider conflagration. One instance of this

'IF THE TWO SIDES WERE TO ENGAGE IN A NUCLEAR CONFLICT, THERE WOULD BE NO VICTORS, AND IT COULD ONLY RESULT IN A NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON'.

that could be mentioned, and which might have led to a serious situation, is Russia's restraint in the wake of its biggest war-time loss of a battleship since the Second World War (in which one sailor died and 27 are reportedly missing). That Russia demonstrated restraint even after it became known to the world at large that the missile cruiser was hit by a Ukrainian anti-ship missile speaks volumes. To much of Europe and the West, Russia's response seemed unexpectedly low key. Whether such restraint would continue is a matter for conjecture, but for the present it is indicative of Russia's unwillingness to enlarge both the area and the intensity of the conflict.

As of now, Russia is concentrating - or at least seems more interested - in dismembering Ukraine, now that Ukraine's membership of NATO has been put on the backburner. Moscow is currently eyeing large segments of Ukraine's East and South, and seems to have given up plans for the present to 'conquer' the whole of Ukraine and make it a part of Russia. If Russia persists with its current thinking, then it would denote that Russia is not interested in getting embroiled in a Third World War. For their part, most countries of Europe - unlike NATO and possibly the U.S. - believe that they can continue to live with the new order of things.

The problem with this latter objective is that it conflicts with the desire of both the U.S. and NATO to exploit the current war situation in Europe to weaken Russia militarily and politically, and incidentally decapitate Mr. Putin politically by undermining his authority and position. This explains the intensity with which the U.S. has mustered its - and NATO's - capabilities to resist Russia's invasion of Ukraine and inflict permanent economic and political damage on Russia, and diminish it militarily. That would meet at least two principal objectives that dominate U.S. thinking at present - revitalizing the U.S.-NATO partnership to make it the bulwark of European security and restoring U.S. image in Europe as also across the world.

It is 'sober and being softer'

The current thinking in Europe appears more in line with a softer approach. The re-election of France President Emmanuel Macron was a matter of relief and satisfaction for the U.S. and Europe, but the display of strength by the Far Right is inducing a great deal of rethinking in ruling circles in Europe and underscoring the importance of taking a sober approach to policy issues, avoiding all or any kind of intemperate move. Yet, there are many unknowns that will still need to be dealt with. The West, and specially, the U.S., remains intent on enlarging NATO, and notwithstanding the current Ukraine war, is also probably complicit in the recent announcement by Sweden and Finland of their willingness to join NATO. Being well aware of Mr. Putin's mind set, it is almost as if the West is daring Russia to react.

The West and Russia both need to be careful and take due care to negotiate the many minefields that abound. The West should be thankful that Mr. Putin has not yet emerged as a Joseph Stalin, but at the same time they should realize that there are no Churchills, De Gaulles and FDRs [Franklin D. Roosevelt] on their side.

(The author is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal)

SECOND GENERATION MIGRANTS ARE TAKING TO POLITICS WELL



Doly Begum, NDP candidate

The first-generation Members of Parliament have passed on the baton to the second generation of Indo-Canadians who are taking to politics very well. After Naranjan Singh Grewal made a beginning in Canadian politics at Mission as first-generation representative, Moe (Munmohan) Singh Sihota played a pioneer for the second generation. Incidentally, both came from British Columbia. The gap - 36 years - between their successful entry to politics was huge. However, the next 36 years - between 1986 and 2022 - has seen the Indo-Canadian community making huge strides in Canadian politics at all levels, from municipal to the top of the ladder, the Senate.

On June 2 when Ontario votes to elect its new Provincial Parliament, a record number of young Indo-Canadians, mostly belonging to the second generation, will be in the running. Though Ontario has the second largest population of Indo-Canadians, it took 14 years longer than British Columbia, the original or first home of migrants from South Asia, to enter the Provincial Parliament. It could be one reason that the Community has had more representations in the British Columbia Assembly than that of Ontario. Of course, British Columbia also enjoys the distinction of having the first Indo-

Canadian Ujjal Dosanjh as its Premier.

Ontario had given its first break to the community in its 37th Provincial Parliament when Raminder Gill was elected from Bramalea-Gore-Malton-Springdale Riding. Since then, the strength of the Indo-Canadians at Queens Park has been growing steadily. The outgoing Assembly has 12 South Asian migrants.

All eyes are set on the 2022 elections as almost all major parties - ruling Conservatives, NDP, Liberals and Green - are putting up many South Asian migrants in the contest. Interestingly, most of these candidates, second generation migrants, hold professional qualifications and are alumni of top Canadian universities.

Besides all the sitting members of the 42nd Assembly, others in the run include Abhijeet Manay, Deputy Leader of Green Party. Though the Green Party has not been successful in sending many to any of previous Assemblies, it hopes to improve its representation in the next House. Among various candidates it has named so far are Aneep Bhade, Bruno Souza, Priyan De Silva, Sheefaza Ismail and Shyam Chandra of South Asian origin.

The biggest group of South Asian candidates comes from the Liberal Party. They include Aman Gill, Anta Anandarajan, Harinder Malhi, Jannat Grewal, Imran Mian, Lisa Patel, Manpreet Brar, Rimmy Jhaggi, Ruby Toor, Sam Bhalesar, Sameera Ali, Surekha Shenny, Shubha Sandill and Sumira Malik.

Sara Singh, Navjit Kaur, Gurratan Singh, Doly Begum, Neethan Shan and Khalid Ahmed are among the NDP candidates while the ruling Conservatives are putting up among others Hardeep Grewal, Prabhmeet Singh Sarkaria, Amarjot Sandhu, Goldie Ghamari, Sarah Bokhari, Logan Kanpathi, Parm Gill, Kaleed Rasheed, Deepak Anand, Nina

Tangri and Vijay Thanagasalam.

How many of them make it to the 43rd Provincial Parliament will be known only on June 2.

Three South Asian migrants - Harinder Takhar, Vic Dhillon, and Bas Balkissoon - had been the longest serving South Asian representatives in the Ontario Provincial Parliament. They remained members from the 38th to the 41st Provincial Parliament. Harinder Takhar, who also held Cabinet positions under different Premiers, once ran for the Premiership of Ontario also but gave up the race mid-way.

Amrit Mangat was the first Canadian woman of Indian origin to sit in the Ontario Assembly. She remained a member of the 38th, 39th and 40th Assembly.

Sara Singh happens to be the first woman of Indo-Caribbean descent to be elected to the Ontario Provincial Parliament. She holds a Doctorate in Policy Studies and served as Deputy Leader of NDP in the outgoing House.

Another woman legislator of South Asian origin to make a mark in the 42nd Ontario Assembly has been Doly Begum. She happens to be the first Canadian of Bangladesh origin to hold any electoral office in Canada. Dipika Damerla, Indira Naidu Harris, Harinder Malhi, Sara Singh, Doly Begum, Goldie Ghamari, and Nina Tangri all followed Amrit Mangat.

Jagmeet Singh, who now heads the NDP, made his entry into electoral politics by remaining a member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, before he quit the Ontario politics to move to the federal level and seek election to the House of Commons from Burnaby in British Columbia. He got re-elected from Burnaby in the last Federal elections.

His younger brother, Gurratan Singh, a

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



lawyer by profession, is now a member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament.

While Harinder Takhar had the distinction of becoming the first Indo-Canadian to hold a Cabinet berth, Prabhmeet Singh Sarkaria, President of the prestigious Treasury Board in the Doug Ford government, is also the third turbaned Sikh to sit in the Ontario Assembly. Jagmeet Singh was the first and his brother Gurratan Singh followed him.

In the previous Liberal Government, Harinder Malhi (daughter of five-time MP Gurbax Singh Malhi) also held a Ministerial berth. Parm Gill, who earlier represented Conservatives in the House of Commons, is currently a Minister in Doug Ford's Conservative government that has Nina Tangri as the woman representative of the Indo-Canadian community in the Cabinet. She is Associate Minister. Deepak Anand, a journalist turned politician, and Amarjot Sandhu are Parliamentary Assistants in the Conservative government.

South Asians as Members of Ontario Provincial Parliament (1999-2022)

Raminder Gill, Kuldeep Kular, Vic Dhillon, Harinder Singh Takhar, Bas Balkissoon, Shafiq Qaadri, Ramal Khaleel, Amrit Mangat, Yasir Naqvi, Jagmeet Singh, Dipika Damerla, Indira Naidu Harris, Harinder Malhi, Khaleed Rasheed, Vijay Thanagasalam, Deepak Anand, Doly Begum Goldie Ghamarie, Parm Gill, Logan Kanpathi, Amarjeet Sandhu, Prabhmeet Singh Sarkaria, Gurratan Singh, Sara Singh, and Nina Tangri.

(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)

A New Stage of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, New Yorkers have stepped up time and time again to protect each other. Today, over 6 million New Yorkers are fully vaccinated, over 3 million are boosted, and we have more tools than ever before to take on the virus.

As the City's doctor, I want to be clear with New Yorkers every step of the way as the pandemic continues to unfold. We are in a new stage of the pandemic, and our strategy to protect our city from COVID-19 is evolving. Currently, we are seeing a rise in cases across all five boroughs. Over the past week, the citywide 7-day average percent positivity has also increased. As a result, our Alert Level is now yellow, which means there is a medium community spread of COVID-19.

New Yorkers should take greater caution now, especially those most at risk for serious disease. We have more work to do, specifically around promoting vaccinations, treatments, and mental health supports.

First, vaccination remains vital. Having millions of New Yorkers fully vaccinated

built up our defense ahead of the omicron wave. Boosters help keep COVID-19 immunity up to date. The data prove it: According to the CDC, the vaccine's effectiveness against hospitalization dropped to 57% in people who had a second dose more than six months before Omicron, but after the booster, it went back up dramatically to 90%. All eligible New Yorkers should get their booster as soon as they are eligible, and for many, that time is right now.

The City is working to get more New Yorkers boosted. Boosters are especially important for those at high risk of severe outcomes and those 65 and older, of which only 55% have received their booster or additional dose. For an appointment or to ask any questions, call 212-COVID-19 or visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder.

Second, we now have two effective treatments for COVID-19-antiviral pills and monoclonal antibodies. The FDA has authorized two antiviral pills to treat COVID-19: Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir). The pills are taken daily for five days to stop the virus from

spreading and prevent symptoms from getting worse. Monoclonal antibody treatments-such as bebtelovimab-are a one-time intravenous treatment that build up antibodies to fight the virus. There is also a monoclonal antibody, Evusheld, that can help protect someone from getting COVID-19 if they have a weakened immune system or are unable to be vaccinated.

New Yorkers with mild to moderate symptoms should take advantage of these treatments, because they will prevent severe illness and hospitalization. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 can contact their doctor or call 212-COVID19 to be connected to care and discuss treatment options. Antiviral treatments are free and available for same-day delivery through the Health Department programs.

Lastly, as we continue to fight COVID-10, we must pay attention to our mental health. New Yorkers have experienced collective pain and trauma over the past two years. According to our most recent data, 25% of adult New Yorkers have symptoms of anxiety, and 18% have depression.

BY DR. ASHWIN VASAN



There are resources for anyone who needs support. New Yorkers can call NYC Well at 888-NYC-WELL or text "WELL" to 65173 to be connected to a mental health counselor 24/7. I also urge New Yorkers to reach out to someone in your life today to check in and share a few words of kindness and support.

As we move forward to the next phase of the pandemic, remember that we are in this together. We continue to strongly recommend that everyone wear a mask in public indoor settings. Get vaccinated, get tested, and seek care if you are ill. The choices you make to protect yourself from COVID-19 are not just for you-they will impact on someone else in your community. All of us have more tools than ever to keep our city safe, including the care we have for each other, whatever comes our way.

(Dr. Vasan is New York City's Health Commissioner)



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COVID-19 GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED AS PER CDC**

Modi's Europe tour: High on symbolism, what about substance?

BY SUHASINI HAIDAR



3 days, 3 countries and meetings with 7 heads of government- PM Narendra Modi certainly packed some pace in his tour of Europe- but did the meetings lack punch? We are going to tell you about the agreements and the areas of disagreement during his visits to Germany, France, and Denmark. Remember, the visit also took place just after European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen visited Delhi last week for the Raisina Dialogue and held talks with the PM. PM's visits to each of the three European capitals had a specific focus:

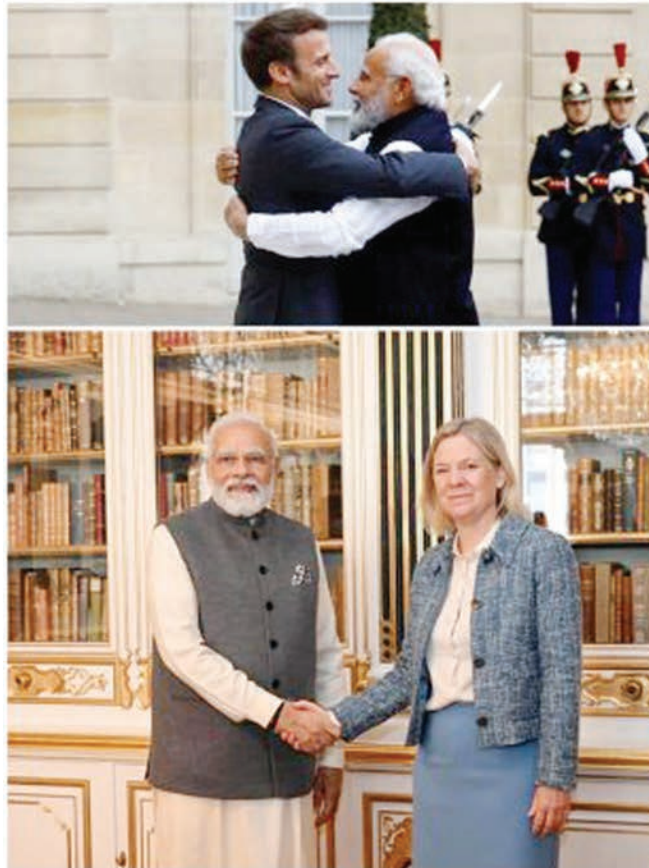
- 1 In Berlin PM was meeting new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz for the biennial Inter Governmental Commission talks between the two countries
- 2 In Denmark, he attended the Second Nordic Summit with leaders of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
- 3 In France, he was meeting newly re-elected President Emmanuel Macron, with the old bonhomie between the two leaders quite visible

This was the PM's first visit abroad this year after a number of high level meetings were cancelled due to the Omicron virus outbreak. It is also his first visit to Europe since the big war in Ukraine, which has changed Europe's entire course, began. I will come to that shortly, but broadly, the outcomes of all three visits were seen in these areas:

- 1 Green partnership: India's partnerships with the EU have always had a strong emphasis on countering climate change.
- In Germany, Chancellor Scholz announced an advance commitment of 10 Billion Euros for a green partnership. They also agreed to a 7 point agenda on Renewable energy and Sustainable growth cooperation and decided to set up a biennial Ministerial mechanism to lead these initiatives.
- In Denmark, the PM spoke to each of his Nordic counterparts about boosting cooperation in the wind and solar energy, pollution control and urban renewal projects and other green projects. PM also repeated commitments made at COP26- 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel by 2030, 50% of energy capacity to come from renewable energy by 2030, reduction of 1 billion tons in projected carbon emissions by 2030, the carbon intensity of India's economy to reduce by 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2070. However, 6 months later these remain verbal commitments, as India has not yet updated its Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs)- awaiting climate finance.
- And in France, PM Modi called for French investment in making India a Green hydrogen hub, while both countries agreed to an integrated approach on supply chains for solar energy production in Europe and Asia. In addition, a statement from French power group EDF after the visit said it hopes to make progress on the long pending deal for six nuclear power reactors at Jaitapur.

2 DEFENSE AND SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- With Germany, India agreed to step up high-tech transfer collaborations, and signed a joint declaration



Prime Minister Modi, was in Paris for the final leg of his 3-nation tour, discussed with French President Macron issues of bilateral and mutual interests as well as regional and global developments. PM left for home early on Thursday, May 6, after concluding his European tour during which he held a series of bilateral meetings in Germany and Denmark to boost ties in a range of areas including trade, energy and green technology.

Photos / PTI

of intent for an agreement on exchange of classified information

- The Nordic stop did not have a security component but focused on new technologies
 - In France, the two sides set up a strategic dialogue on Space issues, strengthen a cyber dialogue and find more ways for France to invest in building India's defense industry
- 3 Finally, India and the EU have now begun to discuss cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. What is also significant is a sort of triangular engagement with Japan just in the past few weeks. German Chancellor Scholz was in Japan just before PM Modi's visit to Germany. The next EU Japan summit will be held in Tokyo next week. PM Kishida was in Italy, followed by the Italian FM visit to Delhi. And PM Modi will travel to Japan later this month for the Quad summit.

While these were all areas of discussion, the PM's Europe tour was marked by some disagreements too:

- 1 To begin with, while there were several joint statements and joint declarations of intent, there were very few actual agreements signed during the visit.
- 2 **DISAGREEMENT ON UKRAINE:** This has been a recurring theme over the last few weeks, whether it was in the US, or with European leaders in Delhi, or during the PM's visit to Europe, India's position on Ukraine and Russia remains a far distance from the West's position, and this was reiterated during this week's stops. The differences will possibly come up again next month- as Germany has Invited India to the G7 summit in June, PM Modi has not yet confirmed his attendance.
- 3 **ENERGY FROM RUSSIA:** This is going to be an area of greater divergence in the future, as the EU has begun a new round of negotiations aimed at cancelling Russian oil imports by bringing forward a cut off date for European countries to the end of 2022. India has not only refused to join EU sanctions, but it has also accelerated its oil imports from Russia- According to a Reuters report based on collating

information from crude oil importers and traders- India has ordered at least 40 million barrels of Russian oil between February 24-April 24 meaning that - India has taken in two months more than double what it did all of last year- 16 million barrels

- 4 **INDIA EU FTA:** When PM Modi visited Berlin last for the Inter-Governmental Commission in 2018, he and then Chancellor Merkel had committed to restarting talks between India and the European Union for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement or FTA, that have been suspended since 2013. Despite dozens of similar promises, the talks have yet to restart. As India has fast tracked other FTAs with UAE, Australia, UK and others, many had thought they would see movement on the India EU FTA as well, but apart from a stray mention during the visit to Denmark, the talks between trade negotiators didn't get much fillip during the visit. The EU is India's 3 largest trading partner, after China and US, and its 2 largest export destination, but its potential is far more, which an FTA might help in achieving.

- 5 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESS FREEDOM IN INDIA--** Like the US meetings last month, the European countries, which conduct their foreign policy through the EU have also expressed concerns about human rights violations allegations in India, and a decline in press freedom- the difference is the EU made its statement prior to the PM's visit- as European Union Special Representative of Human Rights Eamon Gilmore was in Delhi for the Raisina Dialogue. In separate tweets about his meetings with the NHRC and Minority Affairs Minister Naqvi, Mr. Gilmore said he had discussed many specific issues including "the use of FCRA laws to ban funding for NGOs, use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, detentions, the situation of minorities, communal violence, situation in Jammu Kashmir, and individual cases."

(The author is an editor with The Hindu)

Vibrant independent press a cornerstone for any healthy democracy: Blinken

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A vibrant independent press is a cornerstone for any healthy democracy, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, observing that the exercise of freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, is facing profound threats in the current time.

Addressing a news conference at the Washington Foreign Press Centre on Tuesday, May 3, his first appearance at the center in more than two years, Blinken said that around the world, governments, as well as non-state actors like terrorist groups and criminal organizations, threaten, harass, imprison, and attack journalists every week.

"Governments are supplementing traditional forms of repression with new tactics aimed at undermining press freedom. More governments are taking steps to control access to information - and news in particular - on the internet, whether through shutdowns, slowdowns, or outright censorship," he said.

These restrictions make it harder for

reporting from inside closed areas to get out, and news from the outside to get in, he rued.

Asserting that technology is being used not only to block journalists but to watch them, Blinken said from 2020 to 2021, (the mobile phones of) more than 30 reporters, editors and other media employees in El Salvador were hacked using the spyware Pegasus, according to an independent investigation.

"Last year, the Biden administration placed the foreign company that produces Pegasus - the NSO Group - on the Entity List, forbidding it from receiving US exports, including technologies, and seriously affecting its operations," he said.

Whether these attacks on journalists are made using old methods or new ones, the overwhelming majority of crimes against journalists worldwide are carried out with impunity. This sends a clear message to perpetrators that they can keep targeting the press without consequences, he asserted.

In an interaction with a group of

foreign journalists, Blinken said the United States has a vital stake in promoting the right to freedom of expression, including a free press, at home and also around the world. The free flow of information, ideas and opinions, including dissenting ones, is essential to inclusive and tolerant societies, he said.

"A vibrant independent press is a cornerstone for any healthy democracy. At its core is the idea that information is a public good, crucial to everything we do, to every decision that we make.

"And often we trust the press with providing that information. It's what helps citizens understand the events, the forces that are shaping their lives. It allows people to engage meaningfully in the political and civic spheres of their communities, their nations, and the world," he added.

The top American diplomat further said a free press is one of the most effective tools for advancing human rights.

"Whether it's documenting unjust



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

File photo

working conditions, corrupt or failing public services, discrimination against women and marginalized groups, abuse of security forces, accurate reporting shines a bright light on the parts of our societies that need fixing, that need to be illuminated. That brings pressure to change, to form, as we say in the United States, a more perfect union," Blinken said.

Eid-UL-Fitr Celebrations Bring over 8000 Devout Muslims to Islamic Center of Naperville

KASHIF FAKHRUDDIN, PRESIDENT, ICN NAPERVILLE EXTENDS WARMEST WISHES TO MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATING EID-UL-FITR



Naperville community members at the Eid Prayer

CHICAGO, IL(TIP): On Monday May 2nd, 2022 Muslims from all over Naperville and suburbs joyfully bustled into the Embassy suites and two locations of ICN to join the celebrations of Eid Ul-Fitr. While there were various venues that held Eid prayers throughout



ICN leadership team with the President, Kashif Fakhruddin

the region, the largest turnouts were at Naperville where arrangements for Eid prayers were made by the Islamic Center of Naperville (ICN) in five spells, at 7:30 am, at 8:30 am, at 9:00 am, at 10:00 am, and at 11:30 am.

The Imam for the first session of the Eid prayers was



ICN community youth at the Eid celebration

Shayakh Ismail Al-Qadhi, Shayakh Omar Hedroug, for the second session, Dr. Abdullah Ansari for the third session, Shayakh Rizwan Ali for the fourth session and Wali Khan for the fifth session.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Bollywood's Vivek Anand Oberoi to Host CRY America Gala Series Benefiting Children in India

"Heroes for Life" to Fete Donors, Project Partners for Steadfast Support Through Pandemic

HOUSTON (TIP): Even as COVID-19's Delta variant wrought havoc and tragedy through India last year, there was no shortage of stories about the heroes from near and far who rushed in to help.

Bollywood star-power will illuminate some of those heroes this week, as actor and philanthropist Vivek Anand Oberoi ("Shootout at Lokhandwala," "Yuva," the forthcoming "Iti: Can You Solve Your Own Murder?" and

Amazon's Emmy-nominated "Inside Edge") hosts CRY America's "Heroes for Life" benefit Gala series. Oberoi invites fans and supporters to join him at one of the events across the U.S. by registering at: cryamerica.org/site/events/upcoming-dinners.html

Child Rights and You (CRY) America is a nonprofit organization that supports 30 projects in India and the U.S. that ensure access to education and healthcare for underprivileged children, as well as protection from child labor, early marriage and trafficking.

The galas will be held in the following cities:

San Francisco Bay Area, 5:30 PM PST, Saturday, May 14, at the Crowne Plaza, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA; San Diego-Orange County: 5:00 PM PST, Sunday May 15, Royal India, 8900 Miramar Road, San Diego, CA; New York-New Jersey: 6:30 PM EDT, Friday May 20, The Taj Pierre Hotel, 2 East 61st St.; Seattle (VIRTUAL EVENT): 6:30 PM PST, Saturday, May 21, (cryamerica.org/site/microsite/Seattle-Gala-2022/index.html); Houston: 5:30 PM CST, Sunday May 22, Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, 2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX.

(Read full story at

www.theindianpanorama.news)

Vivek Anand Oberoi invites fans and supporters to join him at one of the events across the U.S.





HIZBUL COMMANDER AMONG 3 TERRORISTS KILLED IN J&K

SRINAGAR (TIP)

Top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Ashraf Molvi and his two associates have been killed in an encounter with security forces near the route of the annual Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday, May 6, police said.

Molvi (50), who was on the list of top 10 most-wanted terrorists, was among the oldest surviving terrorists in Kashmir and has been active in south Kashmir since 2013, said an official.

According to the police, a cordon and search operation was launched in the Srichand Top forest area in Pahalgam, on Friday morning following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. The official said the search operation turned into an encounter after the hiding terrorists fired at the security forces and three terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire.

"Ashraf Molvi (one of oldest surviving terrorists of HM terror outfit) along with two other terrorists were killed. Successful operation on the yatra route is a major success for us," Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar tweeted.

Pahalgam serves as one of the base camps for the Amarnath yatra, scheduled to start on June 30 after a gap of two years. It is scheduled to go on till August 11.

'43 seats in Jammu & 47 in Kashmir': Delimitation process complete in J&K

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The delimitation commission to redraw the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir on May 5 notified and submitted its much-awaited final report. The completion of the controversial delimitation process will pave the way for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The former state is without an elected government since June 2018.

All five parliamentary constituencies will have an equal number of assembly constituencies for the first time. Nine seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST), another first for the erstwhile state.

Of the 90 assembly constituencies, 43 will be part of the Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir have been treated as a single entity for the purposes of delimitation. The number of total assembly seats in Jammu has risen from 37 to 43 assembly seats.

All assembly constituencies shall remain within the boundary of the concerned district, according to the delimitation order.

The Patwar circle is the lowest administrative unit which has not been broken.

The commission has recommended additional seats in the assembly for Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons from Pakistan occupied J&K.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the census of 2011 had to be the basis of delimitation, but the commission eventually said that it would also take into account the political



Delimitation Commission for Jammu & Kashmir UT, headed by Chairperson Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai, ex-officio members CEC Sushil Chandra (L) and State Election Commissioner, J&K, K K Sharma (R), finalise the Delimitation order. Photo: PTI.

aspirations of various sections of society and factor in accessibility, topography and proximity to the border as part of the consideration to allot seats

The draft report of the commission that was made public a few months ago has caused a huge controversy after the opposition alleged gerrymandering to help BJP and turning the demographic majority into a political minority in several areas.

Home Minister Amit Shah recently said elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir after the completion of the delimitation process.

Political parties have pointed out serious flaws in the delimitation process, which may have long-term and serious repercussions for democracy in the

region.

For example, while redrawing parliament seats, the commission has merged the Poonch and Rajouri districts, which were part of the Jammu parliament constituency with the Anantnag Parliament constituency in south Kashmir.

There is no geographical connectivity and the distance between the two regions is more than 500 km via Jammu. An alternate route - Mughal road via Shopian district - remains closed during winter and opens only in the summer months.

Regional political parties have rejected the delimitation proposal and alleged that the boundaries of seats were redrawn only to help BJP achieve its political objectives.

Hindu man in Hyderabad killed after marrying Muslim

HYDERABAD (TIP)

A young man lay bleeding by a busy road in Hyderabad, his face smashed to pulp with iron rods, while his wife valiantly fought off his attackers, in a horrific killing in public caught on camera Wednesday, May 4 evening.

The 25-year-old car salesman was beaten and stabbed to death by his Muslim wife's brother and relatives, the police say.

B Nagaraju and Syed Ashrin Sulthana, described in reports as "childhood sweethearts", had married three months ago, defying her family.

Around 8.45 pm on Wednesday, the couple had just left home on their bike when two men stopped them, dragged Nagaraju off and attacked him with iron rods and knives. Security footage showed a crowd rapidly collecting at the spot but no one trying to stop the attack. Many had their mobile phones out, recording the crime.

On camera, Nagaraju soon appeared lifeless, his head a bloodied mass, as his wife screamed for help. In one video, Sulthana was seen lunging at one of the



Nagaraju and Fathima had married against the wishes of her family.

attackers, trying to stop another strike at Nagaraju. Witnesses rushed at the attacker then, hitting him and chasing him off. She later identified the attacker as her brother.

It was all over within seconds. Nagaraju died by a road buzzing with traffic and people but nothing could save him. "They killed my husband in the middle of the

street. Five people attacked. My brother and others. There was nobody to help us. I begged everyone. They killed him in front of my eyes," Sulthana, dazed with grief, told reporters today.

"Why did people come if they couldn't do anything? They only watched. It happens before their eyes, someone being killed, can't people see? I fell on him so I could save him. But they pushed me away. They hit him with iron rods and broke his head."

The attackers fled but they were caught on security cameras and the mobile phone videos recorded by witnesses. The police have formed teams to arrest the killers seen on camera.

Nagaraju and Sulthana had an Arya Samaj wedding on January 31. They had known each other since Class 10 but her family was dead opposed to her marrying outside her faith.

Sulthana said she had tried to stay away from Nagaraju earlier. "I told him if I don't marry you, I won't marry anyone else. I told him life or death is with you only. I will die. Before our marriage, I

didn't speak to him for two months, so I could just die," she shared with reporters, weeping.

Sulthana had changed her name to Pallavi after the wedding. Her family had allegedly threatened Nagaraju and had told him to stay away from her.

"We filed a complaint with the police on the life threats from the girl's family. Due to police negligence, today I lost my brother. He was the sole bread earner of the family," Nagaraju's sister Ramadevi told news agency ANI.

The gruesome killing has sparked tension in the Saroornagar area of Hyderabad. Local BJP activists have launched protests demanding tough action.

"A person was killed by two persons. The deceased was traveling on a bike with his wife. They got married recently and both belonged to different communities. Brothers of the deceased's wife today assaulted Nagaraju and then attacked him with a rod and killed him on the spot," said Sreedhar Reddy, a police officer.

**SEDITION LAW PLEAS:
CENTRE ASKS FOR MORE
TIME, SC TO TAKE CALL ON
LARGER BENCH ON MAY 10**

The Supreme Court will hear a batch of petitions against the sedition law, Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, on May 10. The top court said it will take a call on whether the matter should be sent to a larger constitutional bench of seven judges.

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, on Thursday granted time until Monday, May 9, to the Union government to file a counter-affidavit. The petitioners in the case have been given time until Saturday, May 7, to file their response.

The issue of the size of the bench assumes significance given that the top court will now review its own ruling in the Kedar Nath Singh case of 1962 which had upheld the sedition law by a five-judge bench. In the landmark case, the top court had also attempted to restrict its misuse.

Currently, the court is considering a batch of writ petitions filed by army veteran Major-General S.G. Vombatkere (Retired); Editors Guild of India; former Union minister Arun Shourie; Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra; journalists Anil Chamadia, Patricia Mukhim, Anuradha Bhasin; People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCI); and the Journalist Union of Assam.

India's top health experts question WHO report on excess Covid deaths

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Questioning the modelling methodology used by WHO to estimate 4.7 million deaths in India due to Covid or its impact, top health experts have expressed disappointment over the global health body's "one-size-fits-all" approach to arrive at the figure.

ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava, NITI Aayog Member (Health) V K Paul, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria and NTAGI's Covid-19 Working Group Chairman Dr N K Arora on Thursday rejected the WHO report as "untenable and unfortunate".

In its report released on Thursday, WHO estimated that nearly 15 million people were killed either by the coronavirus or by its impact on the overwhelmed health systems in the past two years, more than double the official death toll of six million.

Most of the fatalities were in Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas.

According to the report, there were 4.7 million Covid deaths in India -- 10 times the official figures and almost a third of Covid deaths globally.

Rejecting it, Dr V K Paul said India has been telling WHO with all humility through diplomatic channels along with



data and rational reasoning that it does not agree with the methodology that has been followed for the country.

They have used a methodology for several nations which is based on a systematic collection of data on deaths.

"We have a similar system, a robust Civil Registration System (CRS). We released that report yesterday (Wednesday) and we have an actual count of deaths for 2020... the 2021 numbers will also come up," he said.

The Civil Registration System of India provides accurate estimates emanating from the ground, certified and validated by the district and the state administration.

"We want them to have used these numbers. Unfortunately, despite our emphatic writing and communication at

the ministerial level, they have chosen to use the numbers that are based on modelling and assumptions," Paul said.

"Modelling is a one-size-fits-all kind of assumption and you may apply it where the systems are poor. But to apply assumptions based on a subset of states and on reports that come from websites and media, and then you come out with an exorbitant number is not tenable. We are disappointed with what WHO has done," he stated.

These kinds of assumptions used for a nation of India's size "to put us in poor light is not desirable," Paul added.

Assuring the country that the government has nothing to hide, Paul said there is still an active process by which Covid deaths are being reconciled.

"Our numbers are there and we have a robust system from the ground. We, therefore, do not accept these numbers, we reject them," he said.

On what would be India's next step, Paul said, "We will communicate our stance systematically. We have a rebuttal by way of educating people and the public at large through our press release.

"We will go back to WHO to explain this and at the same time we would like to make sure that our stand is put forth around the world." *Source: PTI*

Govt invokes emergency provision to step up power supply

NEW DELHI (TIP)

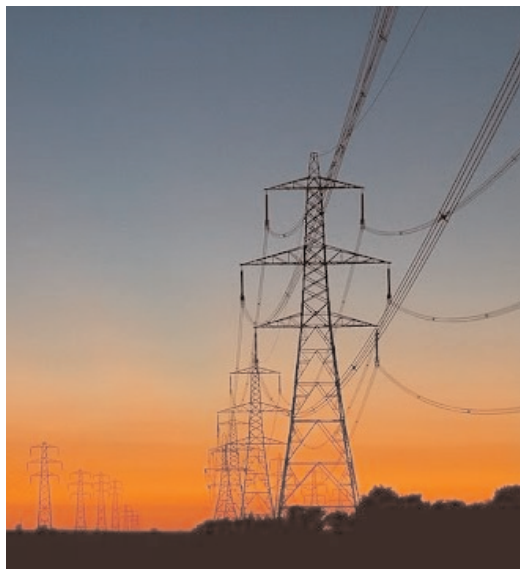
The Centre has invoked an emergency procedure under the Electricity Act to compel imported-coal-based plants to begin generating electricity.

In return, power producers have been allowed to pass through their costs to the consumers, which is not allowed in the existing power purchase agreements (PPAs).

The government hopes this will bring online 10,000 MW of power daily from imported coal plants which have a total capacity of 17,600 MW. Already, 7,600 MW of capacity has been revived after the government allowed a pass-through of higher costs. The entire 17,600 MW capacity has been shut as PPAs did not allow pass-through of higher cost of imported coal which has skyrocketed four times in the past one year.

The higher costs will be worked out by a committee with representation from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. This panel will ensure that the benchmark rates of power worked out meet all the prudent cost of importing costlier coal, said an official release.

The government is also putting a lot of onus on the states to tide over the power crisis after demand went up by 20 per cent due to hot weather conditions. The government has invoked Section 11 to compel imported coal-based plants to begin functioning because there is a mismatch in daily arrival of coal and declining stocks of coal at power plants. The imported coal for blending has also gone down because of the high costs. Imported coal for blending was at 37 million tonnes in 2015-16 which is down to



negligible amounts currently.

This aspect was reviewed by Power Minister RK Singh in a virtual meeting with states. He asked the states to place orders for import of coal for blending so that it reaches power plants this month itself. Singh also wanted the states to increase the output from captive mines and ensure off-take in the Railcum-Road (RCR) mode to meet the shortfall in coal requirement at their power plants.

While Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have placed import orders, Punjab and Gujarat are in the advanced stage. Rajasthan and MP are in the process of issuing the tenders. Haryana, UP, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand have not yet issued tenders.

India is also planning to reopen over 100 coal mines previously considered financially unsustainable. *Source: TNS*

India reports 3,805 new Covid cases, 22 deaths in 24 hours



NEW DELHI (TIP)

India reported 3,805 new Covid-19 infections on Saturday (May 7), 7.3 per cent higher than yesterday, according to data shared by the Union Health Ministry.

This brings the country's cumulative caseload to 4,30,98,743. India's active caseload stands at 20,303. In the last 24 hours, active cases increased by 615.

Total recoveries were at 4,25,54,416 across the country. A total of 3,168 patients recovered in the last 24 hours. The recovery rate is now at 98.74 per cent.

Among all the states, Delhi reported the highest Covid-19 cases at 1,656 cases, followed by Haryana

with 582 cases, Kerala with 400 cases, Uttar Pradesh with 320 cases and Maharashtra with 205 cases.

These five states accounted for 83.13 per cent of the daily new cases reported on Sunday, with Delhi alone responsible for 43.52 per cent of the new cases.

In the last 24 hours, 22 people succumbed to Covid-19, increasing the total reported death count to 5,24,024.

India conducted 4,65,918 tests during the previous day, according to the Health Ministry data.

A total of 17,49,063 vaccine doses were administered in the last 24 hours, which brings the total tally of doses administered to 1,90,00,94,982.

India in history this Week

MAY 6, 2022, TO MAY 12, 2022

06 MAY

1944 Gandhiji released from Aga Khan Palace in Pune.



1967 Zakir Hussain became the first Muslim President of India.

2010 Ajmal Amir Kasab, convicted for the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, was sentenced to death.

1861 Motilal Nehru was born.

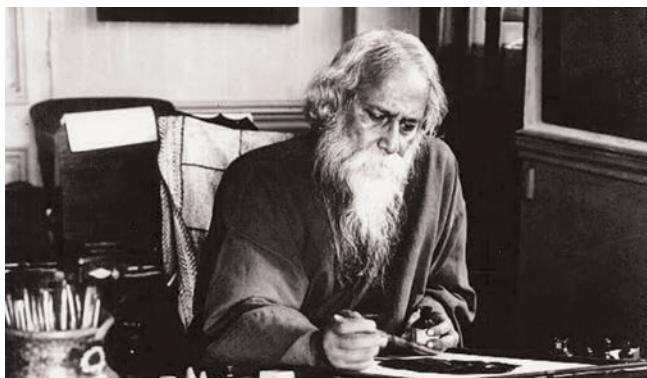
1964 Khajan Singh, one of the famous swimmers of India, was born.

1589 The great musician Mian Tansen died.

1946 Eminent jurist, prominent parliamentary leader and trusted aide of Mahatma Gandhi, Bhulabhai Desai died.

07 MAY

1861 Rabindranath Tagore was born into a prosperous family in Calcutta. Tagore is the first person in Asia to receive the Nobel Prize.



1907 The first electric tram car operated in Bombay.

1973 The foundation stone of the new capital of Arunachal Pradesh was laid at Itanagar.

1989 Diplomatic contact between Britain and Iran broke in 1989 after an Iranian fatwa against Indian-origin writer Salman Rushdie.

2002 The International Religious Freedom Commission expressed serious concern over the violence in Gujarat.

1889 Renowned freedom fighter and founder of 'Hindustani Sevalal' N. S. Hardiker was born.

1880 The great Indian Sanskritist and scholar Pandit Pandurang Vaman Kane was born.

08 MAY

1933 Mahatma Gandhi kept 21 days fast against British rule.

1929 Birth of India's famous Thumri singer Girija Devi.



1963 The centenary celebrations of the Indian Red Cross Society were celebrated.

1954 The central government included Chandranagar in the state of West Bengal.

2000 69-year-old Lord Swarajpal of Indian origin was appointed the vice-chancellor of Britain's fourth-largest university in Britain.

1895 Famous revolutionary and Gandhian activist of Orissa Gopabandhu Chaudhary was born.

1916 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy was born.

1915 India's freedom fighter Amir Chand passed away.

1915 One of the revolutionaries who fought for India's independence, Bhai Balmukund, died on that day.

1926 Famous historian Tapan Rai Chaudhary was born.

09 MAY

1540 King of Shishodia dynasty Maharana Pratap was born in Udaipur, Mewar, who struggled with Mughal Emperor Akbar for many years.



1866 Freedom fighter, philanthropist, thinker and reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale was also born on this day.

2010 India's Vandana Shiva was selected for the Sydney Peace Prize for women's empowerment and environmental protection in developing countries.

1653 The world-famous historical building and the Taj Mahal, one of the world's wonders, was completed after 22 years of continuous work.

1874 The first horse-drawn tram car started in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1946 The first Satyagraha movement against the Portuguese rule started in Goa under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

1986 The first person to reach Mount Everest, Himalaya, Tenzing Norgay died in 1986.

1998 Famous Indian Ghazal singer and actor Talat Mehmood died in 1998.

10 MAY

1526 After victory in the first battle of Panipat, Babur entered Akbarabad (Agra), the capital of erstwhile India.

2002 India's famous poet Kaifi Azmi passed away.



1993 Santosh Yadav became the first female climber to reach Everest, the world's highest mountain peak twice.

1857 The first battle of freedom struggle started from the cantonment of Meerut.

1857 Indian fighters started a revolt in Delhi from the British East India Company.

1946 Jawaharlal Nehru was elected the leader of the Congress party in India.

11 MAY

1784 Treaty between the British and Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore.

1951 President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the newly constructed Somnath Temple.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was elected the President of India. He succeeded Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

1998 India announced three nuclear tests at Pokaran in Rajasthan.



2000 According to the population clock, India's population reached one billion.

2007 The Bahujan Samaj Party secured a majority in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections and party leader Mayawati took over as the chief minister.

1960 The first contraceptive pill market was made available in 1960.

2005 In 2005, the World Bank appointed a neutral expert on the Baglihar project to settle Indo-Pak differences.

2011 India and Pakistan agreed to start a bus service between Lahore and Amritsar.

1918 India's famous classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai was born in 1918.

2002 Princess of Bhopal politics and India's first female pilot Abida Sultan died in 2002.

12 MAY

1459 Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur.

1666 Under the treaty of Purandar, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj reached Agra to meet Aurangzeb.

1915 The revolutionary Rasbihari Bose left India aboard the Japanese yacht Sanuki Maru.

1993 Famous Hindi poet Shamsheer Bahadur Singh passed away.

1921 The first National Hospital Day was celebrated.

1926 Airship Norgay became the first vessel to fly to the North Pole.

1949 Vijayalakshmi Pandit became the first foreign woman ambassador of independent India.





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LAAPFF CELEBRATES CREATIVE VOICES IN 38TH EDITION

BY MABEL PAIS

DIRECTOR MIRA NAIR RECEIVES LAAPFF LEGACY AWARD

The best of Asian Pacific American films and filmmakers from around the world come to Los Angeles at the 38th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) celebrating New Artists, Legends, Leaders, Creators, Indigenous Voices, and World Premieres. The Festival takes place May 5-13, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. It features an exciting hybrid lineup of in-person programming, and virtual programming for audiences at home in Southern California and beyond. To learn more, visit festival.vcmedia.org/2022

"In our 38th edition, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival continues to transform itself to reflect our ever-evolving artists and experiences," says Executive Director Francis Cullado. "In a time when our community is dealing straight up with anti-Asian Hate crimes, living through an uncertain pandemic, and adjusting to the ongoing global issues affecting all of us, our festival is instilling a sense of pride, respect and community through art and film. These stories connect us to one another and fill our lives with a sense of purpose. This year, we share a renewed collectiveness to inspire creativity and support collaboration, and the opportunity to gather and celebrate our histories and our lives from all corners of the world."

THE LAAPFF LEGACY AWARD TO MIRA NAIR

This year, the festival uplifts director Mira Nair as a pioneer whose storytelling has received industry and critical acclaim, and raised visibility for South Asian narratives. LAAPFF is delighted to present this year's LAAPFF Legacy Award to director Mira Nair for the way her nuanced narratives reflect an authentic family voice and prompt critical reflection. LAAPFF audiences can watch a Special Presentation of Nair's award-winning feature SALAAM BOMBAY! on the big screen. Additionally, virtual audiences at home can watch an artist conversation with Nair.

FILM LINEUP: FILMS OF INDIA, FILMMAKERS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

Several narrative, documentary and short films of India or by filmmakers of Indian origin are featured in the Festival:

SALAAM BOMBAY!

DIR: Mira Nair | India | Drama | Hindi, English | 1988 | 1h 53m | Special Presentation Premiere

After destroying his older brother's motorbike in retaliation for his constant bullying, 11-year-old Krishna (Shafiq



Chanda Sharma in a scene from Mira Nair's SALAAM BOMBAY!

Photo / Courtesy LAAPFF

Syed) is sent to a traveling circus to earn money to pay for the bike's repairs, but soon winds up in the streets of Bombay's poorest slums. There, he befriends the drug dealer Chillum (Raghubir Yadav) and the beautiful young prostitute Sola Saal (Chanda Sharma), while trying to make enough money at a neighborhood tea stall to repay his debt to his family.

STAY THE NIGHT

DIR: Renuka Jeyapalan | Narr Feat | Canada | Drama, Romance | English | Subtitled | 2022 | 1h 34m | West Coast Premiere

After being snubbed from a promotion she was wishing for, Grace joins her friend for a night out. Although the night clubs are not her usual scene, she meets Carter, a famous NHL player with his own personal baggage. Together, they roam the streets of Toronto in the hopes of finding a panacea for their lost souls. Kim's Convenience Store star Andrea Bang reunites with director Renuka Jeyapalan in this lighthearted drama that takes us through the awkward moments of modern day romance - moments that can make many of us laugh or cry.

ISTIKHAARA, NEW YORK

DIR: Yasir Masood | USA | Narr Feat | Coming of Age, Drama | English, Hindi, Urdu | 2022 | 1h 26m | World Premiere

Reza, a twenty-year-old aspiring Broadway actor and a food delivery courier hustles to make ends meet. Navigating through the complicated relationships with his worried parents, undecided lovers, and motley crew, he struggles to find peace within himself while facing the reality of daily life in New York.

HOLY COWBOYS

DIR: Varun Chopra | India, USA | Coming of Age, Doc, Social Issues | Gujarati, Hindi | Subtitled | 2021 | 24m

A Hindu teen and his friends tread the world of retributive justice of a 'cow protection' vigilante group to end consumption of beef, exploring what it means to be a savior of the holy cow in

modern day India.

THE RETURN

DIR: Hena Ashraf | India, USA | Drama, Family, LGBTQIA+, Social Issues | English, Urdu | Subtitled | 2021 | 18m

A writer-director struggles with her profound sense of loss after the sudden death of her father, who dies while visiting his homeland of India. Hena wrestles with coming to terms with their strained relationship, by the only way she knows how: making a film.

SUBSCRIBE / FOLLOW

DIR: Faroukh Virani | USA | Comedy, Drama, Human Rights, Social Issues | English | 2022 | 15m | World Premiere

After the unfortunate murder of an unarmed Black man by the police, an Indian social media influencer code switches up his online platform to present solidarity, but gets challenged by his peers when they find faults in his messaging.

CROSSROADS

DIR: Sarita Khurana | USA | Doc | Family, Human Rights | English, Hindi, Punjabi | 2022 | 14m | World Premiere

In the aftermath of the FedEx mass shooting in Indianapolis, the Sikh community grieves the loss of four of its members, while navigating the investigation into what happened and why this took place.

RAMKALI

DIR: Adnan Hussain | India, Pakistan, USA | Adventure, Arthouse, Drama, Environmental, Family, Fantasy | Sindhi | Subtitled | 2021 | 12m |

North American Premiere

Bijal, a former goat herder with mystical musical abilities wanders the deserts of Sindh, in search of purpose after suffering a severe trauma. Based on Islamic Sufi poetry, Rajasthani puppetry and Sindhi music, the story brings rich cultural traditions to cinematic form.

LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOLER

DIR: Sanjna Bharadwaj | USA |

Animation, Comedy, Coming of Age, Women | English | 2021 | 11m | West Coast Premiere

Anagha Narayan is your average eighth grader. She's a people pleaser, she's insecure, and she wants nothing more than to have clear skin. Her life changes drastically when she wishes on a fallen eyelash and her wish is granted: she has the clearest skin she's ever had.

MAN BROWS

DIR: Rohan Srinivasan | USA | Coming of Age, Drama, Family, LGBTQIA+ | English | 2021 | 9m | LA Premiere

A story about mothers, sons, and undying love, MAN BROWS follows RISHI, an Indian-American teenage boy who desperately wants to get his eyebrows threaded and KAJAL, a threading salon owner who despises that her young son has developed a fascination with wearing her clothes.

TODAY IS WEDNESDAY

DIR: Pulkit Datta | USA | Doc, Human Rights, Social Issues | English | Subtitled | 2022 | 8m | World Premiere

Made entirely of crowdsourced footage, this is a day in the life of several Asian Americans at home during the Covid-19 lockdowns. An exploration of the mundane.

TO THE LETTER

DIR: Nirav Bhakta | USA | Action, Drama, Fantasy, Social Issues | English, Hindi | 2021 | 5m

To The Letter The mission of School on Wheels is to enhance educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The goal is to shrink the gaps in their education and provide them with the highest level of education possible. The program spans six counties in Southern California.

A NEW NORMAL

DIR: Asavari Kumar | India, USA | Family, International | English | 2020 | 3m

Subverting the limitations of digital intimacy, A New Normal seeks to define the meaning of home and belonging through the musings of a family spread across different timezones.

COMPLETE FILM LINEUP

For the complete film schedule, including Opening Night Selection, Centerpiece Weekend, and Special Presentations & Events, visit festival.vcmedia.org/2022/schedule, #LAAPFF2022

TICKETS

For Tickets, visit laapff2022.eventive.org

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

IFFLA 2022 AWARDS ANNOUNCED

BY MABEL PAIS

The 2022 Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) featured a celebratory return to in-theater screenings and presentations. The 20th annual edition winners have been announced.

IFFLA Executive Director Christina Marouda, said, "The excitement felt by the reunion of so many of our filmmakers, patrons, and film fans back in the theaters was something we all shared. We were overwhelmed to see everyone coming back, eager to reconnect with the community and the IFFLA family, watch films and celebrate our 20th anniversary. We walk away from this year's festival energized and filled with gratitude."

2022 IFFLA AWARD-WINNING



Jaggi

FILMS AND FILMMAKERS

UMA DA CUNHA AWARD (for Best Debut Feature)

Jaggi

Director: Anmol Sidhu

Grand Jury Prize Awards

BEST FEATURE FILM



"Once Upon A Time In Calcutta."

Photos / IFFLA - WildworksPR.

Once Upon a Time in Calcutta

Director: Aditya Vikram Sengupta

HONORABLE MENTION

Shankar's Fairies

Director: Irfana Majumdar

BEST SHORT FILM

Succulent

Director: Amrita Bagchi

HONORABLE MENTION

Lalanna's Song

Director: Megha Ramaswamy

HONORABLE MENTION

Close Ties to Home Country

Director: Akanksha Cruczynski

BEST SHORT FILM - Spotlight on South Asia

Bad Omen

Director: Salar Pashtooniar

Audience Choice Awards

FEATURE FILM

Jaggi

Director: Anmol Sidhu

SHORT FILM

7 Star Dinosaur Entertainment

Director: Vaishali Naik

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF LOS ANGELES (IFFLA)

To learn more, visit indianfilmfestival.org

"A CELEBRATION OF THE OUTDOORS": THEME FOR EARTH X FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

EarthX Film Festival 2022 in its 7th annual edition presents over 75 feature-length and short films, screening May 12-15, in Dallas, Texas. This year's theme, "A Celebration of the Outdoors," continues the Film Festival's mission to highlight films and emerging media that celebrate nature and outdoor adventure stories exploring the environment, conservation, climate change, and science while honoring the heroes working to protect our planet.

For the first time, the Film Fest is held in the Dallas Arts District, providing easy walking for attendees to the five theater venues tapping into the vibrant downtown community and making it an exciting cultural touchstone for the city. Each night of the Film Fest will feature a musical act performing before a showcase screening.

"We're thrilled to present films this year that showcase our amazing planet and the people dedicated to making a difference. It's always been our vision to create a world-class event that celebrates the spirit of Texas and welcomes global citizens to experience the rich arts culture in Dallas," said Michael Fletcher, CEO of EarthX.

OPENING SCREENING

"I'm proud to bring DEEP IN THE HEART to the EarthX Film Festival. Texas has one of the most diverse wildlife and ecosystems in the country. For Texans, this is a love letter to the diverse and vibrant state that we call home," said Ben Masters, filmmaker. "We're all interconnected, and it's only by conserving what we have that we can ensure our future."

CLOSING SCREENING

On closing night, Sunday, May 15 Patagonia's THE YIN AND YANG OF GERRY LOPEZ from award-winning documentary filmmaker Stacy Peralta will close out the Festival with a screening at Strauss Square. The Yin and Yang of Gerry Lopez lifts the veil on one of surfing's most enigmatic heroes.

For more information on the Festival, Schedule and Tickets, visit earthxfilmfestival.org or download the app available on iOS and Android.

FILM LINE-UP:

FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS

- Bastards' Road, Director Brian Morrison

- Battle for the Heart of Texas, Director John Brown
- Before They Fall, Director Cam MacArthur
- Big vs Small, Director Minna Dufton
- REEL ROCK: Black Ice, Director Peter Mortimer, Zachary Barr
- Bring Your Own Brigade, Director Lucy Walker
- Chasing Ice, Director Jeff Orlowski
- Coextinction, Director Gloria Pancrazi, Elena Jean
- Deep in the Heart, Director Ben Masters (Opening Night)
- Ferngully: The Last Rainforest, Director Bill Kroyer
- Fire of Love, Director Sara Dosa
- Godspeed, Los Polacos!, Director Adam Nawrot
- Going Circular, Director Ricard Dale, Nigel Walk
- Inhabitants, Director Costas Boutsikaris, Anna Palmer
- Learning to Drown, Director Ben Knight
- Mountain Revelations, Director Justin Fann
- Newtok, Director Michael Kirby, Andrew Burton
- Spirit of the Peaks, Director Connor Ryan, Tim Kressin
- The Ants and the Grasshopper, Director Raj Patel, Zak Piper
- The Territory, Director Alex Pritz
- The Yin and Yang of Gerry Lopez (Closing Night)
- Tigre Gente, Director Elizabeth Unger
- To the End, Director Rachel Lears
- We Feed People, Director Ron Howard
- Zero Gravity, Director Thomas Verrette

SHORT FILMS

- 80° North, Director Brandon Holmes
- All Bodies on Bikes, Director Zeppelin Zeerip
- American Scar, Director Daniel Lombroso
- An Eye for Detail, Director Matthew Harmer
- Bad Boy of Bonsai, Director Juan A. Moreno
- Breaking Trail, Director Jesse Roesler
- California Natural, Director Lindsey Hagen
- Camp Yoshi, Director Faith E. Briggs
- Chasing the Sublime, Director Amanda Bluglass
- Community Power Arizona: En Nuestrxs Manos (In Our Hands), Director Pita Juarez
- Community Power Nevada: Unidxs En Acción (United In Action), Director Nico Cadena
- Eric and the Bees, Director Erin Brethauer, Tim Hussin
- Finding Gulo, Director Colin Arisman
- From My Window, Director Frank Pickell



"Deep in the Heart," Opening Night.

Photo / EarthX 2022.

- Humanity Has Not Yet Failed, Director Norma V. Toraya, Jared P. Scott
- I am One of the People, Director Cameron Woodle
- If I Tell Them, Director Oliver Sutro
- Khuli, Director Chris Jones
- Life in the Slow Lane, Director Sol de Glanville, Ben de Glanville
- Like a River, Director Jim Aikman
- Listen to the Beat of our Images, Director Audrey Jean-Baptiste, Maxime Jean-Baptiste
- Loon, Director Jason Whalen, Chris Zuker
- Mission Mountain, Director Kody Kohlman, Andrew Bydlon
- Mother of the Sea, Director Nicholas Brown
- Mylo, Director Chris Bukard
- No Soy Oscar, Director Jon Ayon
- Nuisance Bear, Director Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden
- One Star Reviews: National Parks, Director Alex Massey
- Patagonia Provisions: The Ocean Solution Film, Director Darcy Hennessey Turenne
- Raised from the Earth, Director Forest Woodard
- Rebirth of a Reef, Director Shaun Wolfe
- Return to Earth, Director Darcy Wittenburg, Darren McCoullough, Colin Jones
- Rockies Repeat, Director Caroline Hedin
- Slim Pickins, Director Justin Jeffers
- The Captain, Director Gregory Kohs
- The Diamond, Director Caitlyn Greene
- The Endless Wave, Director Tom Attwater
- The Interconnectedness of all Living Things, Director Jenn den Broeder
- The Land of Griffons, Director Riccardo Soriano
- The Last Last Hike, Director Celene Francois

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Kriti Sanon on link-up rumours: I wish I had that interesting life

Actor Kriti Sanon posts one video with her co-star Kartik Aaryan, and the rumour mill goes into overdrive speculating that they are dating. But for her, it is just another “petty” thing to ignore.

And she feels it is an outcome of the growing popularity of social media.

“It is (result of) people’s need for information. I don’t know if social media is a great thing to happen to us or a bad thing that happened to us. I have mixed feelings when it comes to that,” Sanon tells us when asked about the current speculation. “If you ask me about these petty things, they don’t bother me at all. It just makes you feel like ‘I wish my life was as interesting as it sounded it to be,’” she quips. After spending eight years in the industry, Sanon is still learning to live with the constant scrutiny on personal and work life. “I know that this is a part and parcel of being a celebrity and a known face. But, I have to admit that there are things that annoy you and bother you,” says Sanon, adding, “Sometimes things are written about you or you get scrutinised for everything you say.”

Source: HT

Madhuri Dixit joins Raja Kumari’s upcoming anthem ‘Made In India’

Twinkletoes Madhuri Dixit has teamed up with Indo-American rapper, songwriter and singer Raja Kumari as she pays tribute to her Indian heritage with her latest song ‘Made In India’ created in collaboration with Metro Shoes.

Madhuri says, “Having lived in the USA for a few years, I completely resonate with the sentiments with which Raja Kumari created Made In India. It is an anthem for every Indian born in and outside of the country. It is truly exciting to have united with such a feisty artist for a song that envelopes the spirit of India.”

The upcoming song stars both Raja Kumari and Madhuri in super glamorous looks that accentuate the narrative of aesthetics curated by homegrown labels.

Sung and written by Raja Kumari as an interpolation of Alisha Chinai’s ‘Made in India’, the upcoming anthem is a homage to the original song that inspired her as a child. Through the song, the hip hop artiste claims her Indian heritage with pride and encourages Indians worldwide to do the same.

Raja Kumari adds, “Madhuri is the ultimate queen of expression and a dance icon. I’ve admired her inspiring work and it feels surreal that we’ve collaborated for my dream project ‘Made In India’.

“She’s one of the few Bollywood celebrities who owns her Indianness no matter where she goes. Our song also



features young girls in different cultural attires. I believe we can show a more complete view of the Indian

women of the new India. I’m excited that Madhuri powered this vision.”

Source: IANS

Malaika Arora hints at wedding plans with Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor have never confirmed their plans of tying the knot. But now Malaika has said that the two are indeed thinking about the future of their relationship. She said that she knows Arjun is her man and the couple has been discussing “what next”. Malaika and Arjun have often been trolled for their age gap but the two continue to grow strong together. They have been in a relationship since a few years. Sharing more about their relationship and the stage they are in, Malaika told Bombay Times in an interview, “The most essential

part is if we know we want a future together. If you are in a relationship where you are still figuring things out and saying, ‘Oh, I don’t know’... that’s not where I stand in my relationship. It’s sacred and important to me. I feel we are at a place where we’re thinking of the where-next and what-next parts. We discuss things a lot. We’re on the same plane, with similar thoughts and ideas. We really get each other.”

She added, “We’re at a mature stage where there’s still room for more discoveries, but we’d love to see a future together and see where we can take it from here. We laugh and joke about it, but we’re damn serious, too. You have to feel positive and secure in your relationship. I am very happy and positive. Arjun gives me that confidence and surety, and it’s both ways.”

Source: HT



Nora Fatehi Roped In For Pawan Kalyan’s ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’

Actress Nora Fatehi has reportedly been cast in an important role in Pawan Kalyan’s next, ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’. In the upcoming period drama directed by Krish, Nora will essay the role of Roshanara Begum, Shah Jahan’s third daughter and (Aurangzeb’s sister), according to reports.

The role was supposed to be played by Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, but she has now been replaced by Nora.

Nora, who has previously appeared in special numbers for Telugu films such as ‘Kick 2’, ‘Baahubali’, ‘Temper,’ and others, will soon join the cast of ‘HHVM.’

“Because Nora is a good dancer and has impressive facial expressions, she is considered suitable for the role,” a source said.

Pawan Kalyan will play the titular character, a warrior, in the film, which is set in the Deccan Sultanate.





'Was that Will Smith?': Chris Rock jokes after Dave Chappelle attacked on stage

"Dave Chappelle was just assaulted on stage at his Hollywood Bowl show. He was finishing up his performance when a man ran on-stage and lunged at him knocking him to the floor. Security & his entourage then cornered the man as Dave joked about how him getting "stomped" backstage," US reporter Sharon Carpenter, who was in attendance, tweeted.

After security subdued the man and brought him away, a video posted on Instagram showed Rock joining Chappelle on stage.

"Was that Will Smith?" Rock said on the stage, which made the crowd erupt in a cheer.

Will Smith struck Chris Rock at the Oscars last month when the comedian made a joke about his wife Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved hairstyle.

Smith's actions were widely condemned as a result of the incident. A few days later, he resigned from the Academy.

A video showed Chappelle being joined on stage by Jamie Foxx, whom he thanked for jumping on stage and assisting him after the incident.

"Whenever you're in trouble, Jamie Foxx will show up in a sheriff's hat," Chappelle joked.

Following that, Chappelle made a joke about the attacker being a "trans man," which drew backlash on social media.

Amber Heard tells jury Johnny Depp assaulted her

Aquaman actor Amber Heard choked back tears on Wednesday as she testified that ex-husband Johnny Depp physically abused her, starting with slaps after she laughed at one of his tattoos and escalating to a "cavity search" of her body for cocaine.

Heard took the witness stand for the first time in a widely followed U.S. defamation case brought by Depp, saying the actors had a "magical" relationship until it turned violent.

Depp's first physical outburst, Heard said, came after she asked what was written on one of his faded tattoos. She said he replied "Wino," and she laughed, thinking it was a joke.

"He slapped me across the face," Heard said. "I didn't know what was going on. I just stared at him."

Heard said he slapped her twice more and said "you think it's funny, bitch?"

Depp, 58, testified earlier in the trial that he never hit Heard and that she was the one who was the abuser.

The star of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films and others is suing Heard, 36, for \$50 million, saying she defamed him when she claimed she was a victim of domestic abuse. Heard has counter-sued for \$100 million, saying Depp smeared her by calling her a liar.

Heard, who alternated between crying and speaking calmly, said she stayed with Depp because she wanted to believe his apologies and promises to never hit her.

But, Heard said, Depp assaulted her "several times," usually when he was drinking or using drugs. During a weekend away with friends in May 2013, Heard said, Depp became angry and accused her of inviting what he perceived as suggestive advances from another woman.

That evening, Heard said Depp tore her dress, ripped off her underwear and stuck his fingers "inside" her.

"He proceeds to do a cavity search," she said. "He's looking for his drugs, his



cocaine."

Earlier, psychologist Dawn Hughes testified that Heard had told her that Depp had put his fingers up her vagina to search for cocaine.

The case hinges on a December 2018 opinion piece she authored in the Washington Post. The article never mentioned Depp by name, but his lawyer told jurors it was clear Heard was referencing him. The couple's divorce was finalized in 2017 after less

than two years of marriage.

Depp, once among the biggest stars in Hollywood, said Heard's allegations cost him "everything." A new "Pirates" movie was put on hold, and Depp was replaced in the "Fantastic Beasts" film franchise, a "Harry Potter" spinoff.

In his earlier testimony, Depp said the fight over the "Wino" tattoo, which was originally the name of former girlfriend Winona Ryder, "didn't happen."

Source: Reuters

Netflix cancels Meghan Markle's animated series 'Pearl'



Streaming platform Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) said on Sunday it had decided to stop work on Meghan Markle's family series "Pearl" as it reviewed animated content.

Dropping several projects, including Markle's, was part of strategic decisions on production of animated series, the company said in a statement, without providing further details on its decision.

Archewell Productions, the company formed by Markle and her husband, Prince Harry, said last year that she would be an executive producer of "Pearl". The series was to be centered on the adventures of a 12-year-old girl who is inspired by influential women from history.

The couple is formally known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Archewell did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Netflix also decided not to move

forward with the two animated children's series "Dino Daycare" and "Boons and Curses."

The decision to cancel these shows comes after Netflix reported a loss of 200,000 subscribers in the first quarter, falling well short of its forecast of adding 2.5 million.

Last year, Netflix extended a deal for animation films with Comcast subsidiary Universal Pictures, a move that was expected to help Netflix hold on to child viewers.

Netflix said on Sunday it would continue to work on projects with Archewell, including the previously announced documentary series "Heart of Invictus". This will focus on athletes competing in the Invictus Games for injured veterans in The Hague in 2022.

Netflix did not respond to a query on whether it would cut more animated shows.

Source: Reuters

BEIJING KICKS OFF FRESH ROUND OF COVID TESTS AS SHANGHAI POSTPONES CRUCIAL EXAMS

SHANGHAI (TIP): China's capital Beijing kicked off a fresh round of mass testing for COVID-19 on May 3 and shut more bus routes and metro stations, as it seeks to avert the fate of Shanghai, where millions of residents have been locked down for over a month.

The draconian movement curbs on Shanghai, an economic and financial hub, have caused frustration among its 25 million residents and triggered rare protests over issues such as access to food and medical care as well as loss of income.

While some people have been let out for light and air in recent weeks, residents for the most part say they still cannot leave their housing compounds.

Shanghai cases have fallen for eight straight days and the city says its outbreak is under effective control, allowing it to shut some of the makeshift hospitals it raced to build as case numbers ballooned.

But authorities have also indicated that a full easing is still far off and warn against complacency to stick to China's zero-COVID goal.

In a Saturday announcement underscoring that expectation, Shanghai officials postponed the "gaokao" university entrance exam for city students by a month. The last time that happened was in 2020, during the initial virus outbreak.

The city's top Communist Party official, Li Qiang, a close ally of President Xi Jinping, told a Friday government meeting that it was "necessary to issue military orders at all levels, and take more resolute and powerful actions to overcome the great war and great tests," according to an official statement.

The number of infections in Shanghai outside areas under lockdown - a gauge of whether the city can further reopen - fell to 18 on Friday from 23 the day before. Total new cases declined slightly to around 4,000, data released on Saturday showed.

Shanghai is also building thousands of permanent PCR testing stations, in line with other cities, as China looks to make regular testing a feature of everyday life.

China's COVID policy is increasingly out of step with much of the rest of the world, where governments have eased restrictions, or dropped them altogether, in a bid to "live with COVID" even as infections spread.

But Chinese leaders this week reiterated their resolve to battle the virus and threatened action against critics of their strict measures. Beyond Shanghai, dozens of cities have imposed full or partial lockdowns, relaxing and tightening curbs at various times.

(Reuters)

22 killed in blast at iconic Havana hotel; gas leak blamed

HAVANA (TIP): A powerful explosion apparently caused by a natural gas leak killed at least 22 people, including a child, and injured dozens when it blew away outer walls from a luxury hotel in the heart of Cuba's capital.

No tourists were staying at Havana's 96-room Hotel Saratoga because it was undergoing renovations, Havana Gov. Reinaldo García Zapata told the Communist Party newspaper Granma.

"It's not a bomb or an attack. It is a tragic accident," President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who visited the site, said in a tweet.

Dr Julio Guerra Izquierdo, chief of hospital services at the Ministry of Health, told reporters that at least 74 people had been injured on May 7. Among them were 14 children, according to a tweet from Díaz-Canel's office.

Díaz-Canel said families in buildings near the hotel affected by the explosion had been transferred to safer locations.

Cuban state TV reported the explosion was caused by a truck that had been supplying natural gas to the hotel, but did not provide details on how the gas ignited. A white tanker truck was seen being removed from the site as rescue workers hosed it down with water.

The blast sent smoke billowing into the air around the hotel with people on the street staring in awe, one saying "Oh my God," and cars honking their horns as they sped away from the scene, video showed. It happened as Cuba is struggling to revive its key tourism sector that was devastated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Cuba's national health minister, José Ángel Portal, told The Associated Press the number of injured could rise as the search continues for people who may be trapped in the rubble of the 19th century structure in the Old Havana neighbourhood of the city.

"We are still looking for a large group of people who may be under the rubble," Lt. Col. Noel Silva of the Fire Department



said.

A 300-student school next to the hotel was evacuated. García said five of the students suffered minor injuries.

Police cordoned off the area as firefighters and rescue workers toiled inside the wreckage of the emblematic hotel about 110 yards (100 metres) from Cuba's Capitol building.

The hotel was first renovated in 2005 as part of the Cuban government's revival of Old Havana and is owned by the Cuban military's tourism business arm, Grupo de Turismo Gaviota SA. The company said it was investigating the cause of the blast and did not immediately respond to an email seeking more details about the hotel and the renovation it was undergoing.

The Hotel Saratoga has been used frequently by visiting VIPs and political figures, including high-ranking US government delegations. Beyoncé and Jay-Z stayed there during a 2013 visit to Cuba.

Photographer Michel Figueroa said he was walking past the hotel when "the explosion threw me to the ground, and my

head still hurts.... Everything was very fast."

Worried relatives of people who had been working at the hotel showed up at a hospital in the afternoon to look for them. Among them was Beatriz Céspedes Cobas, who was tearfully searching for her sister.

"She had to work today. She is a housekeeper," she said. "I work two blocks away. I felt the noise, and at first, I didn't even associate" the explosion with the hotel.

Yazira de la Caridad said the explosion shook her home a block from the hotel: "The whole building moved. I thought it was an earthquake."

Besides the pandemic's impact on Cuba's tourism sector, the country was already struggling with the sanctions imposed by the former US President Donald Trump that have been kept in place the Biden administration. The sanctions limited visits by US tourists to the islands and restricted remittances from Cubans in the US to their families in Cuba. (AP)

Boris-led Conservatives lose key London seats in local elections

LONDON (TIP): The British Prime Minister Boris Johnson-led Conservative Party on May 7 suffered some key losses in the local elections after the Opposition Labour won some of the traditional Tory strongholds in London.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said the party had reached a "turning point" and was "back on track" to succeed at the next General Election after grabbing the councils of Westminster, Wandsworth and Barnet in London. The Tories had held the Westminster council in the heart of London since its creation in 1964 and Wandsworth in south London since 1978.

"This is a big turning point. From the depths of the 2019 general election, we're back on track. We've sent a message to the Prime Minister: Britain deserves



better," Starmer said, during a visit to Barnet on May 6. "We've had some difficult results and we can see that in London... but it does not demonstrate

that Labour has the momentum to form the next government," Conservative Party co-chair Oliver Dowden said. — PTI

Queen to attend UK Jubilee celebrations, but snubs for Andrew and Harry

LONDON (TIP): Queen Elizabeth plans to attend major celebrations to mark her 70 years on the British throne next month, Buckingham Palace said on May 7, but two out-of-favour royals, Princes Andrew and Harry, will be excluded from one traditional event.

The 96-year-old, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, marked seven decades as queen in February, and four days of "Platinum Jubilee" events to recognise that landmark are being held at the start of June.

Elizabeth has been struggling with mobility issues, meaning most of her recent public engagements have had to be cancelled, but Buckingham Palace said she did plan to be at a number of events.

"Her majesty is looking forward to the weekend and will be taking part in the celebrations, but her presence will not be confirmed until much nearer to the time or even on the day itself," a palace spokesperson said.

The four days of events start on June 2 with the annual "Trooping the Colour" military parade in central London, followed by a thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral, a concert outside Buckingham Palace, and a pageant through the British capital on subsequent days.

One feature of all major royal occasions is the gathering of the royal family to wave at crowds from the palace balcony. But, the queen has decided



neither her son Prince Andrew nor grandson Prince Harry will be there this time.

Andrew's stock has plummeted after he settled a U.S. lawsuit in which he was accused of sexually abusing Virginia Giuffre when she was a teenager in February. He had already stepped down from public duties because of his connections to the late convicted US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, and has been stripped of military titles and royal patronages and is no longer known as "His Royal Highness".

Harry, younger son of heir Prince

Charles, also gave up royal duties and lost his patronages after moving with his American wife Meghan to Los Angeles, from where they have delivered barbs and accusations of racism against the royal household.

"After careful consideration, the Queen has decided this year's traditional Trooping the Colour balcony appearance ...will be limited to her majesty and those members of the royal family who are currently undertaking official public duties on behalf of the queen," the palace spokesperson said. (Reuters)

Israeli security forces launch massive search for two Palestinians who killed 3 in mass stabbing

TEL AVIV (TIP): Israeli security forces on May 7 launched a massive manhunt for two Palestinians suspected of carrying out a stabbing rampage that killed three Israelis in the predominantly ultra-orthodox town of Elad on Israel's Independence Day, the latest in a series of deadly assaults deep inside the country in recent weeks.

Police have launched a massive search operation for the assailants, identified as As'ad Al-Rafa'ani, 19 and Sabhi abu Shakir, 20, both residents of Jenin area in the West Bank, setting up roadblocks and dispatching a helicopter.

The stabbing on Thursday night, Israel's Independence Day, is the seventh such incident in the past 45 days, taking the death toll from such attacks in Israel to 19, police said. It came as Israeli-Palestinian tensions were already heightened by violence at a major holy site in Jerusalem sacred to Jews and Muslims.

On Friday, Israeli Police and the Shin Bet security services released the names

of the two suspects and said both are residents of Jenin area in the West Bank. Jenin and its surrounding areas have witnessed frequent Israeli military raids and clashes between forces and Palestinian militants in recent weeks.

The three victims in the attack were identified as Yonatan Habakuk (40), Boaz Gol (40) and Oren Ben Yiftach, (35).

According to eyewitness accounts, the two assailants carried out their attacks in several areas within the city, including in an amphitheatre park and on the main street, where civilians were celebrating Israel's Independence Day on Thursday, a festive national holiday.

"Both attackers were reportedly armed with sharp weapons, one an axe and the other an axe or a knife," they said.

"One of the wounded was in critical condition and another was in serious condition following the attack. Another person was moderately wounded, and a fourth was lightly wounded," medics said.

"We will get our hands on the terrorists and their supportive environment, and they will pay the price," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned during consultations with top security officials.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound situated in Jerusalem's Old City, is the third holiest site in Islam and is built on a hilltop that is the holiest site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

It's the heart of the conflict, and Palestinians and Israeli police have clashed there repeatedly in recent weeks.

Elad's municipality has urged people to stay at homes and report suspicious vehicles or people to the authorities.

Defence Minister Benny Gantz has ordered an extension of the closure on the West Bank imposed ahead of the holiday, to remain in effect until Sunday.

Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, whose government controls the West Bank area condemned the attack.

(PTI)

GROWING AFRICAN MANGROVE FORESTS AIM TO COMBAT CLIMATE WOES

MOMBASA (KENYA) (TIP): In a bid to protect coastal communities from climate change and encourage investment, African nations are increasingly turning to mangrove restoration projects, with Mozambique becoming the latest addition to the growing list of countries with large scale mangrove initiatives.

Mozambique's effort follows projects across the continent — including projects in Kenya, Madagascar, Gambia and Senegal — and is touted as the world's largest coastal or marine ecosystem carbon storage project.

Known as blue carbon, carbon captured by these ecosystems can sequester, or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at a faster rate than forests, despite being smaller in size.

Mozambique's mangrove restoration project — announced in February alongside its UAE-based partner Blue Forest Solutions — hopes to turn 1,85,000 hectares (4,57,100 acres) in the central Zambezia and southern Sofala provinces into a forest which could capture up to 5 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide, according to project leaders.

"Blue carbon can be utilised not only to sequester tonnes of carbon dioxide but to also improve the lives of coastal communities," Vahid Fotuhi, the Chief Executive officer of Blue Forest, told the Associated Press. He added these projects would create green jobs and promote biodiversity.

Africa's major mangrove forests have been decimated in recent decades due to logging, fish farming, coastal development, and pollution, leading to increased blue carbon emissions and greater exposure of vulnerable coastal communities to flooding and other threats to livelihood.

But the continent's growing attention on mangrove restoration can be attributed in part to the successful Mikoko Pamoja project, initiated in 2013 in Kenya's Gazi Bay, which protected 117 hectares (289 acres) of mangrove forest and replanted 4,000 trees annually, spurring other countries to also address their damaged coastal land and recreate its success.

In Senegal, 79 million replanted mangrove trees are projected to store 5 lakh tonnes of carbon over the next 20 years. Neighboring Gambia launched its own reforestation effort in 2017, with Madagascar following suit with its own preservation project two years later. Egypt is planning its mangrove restoration project ahead of hosting the United Nations climate conference in November this year.

The projects have sparked a clamor for the sale of carbon credits, a type of permit that allows for a certain amount of emissions as remuneration for forest restoration or other carbon offset projects. (AP)

LANKAN PREZ REIMPOSES STATE OF EMERGENCY

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency with effect from May 7 midnight, said the presidential media division. The state of emergency gives the police and security forces the power to arbitrarily arrest and detain people. The decision has been taken to ensure public security and maintain essential services, the presidential media division said.

The move comes amid weeks of public protests demanding the resignation of the President and the government. Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis in its history. Rajapaksa had declared emergency on April 1 also after a mass protest near his residence. He had revoked it on April 5. (PTI)

PAKISTAN'S OUSTED PM IMRAN KHAN'S 'DONKEY REMAINS DONKEY' COMMENT GETS HIM 'FULL MARKS ON HONESTY'

LAHORE (TIP): Ousted Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan has been roasted for his comments that he made during a podcast.

The clip has gone viral, where Khan is speaking about his life in the United Kingdom. However, it was one particular line that Internet picked up.

"I was very welcome in the UK but I never considered it my home. I was always a Pakistani first. A donkey doesn't turn into a zebra just because you paint stripes on it. A donkey remains a donkey," Khan is heard saying in the viral clip, for which he was brutally trolled. (PTI)

INDIAN MOUNTAINEER DIES WHILE TRYING TO SCALE MT KANCHENJUNGA IN NEPAL

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 52 year-old Indian climber died while ascending the peak of Mt Kanchenjunga in Nepal, according to the organiser of the expedition.

Narayanan Iyer, a resident of Maharashtra, died on May 6 at 8,200 metre altitude of the world's third highest mountain peak lying at the India-Nepal border, Nivesh Karki, executive director of the Pioneer Adventure, the organiser of the expedition, told PTI. According to the preliminary report, the Indian climber died due to high-altitude sickness, some 386 metre below the 8,586 metre high peak. The climber refused to descend when the organisers "asked him to descend when he fell sick" while scaling the mountain, which led to his death, Karki told PTI. (PTI)

Pakistani man shoots dead 21-year-old sister for pursuing dancing and modelling as career

LAHORE (TIP): In another suspected case of honour killing in Pakistan, a 21-year-old woman has allegedly been shot dead by her brother for pursuing dancing and modelling as a career in Punjab province.

Sidra, a native of Renala Khurd Okara, 130 km from provincial capital Lahore, was modelling for a local clothing brand and danced in theatres of Faisalabad city against the wishes of her family, according to police.

Sidra's parents forced her to quit her profession, terming it "against family tradition" but Sidra insisted on continuing.

Police said Sidra had come home from Faisalabad to celebrate Eid with her family last week.



On Thursday, her parents and brother Hamza had an argument with her over the issue of decency in profession and beat her for insisting to stick with dancing.

Later in the day Hamza opened fire on Sidra, killing her on the spot, officials said.

A murder case was registered against the suspect. Police claim to have arrested Hamza who confessed to the crime.

Police officer Fraz Hamid said Hamza got infuriated at Sidra when he saw her dance performance on his mobile phone forwarded to him by a relative.

He said Hamza told police that in a fit of rage he shot his sister dead.

In February this year, a 19-year-old female dancer Ayesha was shot dead in Faisalabad by her ex-husband.

Cases of honour killing are frighteningly regular in Pakistan, especially in areas close to the tribal regions in the north and west. (PTI)

Taliban stops issuing driving licences to women in Afghanistan: Report

KABUL (TIP): The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has now stopped issuing driving licences to women and other provinces of the land-locked country, news agency ANI quoted Afghan media reports.

Before the Taliban took over Afghanistan, women could be seen driving in some of the major cities including Kabul. But now the regime has imposed this restriction.

The human rights situation in Afghanistan has worsened since the Taliban's return to power last year. From banning girls from schools above sixth grade to not allowing women to take trips alone, there have been reports of women rights being snatched away by the new government.

Here's a look at some of the restrictions Taliban has imposed on women since capturing Afghanistan.

> On March 23, the Taliban regime shut schools for girls for secondary classes across the country, just hours after they had reopened for the first time since the new regime took over. In 2021, just a month after takeover, the Taliban had allowed some schools for girls up to class 6 to reopen. The move evoked stern response from the United Nations. The UN Security Council had said, "Security Council members reaffirmed the right to education for all Afghans, including girls, and called on the Taliban to respect the right to education and adhere to their commitments to reopen



TALIBAN REGIME HAS ALREADY SHUT SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS FOR SECONDARY CLASSES, EVOKING STRONG REACTIONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. IT HAS ALSO ORDERED THAT WOMEN LOOKING TO TRAVEL MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TRANSPORT UNLESS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A CLOSE MALE RELATIVE

schools for all female students without further delay." The Taliban's Ministry of Education (MoE) said the Islamic Emirate is close to a solution for reopening the school for girls.

> Barely a month after it took over, the Taliban administration barred women from effectively working in government offices, banks, media companies and other work places. Waheedullah Hashimi, a senior

figure in the Taliban, said the regime will fully implement sharia law, while adding that women should not work alongside men.

> In December last year, the Taliban ruled that women seeking to travel anything other than short distances must not be offered transport unless escorted by close male relative. Also, the regime called on vehicle owners to offer rides only to women wearing hijabs. (HT)

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH AILEY DANCE

BY MABEL PAIS

TAKADEME: A SAVVY DECONSTRUCTION OF INDIAN KATHAK DANCE RHYTHMS

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, America's beloved cultural ambassador to the world, graces the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) stage once again, May 6-8, 2022. The performances honor the Mother's Day weekend.

The program of Ailey's extraordinary dancers celebrates Artistic Director Robert Battle's 10th anniversary, along with a diverse repertoire of premieres, timeless favorites, and Ailey's must-see American masterpiece "Revelations." Battle's visionary leadership has moved the company into a seventh decade.

"Alvin Ailey's vision opened the door for generations of artists to use dance to inspire, unite, and enlighten," stated Artistic Director Robert Battle. "I am deeply humbled to have led this seminal Company for a decade, joined by incomparable dancers and choreographers on a journey of discovery that extends from the powerful works of our founder to the important voices of today-an ongoing dance dialogue that shines a light on the strength and resilience of our common humanity around the world."

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER @ NJPAC

FRIDAY, MAY 6 at 8PM- Hosted by SAVION GLOVER

SATURDAY, MAY 7 at 8PM

SUNDAY, MAY 8 at 3PM

PROGRAM:

Fri 5/6 @ 8:00 p.m.

Battle 10th Anniversary: Mass, In/Side, Ella / For Four, Unfold, Takademe, Love Stories finale / Revelations

Sat 5/7 @ 8:00 p.m.

New Jersey Premieres: Holding Space / BUSK / Revelations

Sun 5/8 @ 3:00 p.m.

Battle 10th Anniversary: Mass, In/Side, Ella / For Four, Unfold, Takademe, Love Stories finale / Revelations

New Jersey Premieres:

For Four (2021) - Take four amazing Ailey dancers and add in Wynton Marsalis' delicious jazz score - written in 4/4 time. Capturing the pent-up energy of a world cooped up during the pandemic, Battle expresses the drive to perform and the electricity of dancers coming together to create.

Holding Space (2021) - Against a backdrop of civil unrest and our relentless threat upon the natural world, Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts examines the ways in which we are taking care. Holding Space asks: in what ways can we collectively accommodate one another to better traverse this new and unprecedented terrain?

Busk (2009) - Internationally renowned choreographer Azura Barton invites us to enjoy the fragility, tenderness, and resilience that exist within the human experience. Set to a spirited score, BUSK has been described as watching the physical unfurling of the human psyche.

New Productions:

o Unfold (2007, 2021 New Production) - Artistic Director Robert Battle's sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis Le Jour" sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price. With its fluid grace, this gem exemplifies Battle's skill for nuanced gestures and vivid imagery.



Robert Battle, Alvin Ailey Artistic Director. Photo / Courtesy NJPAC



Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey Performers. Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Repertory Favorites:

o Ella (2008 / Ailey Company Premiere 2016) - Created as a solo, this high-energy comical dance by Robert Battle was reinvented as a duet for Ailey's December 2016 Opening Night Gala benefit, "An Evening of Ailey and Jazz" in celebration of Ella Fitzgerald's 2017 birth centennial. Using her live concert recording of "Airmail Special," Ella matches the iconic singer's virtuosic scatting with lightning-fast, articulated movement in an irresistible tour-de-force that leaves audiences (and the dancers) breathless.

In/Side (2008 / Ailey Company Premiere 2009) - The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality.

Love Stories finale (2004) - Love Stories was Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison's dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer Rennie Harris and Robert Battle. Inspired by the African concept of "Sankofa," which teaches that "we don't know where we are going unless we know where we have been," this extraordinary ballet celebrates the heritage of African-American dance and the rich legacy of Alvin Ailey.

Mass (2004 / Ailey Company Premiere 2017) - originally commissioned for The Juilliard School, Mass features a score by John Mackey, who has collaborated on multiple occasions with Mr. Battle. The work features 16 dancers



Savion Glover, host.

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

showcasing Robert Battle's signature ritualistic choreography.

Takademe (1999 / Ailey Company Premiere 2012) - Robert Battle's bravura work mixes humor and high-flying movement in a savvy deconstruction of Indian Kathak dance rhythms. Clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized syllables of Sheila Chandra's syncopated score.

Ailey Classic:

o Revelations (1960) - American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all, Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage and genius. Choreographed when he was only 29 years old, Revelations is an intimate reflection that explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition, from the deepest of grief to the holiest joy. Using African-American religious spirituals, this suite is a classic tribute to the resolve and determination of a people. Revelations has been seen by more people around the world than any other work of modern dance.

TICKETS

For Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater or call the Box Office 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom -the nation's highest civilian honor- and guided by Judith Jamison 1989-2011, the Company is now led by Robert Battle. The Dance Company is the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center. To learn more, visit alvinailey.org

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

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a time to honor motherhood and show our appreciation to moms of all kinds, including wives, sisters, and grandmas, for all their hard work and sacrifice. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. This year, the holiday falls on Sunday, May 8, 2022. It's customary to shower mothers with gifts, such as flowers and jewelry, on this special day. But what exactly are the origins of Mother's Day? As with many holidays, the history behind Mother's Day is based on both ancient and modern traditions from around the world.

History of Mother's Day

Historically, mothers have always held essential roles in society. From Marie Curie, the first woman to ever win a Nobel Prize, to former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, moms have changed the world. For this reason, numerous individuals gather to celebrate all forms of motherhood on Mother's Day, and we have a few extraordinary women to thank for that.

Ann Reeves Jarvis

In 1858, Ann Reeves Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, established Mothers' Work Days during the Civil War in an effort to improve sanitation for soldiers and children. She also helped start a club to teach women how to take care of children. You see, as a mother, she had lost eight out of her twelve children due to poor sanitation conditions.

When the Civil War broke out in the United States, she asked various members of the clubs she helped organize to pledge that the war wouldn't interfere with their work. They vowed to provide medical care and assist those with illnesses regardless of which side they were fighting on. She then started Mother's Friendship Day as a day to promote the reconciliation between Union and Confederate soldiers.

Julia Ward Howe

Around this time, Julia Ward Howe, an abolitionist, writer, and suffragette, wrote a Mother's Day Proclamation to ask mothers to join her in promoting world peace. In 1873, she campaigned to establish a Mother's Day of Peace in order to achieve world peace and resolve the conflicts between human beings. She was greatly inspired by the work of Ann Reeves Jarvis.

Anna Jarvis

It wasn't until Ann Reeves Jarvis' daughter, Anna, came along that Mother's Day became the widely recognized holiday we know and love today. After the death of Anna's mother



in 1905, she wanted to create a memorial day to honor mothers who had passed away and acknowledge the sacrifices mothers endure for their children.

The first official Mother's Day celebration was held in Grafton, West Virginia at a local church on May 10, 1908. Thanks to the financial backing of John Wanamaker, a Philadelphia business owner, this Mother's Day was an enormous success. On this day, thousands of people also showed up to a simultaneous Mother's Day event occurring at one of Wanamaker's stores. If you go to this church today, you can find the International Mother's Day Shrine.

Seeing how successful this first Mother's Day event was, Anna vowed to make it a national holiday. She tirelessly wrote to politicians and newspapers from around the country, asking them to adopt the day and celebrate motherhood. Soon, the tradition caught on and spread

to 45 other states, and several of them even declared it an official holiday in 1912 and after.

Finally, in 1914, former President Woodrow Wilson announced the first national celebration of Mother's Day. Now, Mother's Day is celebrated every second Sunday in May.

What is the Meaning of Mothering Sunday?

In the UK and certain parts of Europe, one of the clearest traditions of Mother's Day stems from Mothering Sunday. Originally, it was a religious holiday that was observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This day was meant for individuals to find their way back to their "mother church," which was the church nearest to them, for a special service. Churchgoers would also take this as an opportunity to reunite with family after being away due to work.

Historians have many theories on the Mothering Sunday origins, including that the tradition developed from children picking up flowers as they walked to church or that the holiday name refers to a reading found in the bible. Mothering Sunday has now shifted into less of a religious holiday and is a day that everyone can celebrate. People in the UK take the time to honor mothers, such as birthmothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, and mothers-in-law.

Before the switch happened, people would celebrate with a Simnel cake, a fruit cake made with almond paste and 11 marzipan balls to represent the 11 disciples. Since the tradition changed to a more secular one, children now often give their moms flowers, presents, and homemade cards. People may also invite their mothers out to a nice brunch, lunch, or dinner. This year, Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday, March 27, 2022.



From page 26

Where did the tradition of Mother's Day come from?

Although Mother's Day as we know it has more recent roots, early Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to festivals held by ancient Greeks and Romans. In ancient Greece, people would honor Rhea, the wife of Cronus and mother of the gods. People from all over Greece would offer Rhea food, drinks, and flowers.

The Romans also celebrated a different mother of the gods named Cybele, or Magna Mater, which means Great Mother. The Romans even went as far as to dedicate a temple to her, and in March they would participate in the Festival of Hilaria and provide gifts for the goddess.

Today, most people celebrate their moms by purchasing or making gifts and giving them a much-needed day off. Chocolates, flowers, and cards remain the most popular Mother's Day gifts. In fact, the National Retail Federation (NRF) estimates that Americans spent approximately \$2.67 billion on holiday purchases, including the ever-popular Mother's Day roses.

How is Mother's Day Celebrated?

Although Mother's Day is traditionally a western concept, the holiday has become incredibly popular worldwide. Mothers everywhere are honored on certain days, sometimes even with grand festivals or parades. We'll explore the ways in which people in the U.S. and abroad honor their mothers and celebrate the occasion.

United States

In the U.S., Mother's Day is a time to shower your mom with gifts. Whether you're looking to go all out or stay within your budget, there are many ways to celebrate Mother's Day in the U.S. Here are a few of our favorite Mother's Day activities:

Kick-off Mother's Day morning by surprising her with her favorite breakfast foods. If she likes to start her day with coffee, include a gourmet coffee gift basket as an extra special touch.

Enjoy the holiday by spending the day together. If you have a family of your own, chances are you don't see your mom as often as you'd like. Make the day memorable by doing activities she's always wanted to do.

If you live far away, call your mom and invite her to a virtual brunch date. DIY some tasty mimosas, dress up for the occasion (or stay in pajamas), and chat the afternoon away while enjoying each other's company. You can also send your mom a sweet greeting card with Mother's Day quotes she loves.

Ceremonial tree planting is a becoming a popular tradition among families on this important holiday. Mother's Day plants are an excellent gift option, even for moms that lack green thumbs. There are low-maintenance succulents, bromeliads, and other potted beauties that make great table centerpieces and can live on for months.

Whatever you decide, your mom will appreciate all the effort you put into making Mother's Day unforgettable.

Mother's Day Around the World**Costa Rica**

Mother's Day, or "Dia de la Madre" as it's locally known, is a big deal in Costa Rica, where the importance of family bonds is prevalent in every aspect of daily life. It is a national holiday in Costa Rica, held on August 15 every year. This date was selected because it coincides with the Catholic feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While the majority of Costa Ricans are Catholic, the day is usually spent at home and not at mass. Extended family members are invited around to share in a huge feast and gift mom with flowers and presents.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Mother's Day is celebrated a bit differently. Once the rainy season is over, families will gather for the Antrosht festival. During the span of three days, there will be dancing, singing, and lots of food. It's customary for daughters to supply vegetables and cheese, while sons bring the meat.

Ireland

In Ireland, Mother's Day is observed on the fourth Sunday during Lent, or three weeks before Easter Sunday. Historically, families would start the day by attending a special mass in honor of Mary, Mother of Christ. The holiday's roots in Ireland can be traced back centuries. In medieval times, Irish children from impoverished backgrounds were sent to rich family homes to work as domestic servants. Their work was given a reprieve on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, when the children were permitted to return home for some time with their families.

Sweden

Swedes celebrate Mother's Day, or "Mors Dag" on the last Sunday of every May. According to tradition, the holiday

is characterized by local customs including a morning greeting, sung by young children in the house. Families will also hoist the Swedish flag outside the home, and ensure mom has a relaxing morning with good coffee and bread, accompanied by flowers and small gifts.

Thailand

Mother's Day in Thailand is observed on August 12 to commemorate the birthday of Queen Sirikit. Festivities for the holiday include parades and gifting jasmine to mothers.

Russia

When Russia was still known as the Soviet Union, mothers were honored on March 8, International Women's Day. In 1998, Mother's Day was officially established as the last Sunday of November. However, many people still celebrate in March.

Gifts to Send for Mother's Day

Now that we've covered the origins of Mother's Day celebrations, how do you show your gratitude and love toward your mom? It's not easy to express your feelings, especially when actions speak louder than words. This Mother's Day, share a gift that's just as unique as she is and that she'll cherish forever.

While popular gifts include Mother's Day chocolate and jewelry, there are a variety of options you can choose from if you've simply hit a dead end. No matter what her interests and hobbies are, we can help you find a gift that she'll absolutely love. Below, you'll find a few amazing Mother's Day gifts to send.

For mothers who need a day to unwind and relax, send her a spa day gift basket with all the essentials she needs to make her DIY spa day a success. From lotion to

body butter and cozy slippers, she'll have a perfect day of relaxation while at home.

Is she a wine enthusiast? Send your mom her favorite wine along with a quality cutting board and a meat and cheese gift. Our meat and cheese gift baskets include a cutting board and delicious pairings to make your own charcuterie board at home. Who doesn't love a good wine night?

What better way to show your mom you love her than with a floral arrangement? Mother's Day flowers are a classic gift for a reason, and we can help you deliver fresh blooms straight to her door. If you're looking for traditional flowers this May 8, opt for these top sellers: carnations, daisies and roses. Our Mother's Day lilies and Mother's Day tulips are also great selections since both types of blossoms symbolize motherhood.

Fun Facts About Mother's Day

This is the busiest day of the year for phone calls in the United States. More than 122 million calls are made to moms around the country on the second Sunday of May each year.

It's also busy for restaurants. Families everywhere love to take mom out and spoil her with a delicious meal. According to recent statistics, some 87 million people make restaurant reservations for Mother's Day.

After Christmas and Easter, Mother's Day is the most popular day for churchgoing, since it always falls on a Sunday.

Mother's Day was declared an official holiday in the U.S. in 1914.

Billions of dollars are collectively spent on Mother's Day gifts, mostly on flower arrangements, cards, jewelry and chocolates.

Avoid plucking grey hair



We all know that the hair that has turned white will not become dark again, except by dyeing or colouring. This does not mean that we can continue to pluck out white hair.

Beauty expert Shahnaz Husain says, "it is better not the pluck out white hair by the roots, as doing this repeatedly can injure and cause trauma to the follicle, which can finally stop growing hair. So, it is better to cut the white hair, instead of plucking it out."

"If you pluck your white hair, another white hair will grow in its place. This is because melanin (the pigment cells which give the hair its colour) is no longer reaching the hair follicle. So, another white hair will grow in the follicle," she adds.

Ways To Hide Your Grey Hair

As aforementioned, once your hair have turned grey, then it can't be turned back to black. They will turn back only if you dye them. However, if you don't want to dye your hair, then we have some other ways to help you hide those white strands.

Curls

Getting curls is a great idea if you want to hide your grey hair. This is because you can mould and them according to yourself. Along with this, the increased volume will make the few grey hair unnoticeable. All you need to curl your hair are hot rollers or curling iron.

Bun To The Rescue

If you have grey hair around the crown area, then you make a bun to easily hide your grey hair. However, you need to make sure that you pull back all your hair instead of them. This is because if you will part your hair, then there are chances that your white strands will be visible.

Hair Accessories

A number of hair accessories are available in the market to help you hide your grey hair including small flowers, bandana, hairband, beads, clips and many more.

Hair Chalk

This is one of the best ways to hide your white hair. If you don't want your natural hair, then you can experiment and get coloured chalks. The best part is that these chalks are easily available in the market.

Causes Of Grey Hair

There can several causes of greying of hair and different people believe in different things. Maybe all of those things are true or maybe some of them are true or maybe none of them are true but nothing can be said with surety. Here are some of the causes of greying of hair as believed by different doctors.

Source: HerZindagi

FOOD

Bread Biryani

Ingredients

Basmati rice - 1 cup
Coconut milk - 1 1/2 cup
Green peas - 1/4 cup
Radish - 1/4 cup, grated
Carrot - 1/4 cup, grated
Coconut - 1/4 cup, grated
Onions - 2, chopped
Bread slices - 4, crusts removed, sliced in small pieces
Cashews - 5
Almonds - 5, soaked, peeled
Black pepper powder - 1/2 tsp
Cumin powder - 1/2 tsp
Gasa gasa - 1 tsp
Cardamom - 1 Cloves - 1
Cinnamon - 1
Ginger garlic paste - 1 tblsp
Ghee - 3 tblsp
Curry leaves - few
Coriander leaves - few
Salt as per taste



Method

- Dry roast and grind the cardamom, cloves and cinnamon to a fine powder.
- Heat little ghee in a pan.
- Fry the basmati rice for 30 to 45 seconds.
- Remove and keep aside.
- Add a little ghee to the pan and fry the bread pieces till crisp.
- Keep aside.
- Grind the almonds, cashewnuts, coconut and gasa gasa to a smooth paste.
- Heat a little ghee in a pressure cooker.
- Add the cinnamon powder, ginger garlic paste, onions, salt and curry leaves.
- Saute well for a minute or two.
- Add the radish, carrot, green peas and ground coconut paste.
- Stir well and add the coconut milk.
- Bring to a boil.
- Add the rice and pressure cook till 2 whistles.
- Add the cumin powder, pepper powder, bread slices, coriander leaves and mix well.
- Serve.

Golden rules to reduce belly fat

Maintaining a flat belly means maintaining your overall health as well. A larger waistline can increase your risk of diabetes, heart diseases and even cancer. It is not easy to target just the belly fat when you are dieting. But losing weight overall can help you reduce the dangerous layers of fat on the belly, too.

Avoid sugar, sugar-sweetened drinks

Foods with added sugars aren't good for you; consuming them can lead to weight gain. It has a negative impact on your metabolic health as well. Try reducing the amount of sugar in your diet and avoid sugary drinks completely. But this does not apply to whole fruits, which have fibre and are healthy.

Cut down on carbs

Eating fewer carbs is a fool-proof way of losing fat. Numerous studies show your appetite goes down when you cut down on carbs, which helps in weight loss. Losing carbs can also keep you healthy, reduce your risk of getting type II diabetes. Avoid carbs like sugar, candy, and white

bread.

Eat fibre-rich food

An indigestible plant matter, eating lots of fibre can help with weight loss. The best way is to eat plant foods, including veggies and fruits. Whole oats and legumes are great sources of fibre.

Regular exercise

Exercise is one of the best ways to reduce weight and belly fat along with improving your health. Aerobic exercises like walking, running and swimming, can majorly reduce your belly fat.

Track your food intake

Despite having a high-protein and low-carb diet, it is easy to underestimate or overestimate your food intake if you do not keep track of it. Tracking can help you achieve specific goals like increasing your protein intake or cutting down carbs for an effective weight loss.

Source: The Indian Express



Diets rich in protein, niacin, zinc may boost blood-vessel health

According to a study being presented at the European Congress on Obesity (ECO), which is being held on May 4-7, 2022 in Maastricht, the Netherlands, there may be some very particular dietary changes you can make that will help keep your arteries healthy and flexible.

The authors say that protein, niacin, and zinc were linked to improvements in both the structure and function of blood vessels in their study.

In addition, they point to a specific dietary pattern which may do a good job of providing you with these nutrients, as well as others that are linked to cardiovascular health.

The research is pre-publication and has not yet been peer-reviewed.

Lead author Dr. Brurya Tal and her team at The Sagol Center for the Metabolic Syndrome, Institute of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Hypertension, Tel Aviv-Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel, wrote that it is known that weight loss is associated with improvements in cardiovascular and metabolic health.

What it is not known, however, is whether any particular nutrient changes during dieting might be responsible for those improvements.

In order to investigate this question, the researchers enrolled 72 people with metabolic syndrome and obesity into a one-year weight loss program.

Metabolic syndrome is defined by the American Heart Association Trusted Source as having at least three of the following risk factors:

- High blood sugar
- Low levels of the "good" cholesterol HDL
- High levels of triglycerides
- Excess abdominal fat
- High blood pressure

Having metabolic syndrome puts people at greater risk for heart and blood vessel diseases.

According to the World Health Organization Trusted Source (WHO), obesity is characterized by a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30.

The study participants were provided with a



personalized diet and exercise plan as well as regular meetings with a doctor and a dietitian.

The average age of the participants was 53.

They were required to complete a dietary questionnaire a week before beginning the weight loss program as well as at the end.

At the end of the year, the research team measured blood vessel flexibility in three different ways: pulse wave velocity (PWV), common carotid artery intima media thickness (IMT), and flow mediated dilation (FMD).

PWV is the rate at which pressure waves move down the vessel.

Carotid artery IMT is the thickness of the two innermost walls of the arteries which supply blood to the brain.

Source: Healthline



Study confirms airborne transmission of coronavirus

A collaborative study by a group of scientists from the CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad and the CSIR-IMTech, Chandigarh, with hospitals in Hyderabad and Mohali has confirmed the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The study has been published in the Journal of Aerosol Science.

The exact mechanism of spread of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has remained elusive. Earlier thought to spread by surfaces, epidemiologists found that countries where people wore masks in the pandemic were affected less severely. However, quantitative evidence that shows the infectious coronavirus particles in air was lacking.

The scientists analysed the coronavirus' genome content from air samples collected from different areas occupied by Covid-19 patients. These included hospitals, closed rooms in which only Covid-19 patients spent a short period of time, and houses of home-quarantined Covid-19 patients.

They found that the virus could be frequently detected in air around Covid-19 patients and that the positivity rate increased with the number of patients present in the premises. They found the virus in ICU as well as non-ICU sections of hospitals, suggesting that patients shed the virus in air irrespective of the severity of infection. The study also found viable coronavirus in air that could infect living cells, and these viruses could spread over a long range of distance. Scientists still suggest wearing face masks to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

"Our results show that coronavirus can stay in the air for some time in absence of ventilation in closed spaces. We find that the positivity rate of finding the virus in air was 75 per cent when two or more Covid-19 patients were present in a room, in contrast to 15.8 per cent when one or no Covid-19 patients occupied the room in these studies," said Dr Shivranjani Moharir, a scientist involved in the study.

Source: IANS

Double-masking does not improve protection against Covid: Study

Double-masking might not protect against Covid-19, but rather raises the risk of infection as well as transmission, US researchers have claimed, in a study.

The study published in Physics of Fluids, suggests double masking with improperly fitted masks may "not significantly improve mask efficiency and produces a false sense of security".

"More layers mean a less porous face covering, leading to more flow forced out of the perimeter gaps (sides, top, and bottom) in masks with a less secure fit," argued researchers at Florida State University and Johns Hopkins University.

Double layers increase filtering efficiency only with good mask fit but could also lead to breathing difficulties.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, loosely woven cloth masks offer the least protection against Covid, and N95 and KN95 masks offer the most.

Still, after more than two years since the pandemic began, there is not a full understanding of mask characteristics for the most optimal



protection. In the study, the team used principal component analysis (PCA) along with fluid dynamics simulation models to show the crucial importance of proper fit for all types of masks and how face shape influences the most ideal fit.

The researchers modelled a moderate cough jet from the mouth of an adult male wearing a cloth mask over the nose and mouth with elastic bands wrapped around the ears.

They calculated the maximum volume flow rates through the front of the mask and peripheral gaps at different material porosity levels.

For a more realistic 3D face shape and size, the researchers used PCA that integrated 100 adult male and 100 adult female heads retrieved from head scan data at Basel University in Switzerland. PCA condenses large sets of variables while retaining most of the information.

Source: IANS

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WhatsApp finally rolling out emoji reactions for messages

WhatsApp is finally getting an emoji reaction feature that will let users react to messages with emoji. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the same on Facebook earlier this week. The emoji reactions feature is already seen on popular communication platforms like Instagram, Telegram and even iMessage, but now WhatsApp users will be able to make use of it too.

The implementation in WhatsApp will include 6 emoji reactions that users can choose from. These are fixed and cannot be changed for now. However, Zuckerberg did announce that we will get more options later. The six emoji include like, love, surprise, laugh, sad and thanks.

Using the reactions feature will be super simple for users. Similar to how it works on other apps, all users need to do is enter a chat window and long-press on a message to bring up the six reaction emoji. You will be able to long-press on text messages as well as images and videos.

Once you have long-pressed on a message and the reaction options have popped up below it, simply tap on the reaction you want.

As per reports, WhatsApp could also bring sticker reactions and GIF reactions to the platform.

Apple, Google, Microsoft expand support for passwordless sign-ins

In a bid to make the web more secure, Apple, Google and Microsoft on Thursday announced plans to expand support for a common passwordless sign-in standard created by the FIDO Alliance and the World Wide Web Consortium.

The new capability will allow websites and apps to offer consistent, secure, and easy passwordless sign-ins to consumers across devices and platforms.

"This new capability stands to usher in a new wave of low-friction FIDO implementations alongside the ongoing and growing utilization of security keys -- giving service providers a full range of options for deploying modern, phishing-resistant authentication," said Andrew Shikiar, executive director and CMO of the FIDO Alliance.

While password managers and legacy forms of two-factor authentication offer incremental improvements, there has been industry-wide collaboration to create sign-in technology that is more convenient and more secure. The expanded standards-based capabilities will give websites and apps the ability to offer an end-to-end passwordless option.

"Working with the industry to establish new, more secure sign-in methods that offer better protection and eliminate the vulnerabilities of passwords is central to our commitment to building products that offer maximum security and a transparent user experience," said Kurt Knight, Apple's Senior Director of Platform Product Marketing.

Users will sign in through the same action that they take multiple times each day to unlock their devices, such as a simple verification of their fingerprint or face, or a device PIN.

This new approach protects against phishing and sign-in will be radically more secure when compared to



passwords and legacy multi-factor technologies such as one-time passcodes sent over SMS.

Apple, Google, and Microsoft have led development of this expanded set of capabilities and are now building support into their respective platforms.

The move allows users to automatically access their FIDO sign-in credentials (referred to by some as a "passkey") on many of their devices, even new ones, without having to reenroll every account.

It will also enable users to use FIDO authentication on their mobile device to sign in to an app or website on a nearby device, regardless of the OS platform or browser they are running.

"This milestone is a testament to the collaborative work being done across the industry to increase protection and eliminate outdated password-based authentication," said Mark Risher, Senior Director of Product Management, Google.

Source: IANS

This is how Twitter's Edit button will finally work

As Twitter plans to give its users an Edit button, after a push by its soon-to-be boss Elon Musk, to help them correct errors in their tweets, app researcher and reverse engineer Jane Manchun Wong on Tuesday revealed the first glimpse of the new tool. She tweeted a video with the steps needed to edit a tweet. A user has to press a button called "Edit Tweet" in the drop-down context menu, and then he or she can edit the post.

"The current unreleased version of Edit Tweet reuploads media (images, videos, GIFs, etc) instead of reusing them. An inefficient use of the bandwidth and media processing power... plus it turns my video into an image (mishandling media type)," she said in a tweet.

At the moment, it looks like a user will get 30 minutes after publishing a tweet to hit the Edit button.

One may even replace the entire media (photo/video file) embedded with the tweet.

The Edit button will show the user the entire original content, and the user can then either delete the whole post or start over, as the tool appears not just for grammatical errors.

Earlier reports suggest that the micro-blogging platform is also going to keep a digital trace of your earlier tweets.

Wong said the edit button may have an "immutable" quality.

"Looks like Twitter's approach to Edit Tweet is immutable, as in, instead of mutating the Tweet text within the same Tweet (same ID), it re-creates a new Tweet with the amended content, along with the list of the old Tweets prior of that edit," Wong posted last month.

Initially, the edit button will be available to Twitter Blue users and will be extended to all at a later stage.

Source: IANS



NASA scientists crack 60-year-old mystery of explosions on Sun

Scientists at NASA have developed a theory that explains how explosions occur on the Sun, and help better predict geomagnetic storms and solar flares that can impact Earth.

An explosive process called magnetic reconnection triggers solar flares, which can, in just minutes, release enough energy to power the whole world for 20,000 years. Scientists have spent the last half-century trying to understand how this process happens.

The team at NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission (MMS) has a new theory that explains how the most explosive type of magnetic reconnection - called fast reconnection - occurs and why it happens at a consistent speed.

Magnetic reconnection is a process that occurs in plasma - energetic, fluid-like material that is exquisitely sensitive to magnetic fields. From flares on the Sun, to near Earth space, to black holes, plasmas throughout the universe undergo magnetic reconnection, which rapidly converts magnetic energy into heat and acceleration. While there are several types of magnetic reconnection, one particularly puzzling variant is known as fast reconnection, which occurs at a predictable rate.

"We have known for a while that fast reconnection happens at a certain rate that seems to be pretty constant," said Barbara Giles, project scientist for MMS and research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "But what really drives that rate has been a mystery, until now." The new research, published in a paper in Nature's Communications Physics journal, explained how fast reconnection occurs specifically in collisionless plasmas - a type of plasma whose particles are spread out enough that the individual particles don't collide with one another. Where reconnection happens in space, most plasma is in this collisionless state, including the plasma in solar flares and the space around Earth.



LIC IPO FULLY SUBSCRIBED

LIC's public offer, the country's biggest-ever IPO, was fully subscribed on the second day of bidding on Thursday, May 5.

Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 16,25,35,125 bids were received, making the public issue fully subscribed, as per data on stock exchanges as of 6.24 pm.

Of the total, the policyholders' portion was subscribed a little over three times, while that for employees was subscribed 2.14 times.

Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) and Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portion has received a tepid response so far. Non-institutional investors' segment was subscribed 46%, while QIBs' portion was slightly lower at 40%.

BANK OF ENGLAND UPS INTEREST RATE TO HIGHEST IN 13 YEARS

The Bank of England raised its key interest rate to the highest level in 13 years on Thursday as policymakers around the world combat inflation fuelled by high energy prices, Russia's war in Ukraine and lingering concerns about Covid.

The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 to raise interest rates for a fourth consecutive meeting, lifting the rate that the Bank of England pays other banks by a quarter-percentage point, to 1%.

OIL RISES, DEFYING STOCK MARKET FALLS AS SUPPLY CONCERNS PERSIST

Oil prices climbed for a third straight session on Friday, shrugging off concerns about global economic growth as worries about tightening supplies underpinned prices ahead of an impending European Union embargo on Russian oil.

Brent futures rose 84 cents, or 0.8%, to \$111.74 a barrel by 0306 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude climbed 80 cents, or 0.7%, to \$109.06 a barrel.

Brent and WTI are on track to rise for a second week in a row, buoyed by the EU's proposal to phase out supplies of Russian crude oil in six months and refined products by the end of 2022. It would also ban all shipping and insurance services for transporting Russian oil. The plan still requires unanimous backing from the 27 countries in the bloc.

"There are concerns over global growth and what it could mean for oil demand," said Warren Patterson who heads ING's commodities research.

RBI hikes repo rate: Loan EMIs set to go up for borrowers

MUMBAI (TIP)

All of a sudden-and entirely unexpected-the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 4 increased the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.4 percent for the first time in almost two years since the start of the pandemic in 2020. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. This comes when inflation has been rising to an 18-month high amidst a rebound in domestic economic activity.

"From a real estate point of view, this hike in policy rate is not welcome and will have a negative impact as home loan rates will increase immediately," says Dr Samantak Das, Chief Economist, and Head Research and REIS, India, JLL.

Let's go into the finer details of this announcement and its impact on the borrowers and depositors.

What are repo-linked loans?

From October 1, 2019, all banks had to mandatorily link their floating-rate retail loans to an external benchmark – RBI's repo rate, three/six-month treasury bill yields or any other benchmark prescribed by Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL). Most banks had chosen the repo rate as their benchmark. For such retail borrowers, the effective interest rate is the repo rate plus a spread specified by the bank, which includes operating cost and credit risk premium.

While the repo rate is at the RBI's discretion, banks change the credit risk premium as and when the borrower's credit profile changes during the loan's tenure. Other components, including operating cost, can be altered once in three years, as per the central bank's circular mandating an external benchmark.

Will the repo rate hike affect all categories of loans?

Yes, the implication of the repo rate hike would be felt across all categories of loans, both secured and unsecured.

"All the loans that come under the repo-linked lending rate



(RLLR), especially the home loan and the loan against property will now cost higher and there can be a subsequent increase in other loans EMI as most of the banks have already started increasing the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) since the beginning of this fiscal year," says V Swaminathan, Executive Chairman, Andromeda and Apnapaisa. "Generally, the car loans are given at fixed rates, which will not be affected by this increase. The car loans with floating rate will certainly see the impact next month or next quarter as per their respective terms," says Ashish Pahariya, Partner, DSK Legal. According to experts, close to 40 percent of loans are linked to the external benchmark, and this increase will translate into a more expensive loan for new and existing borrowers alike in a very short time. "The existing borrowers will see their tenor go up," says Adhil Shetty, CEO, BankBazaar.com.

He explains that a home loan borrower with an outstanding principal of Rs 40 lakh and tenor of 20 years at 7 percent interest could see their tenor extend by 15-18 months when interest moves up to 7.4 percent.

Source: Moneycontrol

Over 80 firms, including China's JD.com, added to US Securities and Exchange Commission list facing delisting risk

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The US Securities and Exchange Commission added over 80 firms to its list of entities facing possible expulsion from American exchanges, which include China's JD.com, Pinduoduo Inc, Bilibili Inc, and NetEase Inc. The SEC on Wednesday, May 4, expanded the list, consisting of US-listed Chinese entities, on a provisional line-up under a 2020 law known as The Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act.

The Act, signed into a law by then-President Donald Trump, aims to remove foreign-jurisdiction companies from US bourses if they fail to comply with American auditing standards for three years in a row.

Other large Chinese companies that were added to the SEC's list were JinkoSolar Holding Co Ltd, NIO Inc, and China Petroleum & Chemical Corp, among others.

Sources had told Reuters last month Chinese regulators had asked some of the country's US-listed firms, including Alibaba, Baidu, and JD.com, to prepare more audit disclosures.

Source: Reuters

Elon Musk says Twitter may charge slight fee for commercial, govt users

Elon Musk has said Twitter Inc might charge a "slight" fee for commercial and government users, part of the billionaire entrepreneur's push to grow revenue which has lagged behind larger rivals like Meta Platforms Inc's Facebook.

"Twitter will always be free for casual users, but maybe a slight cost for commercial/government users," Musk said in a tweet. "Some revenue is better than none!" he added in another tweet.

Twitter declined to comment when contacted by Reuters.

Last week, Reuters reported that Musk told banks he would develop new ways to monetize tweets and crack down on executive pay to slash costs at the social media platform company.

Musk also told the banks he planned to develop features to grow business revenue, including new ways to make money out of tweets that contain important information or go viral, sources told Reuters.

At the annual Met Gala in New York on Monday, Musk said the reach of Twitter was currently only "niche," and he would want a much bigger percentage of the country to be on it.

Musk, also the chief executive officer of top electric vehicle maker Tesla Inc, has been suggesting a raft of changes to Twitter since last month.

Source: IANS



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 9 TO MAY 15, 2022



Aries

ARIES : Ganesha says this week, you'll be putting in a lot of effort Dear Aries. You will take significant steps forward, and you will be given full credit for them. You will discover the hidden significance of a sequence of occurrences in your life, which will strengthen your faith. This week, you'll put unnecessary pressure on yourself over little issues. Keep things as basic as possible. Your relationship fronts will be alright this week. you will not go through any kind of issues with your partner this week. You'll have to be extra cautious with your cardiac output this week. This week, you must be especially cautious.



Taurus

TAURUS : This week, you'll be able to see where your planetary energies are trying to drive you Dear Taurus. You will be able to recognize the correct route, which will have a transformative influence on your life. Events that you least anticipate to happen this week are more likely to occur in the second part of the week. As a result, your timetable will be disturbed. This week, your relationship will need minor attention as your partner will not be in a mood to address your relationship issues and this might create issues. This week your health will be all great and good. You will hardly need to attend to your fitness fronts.



Gemini

GEMINI : This week, you'll develop a systematic and authoritative approach to an issue Dear Gemini. You will be endowed with the capacity to fairly resolve problems. This week, you'll have to be a little more forceful, but you'll be alright. This week, you will play an unintentional bad influence in someone's life, but don't fear, you will not injure anyone. This week your relationship will be a very good flow. People who are married will spend very good time with each other. For you dear Gemini, Pisces and Sagittarius will be the most compatible sign to begin a new romantic connection. This week you will try intoxication of the body and it will really work well for you. Do not try anything without professional advice.



Cancer

CANCER : You'll be able to start the new quest this week after a long break Dear Cancer. Your week will be brightened by some unexpected happenings. You'll become more conscious of the effort you'll need to do to get along with the people around you. You are a sensitive person who easily expresses emotions, but this week you will go above and beyond for someone who does not deserve it. As far as your romantic life is concerned, you will be able to make good changes in your own personality in order to please your partner and settle according to their needs. This will bring a

better change in your relationship. This week you must not go for solitary activities. This week your children are likely to get injured badly therefore be careful.



Leo

LEO : This week, you'll be prepared to get a large number of items. You will no longer be concerned about what others may think of you. You will feel more imaginative and enthusiastic, and you will overcome any trust issues you may be experiencing. This week, it will be tough for you to keep a good, steady mood in the latter half of the week. This week, you will be depressed for no apparent cause. It will be a little bit difficult for you to be present for your partner in all aspects and this will create a little bit issue in your relationship. Do not worry Venus will make things better in your romantic life before the end of the week. A sense of energy will fill my body and mind this week. Your tensions will vanish this week and you will feel relaxed.



Virgo

VIRGO : This week's victor will be determined by your good outlook toward anything. Your poor self-esteem will be obliterated by overwhelming determination. This week, dear Virgo natives, success and glory will be unavoidable. Despite your self-assurance, you will be deprived of a healthy competitive platform on which to demonstrate your initial strength. You will be able to make things right in terms of your relationship. you will be able to make positive changes in your relationship this week. You can use an hour or two for the gym or running this week. If you are doing cardio, you must be really careful this week.



Libra

LIBRA : This week, you'll take care of your ideas and feelings. You will attempt to regain control of your mind. Things will improve as you release the pent feelings. Your determination will be the driving force behind your deserved achievement. You'll have to go through a variety of emotions this week in order to get your mind in the correct place. This week, your partner and you both will be able to spend a good amount of time together and this will make your partner feel special and good. There are likely to be some injuries this week. You must not go around heavy vehicles this week. Keep first aid with you.



Scorpio

SCORPIO : This week, you will see that all of your efforts are going in loops. You will sense that the cosmos is responding to your inquiries. This week, you'll be able to make good use of your time. As you outlast a bit more on someone this week, you'll have to be more cautious in your interactions with others. This week your partner and you both will create a better understanding between yourselves. Venus will bless you with amazing

love life this week. This week you will have to be more careful about your cholesterol problem. You might get into trouble due to the consumption of unhealthy substances.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS : You will make wise decisions this week. Rather than simply observing, you will contemplate taking risks. This week, your emotions will stabilize and psychological stability will provide you with the most serenity. You will despise being told what to do, but you will be unable to react or defend yourself. This week you will be able to make things right with your partner. Your idea of a relationship will change this week. This week you must avoid eating excessive sugar and salt because you are likely to suffer from fluctuating blood pressure.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : This week, you'll be more certain of your goal and goal. You will be aware of the obstacles in your path. You'll also make amends for your previous lapses. You will be able to benefit from Ketu's improvement. You will feel helpless in certain situations this week. In those minutes, you'll have to be patient. This week your relationship will also improve. Your partner and you will discuss many things. This week you will look forward to a new health regime and this will take much of your time every day but all for good.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : You will be able to set your thoughts on one item this week. The murkiness you were experiencing will dissipate. You will be able to view your objectives clearly. You will take turns that you were apprehensive about taking. Do not be concerned, Aquarius; everything will begin to fall into place this week. This week, your confidence will be affected a bit by a demotivating individual in the first part of the week. Don't listen to everyone. This week your relationship will improve on multiple levels. Your partner and you both will invite luxury to your home. This week you will have to consume more fruits and water as your body will be needing a good dose of intoxication.



Pisces

PISCES : New daybreak will appear the whole week. You will be able to sway away your anxieties and find a method to be happy. This week will also see the end of your temporary problems. This week, your love life will improve, which will make you happy. This week, you'll have to face a few things you've been avoiding for a long time, but it'll be beneficial for you to do so. This week your partner and you both will have to be more careful regarding serious discussions as you might get into a hefty fight. This week you will be all fit and fine. You will boost your career and your stress will ease this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 9 TO MAY 15, 2022 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

May 9

Ganesha says today will be highly beneficial for you if you are willing to take investment and business risks. Speculation in property and stocks will bring in handsome results. Today will be highly significant for working and professional women, as they will prosper in their respective fields. Journey or pilgrimage will provide comfort and peace. Be extra careful of your jewelry and expensive items. Chances of overseas education for few students who are looking for a better career.

May 10

Ganesha says a new contract or partnership will take shape, lifting your morale and confidence. Investment in stocks and real estate recommended. Businessmen dealing in trading and export will benefit. If you are a student, you will find this period highly exciting, adventurous and full of good opportunities. Religious feelings will arise making you go for a pilgrimage later in the today. There are chances of marriage for the lover.

May 11

Ganesha says you would raise your work by doing consistently good work. At times you show your introverted side and that side of yours needs to be

modified, so that your close ones won't misinterpret you. Go and express your feelings with any hesitation in love matters. You could associate or get connected with any social service organization. You would also make some strong decisions independently today. Chances to get a big break in the entertainment industry are very high.

May 12

Ganesha says your mind is extraordinarily sharp which can solve problems within no time. Your organized risk-taking abilities are good but high paid ventures may turn out to be inconsistent for you. Clashing of egos with your blood relatives may result in strain and irritation for both the parties. You are well versed with the pace of the competition as your communication skill which is the need of the hour is unbeatable. You try to sort out all the matters but somewhere your immaturity may bring criticism for you.

May 13

Ganesha says you are imaginative, practical, honest, brilliant and simple. You're a co-operative and helpful person and enjoy enormous respect in your friend's circle, but you need to check your tendency to behave jealous and stubborn at times. Today, you will get ample chances to change

your job profile but a sense of satisfaction may not exist. You carry a down to earth and practical attitude. Your supporting nature and simplicity leave a lasting impression on people you meet.

May 14

Ganesha says you are kind hearted, generous, simple, accommodating, and love peace and harmony. You have a strong memory and an ability to impress others with your intelligence. New proposals and assignments would improve your income and prosperity. Although there would be a rise in expenses but increase in earnings would take care of your needs. Travel would be undertaken quite frequently and would be important in establishing new and important ties.

May 15

Ganesha says today plenty of important functions and religious ceremonies would be performed in the family. Social gathering and activities would be beneficial in establishing new and long-lasting ties. Property matters will materialize. Financially today might not bring results that you have been dreaming for long. Opportunities for a new job and assignments would be plenty but job satisfaction seems unlikely.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Janki or Sita Navami

Sita Navami is an important day of Hindu religion. This day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Goddess Sita. Married women observe a fast on the day of Sita Navami and pray for the long life of their husbands. Sita Navami is also known as Sita Jayanti and Janaki Navami. Sita Jayanti is celebrated on the ninth day of Shukla Paksha of Vaishakh month.

It is believed that Mother Sita was born on Tuesday in Pushya Nakshatra. Goddess Sita was married to Lord Rama. Lord Rama was also born on Navami Tithi during Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month. In the Hindu calendar, Sita Jayanti comes one month after Ram Navami.

Goddess Sita was the adopted daughter of King Janak of Mithila. Hence this day is also known as Janaki Navami. According to Hindu mythology, when King Janaka was plowing the land to perform a yajna, he found a baby girl in a gold coffin. A plowed land was called 'Sita' so King Janak named the girl Sita.

On the day of Sita Navami, special worship and rituals are performed in Lord Rama and Janaki temples across the country. Temples are decorated with flowers and lights. Bhajan programs are also organized at various places after the recitation of Ramayana. Some take out Ram Rath Yatra through the temple and chant 'Jai Siya Ram' and sing devotional songs all the way.

Life of Goddess Sita

The king of Mithila – 'Janaka' was once plowing the land to conduct a Yajna and he found a baby girl in the Golden casket. This girl was none other than Goddess Sita who is also known as Janaki. She soon became famous as a very beautiful and lovely princess. Many strong warriors came to attempt to bend Shiva's bow – the condition of Sita's Swayambar. No one succeeded of course! Rama easily took the bow and did not only bend it but snapped it into many pieces! Rama wed Sita and she became the wife of the great Lord Shri Ram.

They faced many challenges after marriage. Due to in-home politics and the selfishness of other family members; Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana had to leave for many years of exile. They lived a life of nomads and also created history. Many obstacles came their way among which the abduction of Goddess Sita by Ravana was the worst. Lord Ram, Laxman, Hanuman, and their troop fought with the Asura King Ravana and brought back the Goddess.

After returning the people of Ayodhya raised questions about the purity of the Goddess as she had spent many nights in the kingdom of Lanka. This made Rama also answer the queries of his kingdom. Goddess Sita first stayed away from her husband and raised her kids Luv and Kush in an ashram and then sacrificed herself to mother earth by sinking into the deeps of the earth.

Mata Sita is said to be the incarnation of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Vishnu. Sita is known for her self-sacrifice, dedication, purity, and courage. She is also known as a mortal or mother of gods and all living beings. The worshippers are blessed with growth, intelligence, and prosperity. Goddess Sita symbolizes purity and fertility. The married women keep fast on this day for the long life of their husband.

Puja Vidhi & Rituals

- Arrangements are made for a puja mandap with four pillars.
- Idols of King Janak, Mata Sunayana God Ram and Mata Sita are placed.
- Ingredients like Til, rice, and barley are used.
- Vrat Katha and the life story of Goddess Sita are read during the puja.
- Women keep fast are to ensure the long, happy, and prosperous life of their husbands.
- People do pooja of Lord Rama and Mata Sita together to get a married life like them. Those who perform this vrat are said to get qualities like modesty, sacrifice, dedication, and motherhood.
- At places like Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh, Sita Samahit Sthal in Bihar, and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, this festival is given lots of importance.
- In temples, Darshan, Arati, and Maha-Abhishek are performed. Yatra is done by making idols of Maa Sita, Lord Rama Hanuman, and Lakshmana.
- Ramayana is read by sitting in groups in the nearby temple. Bhajan Kirtan and aartis are done on this occasion as well.



Important information

Janki or Sita Navami 2022

Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Navami Tithi Begins - 09 May 2022 at 06:32 PM

Navami Tithi Ends - 10 May 2022 at 07:24 PM

Facts about Goddess Sita

The Puranas say that Devi Sita was, in reality, the daughter of Ravana and Mandodari. According to predictions, the firstborn of Mandodari was said to be the cause of the destruction of his entire existence. Hence, Ravana had abandoned her and ordered the child to be buried away in a distant land, which was then discovered by King Janak and his wife to be raised as the princess of Mithila.

Another story goes that she was probably an incarnation of Vedvati, whom Ravan had tried to molest while she was under penance. Vedvati was a beautiful lady and wanted to become the consort of Lord Vishnu. She then cursed Ravana to become the cause of his destruction in her next birth.

Another very interesting fact mentioned in some versions of Ramayana is of Maya Sita (Devi Sita's illusory version). According to these, it was Maya Sita who was actually abducted by Ravana, whereas the real Sita took refuge with the fire god Agni. She was living in the abode of Goddess Parvati and then returned to Lord Ram after the war got over. Maya Sita is then said to have been reborn as Draupadi in her next life.

Sita had certain miraculous powers. While playing

with her sisters she had unknowingly moved the table over which the "Shiva Dhanush" had been placed; which was something no one in the palace could do. This incident made King Janaka decide that the 'Shiva Dhanush' would be the challenge for her Swayambar.

There is also a narration about Sita's brother Bhamandala. He did not know that Sita was his sister to marry her. He even wanted to abduct her. This story ends when Bhamandala, after learning that Sita is his sister, becomes a Jain ascetic.

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

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

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

contd from page 1

UN: RECORD 193 MILLION WENT WITHOUT ENOUGH FOOD LAST YEAR

the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Food Programme and the European Union. The report forecasts that Somalia will face one of the world's worst food crises in 2022 due to prolonged drought, increasing food prices and persistent violence. The various factors could lead six million Somalis into acute food crisis, the UN said.

"Today, if more is not done to support rural communities, the scale of the devastation in terms of hunger and lost livelihoods will be appalling," the UN said. "Urgent humanitarian action is needed on a massive scale to prevent that from happening." The war in Ukraine poses further risks for Somalia and many other African countries that rely on Ukraine and Russia for wheat, fertilizer and other food supplies.

JOE BIDEN SAYS U.S. SENDING ANOTHER MILITARY AID WORTH \$150 MILLION FOR UKRAINE

U.S. support, together with the contributions of our Allies and partners, has been critical in helping Ukraine win the battle of Kyiv and hinder (Russia President Vladimir) Putin's war aims in Ukraine." A U.S. official said the latest tranche of assistance includes 25,000 155mm artillery rounds, counter-artillery radars, jamming equipment, field equipment and spare parts.

FACEOFF BETWEEN COPS OF 3 STATES OVER 1 ARREST

capital by the Delhi cops a few hours later, reports TNS.

The incident triggered a political slugfest with the BJP accusing the Punjab Police of abducting its leader allegedly at the behest of AAP convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, against whom Bagga (36) has been quite vocal in criticism. Rejecting the charge, the AAP claimed the Delhi BJP spokesperson was arrested for allegedly stoking communal tension in Punjab.

Based on a complaint by Bagga's father Preetpal Singh, the Delhi Police registered a case of kidnapping against the Punjab Police personnel. Sources in the Delhi Police claimed that their Mohali (Punjab) counterparts "violated" the mandatory norm of informing local cops before arresting Bagga from his residence in Janakpuri.

In a statement, the Mohali police claimed that Bagga was arrested in a case related to making allegedly provocative, false and communal statements in an interview given to the media and through posts on Twitter on March 1. They said five notices were served on the accused on April 9, 11, 15, 22 and 28, but "he deliberately did not join the investigation". They said a case under Sections 153-A, 505, 505(2) and 506 of the IPC was registered against him on the complaint of Mohali AAP leader Sunny Ahluwalia.

Bagga had demanded an apology from Kejriwal for his speech in the Delhi Assembly regarding film 'The Kashmir Files', which a few BJP leaders had demanded be made tax-free. Kejriwal had contended that the filmmakers should upload the film on YouTube for all to watch free of cost.

The Punjab Government, on its part, moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court against the "detention" of its police team in Kurukshetra.

The Delhi Police registered the case under IPC Sections 452 (house trespass, assault or wrongful restraint), 392 (robbery), 342 (wrongful confinement), 365 (kidnapping), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class) and 34 (common intension). In his complaint, Bagga's

father said, "I was present at my home along with my son when, around 8.30 am, someone knocked on the door repeatedly. When I opened, a few persons entered my home and manhandled me. Some of them had weapons.

"They started asking me where is Tajinder Singh Bagga? When I asked them what they wanted from Tajinder, they slapped me. Later, my son came there and they started beating him up and didn't even allow him to put on his turban while they were arresting him. When I tried to intervene, they pushed me," it said.

The Punjab Police team that had arrested Bagga was on way to Mohali when it was stopped on the NH-44 near Khanpur Kolian village in Kurukshetra around 11.30 am. As a large number of BJYM workers soon reached the spot demanding Bagga's release, the BJP leader and the Punjab Police team were taken to the Thanesar Sadar police station. Delhi Police officials reached the police station around 2.10 pm and Bagga, based on a search warrant issued by a Delhi court, was taken back to the national capital. The Delhi Police had shared the warrant with the Haryana Police when the latter stopped their Punjab counterparts.

Sources said the Haryana Police had information that Bagga had been "forcibly" picked up from his residence and they needed to verify and crosscheck the allegations.

Mohali DSP (City-1) Sukhnaaz Singh said, "A police team was sent from Mohali to Delhi last night. A team arrested them today morning and simultaneously, another team reached the police station concerned in Delhi to inform local cops. The entire process has been video-recorded. Although Bagga resisted arrest, no force was used against him or his father."

RELIEF TO THOUSANDS AS US EXTENDS DEADLINE OF EXPIRING WORK PERMIT BY 1.5 YEARS

The move, announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday, May 3, is likely to benefit thousands of Indian immigrants.

The extension period of up to 180 days will automatically be extended to up to 540 days from the expiration date stated on the current EADs, the Department of Homeland Security said.

"As USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Services) works to address the pending EAD caseloads, the agency has determined that the current 180-day automatic extension for employment authorization is currently insufficient," said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou.

"This temporary rule will provide those non-citizens, otherwise eligible for the automatic extension, an opportunity to maintain employment and provide critical support for their families, while avoiding further disruption for US employers," he said.

According to USCIS, non-citizens with a pending EAD renewal application whose 180-day automatic extension has lapsed and whose EAD has expired will be granted an additional period of employment authorization and EAD validity beginning May 4, 2022 and lasting up to 540 days from the expiration date of their EAD. They may resume employment if they are still within the up to 540-day automatic extension period and are otherwise eligible.

Non-citizens with a pending renewal application still covered under the 180-day automatic extension will be granted an additional extension of up to 360 days, for a total of up to 540 days past the expiration of the current EAD.

Non-citizens with a pending renewal application and a valid EAD on May 4, 2022, or who timely file an EAD renewal application before October 27, 2023, will be granted an automatic extension of up to 540 days if their EAD expires before the renewal application is processed.

"The change will immediately help about 87,000 immigrants whose work authorization has lapsed or is

set to in the next 30 days. Overall, the government estimates that as many as 4,20,000 immigrants renewing work permits will be protected from losing their ability to work for the duration of the policy," Indian-American community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria told PTI.

The policy is meant to address the unprecedented backlog of 1.5 million work permit applications at the nation's legal immigration agency, leaving tens of thousands unable to work legally and exacerbating labor shortages.

Welcoming the change in policy, Bhutoria said this is great news for employers as most companies are facing staffing issues and will now be able to keep their eligible employees.

"This policy change allows employers to continue their workers and eligible immigrants to work on expired documents for up to 540 days, rather than 180. That means even the tens of thousands of people past their 180-day window have as much as another year of work authorization as of Wednesday," he said.

"This is the right step in the direction to reduce the visa processing backlog," he said.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

(Source: PTI)

CONTD FROM PAGE 19

"A CELEBRATION OF THE OUTDOORS": THEME FOR EARTHX FILM FEST

- The Monster in Our Closet, Director Kathryn Bays, Nicole Gormley
- The Seeds We Keep, Director Gabriel E.W. Carter
- The Seeker, Director Lance Edmands
- The Wilderness Within, Director Jason van Bruggen
- They Carry Us With Them: Gabriel Frey, Director Jeremy Seifert
- Thomas Deininger: Trash Artist., Director Gnarly Bay
- To Live Here (s'ng ? ?ây), Director Melanie Dang Ho
- Wastewater: The Tale of Two Cities, Director Sarah Franke
- We Decided to Become Farmers, Director Rob Herring, Ryan Wirick
- What Remains, Director Paavo Hanninen
- When It Comes from the Earth, Director Katalin Egely
- When it's Good it's Good, Director Alejandra Vasquez

EARTHX FILM FESTIVAL 2022

The 2022 EarthX Film Festival mission is to bring awareness of the environmental crisis in order to create sincere action on both an individual and communal scale; to inspire local and global change on how we as humans affect our home planet and our fellow beings. The Festival's aim is to include Texas, and the Southwest, in the conversation on climate change through compassionate, positive, truthful storytelling. For more information, visit earthxfilmfestival.org

EARTHX

To learn more, visit EarthX.org or follow at @earthxorg on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

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

History This Week May 6 to May 12

"THERE IS NO BENEFIT OF CLAIMING TO BE A DEMOCRATIC STATE WHILE YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO PRACTICE THE TRUE VIRTUES OF DEMOCRACY." - MWANANDEKE KINDEMBO, DESTINY OF LIBERTY

May 7

May 7, 1915 - The British passenger ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, losing 1,198 of its 1,924 passengers, including 114 Americans. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I.



General Alfred Jodl signs surrender papers

May 7, 1945 - In a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces thus ending World War II in Europe. Russian, American, British and French ranking officers observed the signing of the document which became effective at one minute past midnight on May 9th. Jodl was then ushered in to see Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who curtly asked Jodl if he fully understood the document. Eisenhower then informed Jodl that he would be held personally responsible for any deviation from the terms of the surrender. Jodl was then ushered away.

May 7, 1954 - The French Indochina War ended with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, in a stunning victory by the Vietnamese over French colonial forces in northern Vietnam. The country was then divided in half at the 17th parallel, with South Vietnam created in 1955.

May 7, 1992 - The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.



Johannes Brahms

Birthday - Composer Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was born in Hamburg, Germany. He composed over 300 songs and numerous orchestral, choral, piano, and chamber works, including his German Requiem commemorating the death of his mother.



Archibald MacLeish

Birthday - American poet Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982) was born in Glencoe, Illinois. He was awarded three Pulitzer Prizes, and was also a playwright, editor, lawyer, professor, farmer, and served as Librarian of Congress from 1939 to 1944.

May 8

May 8, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war. The battle, fought off New Guinea, marked the first time in history that two opposing naval forces fought by only using aircraft without the opposing ships ever sighting each other.

May 8, 1945 - A second German surrender ceremony was held in Berlin. Soviet Russia's leader Josef Stalin had refused to recognize the German surrender document signed a day earlier at Reims. This time, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signed the surrender document which declared, as did the first, that hostilities would end as of 12:01 a.m. on May 9th.



Henri Dunant

Birthday - International Red Cross founder and Nobel Prize winner Henri Dunant (1828-1910) was born in Geneva,

Switzerland. He was also a founder of the YMCA and organized the Geneva Conventions of 1863 and 1864.

Birthday - Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) the 33rd U.S. President was born in Lamar, Missouri. He became president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April 1945. Two weeks after becoming president he was informed of the top secret Atomic bomb project. In the war against Japan, an Allied invasion of Japan was being planned which would cost a minimum of 250,000 American lives. Truman then authorized the dropping of the bomb. On August 6, 1945, the first bomb exploded over Hiroshima, followed by a second bomb dropped on Nagasaki on August 9th. The next day, Japan sued for peace. Truman served as President until January of 1953. He was the last of only nine U.S. Presidents who did not attend college. His straightforward, honest, no-nonsense style earned him the nickname, "Give 'em hell, Harry."

May 9

May 9th - Victory Day in Russia, a national holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany during the "Great Patriotic War" (World War II) honoring the 20 million Russians who died in the war.

May 9, 1862 - During the American Civil War, General David Hunter, Union commander of the Department of the South, issued orders freeing the slaves in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. He did so without congressional or presidential approval. The orders were countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln ten days later.



John Brown

Birthday - Abolitionist leader John Brown (1800-1859) was born in Torrington,

Connecticut. He led an attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in October of 1859, to secure weapons for his "army of emancipation" to liberate slaves. Inside the arsenal, Brown and his followers held 60 hostages and managed to hold out against the local militia but finally surrendered to U.S. Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee. Ten of Brown's men, including two of his sons, were killed. Brown was taken prisoner. He was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and hanged on December 2, 1859.

May 10

May 10, 1869 - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage. It is said that he missed the spike on his first swing which brought roars of laughter from men who had driven thousands upon thousands of spikes themselves.

May 10, 1889 - A riot erupted outside the Astor Place Opera House in New York as British actor William Charles Macready performed inside. Angry crowds revolted against dress requirements for admission and against Macready's public statements on the vulgarity of American life. The mob then shattered theater windows. Troops were called out and ordered to fire, killing 22 and wounding 26.



Nelson Mandela

May 10, 1994 - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won

the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.

May 11

May 11, 1969 - During the Vietnam War, the Battle of "Hamburger Hill" began. While attempting to seize the Dong Ap Bia Mountain, U.S. troops repeatedly scaled the hill over a 10-day period and engaged in bloody hand-to-hand combat with the North Vietnamese. After finally securing the objective, American military staff decided to abandon the position, which the North Vietnamese retook shortly thereafter. The battle highlighted the futility of the overall American military strategy.

Birthday - Songwriter Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was born (as Israel Isidore Baline) in Tyumen, Russia. At the age of four, Berlin moved with his family to New York City and later began singing in saloons and on street corners to help his family following the death of his father. Although he could not read or write musical notation, he became one of America's greatest songwriters, best known for songs such as God Bless America, White Christmas, There's No Business Like Show Business, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Puttin' On the Ritz, and Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning.



Martha Graham

Birthday - Modern dance pioneer Martha Graham (1893-1991) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She began her dance career at age 22 in the Greenwich Village Follies. She later incorporated primal emotions and ancient rituals in her works, bringing a new psychological depth to modern dance. In a career spanning 70 years, she created 180 dance works. She performed until the age of 75.

(Read more on www.theindianpanorama.news)



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Sonamarg is a picturesque hill station in Jammu and Kashmir, located 80km north-east of Srinagar. At an elevation of around 2800 km from sea level, Sonamarg is known for its snow-laden fields, surrounded by majestic glaciers and serene lakes which casts subtle spells on the travellers.

Sonamarg is enveloped by the great Himalayan glaciers - Kolhoi Glacier and Machoi Glacier - and gives rise to the famous Three Sisters of Kashmir Valley. Towering over this charming hill town are the peaks like Kolhoi Peak, Amarnath Peak, Machoi Peak and Sirbal Peak which makes Sonamarg a popular place for adventure sports tourism.

Sonamarg acts as the base camp for the trekking routes which leads to the mountain lakes such as Gangabal, Vishansar, Gadsar, Satsar and Kishansar. The Sonamarg Valley is divided into two halves by the Thajiwas range - on one side is the fir-covered Thajiwas spur popular for its camping site. The other side houses some stunning waterfalls and the Thajiwas glacier which is the prime attraction of this place.

Sonamarg remains inaccessible during winters as the NH1D connecting it to the nearby places closed down due to heavy snowfall and avalanches.

Thajiwas Glacier, Sonamarg Overview Thajiwas Glacier which lies at a distance of 3 km from Sonamarg in Kashmir is an exquisite beauty situated 3000 m above sea level covered in snow all through the year. The glacier is one of the most significant assets of Jammu and Kashmir and a must-visit for all the nature and trekking lovers. One gets to experience the beauty of the glacier by trekking all the way there from Sonamarg. There is also the option of hiring a pony to get to the glacier. On the way to the glacier, the tourists get to witness the beauty of the silver shining frozen lake along with all the greenery around. The contrast of both of them is what makes it enchanting to the eyes. On the way, the tourists also come across Gujjar tribes who have their camps set up and earn their livelihood here.

In addition to all this, alpine meadows are scattered all over in the Thajiwas Glacier along with numerous waterfalls which make the region appear like heaven on earth. This makes the glacier one of the most famous and most visited tourist attractions of Sonamarg. The tourists get to ride the sledge during the summer season too. The glacier is a perfect spot for trekking as well as camping.

This glacier offers a perfect escape from the scorching heat of the summers along with a peaceful environment to restore all your senses. The beautiful scenes of horses grazing in the grasslands, fir and pine trees growing in the forests nearby, small streams covering the place and local Gujjar kids playing cricket in the vicinity is what makes the glacier a treat to the eyes. It remains covered in snow throughout the year, so winter visitors must not fret. Set up a camp, get some tea and enjoy the breathtaking surroundings.

Zoji-La Pass

Zoji La is a high mountain pass located in the Dras, near Ladakh, at an altitude of 3528 m above the sea level. Connecting Kashmir to Dras and Suru Valley, Zoji La is known as one of the world's most dangerous mountain roads. Translating to "mountain pass of blizzards", it remains closed during



winter due to heavy snowfall and avalanches.

Given the altitude and the places it travels to, Zoji La pass is known for its extraordinarily beautiful views and landscapes. Certain parts of the pass, especially, can be a bit of a dangerous ride, hence one must travel down this one, only with a seasoned driver, used to such steep and playful turns and roads.

Vishansar Lake

A little outside Sonamarg, Vishansar Lake is an alpine high altitude oligotrophic lake. At an altitude of 3710 m, it is a sparkling blue lake surrounded by lush green meadow, alpine flowers and white and silver mountains at a tantalizing distance. Popular as the Lake of Vishnu, the Vishansar Lake is known for the many species of fish it houses, especially the brown trout.

The Vishansar Lake completely freezes during the winter while during the summer it is enveloped by lush green meadows. The scenic lake is a major attraction amongst trekkers in the Kashmir Valley.

White River Rafting

White water rafting is one of the popular things to do in Sonamarg. One can go for a long rafting expedition starting from Baltal and ending at Shutkari Bridge at Sonamarg.

With variety of stretches available, one is sure to have a pleasure rafting trip, whether it be a novice, adventure seeker or experienced rafter.

Nilagrad River

Nilagrad River is a highly revered river, located 6km from Sonamarg. The reddish water of the river is believed to have medicinal properties which make it a popular tourist attraction. A lot of locals come here every Sunday to take a dip into its waters. The scenic beauty around the river is soothing.



Agriculture, Food & Beverage sector to be new area of exploring synergy between France and India for Investment: IFCCI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR (TIP): The Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) has led a 30-member delegation comprising CEOs of French Food and Beverage manufacturers and exporters in interaction with the top official of FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) in Delhi on April 28.

The objective of the meeting was to create a dialogue between the French F&B Industry in India and the FSSAI to discuss issues and recommendations around food safety standards and regulations.

Addressing the high-level event, Arun Singhal, CEO of FSSAI said:

"FSSAI is working on harmonization of standards, capacity building, strengthening compliance and food testing eco-system to improve the scenario of food safety and nutrition in the country. We are happy to facilitate exchange of views to support ongoing and future cooperation for trade facilitation".

Ms Payal S Kanwar, Director General of IFCCI told the gathering, "India is a



Roundtable between French F&B Industry in India and the FSSAI to discuss issues and recommendations around food safety standards and regulations in New Delhi on April 28

key priority market for French companies in India and we have seen an impressive rebound in business since the pandemic as well as new expansion plans. The French agrifood sector is a major player in the French economy and

there is a huge potential for more businesses to enter the Indian market. IFCCI and FSSAI is creating a conducive business environment for foreign players".

The closed-door roundtable meeting was attended by representatives of companies such as Andros, Decathlon, Fromageries Bel, Lesaffre, L'Opera Leadlinks, Louis Dreyfus, Mane, Monin, Pernod Ricard, Savencia Fromage and

Dairy, Roquette, Soufflet, Lactalis as well as representatives from IFCCI, French Embassy, Business France and the EU Delegation in India. They deliberated upon the current FSSAI regulations, addressed key issues and challenges of member companies in food and agribusiness industry and also presented recommendations for ease of doing business in food and agribusiness industry in India.

contd from page 3

Jaipur Foot USA Explores options to hold limb fitment camps to help soldiers and civilians injured in Russia-Ukraine conflict

Bhandari said that given the current circumstances that may make holding camps in Ukraine difficult, the organization will explore options to hold a pilot project for such camps in countries neighboring Ukraine such as Poland.

To a question from The Indian Panorama, if the Jaipur Foot USA will provide their services to Russian soldiers and civilians, too, Mr. Bhandari said their organizations believes in serving all people in need of their services.

To another question whether the limbs will be provided free or at a cost, Mr. Bhandari said that the organization has been providing artificial limbs free of cost. "Since 1975 we have not charged

even 10 cents from anyone", he said.

He said he discussed the proposal with Padma Bhushan awardee D R Mehta, the founder and chief patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), the parent body of Jaipur Foot USA.

So far, over 1.90 million beneficiaries of BMVSS have been fitted/provided with Jaipur Foot limb, calipers, and aids and appliances in India as well as in 33 countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, including through 85 international camps.

Bhandari said that in line with the Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the World is One Family - Jaipur Foot believes in this philosophy and inculcates it in its mission of helping those in need.

Jaipur Foot has zero per cent administrative cost, he said, adding that "BMVSS is a secular, non-religious, non-governmental, non-political, non-sectarian, non-regional and not for profit charitable organization set up to help the physically challenged, particularly the financially weak and underprivileged."

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Real Madrid forward Rodrygo scores during the second leg of their UEFA Champions League semi-final against Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Wednesday, May 4. Photo: AFP

REAL MADRID RALLY PAST MANCHESTER CITY

The “si se puede” (“yes we can”) chants gradually faded at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday as the minutes passed and Real Madrid looked beaten in the second leg of their UEFA Champions League semi-final against Manchester City. As the end of regulation time approached, many in the stands — and on the field — were close to giving up as the visitors defended their 1-0 lead.

It seemed that there would be no magical night at the Bernabeu for the 13-time European champions this time.

However, Madrid took their Champions League comebacks to another level, rallying late with two goals in two minutes by substitute Rodrygo to force extra-time and defeat Manchester City 3-1 to reach the final — a showdown with Liverpool.

Karim Benzema, the hero of Madrid's previous comebacks this season, scored from a penalty in extra-time for the decisive goal that allowed Madrid to advance 6-5 on aggregate after a 4-3 first leg semi-final loss in which they escaped losing by a bigger margin.

SURGE IN COVID CASES IN CHINA SENDS ASIAD, WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES TO 2023

The rising Covid numbers in China have forced the organisers of this year's Hangzhou Asian Games to postpone the multi-discipline event to 2023.

The decision to postpone the Asian Games, scheduled to take place in September, was taken today in a meeting involving officials of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) and Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang province, lies around 175 kilometres southwest of Shanghai, a city that has been under a month-long lockdown to combat Covid.

China has been struggling to contain its worst outbreak since 2019. The seven-week average rose to over 20,000 cases.

“Following detailed discussions with the COC and the HAGOC, the OCA Executive Board (EB) today decided to postpone the 19th Asian Games, which were scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 25 September 2022,” OCA said in a press statement, adding that the new dates for the event would be “announced in the near future”.

Mumbai Indians edge past Gujarat Titans, win by 5 runs

MUMBAI (TIP)

Pacer Daniel Sams displayed ice-cool temperament as he conceded just three runs in the last over to help Mumbai Indians pull off a stunning five-run victory over table-toppers Gujarat Titans in an IPL game.

MI were seemingly down and out with the Titans' opening pair of Wriddhiman Saha (55 off 40 balls) and Shubman Gill (52 off 36 balls) sharing a 106-run partnership in 12.1 overs while chasing 178. However, the Titans kept losing wickets, including two crucial run-outs as they required nine runs in the last over to win the match. They could score just three, while losing one wicket to slump to their second successive defeat in the season.

For MI, who were already out of contention for a play-off berth, it was only their second win of the season as they remained at the bottom.

Opting to bowl, Gujarat restricted MI to 177 for six, despite quickfire innings from opening pair of Rohit Sharma (43 off 28 balls) and Ishan Kishan (45 off 29 balls) and Tim David (44 not out off 21 balls).

Rashid Khan was the most successful bowler for the Titans with his two wickets for 24, while Pradeep Sangwan and Lockie Ferguson got one each. Alzarri Joseph also took a wicket but he bled 41 runs in his four overs.

Chasing 178, Saha looked in full flow as he cracked two fours and a six off Jasprit Bumrah's first over, before smashing Riley Meredith for two boundaries.

Shubman Gill slog-swept Murugan Ashwin for a six, before picking up another four as the fifty-run stand came up in quick time, taking the Titans to 54 for one in six overs.

The Chandigarh batter exploded in the eighth over with three boundaries off Daniel Sams, who had bowled a brilliant opening over.

Kumar Kartikeya was next in line as he



yielded 15 runs with Saha smashing his first ball for a four and Gill producing a clean hit over long off before slog-sweeping the bowler for another four.

Soon, 100 was up in 11 overs with Saha also completing his fifty.

Gill too joined him as his single off Pollard took him to a 33-ball half-century.

Both Saha and Gill smashed six boundaries and two maximums each.

A bizarre hit wicket ended Sai Sudharsan's (14) innings, while Hardik Pandya (24) fall short after going for an unnecessary single.

Needing 20 off last two overs, Miller deposited Bumrah over deep mid-wicket but the Titans couldn't score nine of the last over lose the match.

Earlier, invited to bat, Rohit seemed to be in good touch after a series of low scores as he took the early initiative, dominating the proceedings with his strokeplay as Kishan played the second fiddle. The MI skipper

was particularly harsh on Joseph as he smashed the bowler for four boundaries and a six, while Kishan joined the party in the fifth over, slamming Rashid Khan for a couple of fours to bring up their 50-run partnership.

Rohit then hit Lockie Ferguson for a four as MI posted 63 for no loss, their best in the powerplay this season.

Rashid produced the breakthrough in the eighth over, removing the dangerous Rohit, who was trapped in front while looking to play a reverse shot.

Kishan then took over, dancing down the pitch to send Rahul Tewatia over mid-wicket. Suryakumar Yadav produced his trademark whip for a maximum but perished in his next attempt off Pradeep Sangwan. Back into the attack, Joseph then struck with a slower delivery which Kishan ended up sending to Rashid at mid-wicket as MI slipped to 111 for 3 in 12 overs.

Source: PTI

Olympic finalist thrower Kamalpreet tests positive for Ben Johnson drug

India's top woman discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur, who finished sixth at the Tokyo Olympics in August 2021, has tested positive for a prohibited substance in a test conducted by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), the body announced on Wednesday. Kaur, 26, has been handed a provisional suspension after testing positive for the banned anabolic steroid Stanozolol, AIU said on its website. AIU is an independent body of World Athletics that deals with integrity issues.

The athlete from Punjab will remain suspended while seeking the testing of her B sample and a further hearing. Kaur can also accept the initial finding from the A sample testing and waive the second test and related proceedings. If found guilty, she faces a ban of up to four years. Kaur is in the World Athletics Registered Testing Pool (RTP) programme for 2022. The AIU announcement comes following days of intense speculation that the thrower has failed a dope test. She had denied the initial reports and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had not commented on the issue.

Kaur's doping case is one of the biggest in Indian athletics and could not have come at a worse time. There is less than three months to go for the world athletics championships in Eugene, Oregon and the big year of competitions includes the



Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games.

AIU posted Kamalpreet's case on its website and tweeted: “The AIU has provisionally suspended discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur of India for the presence/use of a prohibited substance (Stanozolol), a breach of the @World Athletics anti-doping rules.” AIU website mentions the date as March 29.

Source: HT



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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
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