

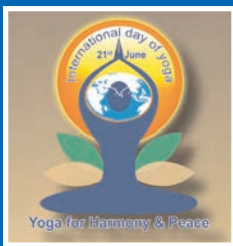


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Facebook sees 82 per cent jump in hate speech; violent content rises 86 per cent on Instagram in April



The majority of the content in the report is based on detection by social media platforms before users reporting to them

NEW YORK (TIP): There has been a rise of around 82 per cent in hate speech on social media platform Facebook and 86 per cent jump in violent and inciting content on Instagram, according to a monthly report released by Meta.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

# Hunt on for killers of Sidhu Moosewala; Special Investigation Team constituted

## POLICE TO QUESTION JAILED GANGSTER LAWRENCE BISHNOI



Punjab Police Chief Viresh Kumar Bhawra addresses a press conference in Chandigarh. Photo / Courtesy Ravi Kumar

CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Punjab police on Wednesday, June 1, said it will question jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi after bringing him to the state in connection with the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Meanwhile, in order to further expedite the investigations in Sidhu Moosewala Murder case, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab VK Bhawra has strengthened and reconstituted the Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of ADGP Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Pramod Ban.

According to the police, Bishnoi's gang was behind the killing. At present, Bishnoi is in custody of the Delhi Police's Special Cell in a case under the Arms Act and other sections related to assault on a public servant.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

## CANADA TO PUT A FREEZE ON IMPORTING, BUYING OR SELLING HANDGUNS

### CANADA HAS HAD FAR FEWER MASS SHOOTINGS THAN THE US IN PART BECAUSE OF A LACK OF EASY ACCESS TO GUNS



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau favors firearms control. File photo

OTTAWA (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government introduced legislation Monday, May 30, that would put a freeze on importing, buying or selling handguns.

"We are capping the number of handguns in this country," Trudeau said.

The regulations to halt the growth of personally owned handguns are expected to be enacted this fall.

"It will be illegal to buy, sell, transfer or import handguns anywhere in Canada," the prime minister said.

Canada already has plans to ban 1,500 types of military-style firearms and offer a mandatory buyback programme that will begin at the end of the year. It already expanded background checks.

Trudeau has long had plans to enact tougher gun laws but the introduction of the new measure comes after mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, NY, this month.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN MEET RECOMMENDS HELPLINE FOR ABANDONED WIVES OF NRIS

NEW DELHI (TIP): A national helpline for women deserted in Non-Resident Indian (NRI) marriages and the need for a dedicated fund to provide assistance to them are among the recommendations made at a consultation on Wednesday, June 1, organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW) on ensuring access to justice to such women.



The NCW invited experts from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, women victims, State police departments, NGOs, Indian missions in Australia and Canada, among others.

The consultation was held on two broad topics - identifying problems faced by Indian women married to Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and NRIs, and

CONTD ON PAGE 36



## Amritsar-born chef Vikas Khanna ranked in global top 10 list by Gazette Review

Michelin star chef is the only Indian, who has made it to the prestigious list

HOUSTON (TIP): Michelin star celebrity chef Vikas Khanna has been ranked amongst the top 10 global chefs in the world by Gazette Review, becoming the only Indian chef who has made it to the prestigious list.

The Gazette Review ranked Khanna sixth, with British chef Gordon Ramsey leading the list.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Vikas Khanna is known for taking Indian cuisine across the globe. File Photo



Andy Singh

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## GUEST COMMENTS

# Gangs of Punjab: Moosewala's murder shows gangster culture is thriving

The shocking murder of singer-politician Sidhu Moosewala underscores the impunity with which gangsters have been operating in Punjab in recent years. Some of them have killed their rivals or have been gunned down by cops, but others have sprung up to follow in their footsteps, serving up the deadly cocktail of murders, extortion, arms smuggling and drug trafficking. The Punjab Police have prima facie attributed the Mansa killing to a rivalry between the gangs led by Lawrence Bishnoi and Lucky Patial, claiming that it was in retaliation for the 2021 murder of Youth Akali Dal leader Vicky Middukhera. The alleged role of Bishnoi, who is behind bars, in the Moosewala case needs to be investigated

thoroughly as he could merely be a front for inimical forces based in India or abroad that are out to create disturbances in the state.

The ruling AAP is under fire for having pruned Moosewala's security despite a tangible threat perception, even as there is no denying that successive state governments have failed to gauge the enormity of the challenge posed by gangsters. Weeks after taking charge as CM, Bhagwant Mann had ordered the formation of a dedicated police unit for the purpose. The Anti-Gangster Task Force faces an uphill task as 70 gangs with over 500 members are reportedly active in the state, with 300 of them lodged in various jails. The activities of incarcerated gangsters lay

bare the laxity of the prison authorities in Punjab and other states.

Law enforcement agencies have their hands full in view of the rampant use of social media by criminals, who glorify gun culture to lure recruits. Rising above party lines, close coordination between the police forces of various states is a must to curb the gangster menace. The presence of Punjabi gangsters in other countries puts the onus on the Centre to press for their extradition. The political blame game can only prove counter-productive; it is imperative to build consensus on ensuring peace and stability in Punjab and preventing a regression to the blood-soaked era of terrorism.

(Tribune, India)

# Another round of US cajoling

## STEADY RUSSIAN SUPPORT MAKES SWITCHING OF SIDES DIFFICULT

India has been hosting recurring waves of diplomats and government officials descending from Washington with the singular purpose of removing Russia from South Block's bouquet of painstakingly built diplomatic ties. The latest to arrive is the US Treasury's Elizabeth Rosenberg who has built a career around ensuring that recalcitrant countries from the US point of view, such as Russia, North Korea, Syria etc., suffer the maximum pain of sanctions. The US has been dispatching these officials to regurgitate their persuasive pitches when India as a sovereign nation has made its stand crystal clear during two Biden-Modi summits - one virtual in April and the other in-person in Tokyo - and at the two plus two of Foreign and Defense Ministers held in Washington last

month.

India is not the only major nation to be confronted by relentless American cajoling. Indonesia, South Africa, Turkey, Brazil and even Israel are reluctant to put all their eggs in the American basket. The miasma of distrust towards US consistency has heightened after its cut-and-run tactics in Afghanistan. Having gone along with American choices in Kabul for two decades, their precipitous withdrawal left India between a rock and a hard place. India's expectations of gaining access to critical technology through Quad have remained elusive. Even more galling, the US, the UK and Australia quietly carved out AUKUS, an exclusive club for the joint development of advanced submarine capability, to counter China.

On the other hand, India has much promising business with Russia. PM Modi is still persuading his western counterparts to liberalize the movement of skilled Indian professionals. If the war had not intervened, the first batch of Indians to work in Far Eastern Russia would have left last month. Indian industries ranging from diamonds to coking coal are finding new footholds in this region. In addition, not counting the strategic comfort that comes from the Russian readiness to watch India's back, whether it is hard-to-get defense systems or support at international fora such as the UNSC. India's ties with the West are worth their weight in gold but Russia is an anchor India would like to persist with.

(Tribune, India)

# Kashmir killings: Amid fear and panic, ensure sense of security

A sense of fear and insecurity after yet another targeted killing in Kashmir is understandable, as is the anger. Yet, it is critical to ensure that the fatal attack in Kulgam on schoolteacher Rajni Bala from Jammu does not trigger mass panic or any displacement. That would mean playing into the hands of the terror networks, which the Jammu and Kashmir Police believe are resorting to such tactics in desperation. Last year, at least 35 civilians were killed in the Valley, but the spike in targeted attacks has been attributed to the gunning down of a huge number of terrorists, including those in leadership roles, destruction of their support structures and the locals not responding to their diktats. The

frustration over their rapidly thinning presence and support has led to targeting of unarmed policemen, civilians from the minority communities, and even a local television actor last week.

In most instances, the security apparatus has shown commendable swiftness and tenacity in hunting down those responsible for the dastardly acts. That would bring little solace without creating an atmosphere of secure and peaceful coexistence, minus the rhetoric. The grief and shock expressed by the Kashmiri students and staff over Rajni Bala's gruesome killing is proof of the havoc that terrorism has inflicted. No one has escaped its fangs. One response to the spate of targeted killings, though, that should have been forthcoming but

has been missing is a pan-India call for condemnation and show of support for the victims and their families, cutting across ideological lines, from activists, academics and the intelligentsia. Any loss of life in a terror attack is a national loss. That's the level of unqualified support needed.

With Amarnath Yatra round the corner and a heightened alert, it would be prudent to rework the security requirements and have adequate checkpoints and cordons near the work and living places of those believed to be vulnerable, howsoever difficult the task may be. At times, a show of force is essential.

(Tribune, India)

## Senator John Liu Introduces Bills To Extend Mayoral Control and Reduce class sizes in NYC Public Schools

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** New York State Senator John Liu, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on NYC Education, on May 31, introduced S9459 to extend mayoral control of NYC public schools system and S9460 to significantly reduce class sizes in every grade throughout NYC public schools.

Senator Liu stated, "After months of intense and complex negotiations, today we put forth legislation that will significantly modify NYC's system of school governance in a way that will strengthen parental input and engagement, and for the first time, mandate the reduction of class sizes in New York City. As introduced, parents



New York State Senator John Liu, on My 31, introduced S9459 to extend mayoral control of NYC public schools system and S9460 to significantly reduce class sizes in every grade throughout NYC public schools.

File photo

and the public will continue to be able to hold the mayor accountable while enjoying more meaningful engagement in PEP and CEC decision making. Students and teachers will finally realize the fruits of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court decision, which found reducing class sizes is fundamental to a sound, basic education. Many thanks to my colleagues in the legislature, the Adams administration, CEC and PEP members, and all the students and parents who weighed in throughout these last months with insights into how and why we should change the system of school governance to make it more accountable to the people."

## Nassau County Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton Commemorates Memorial Day in Sea Cliff



Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton with others walking in the parade



Young boys and girls in the parade



Officials and guests pose for a photograph

Photos / Peter M. Budraitis

**SEA CLIFF, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) joined the residents of Sea Cliff in commemorating Memorial Day on Monday, May 30.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton marched alongside her colleagues in government and local community leaders in the Village's annual Memorial Day parade and participated in a solemn tribute to the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces of the

United States.

"By hosting this meaningful and thoughtful tribute each year, the residents of Sea Cliff are ensuring that the Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their nation will never be forgotten," Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I thank the organizers of this parade and the entire community for their embrace of everything that Memorial Day embodies."

# JUST MARRIED



**C**hanpreet Singh, son of Mr. Harvender Singh and Mrs. Harjeet Kaur of South Plainfield, New Jersey wedded Preet Kaur Sandhu, daughter of Mr. Narendrapal S. Sandhu and Mrs. Inderjit Kaur Sandhu of Arizona, according to the Sikh wedding rites at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar in Port Reading, New Jersey on May 28th, 2022.

The Wedding Reception the following day, on May 29, at Royal Grand Manor in Edison, New Jersey was attended by family, friends and guests from various walks of life.

**THE INDIAN PANORAMA WISHES THE NEWLYWEDS A LONG AND HAPPY MARRIED LIFE.**

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### INDIAN AMERICAN, FIRST WOMAN OF COLOR, VERMONT SENATOR KESHA RAM HINSDALE ENDS CONGRESSIONAL BID



Kesha Ram Hinsdale ended her Congressional bid Friday, May 27

**MONTPELIER, VT (TIP):** : Kesha Ram Hinsdale, the youngest Indian American to ever serve in state elected office, ended her Congressional bid Friday, May 27, announcing plans to run for re-election to the Vermont State Senate from Chittenden Southeast District.

Ram Hinsdale, 35, daughter of Jewish mother and Hindu father, who made history in 2020 as the first woman of color elected to Vermont's State Senate, would be supporting fellow Democrat Becca Balint's bid for Congress. Earlier upon election to the State House in 2008, she became the youngest state legislator in the country.

The Vermont primary election is on Aug 9, and early voting begins on June 24.

"There is a far greater feeling than winning, and that is doing what is right. This moment calls on all of us to do what is best for our state and nation, and for me that means continuing to champion working people, climate action, and our civil rights here at home," she stated.

"Given recent resignations across the Vermont legislature and our statewide offices, it's becoming clear that there's a need for experienced leadership to remain in Montpelier," Ram Hinsdale said.

"I began serving in 2009 during the start of the Great Recession, have led through Tropical Storm Irene, and brought marginalized voices into the room as the first woman of color to serve in the State Senate. We have critical work to do on racial, social, and environmental justice, and we are still not out of this pandemic."

"It was not an easy decision, but I have decided to run for re-election to the Vermont State Senate and endorse Becca Balint, a candidate whose values align with my own and who will be a fighter for Vermont in Washington," she said.

"We built a coalition that was bigger than me, and so many Vermonters and national leaders stepped up to support my Congressional campaign and the principles I stand and fight for.

"I am so grateful to all of them and to Vermont for holding me through this

## Indian-origin Scotland Yard's anti-terror police chief to seek explanation for missed promotion

**LONDON (TIP):** Scotland Yard's Indian-origin Head of Counter-Terrorism Policing, Neil Basu, said he is "disappointed" with the way the process for a new appointment which involved a promotion has been handled and plans to seek an explanation from the UK Home Office, a UK media report has claimed.

Basu, a Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner and the country's senior-most non-white officer, was in the running to lead the National Crime Agency (NCA) - often referred to as the UK's version of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

According to 'The Sunday Times', Basu had been narrowed down as one of the final two candidates until Downing Street's preference for former Scotland Yard chief Lord Bernard Hogan-Howe emerged and applications were reopened.

"I am disappointed in the way the process has concluded and will not be applying again," Basu told the newspaper.

"I will be seeking an explanation from the Home Office," the 53-year-old said.

The newspaper said Basu is understood to be consulting lawyers and has served notice on the Home Office that he intends to lodge a formal complaint.



Neil Basu, said he is "disappointed" with the way the process for a new appointment which involved a promotion has been handled and plans to seek an explanation from the UK Home Office, a UK media report has claimed

Privately, he is reportedly furious to miss out on the GBP 223,000-a-year job and his supporters suspect it may be linked to his outspoken views on race.

Last week, on the second anniversary of the murder of George Floyd in the US which triggered the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement, Basu wrote an article in which he said British policing had to accept that it is "institutionally racist" and also called for positive discrimination to boost the number of black and Asian officers.

If his candidacy for the NCA job had succeeded, Basu would have become the first person of South Asian heritage, born to an Indian father and Welsh

mother, to lead a UK law enforcement organization. The newspaper pointed out that any official complaint is likely to point out that delays to the recruitment process meant Basu missed the deadline to apply for the job of Met commissioner, as well as a senior leadership role at the College of Policing in England and Wales.

The top job at the NCA, the UK's lead agency against organized crime, became vacant in October last year after Dame Lynne Owens stepped down as Director-General on medical grounds.

Lord Hogan-Howe had made it through to the final four candidates but his failure to reach the last two is believed to have prompted the British Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing to intervene in the recruitment process. He and Basu worked together when Boris Johnson was Mayor of London.

Asked if he planned to rule himself out of the NCA race, Hogan-Howe said: "Out of respect to the process and to the candidates, I have no comment to make."

Downing Street sources told 'The Sunday Times' that Prime Minister Boris Johnson had no formal role in the appointment process.

"A fair and open recruitment campaign is underway to make the best possible appointment to this vital role," the Home Office was quoted as saying.

### CANADA-BASED INDIAN-ORIGIN KINGPIN GOLDY BRAR ON FARIDKOT COPS' RADAR FOR OVER A YEAR



Canada-based Indian-origin gangster Goldy Brar has taken responsibility for the murder of Moosewala

**FARIDKOT / VANCOUVER (TIP):** Canada-based Indian-origin gangster Goldy Brar, who took responsibility for the murder of Sidhu Moosewala, has been on the radar of the Faridkot police for over a year.

After the killing of Youth Congress district president Gurlal Singh Pehalwan in 2021 here, the police had booked Satinder Singh, alias Goldy Brar, along with others.

Police probe suggests Brar had hatched the killing to avenge the murder of his cousin Gurlal Singh Brar in Chandigarh in 2020. Gurlal Brar was then state president of SOPU and an aide of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, say sources.

Goldy Brar's father Shamsher Singh was an ASI in the Muktsar police. He took premature retirement.

On March 9, 2021, the police in Kotkapura arrested Shamsher for alleged role in an extortion racket. As per the FIR, it was alleged Goldy Brar was the kingpin of the extortion racket. While Shamsher used to carry out the recce of potential victims and pass on the information to his son in Canada, the latter used to extort victims using his local contacts.

Brar uses WhatsApp calls or text messages for extortion. In 2021 case, he had made an extortion call to a chemist, who owned a shop in Kotkapura, and demanded Rs 25 lakh. On March 19, 2021, a local court had issued an arrest warrant for the Canada-based gangster.

### CANADA BASED NRI INITIATES 'GURU KI RASOI' IN PUNJAB TO DISTRIBUTE FREE LUNCH BOXES TO OVER 400 NEEDY EVERY DAY

**NAWANSHAHAR / VANCOUVER (TIP):** With an aim to feed poor and needy persons daily, a charitable organization, Nishkaam Sewa Society, which has been started by Canada-based NRI Gurjinder Singh, a native of Chela village in Hoshiarpur, is distributing over 400 free lunch boxes across Nawanshahr and Hoshiarpur.

Nishkaam Sewa Society with the help of Guru Nanak Mission Sewa Society of Nawanshahr has set up a permanent kitchen named 'Guru Ki Rasoi' at New Friends Colony in Nawanshahr and in Kharar Achhrawal village in Hoshiarpur from where steaming hot tiffin are packed and sent across the district to the needy, who have availed this free service.

While chapatis and rice are a part of the regular menu on the list, vegetable dishes vary. The volunteers and other members of the society have fixed different vegetable dishes for each day; one day it is dal, the other day rajmah, chole and so on. Sweets are also on the menu.

When asked about this goodwill venture that gives free food to the needy, Surjit Singh, president of Guru Nanak Mission Sewa Society, said: 'Guru Ki Rasoi' is the brainchild of Gurjinder Singh, who wanted to give back to the society especially to his native village, where he had spent his childhood.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



Guru Ki Rasoi at New Friends Colony on Sloh Road in Nawanshahr, Punjab initiated by Canada based Gurjinder Singh Photo / Courtesy Tribune

## Indian-origin educationist Prabhakar Kore conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Thomas Jefferson University

**PHILADELPHIA (TIP):** Philadelphia-based Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) has conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to a leading Indian educationist, Prabhakar Kore, chairman of Karnatak Lingayat Education (KLE) Society.

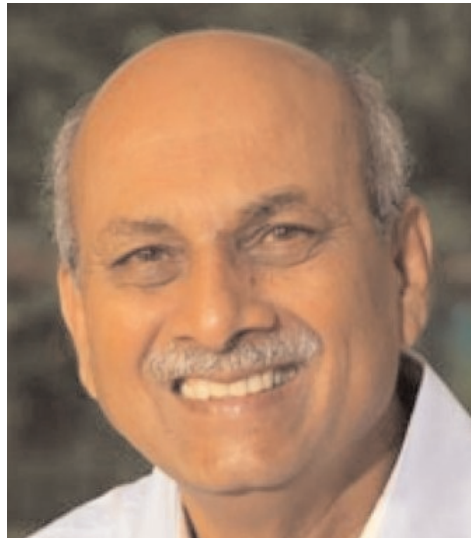
Kore was awarded the degree by Richard Haverstick Jr. Interim President and CEO, Thomas Jefferson University and Mark L. Tykocinski, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Vice Chancellor at the university convocation on May 25.

KLE society described the award of honorary degree to Kore as a matter of pride for India.

KLE has multiple academic collaborations with international institutes like Thomas Jefferson University, University of North Carolina, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, Kings college and others, according to a society press release.

The key focus of the TJU collaboration has been on reduction in the burden of mortality/morbidity during pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood development.

The TJU-JNMC (Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College) Research Unit funded by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Global Network, has led community-based,



A leading Indian educationist, Prabhakar Kore, chairman of Karnatak Lingayat Education (KLE) Society, was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Thomas Jefferson University

multi-center, multi-country trials for prevention of pre-term birth and mortality during childbirth, the release said.

The results have had far reaching impact at the grassroot levels and have been incorporated in the guidelines by the Indian health ministry and the World Health Organization. It has also become "WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Maternal and Perinatal Health".

The Academic and Research collaboration between KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER) and TJU in the areas of Public Health, Urology and Integrative Medicine commenced in July 2017 and has been expanded to include specialties of Neurology, Radiology, Neonatology, Psychiatry, Nursing and Physiotherapy.

The faculty and student exchange, research grants as well as the establishment of the India Centre at Thomas Jefferson University is a testimony of the strong academic bond between KLE and TJU, the release said.

The Jefferson India Center provides the framework necessary to keep pace, empowering public-private partnerships that address the social determinants of health, health disparities, and access to care in the world's two largest democracies, the center said.

By advancing the concept of distance learning and team science through bilateral faculty and student exchanges, the Center provides new generations of health leaders the global perspective necessary to effect meaningful change in healthcare delivery, it said.

To date, the collaboration between KLE University and Thomas Jefferson University has generated 150 publications and supported the acquisition of 31 funded grants conducted in India.

## Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Gets Leadership Award



Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Indian American US Congressman of Illinois, received the Distinguished Leadership Award.

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Indian-American US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi was honored with the Distinguished Leadership Award in Schaumburg, Illinois, on Thursday, 26 May.

Born in New Delhi in India, Krishnamoorthi's family moved to Buffalo, New York, in order to find a better future. His work in public service spans a period of two decades, having worked as a special assistant attorney general at the Attorney General's office, according to a press release by Krishnamoorthi's media team.

During his time as a member of the US House of Representatives, Krishnamoorthi was instrumental in passing legislation that impacted education, workforce development, and public health initiatives, said Jesse White, Illinois secretary of state, who presented the award.

"In honor of your outstanding career and dedication to public service, I present you with the one-of-a-kind personalized license plate: 'RAJA'." Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State

## INDIAN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT GAUTAM RANA TO BE NOMINATED BY US PRESIDENT AS AMBASSADOR TO SLOVAKIA



Indian-American career diplomat Gautam Rana is all set to be nominated as the new US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovakia.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** US President Joe Biden is set to nominate Indian-American career diplomat Gautam Rana as the new US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovakia.

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

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

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

Among other positions, Rana was Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan on the National Security Council staff and the Deputy Minister Counsellor for Political Affairs at the US Embassy in New Delhi.

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

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

## INDIAN AMERICAN TECH BUSINESSMAN RAMIT VARMA EXITS LOS ANGELES MAYORAL RACE

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** Indian American Tech businessman Ramit Varma, who spent \$4 million of his own money to run for Los Angeles mayor, has quit the race and endorsed billionaire real estate developer Rick Caruso.

"Although Rick and I have very different backgrounds and experiences, I found that we are united by a common purpose," Varma said in a statement posted on his campaign's Facebook page.

"We both want Los Angeles to be a city that is safe, affordable and clean. A city that our children and decades to come can be proud of."

Varma is the third candidate to drop out of the race two weeks before the June 7 primary. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, the two top finishers will face off in November, ABC7 reported.

That leaves nine candidates vying to replace Mayor Eric Garcetti, President Joe Biden's nominee to be the US ambassador to India.

City Attorney Mike Feuer ended his run on Tuesday, May 24, and endorsed Rep. Karen Bass, while Councilman Joe Buscaino dropped



Ramit Varma, who spent \$4 million of his own money to run for Los Angeles mayor, has quit the race and endorsed billionaire real estate developer Rick Caruso.

out of the race on May 12 and endorsed Caruso.

Caruso and Bass are running neck-and-neck with about 25 percent of support from likely voters, according to the most recent polls cited by Los Angeles Daily News.

Varma had launched his campaign last fall with a bang, renting out the Banc of California Stadium for 400 people, where he'd promised to cut government waste, end homelessness and "build a city of the future - right now."

The co-founder of the online tutoring firm Revolution Prep had loaned himself \$4 million. In an April poll by UC Berkeley, just 1 percent of people surveyed said they'd vote for Varma.

With little name recognition in a city of 2.1 million registered voters, he was forced to withdraw his hat from the ring and toss his support to Caruso, Los Angeles Daily News reported.

Varma told the Daily News he was "incredibly impressed by (Caruso's) thoughtfulness, drive and genuine desire to fix problems in L.A. - and build a plan for growth that will last us for decades."

**NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR DAVID C. BANKS SHARED THOUGHTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO MAYORAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND CLASS SIZES**



David C. Banks, NYC Schools Chancellor has cautioned the State legislature to be mindful that changes to the nation's largest school district must take into consideration the impact these changes will have on over one million students and educators.

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** New York City Schools Chancellor David C. Banks today released the following statement regarding proposed changes to mayoral accountability and class size limits being considered by the State Legislature:

"As the State Legislature prepares to vote, it should be mindful that changes to the nation's largest school district must take into consideration the impact these changes will have on over one million students and educators. Taken together, the proposed bills force school leaders to put class size above supportive programming for our kids.

As a lifelong educator I deeply appreciate the focus on reducing class size, and if given time we can work together with union leadership to find a way forward so our highest-need students see the benefit of lower-class sizes. But the proposed multibillion dollar unfunded mandate in this bill forces school leaders to prioritize class size above critical school safety programs, dyslexia screenings, social workers, school nurses, summer programming, supports for special student populations, and even the expansion of community schools. Make no mistake, it will lead to large cuts in these critical programs. This should not be a choice that school leaders have to make.

If the State Legislature is going to move forward with the bill on class size limits, my appeal to our state legislators in Albany is to fully fund the bill. If this class size issue is so critical to the future of our young people, then we must ensure that the state put its financial resources behind this bill. *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

**Hundreds Protest Gun Violence in Plainview-Old Bethpage High School Walkout**

**PLAINVIEW, NY (TIP):** Hundreds of students, along with staff members, walked out of class on June 1 at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School in protest of gun violence across the country, and to honor the 21 people who were killed in Uvalde, Texas, according to a Patch report.

The students' walkout, which was overseen by the school, lasted 21 minutes, in honor of the 21 people who were killed by a gunman at Robb Elementary School on May 24.

The school placed 21 chairs outside the building, representing the 19 children and two adults who were killed in the shooting.



Hundreds of Plainview-Old Bethpage High School students walked out of class today, June 1 to protest gun violence, and remember the 21 people killed in Uvalde, Texas.

**BROOKLYN MAN SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN PRISON AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO SEX TRAFFICKING A TEEN GIRL**



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced on June 1, that Jordan Adderley, 32, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to sex trafficking of a child, rape and other crimes. *File photo*

**QUEENS, NY (TIP):** Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced on June 1, that Jordan Adderley, 32, was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to sex trafficking of a child, rape and other crimes.

The defendant profited from the prostitution of a 16-year-old girl whom he drove to various hotels, including the now-closed Umbrella Hotel in Kew Gardens, to have sex with male customers in exchange for cash. The victim engaged in prostitution acts between September and October of 2020.

District Attorney Katz said, "This defendant lined his pockets with the money the victim made performing sex acts on strangers. Sex trafficking is a degrading industry that has caused irreparable harm to this young teenager. Although we cannot undo the trauma, we are holding this defendant accountable, and he will now spend time behind bars for his egregious actions."

Adderley, of Watkins Street in Brooklyn, pleaded guilty last month to sex trafficking of a child, sex trafficking, rape in the third degree, criminal sex act in the third degree and criminal possession of a controlled substance in the fifth degree.

Supreme Court Justice Peter Vallone, Jr. yesterday sentenced the defendant to a determinate term of eight years in prison, to be followed by five years' post-release supervision. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender.

According to Court records, the defendant met the victim, who was a runaway teenager, in September 2020. He manipulated the youngster into thinking he would help her find freedom. Adderley rented a room at the Hillcrest Hotel in Queens and taught the victim how to sell her body for cash. The defendant also had sexual intercourse and oral sex with the teenager, who was nearly half his age. The defendant's orchestrated a trip to the now-shuttered Umbrella Hotel on Queens Boulevard, where an undercover New York Police Department team rescued the child. The defendant was discovered by police outside the hotel in his car waiting for the victim. During the arrest, police recovered dozens of glassines of cocaine.

Assistant District Attorney Kiran Cheema, of the District Attorney's Human Trafficking Bureau, prosecuted the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Jessica Melton, Bureau Chief, Assistant District Attorney Tara DiGregorio, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Gerard A. Brave.

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANNOUNCE NEW BOROUGH COMMAND CENTER ON STATEN ISLAND**



Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella debuted the Borough Command Center (BCC) on Staten Island for emergency responders.

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** In line with the start of Atlantic hurricane season, the New York City Emergency Management Department and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella debuted the Borough Command Center (BCC) on Staten Island for emergency responders. The BCC will serve as a hub for NYC Emergency Management responders to mobilize and coordinate emergency assets during large-scale emergencies on Staten Island, allowing first responders to strategically address the specific needs of Staten Island's communities.

"Disasters start and end locally, and this new command center will allow us to effectively respond to emergencies that affect Staten Island," said NYC Emergency Management Zach Iscol. "We are thankful to Borough President Fossella and his office for their support in helping us continue to build a robust emergency response structure in this city."

"We are pleased to announce that a new, expanded, and state of the art NYC Emergency Management Center will be located at the Petrides Complex.

*(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

# Guru Arjan Dev: The fifth Sikh master whose martyrdom changed the course of Sikhism

**GURU ARJAN DEV JI'S MARTYRDOM FALLS ON JUNE 3, 2022**

**G**uru Arjan (April 15, 1563 - May 30, 1606) was the first of the two Gurus martyred in the Sikh faith and the fifth of the 10 Sikh Gurus. He compiled the first official edition of the Sikh scripture called the Adi Granth, which later expanded into the Guru Granth Sahib.

He was born in Goindval, in the Punjab, the youngest son of Bhai Jetha, who later became Guru Ram Das, and Mata Bhani, the daughter of Guru Amar Das. He completed the construction of Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, after the fourth Sikh Guru founded the town and built a pool. Guru Arjan compiled the hymns of previous Gurus and of other saints into Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scripture, and installed it in the Harimandir Sahib.

Guru Arjan reorganized the Masands system initiated by Guru Ram Das, by suggesting that the Sikhs donate, if possible, one-tenth of their income, goods or service to the Sikh organization (dasvand). The Masand not only collected these funds but also taught tenets of Sikhism and settled civil disputes in their region. The dasvand financed the building of gurdwaras and langars (shared communal kitchens).

In the year 1606, the fifth Sikh guru, Guru Arjan Dev, was captured by Mughal Emperor Jahangir and imprisoned in Lahore Fort. Part of the reason was the fact that he had blessed Jahangir's rebellious son Khusrau, and part because of his growing influence in Northern India and fast conversions to Sikhism that threatened the orthodox Muslim clergy as well as the Hindu elite.

After imprisoning the guru, Jahangir demanded Rs 2 lakh as a fine plus elimination of all texts from the Adi Granth, the Sikh holy book the guru had compiled, that could be 'offensive' to Hindus or Muslims.

But the guru was unrelenting and refused to omit anything from the Granth, so the Mughal emperor condemned him to be tortured to death. Famously, the guru was made to sit on a burning hot plate, hot sand poured on his face. It is said that when he was allowed to take a bath in River Ravi on 30 May 1606, he never returned. It is here that Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore stands.

## The making of Harmandir Sahib

Born on 15 April 1563 to Guru Ramdas and Bibi Bhani, Arjan Dev was chosen by his father as his successor even though he was the youngest son. The decision may have led to disputes, but what is undisputed is the fifth guru's legacy.

One of the most visible, tangible and iconic contributions of Guru Arjan Dev is that he was the one who conceived of and began the construction of Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple,



in Amritsar.

Arjan Dev wanted Harmandir Sahib to stand for inclusivity, a place where everyone was welcome. It is on these values that he designed the temple, which has four entries and exits denoting acceptance of the 4 Hindu

castes and all religions.

The guru also invited the renowned Muslim saint Mia Mir to lay the foundation stone of the temple. Instead of making the temple a towering elevated monument, he decided to place it at a lower elevation as a symbolic

gesture, so that one would feel humble upon entering the temple.

## The Adi Granth

Guru Arjan Dev is credited with compiling the Adi Granth which was completed in 1604. It is a compilation of the hymns composed by Guru Nanak and 32 other Hindu and Muslim saints including more than 2,000 hymns that he composed himself. This included works of Sheikh Farid, Bhagat Kabir, Bhagat Ravi Das, Dhanna Namdev, Ramannand, Jai Dev, Trilochan, Beni, Pipa, and Surdas. The Adi Granth was later declared as the ultimate Guru Bani or word of god by Guru Gobind Singh. He added 115 hymns composed by Guru Tegh Bahadur in the second rendition and the Adi Granth became the Guru Granth Sahib. The first copy of the Adi Granth is kept in Kartarpur at Gurdwara Thum Sahib.

## Influence on Sikhism

Even though Guru Arjan Dev played a vital role in completing the Adi Granth and Harmandir Sahib, two of the holiest and strongest symbols of Sikhs, it's in his death that his influence on the religion is strongest. Before he was summoned to Lahore by Jahangir where he was captured and later executed, Arjan Dev had appointed his son Hargobind as his successor.

When Guru Hargobind took the throne, he was the first Sikh guru to deviate from the poet-guru tradition established since Guru Nanak. Armed with two swords dangling by his waist, Hargobind changed the identity of the Sikh guru who was here to save the Sikhs from oppression by the Mughals. The sacrifice of Guru Arjan Dev was looked at as a sacrifice for the truth, and it became un-Sikh like to stand oppression. The guru's death became a watershed moment as from then on began the militarisation of Sikhs. This conflict that started between the Mughals and Sikhs with the execution of Arjan Dev continued till the last guru, Gobind Singh who finally established the militarised order, the Khalsa, in 1699.

## Guru Arjan Dev teachings

Guru Arjan Dev used to preach the message of God which was initiated by Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Guru Arjan Dev ji compiled the Adi Granth. This is the religious scripture of Sikhs. It consists of musical ragas and spiritual poetry. Adi Granth constitutes half of his teachings. It was installed at Harmandir Sahab. Later it was expanded and came to be known as Guru Granth Sahab. He contributed more than 2000 hymns, which is the largest collection in the Guru Granth Sahab.

# 'World order' in the context of Ukraine war

BY ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA



Three terms - 'corruption', 'terrorism' and 'world order' - are highly unlikely to be defined or resolved through consensus (being contentious) on any international forum. Why? Because there's bound to be several antonyms for each of these three words, meaning different things to different nations. 'Corruption' may be "subjective and biased inference" for an accused. 'Terrorism' could fluctuate between 'oppression' for the victim and the stamp of 'freedom fighter' for the perpetrator. And 'world order', being completely out of bounds, hence a joke, by a state feeling victimized by the brute force of the majoritarian club with money, muscle power and machine guns. Seen thus, one needs to delve deep into the 'world order' with reference to the ongoing conflict in Europe.

As is known, world history of the past 200 years shows a bewildering variety of alliances crisscrossing the diplomatic high table, wherein the stronger invariably dominated to set the conventional and time-tested route for a "world order" of the "fittest". Despite this collective intention, however, incessant wars continued over the two centuries, which ultimately led to the establishment of the League of Nations in 1919 and, thereafter, the UN in 1945. Masterminded by the victorious (but battered) West, the aim was to create a "world without war" (at least for the developed West) through an interconnected "globalized world order", essentially, to create, consume and concentrate the lion's share of the wealth in, and for, the West.

But that's not to be yet as is proved by another of the West-origin insatiable conflicts in the West-land, which menacingly drags the non-West (like the two World Wars of the 20th century) to a crisis-like situation of all-round shortage and scarcity, thereby fracturing the world's trade, food, finance, fuel and economic foundation.

For more than three decades, the West's over-emphasis on "globalization" and "inter-connectivity" ignored the fact that bilateral ties constitute the core competence of every nation-state in search of stability in the proximity, rather than a far-off "world order". Bilateral relations, thus, are the cornerstone of international diplomacy; else, what's the logic of having an ambassador of 'X' in 'Y' and vice versa? Therefore, all multilateral agreements, diplomacy or convention can be considered as supplementary means to strengthening international relations and diplomacy through consensus and agreement.

**"What stands remote and far-reaching is that the West does appear to have sown seeds of a major European conflict owing to its inability to create an ambience of mutual trust, faith and confidence with its giant eastern landmass spanning from (border of) Vilnius to Vladivostok in the Far East."**

In the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, a big question mark suddenly appears as to the future status and position of several multilateral agreements. All these are connected with the collective security of the West, with a broken Russia as the principal potential adversary.

So, as Moscow and Washington turn implacable foes from February 2022, what happens to the Russia-US "Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC)", a forum established in 2010 on the "Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms"? All the more, as "its work is confidential"?

Again, how can Russia still fit into the 1992-established, 12-member "Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)" of Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden? Established as a "regional inter-governmental organization" for co-operation among the Baltic Sea region states, all of 11 today are against (nay, hostile towards) Russia and trying to choke the range of the Russian gun and gas with the reach of the American greenback.

What further stands remote and far-reaching, inadvertently or otherwise, is that the West does appear to have sown seeds of a major European conflict owing to its inability to create an ambience of mutual trust, faith and confidence with its giant eastern landmass spanning from (the border of) Vilnius to Vladivostok in the Far East.

The reality is, mutual trust rarely developed between the West and Russia in every era. They only changed the names of rulers on both sides, but rarely the spirit of the formation of alliance, entente or convention. 'Containment', indeed, was the password for any alliance with the Communist USSR.

Thus, came into existence in 1994 the Mediterranean Dialogue as a "forum for political dialogue" and cooperation between NATO member-states and countries of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia). NATO's post-USSR overdrive was visible.

Subsequently, NATO progressed from the Mediterranean towards the Russia underbelly in 2008 with the establishment of the 'NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC)' to "serve the forum for political



**"As the conflict of the West now ravages the Europe heartland for more than three months, the January 2022 utterances of former German navy chief (Kay-Achim Schonbach) in an India meeting deserves recollection: "On the eye level, President Putin deserves respect. And giving him respect is low cost, even no cost. It's easy to give him the respect he demands." Was the German Admiral prophetic? Or, was the Pope correct in pulling up the West and chiding Russia? Only time will tell if the 'mutually assured destruction (MAD)' averts or delays the end of human race."**

consultation and practical cooperation to help Georgia achieve its goal of joining NATO."

The year 2008 also saw the launch of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) as a successor of the 'Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe' that was initiated by the European Union at the 1999 "conference of South-Eastern Europe". Its ostensible purpose was to promote "mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of states in South-Eastern Europe."

In retrospect, what strikes strange is the conspicuous absence of Russia in matters relating to South-Eastern Europe, which mutually are adjacent to each other. There were six areas of discussion for the 46 participants (included in which was NATO): "Economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, human capital and parliamentary cooperation." It was a virtual NATO-EU mega joint event at Moscow's vulnerable doorstep where even Kosovo was present! But, Russia absent? Was it a prelude to our turbulent times?

The somber mood was vividly expressed on May 2 by no less than the universally revered, but distraught, Pope Francis.

That the break-up of the mighty USSR constituted a lifetime opportunity for Moscow rivals would be an understatement. Understandably, once a mighty Moscow; now one of the 13 members (including Ukraine) of the "Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)" established in 1992 to "ensure peace, stability, prosperity... economic cooperation and promotion" with its permanent secretariat at Istanbul.

Of all the West-sponsored networks, however, what stands out afresh is the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC), established in 1997 "for consultations on political and security issues, conflict prevention and resolution, non-proliferation, transfer of arms technology and subjects of common concerns." The NUC had all NATO member-states and Ukraine as participants. The Russians saw, but had to swallow their pride, as NATO arrived inside Ukraine six years after Moscow lost power, prestige and status.

In hindsight, therefore, one can only take a cue from common sense and scholars' comments: that one factor cannot create an overnight conflict, and that it takes time to build up confrontation and a combat-like situation. War psyche bursts only when the gestation period matures.

As the conflict of the West now ravages the Europe heartland for more than three months, the January 2022 utterances of former German navy chief (Kay-Achim Schonbach) in an India meeting deserves recollection: "On the eye level, President Putin deserves respect. And giving him respect is low cost, even no cost. It's easy to give him the respect he demands." Was the German Admiral prophetic? Or, was the Pope correct in pulling up the West and chiding Russia? Only time will tell if the 'mutually assured destruction (MAD)' averts or delays the end of human race.

(The author is a commentator)



# The return of the great power rivalries

BY STANLY  
JOHNY



The post-Cold War period of peace in Europe is more an aberration than norm in the continent's history of conflicts

Herr von Tschirschky, a diplomat and politician in imperial Germany, said on New Year's Day 1906 in Hamburg: "Germany's policy always had been, and would be, to try to frustrate any coalition between two states which might result in damaging Germany's interests and prestige; and Germany... would not hesitate to take such steps as she thought proper to break up the coalition." Tschirschky, who would become Foreign Secretary in two weeks, was referring to the Franco-British Entente and Germany's growing concerns about it.

The security situation in Europe was undergoing massive changes. The Russian power had collapsed in its far east after the war with Japan in 1904-05. Faced with the erosion of Russian influence and the rise of Wilhelmine Germany, which together threatened to alter Europe's balance of power, France and Britain, competing colonial powers, came together. France had already reached an alliance with Russia. The three would later form the Triple Entente, triggering a dangerous security competition in Europe with the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy), which would eventually lead to the First World War in 1914.

## Similarities from the past

There are similarities between events in Europe today and what happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What triggered the great power security competition in the run-up to the First World War was the phenomenal rise of Wilhelmine Germany as a military and industrial power and the regional hegemony's response to it. When Otto von Bismarck became the Minister-President of Prussia in September 1862, there was no unified German state. Prussia was part of the loose, ineffective German Confederation. Bismarck adopted an aggressive foreign policy, fought and won three wars - with Denmark, Austria and France - destroyed the confederation, established a stronger and larger German Reich that replaced Prussia.

In the last 20 years of Bismarck's reign, Germany, and Europe at large, saw relative peace. That was not because the Chancellor had turned a peacenik but because he was constrained by the geopolitical realities of Europe. Bismarck stayed focused on transforming Germany internally in his last two decades. It was on the foundation Bismarck built that Wilhelmine Germany turned to *weltpolitik* in the early 20th century, seeking global domination.

If Bismarck inherited a weak, loosely connected group of German speaking entities in 1862, Russian President Vladimir Putin got a Russia in 2000 that was a pale shadow of what was the Soviet Union. Russia had lost huge swathes of territories, its economy was in a free fall, its currency had crashed, the living standards of millions of Russians had collapsed and the global stature of the country, which had been one of the two pillars of the post-War global order for almost half a century, had fallen. Bismarck spent his years in power expanding the borders of Germany and building a stronger state and economy. His successors took it further to challenge the existing great powers in Europe. The post-Cold War Russia initially stayed focused on the restoration of the state and the economy, and then sought to expand its borders and challenge the continent's balance of power - first the Crimean annexation and now the Ukraine invasion.

The existing great powers in Europe saw Germany as a threat to Europe's balance of power and joined

**"The behavior of 20th century Germany and 21st century Russia can best be explained using what John Mearsheimer calls "offensive realism". Offensive realists argue that "revisionist powers" tend to use force to rewrite the balance of power if they find the circumstances are favorable, while the status quo powers, or the existing regional hegemony, would seek to thwart any new country attaining more power at their expense. The result of this type of competition is permanent rivalry and conflict. Look at Mr. Putin's offensive moves"**



Destruction in Kharkiv

hands to contain its rise. Germany, on the other side, saw the formation of the Entente as an existential threat and took steps to weaken the alliance (The 1905 and 1911 Morocco crises and the German intervention in the Bosnia crisis in 1908). The parallels are hardly to be missed. If Germany was seen as a revisionist power back then, Vladimir Putin's Russia is today's revisionist power in Europe. If Germany felt insecure by the Triple Entente, as Tschirschky warned in 1906, Russia has constantly voiced concerns about the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If the Entente countries looked at the rise of Germany as a threat to European power balance, the western alliance continued to see modern Russia as a security challenge, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. While NATO's expansion deepened Russia's security concerns, driving it into aggressive moves, Russia's aggression has strengthened NATO's resolve to expand further into Russia's neighborhood.

## On 'offensive realism'

The behavior of 20th century Germany and 21st century Russia can best be explained using what John Mearsheimer calls "offensive realism". Offensive realists argue that "revisionist powers" tend to use force to rewrite the balance of power if they find the circumstances are favorable, while the status quo powers, or the existing regional hegemony, would seek to thwart any new country attaining more power at their expense. The result of this type of competition is

permanent rivalry and conflict. Look at Mr. Putin's offensive moves. He sent troops to Georgia, practically ending that country's NATO ambitions. He took Crimea without fighting a war. He sent troops to Syria not just to save the regime of Bashar al-Assad and protect Russia's Mediterranean naval base in Tartus but also to neutralize Turkey and Israel, both Syria's neighbors. He reinforced Russia's primacy in Central Asia by bringing peace to the Nagorno-Karabakh and dispatching forces to restore order in Kazakhstan. These successes probably raised the confidence of Russia, prompting its leaders to believe that it was finally strong enough to change Europe's balance of power forcefully. Then, Russia invaded Ukraine.

But one major difference between the era of Wilhelmine Germany and modern Russia is that there were no well-defined international laws in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The international system has evolved ever since. But its basic instincts, as realists would argue, have not changed much. Mr. Putin's Russia is not the first country that violated the sovereignty of a weaker power and flouted international laws in the "rules-based" order. Nor will it be the last. As the Athenians told the Melians during the Peloponnesian War, "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must".

## Security competition

As the Ukraine war grinds into its fourth month, there are no clear winners in Europe. Russia apparently had two strategic objectives in Ukraine - one, to expand Russian borders and create a buffer. And two, to reinforce Russia's deterrence against NATO. While Russia has succeeded, though slowly, in expanding its borders by capturing almost all of Ukraine's east, the war has backfired on its second objective - Russia's inability to clinch a quick outright victory in Ukraine and the tactical retreats it has already made have invariably dealt a blow to the perception of Russian power that existed before the war. This has strengthened NATO, driving even Sweden and Finland into its arms. Besides, the economic sanctions would leave a long-term hole in Russia's economy.

But a Russia that is bogged down in Ukraine and encircled by NATO need not enhance Europe's security. Russia's advances in Ukraine may have been slow; it seemed ready to fight a war of attrition like the long wars European countries fought against each other in the past. And despite the strong resistance it faced in Ukraine, Russia remains too strong a military and geopolitical power to be brushed aside. As Henry Kissinger said at Davos, Russia had been and would remain an important element in the European state system.

The prospects are bleak. There will not be peace in Europe unless either Russia accepts its diminished role and goes into another spell of strategic retreat (like it did after the disintegration of the Soviet Union), or Europe and the West in general accommodate Russia's security concerns. Both look unrealistic as of today. This means that even if the war in Ukraine comes to an end, the security contest in Europe would continue. The post-Cold War period of relative peace and stability in Europe, anchored in liberal internationalism, was an aberration rather than a norm in the continent's long history of conflicts. And what makes the latest round of great power rivalry more dangerous is that there are nuclear weapons on both sides.

(The author can be reached at stanly.johnny@thehindu.co.in)

(Source: The Hindu)

# Sidhu Moosewala assassination case: AAP govt lands deep in hot waters

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



**"NEITHER THE CHIEF MINISTER BHAGWANT MANN NOR ANY OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND OF AAP, INCLUDING ITS CONVENER, ARVIND KEJRIWAL, COULD VISUALIZE THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THEY WOULD COUNTER FOR THEIR ACTION OF CUTTING DOWN SECURITY COVER OF EMINENT PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING POLITICIANS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ARTISTS, AND POLICEMEN. "THE BROAD DAYLIGHT ASSASSINATION OF FOLK SINGER-TURNED BUDDING POLITICIAN SIDHU MOOSEWALA NOT ONLY EVOKED WORLDWIDE CONDEMNATION BUT ALSO PAINTED THE ACTION OF THE FIRST-TIME RULING PARTY IN THE STATE AS A CHEAP AND UNLAWFUL GIMMICK."**

In less than 10 weeks of its landslide triumph in the Assembly elections of this trouble-torn revenue deficit border State, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is finding itself knee deep in hot waters. The reason: a highly publicized action that boomeranged on its face.

Neither the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann nor any of the senior members of the High Command of AAP, including its Convener, Arvind Kejriwal, could visualize the serious consequences they would counter for their action of cutting down security cover of eminent personalities, including politicians, religious leaders, artists, and policemen.

The broad daylight assassination of folk singer-turned budding politician Sidhu Moosewala not only evoked worldwide condemnation but also

Painted the action of the first-time ruling party in the State as a cheap and unlawful gimmick.

Needless to reiterate that security is a sensitive issue that is seldom revealed in public domain.

In less than 24 hours of issuance of orders of withdrawal or reduction of security cover to over 400 eminent personalities, the State plunged into one of its worst glooms in recent years with the killing of Sidhu Moosewala who had unsuccessfully contested the Punjab Assembly elections early this year.

Intriguingly, copies of the order, though confidential and marked "secret", were made available to the entire media for "wide publicity" as "another daring step by the "Government that works for people."

Without getting into the merits of the action or the order, the way it was publicized not only defeated its purpose but also made all those who felt aggrieved by it more "vulnerable".

The subsequent explanation by the State police chief that the order was part of an annual exercise of making available additional security personnel for deployment for "ghallughara week" duties.

The present strength of Punjab police is more than 70,000. In addition, it has some Punjab Armed Police (PAP) battalions as well as India reserve battalions. Punjab also has a couple of trained Commando battalions. Of these men in uniform, nearly 30,000 to 35,000 are deployed in 300-odd police stations and police posts in the State.

Providing security cover to individuals or institutions is a highly sensitive subject that need not be discussed in any public domain. In the past a little more than 10 weeks of assuming power in the State, the AAP government has been issuing orders from time to time in reviewing security cover of political bigwigs and others. Such reviews were also widely publicized as was the last order of May 28.

In India, there are various agencies that provide security cover to individuals and vulnerable institutions, including installations. They include those that are under direct control of the Central Government like the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Defense. They assess the threat perception and accordingly provide the security cover that at times work in close coordination with the State Security Agencies depending upon the movement of the protected personalities.

In addition to the Centre, the State Governments have their own Security wings that function under a senior police officer. Though broadly, the State Security agencies follow the same pattern of assessing the threat perception before deciding the quantum of security cover in each individual



Sidhu Moosewala's daylight murder raises serious questions about the state of law and order in the State of Punjab under the new AAP government. Moosewala's security was cut to half just a day before his brutal murder despite the intelligence report that his life was under threat from the gangsters and rivals.  
Photo / Courtesy Tribune

case. Normally, there is a regular review of security cover with changing threat perceptions, but this practice is not followed religiously. It is in rarest of rarest cases that the State police extends its security cover to individuals who are neither Bonafede residents of the State nor have any threats emanating from within the State. There are numerous when security audits are not conducted, and even if they are done, they are only to complete the formalities.

There is no denying the fact for many, security cover is more of a "status symbol" than a necessity. The bigger or larger the security cover is used to gauge one's political or social height.

Security experts say that there is nothing like "absolute" or "foolproof" security. Their observation is corroborated by high profile assassinations taking place world over from time to time.

During my nearly 40 years stint in journalism, I reported several cases in which well protected political bigwigs, policemen or others were attacked. Many of these turned out to be gruesome assassinations, while few others left their victims shattered or crippled.

Security is a highly debatable subject as the State is mandated to protect life and property of its populace. However, deviating from this Constitutional mandate, the State or the people given the mandate to run the State start their own isolation on the pretext of security. Safety and security of a common man is getting greatly ignored.

Intriguingly, nearly 80 per cent of the police force in Punjab is undertrained.

Studies from time to time reveal that nearly 80 per cent of the training budget of the police force is consumed by the top 5 to 10 percent of the force that generally covers up the gazetted officer's level. Eight to 10 percent of the training budget is spent on the NGOs, who comprise about 10-15 per cent of the total strength and for the remaining 70-75 per cent, the constabulary, gets only five to eight per cent of the training Budget. Majority of the policemen undergo mandatory training only at the time of their induction in the force and seldom afterwards. They are the "lathi" or cane wielding policemen chosen to do route marking or simple beat duties with little or no power of investigation. They are the mainstay of the "visible" security for VIP visits or mass political events. Invisible security is an area that has generally remained ignored.

There may not be a single policeman to ensure the safety of hundreds of people at a busy marketplace, bus stand or railway station but a political bigwig or a senior police official comes surrounded by a horde of armed guards. The strength of the horde indicates the political or official rank of the protected politician or civil servant.

(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, including eight World Cups in Hockey. He has been hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis and stories by him please visit [probingeye.com](http://probingeye.com) or follow him on Twitter.com/probingeye and on Facebook @PrabhjotSingh.Journalist. He can be reached at [prabhjot416@gmail.com](mailto:prabhjot416@gmail.com))

11 JUNE 1993 --- 29 MAY 2022

# Sidhu Moosewala: A life snuffed out in the prime of youth

*Ni ehda uthuga jawani ch janaja mithiye* (The funeral will happen in youth).

This is a line from Indian rapper Sidhu Moose Wala's latest track, *The Last Ride*. The song, which was released in May - and has gathered over 10 million views on YouTube since - features the iconic crime scene where American rapper Tupac Shakur was murdered in his BMW in 1996.

"Many hated him, and many died wanting him... everything is revealed in the eyes of the young boy," Moose Wala cackles in the music video, which is shot in slick monochrome tones.

On Sunday, in an ominous turn of events, Moose Wala met the same fate. The 28-year-old singer was shot dead by unidentified attackers in Punjab's Mansa district, not too far from his home on Sunday, May 29, evening. The incident came a day after the AAP government in Punjab pruned his security.

The killing has triggered huge row and protests, with the Congress - the political party to which he belonged - calling for the dismissal of the ruling AAP government. His family has sought an investigation by a central probe agency.

For Moose Wala's millions of fans though, the tragedy is deeply personal.

In a career spanning just four years, the 28-year-old rapper had become one of the most ubiquitous faces of Punjab's fertile hip-hop scene. His voice blares from DJ turntables at Delhi's flamboyant parties, rickety stereos at tea stalls in rural India and - as a colleague from BBC Punjabi told me - every possible radio channel in Punjab.

And he made it big in every sense. His songs, which he wrote and composed, racked up more than 5bn views, made it to the Top 5 in the UK charts last year, and he was also featured among the best new artists of 2020 in *The Guardian*. He had millions of fans around the world, especially in Canada and the UK which have a sizeable diaspora population.

Born as Subhdeep Singh Sidhu in Moosa village in Mansa district, the singer studied engineering from Punjab and moved to Canada in 2016. The next year, he released his first track "So High" under the name Moose Wala - a tribute to his village.

Since then, he had released three albums and more than 60 singles - at one time, the legend goes, he was churning out a song a week - and became a household name in Punjab and among Sikhs living abroad.

Drawing heavily from the genre of gangster rap, his music was a jumble of gritty opulence - measured in guns and fancy sports cars - as he made sense of life around him. His songs offered unvarnished commentary on the dark underbelly of the rural heartland, where drugs, crime and corruption often make headlines.

But Moose Wala was as controversial



as popular. Since news of his death broke on Sunday evening, heaps have been said and written about the singer's legacy.

The actor often ran into trouble with the law. In May 2020, he was booked for firing an AK-47 rifle at a shooting range during the Covid lockdown. He also had a police case against him for allegedly promoting violence and gun culture through his song, *Sanju*. And a cursory glance at his Instagram profile would reveal his affinity for the weapon.

The singer was never convicted for any of the alleged crimes, but critics have routinely called him out for normalising violence.

Fans say that Moose Wala was merely confronting the dark truths about modern life and holding up a mirror to society. "He was just making sense of the chaos, whether it was corruption, violence or the gun problem in Punjab," one fan said. "And that contribution in itself is valuable."

Moose Wala's music has meant different things to different people. Some say they admired him for the "courage and I-don't-care attitude" that was evident in his songs. Others liked the way he added English words to his Punjabi songs, which gave it a contemporary sheen.



Sidhu Moosewala's father Balkaur Singh salutes his son on his 'Last Ride' at Moosa village in Mansa district of Punjab on May 31.



A memorial has been set up on the ancestral agricultural land of Sidhu Moosewala where the singer was cremated at Moosa village.

For Moose Wala, though, everything was a deeply personal journey of self-expression. In 2021, he decided to give politics a chance. Although he lost the Punjab assembly election earlier this year, it didn't tarnish his popularity or his reputation as a man of the soil.

## Five songs that launched Moose Wala to superstardom

Sidhu Moose Wala began his singing career with a duet titled *G Wagon*. He also collaborated with *Brown Boyz* on several songs. The singer-rapper gained popularity with his track *So High* (2017). In 2018, he released his debut album *PBX 1*, which ranked 66th on the *Billboard Canadian Albums* chart.

The singer released a song titled *The Last Ride* on May 15. The song, which was shared on his official YouTube channel, has already close to 10 million views.

- **So High** is one of the most loved songs of Sidhu Moose Wala. The song is almost four-minutes-long and became popular with the masses. The song has over 481 million views on YouTube.

- **Same beef** is a part of an album of the same name, released in 2019. Composed by *Byg Byrd*, the song was sung by *Bohemia* and Sidhu. It has over 394 million views on YouTube.

- **Just Listen** was written by Sidhu Moose Wala and released in January 2018. It has over 144 million views on YouTube.

- **Famous** released in 2018 and is from the album *PBX1*. It was produced by *Pyg Brd*.

- **Badfella** was released under *T-series* and was produced by *Harj Nagra*. On YouTube, the song has over 91 million views.

Source: BBC and HT

# IRS seeks to offer jobs to thousands of workers this summer



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** To boost its workforce and better help taxpayers and businesses, the Internal Revenue Service announced today that it's looking to hire over 4,000 contact representative positions at several IRS offices nationwide this summer.

A contact representative provides administrative and technical assistance to individuals and businesses primarily over the phone, through written correspondence or in person. These full-time positions fall under a special hiring condition called direct-hire authority. Full-time, bilingual (Spanish) positions are also available. No prior tax experience is required.

"The IRS continues to increase its workforce in 2022 to improve the taxpayer experience," said IRS Taxpayer Experience Officer and Wage and Investment Commissioner Ken Corbin. "We have a variety of jobs available all over the country. Contact representatives, among other things, deal directly with taxpayers by helping them with their tax obligations."

The IRS offers competitive pay and benefits, on-the-job training, and opportunities for advancement. The pay range for these positions begin at a GS-05 level. Shift availabilities vary by location but there are openings for day shift, (hours between 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.) mid shift (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.) and swing shift (2 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.) in 22 cities nationwide, including Puerto Rico.

### Virtual information-sharing events

The agency is hosting virtual information sharing events in June where the IRS will explain the required qualifications and job duties for the

contact representative position and provide tips for navigating the application process. Participants will also hear from employees who will provide insights about the work they do day-to-day.

**REGISTER FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD @ 12 P.M. EST**

**REGISTER TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH @ 3 P.M. EST**

**REGISTER FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH @ 6 P.M. EST**

**REGISTER TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH @ 12 P.M. EST**

**REGISTER TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST @ 3 P.M. EST**

**REGISTER FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH @ 6 P.M. EST**

### In-person events

In-person events will be held mostly in June, are open to the public and will be held in the following cities: Andover, Mass.; Atlanta, Ga.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Fresno and Oakland, Calif.; Brookhaven, N.Y.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tenn.;

and Caguas, Puerto Rico. Registration for these and more can be found on the IRS careers page.

Interested job seekers are encouraged to bring their resumé and two forms of identification (i.e., state driver's license and/or state identification card, birth certificate, U.S. passport, military ID or Social Security card). Qualified applicants will receive tentative job offers at the in-person events.

Preregistration is recommended and social-distancing is required to attend the in-person job fairs. Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, mask wear is optional for these job fair sites. For complete details on the virtual events and to register to attend one of the in-person events, visit: [jobs.irs.gov/events](https://jobs.irs.gov/events).

The IRS is an equal opportunity employer. All employees must be U.S. citizens, pass an FBI fingerprint check and tax compliance verification, and meet the mandatory education, training, and experience qualification requirements.

## IRS EXTENDS VITA AND TCE GRANTS APPLICATION DEADLINE



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The Internal Revenue Service has extended the deadline to June 17 for accepting

applications for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant programs which will allow some organizations to apply for annual funding for up to three years.

Grants.gov will continue accepting applications through June 17, 2022, for the TCE and VITA grant opportunities. Application packages and guidelines for 2022 are available on the IRS website.

The IRS, in the past year, awarded 34 TCE grantees \$11 million and 300 VITA grantees \$25 million. Last year, the two grant programs filed nearly 1.6 million returns nationwide.

The IRS established the TCE program in 1978 to provide tax counseling and return preparation to persons aged 60 or older and to give training and technical assistance to the volunteers who provide free federal income tax assistance within elderly communities across the nation. For more information on the TCE program, visit the IRS's TCE webpage.

The VITA Grant program was established in 2007 to supplement the VITA program created in 1969. VITA provides free tax filing assistance to underserved communities. The grant program enables VITA to extend these services to underserved populations in hardest-to-reach, urban and non-urban areas; increase the capacity of targeted taxpayers to file returns electronically; enhance training of volunteers and improve the accuracy rate of returns prepared at VITA sites.

More information on the VITA grant program is available at IRS VITA Grant Program

## REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL CANDIDATE IN NEVADA REACHES OUT TO INDIAN-AMERICANS



Adam Laxalt in Nevada is reaching out to the influential Indian-American community as part of the massive GOP effort to rip the Democrats of its seat from the State.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A Republican Senatorial candidate in Nevada is reaching out to the influential Indian-American community as part of the massive GOP effort to rip the Democrats of its seat from the State.

Over the weekend, Adam Laxalt, a former Attorney General of Nevada and now running for the US Senate Seat from Nevada, hosted an Indian-American community meet and greet wherein he urged the community to vote for him and the Republican Party in the forthcoming November mid-term polls.

He is pitted against Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto. According to Las Vegas Review-Journal, Laxalt, if elected, will become Nevada's version of Ron DeSantis. In his address to the Indian-American community at a popular Indian restaurant in Las Vegas, Laxalt addressed issues that matter to the Indian-American and Asian Pacific American communities, according to VegasDesi.Com.

"Nevada's Indian-American community is ready for change," Laxalt said in a tweet after the event.

Saroj Singh, a former board member of the Indian American Voices for Trump Coalition in 2020, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

"Adam Laxalt, like President Donald Trump, is a great friend and supporter of the Indian-American community. He stands with law enforcement, against illegal immigration, for economic prosperity, and in support of equal access to education for all Americans," said Rajesh Patel, owner of the Saffron Flavors of India.

The meeting was also attended by Richard Grenell, former acting director of National Intelligence during the Trump administration.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## US Presidential Commission recommends translating federal websites in Hindi, Gujarati and Punjabi, among other Asian languages

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A US Presidential Commission has recommended the translation of key government websites,



such as the White House and other federal agencies, in languages spoken by Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, including Hindi, Gujarati and Punjabi.

A series of recommendations in this regard were recently approved by the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans (AA), Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). The full commission at its meeting here early this month had recommended that federal agencies should provide key documents, digital content, and forms on their websites translated into multiple AA and NHPI languages. It also recommended that public and emergency alerts should be accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. The full commission also recommended that the federal government should ensure that emergency/disaster prevention, planning, response, mitigation, and recovery programs are inclusive of and reflect the lived experiences of limited English proficient populations.

The set of recommendations now move to the White House for the president to take a final call on it.

Such a series of recommendations is in the pipeline for some time now after Indian-American Ajay Jain Bhutoria had run a multi-language publicity campaign for Democratic candidate and now US President Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election. Election campaigns in Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Telugu and other South Asian languages helped the Biden campaign make a deep impact in the community. Based out of Silicon Valley and a successful entrepreneur, Bhutoria is now one of the members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (Commission).

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## During pandemic, India and US played critical role in supporting each other: Ambassador Sandhu

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Over the last two years, there has been a tremendous challenge due to the disruption in global supply chains and like the US, India has also been affected, he said in his address to the Indiana Economic Summit in Indianapolis.

However, through careful policies and a concerted focus on rebuilding their capabilities, they have managed to emerge from the pandemic stronger, Sandhu said this week.

"During this period, India and the US played a critical role in supporting each other," the Indian envoy said.

This was particularly so in health supply chains where India supplied critical medicines and personal protective equipment to the US in 2020, Sandhu said.

"We supplied nearly two million masks to Philadelphia. The US reciprocated with vaccine and drug components during the second Delta wave in India in 2021. India demonstrated that it was a reliable supply chain partner to the US even in difficult circumstances.

"Domestically, we are building strength through improving the Ease of Doing Business, removing barriers to foreign investment, reforming the tax and incentive structure, and fostering innovation. In fact, India is perhaps the only country, which has come out with bold economic reforms during the pandemic. It is only a matter of time before we become the world's third largest economy," he said.

On his maiden visit to Indiana as India's Ambassador, Sandhu not only had meetings with the top government officials but also had interaction with the students and academics of the prestigious Purdue University and eminent members of the Indian-American community.

He also visited a local gurdwara in Indiana and interacted with the Sikh community. His community reception



During the COVID-19 pandemic, India and the US played a critical role in supporting each other, New Delhi's top envoy in Washington Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said. File photo

among others was attended by state-level officials and also from neighboring Ohio including its young Hindu State Senator Niraj Atani.

"From India to Indiana, our partnerships have only just begun!" Sandhu said, reflecting on the key role that Indiana is playing in the bilateral relationship.

Indiana's bilateral trade now is over USD 1 billion. Indiana Governor Eric J Holcomb is probably the only American governor to have visited India twice in 2017 and 2019.

In 2019, he also had a meeting with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Governor and the Ambassador had a focused interaction highlighting the economic and commercial ties between India and the US.

They noted the investments made by Indian companies in Indiana including Infosys. Indian companies provide several thousand jobs in Indiana. Similarly, several Indiana companies have invested in India.

"We had a substantive discussion on our deepening partnership in healthcare, digital/IT and education,"

Sandhu tweeted.

Sandhu, during his Indiana visit, also had meetings with CEOs of Cummins, Ely Lilly, and Elanco, wherein they discussed issues in terms of attracting investments in India.

"This week, I visited the impressive campus of" Purdue University, Sandhu tweeted, adding that he was delighted to meet with leading faculty members, working on cutting edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas and learn about their close partnership with Indian institutions.

After a meeting with Senator Todd Young, the Ambassador in a tweet described him as a friend of India.

"His work to strengthen India-US strategic partnership and to support community is deeply appreciated," Sandhu said.

In Indiana, Sandhu also met tech icon and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt.

"Discussed the limitless possibilities in tech, innovation and education. Thanked him for administering the unique Quad STEM Fellowships," he said.

Describing his visit to the Infosys campus in Indiana as impressive, Sandhu said the IT giant has state-of-the-art facilities in Indianapolis, sharpening the US competitive edge, innovating on the next generation of technologies, and adding value to local communities.

In his meetings and public address, Sandhu underscored that domestically, India is building strength through improving the Ease of Doing Business, removing barriers to foreign investment, reforming the tax and incentive structure, and fostering innovation.

"In fact, India is perhaps the only country, which has come out with bold economic reforms during the pandemic. It is only a matter of time before we become the world's third largest economy," he added. (Source: PTI)

## GUNMAN KILLS 4 BEFORE SHOOTING HIMSELF AT HOSPITAL IN OKLAHOMA



Police officers walk near people embracing at the reunion location, Memorial High School, where they wait to get more information after a shooting at the Saint Francis hospital campus, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 1, 2022. Photo / Reuters

**OKLAHOMA (TIP):** A gunman carrying a rifle and a handgun killed four people on Wednesday, June 1 at a Tulsa medical building on a hospital campus, police said, the latest in a series of deadly mass shootings across the country in recent weeks, AP reported.

Tulsa Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Dagleish confirmed the number of dead and said the shooter also was dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The spate of recent gun violence across the country, including the killing of 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school eight days ago by an 18-year-old gunman carrying an AR-style semi-automatic rifle, has led to Democratic leaders amplifying their calls for greater restrictions on guns, while Republicans are emphasizing more security at schools.

The divide mirrors a partisan split that has stymied action in Congress and many state capitols over how best to respond to a record-high number of gun-related deaths in the U.S.

It was unclear what prompted the deadly assault in Tulsa, Dagleish said.

"It appears both weapons at one point or another were fired on the scene," Dagleish said. "The officers who arrived were hearing shots in the building, and that's what led them to the second floor."

Police responded to the call about three minutes after dispatchers received the report at 4:52 p.m. and made contact with the gunman roughly five minutes later, at 5:01 p.m. Dagleish said.

"I was very happy with what we know so far regarding the response of our officers," Dagleish said.

The length of time it took police officers in Uvalde, Texas, to engage the gunman during last week's deadly shooting at Robb Elementary School has become a key focus of that investigation.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## India-US solidarity for global good, says Congressman Darren Soto

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The solidarity between India and the United States is a force for global good, a top American lawmaker has said, noting that the two countries worked closely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congressman Darren Soto said he looks forward to continued collaboration between the US and India.

"Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the strong, multidimensional, and mutually vital partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of India," Soto said in his remarks on the floor of the US House of Representatives on Wednesday.

"Our two nations share a partnership for peace, progress, and prosperity. The solidarity between our two democratic



Congressman Darren Soto said he looks forward to continued collaboration between the US and India.

countries and open economies is a force for global good," he said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Soto said, the two nations worked closely.

"There was robust collaboration in the health sector, including in vaccines, where the US provided raw materials to

India for vaccine production during a time of surging cases in the country," he said.

Sotto said one of the important pillars of this relationship is the enduring bridge provided by the Indian-American community in his district.

"I regularly meet with Indian-American community members, including successful hotel owner Mr Jan Gautam, and learn from them about our Indian friends and their progress," he added.

"Support from the Indian-American community, through the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, was instrumental in assisting Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria," the Congressman said. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Operation Blue Star — A festering wound

**38 years after it took place, the infamous Operation Blue Star is a festering wound for the Sikh community the world over whose psyche was terribly hurt to find their Holiest Shrine desecrated, the Holy Akal Takht — sign of the Sikh dignity-raged to the ground, and thousands of innocent pilgrims killed, all in the name of neutralizing “Sikh extremists/ militants” led by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Hundreds of books and thousands of articles have been published on the issue, and the authors have analyzed the causes and the effects, and, of course, their views on the issue diverged, but almost all have questioned the need and wisdom to have a military operation to “neutralize the Sikh extremists / militants”.**

**Just as the Jews have not forgotten the Holocaust, the Operation Blue Star will continue to be a festering wound for the Sikh community.**

It happened 38 years ago but it feels as if it was yesterday – the heart, body and mind still feel the tremors of the emotional earthquake it caused. The force of those tremors intensifies every year when June 6 approaches. Operation Bluestar (saka neela tara), a fancy-sounding name given to a dreadful military action at the Sikhs’ holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was launched on June 2, 1984, with a ‘national broadcast to the nation’ by then prime minister Indira Gandhi. It was claimed to have been completed successfully on June 6 with the ending of the last resistance by Sikh combatants to the army’s entry at the Temple. State media (TV and radio) and other non-state media outlets praised the operation for saving India’s ‘unity and integrity’ from ‘anti-national’ Sikh secessionism.

The most reliable estimates of the total number of deaths during Operation Bluestar range from 5,000 to 7,000. It was a tragedy that could have been avoided if – and it is a big if – Indira Gandhi had had the vision to reach a political settlement with the moderate Akali leadership. Most Akali Dal demands – regarding federal decentralisation, river water rights, territorial readjustment and the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab as its capital – could have been negotiated. Rajiv Gandhi did agree to each of these demands, and many more besides, in the 1985 Rajiv-Longowal Accord. He implemented none.

Indira Gandhi’s political decision to use the ‘Hindu card’ to gain electoral victories led her to choose a dangerous path of confrontation, first with the Akalis and eventually with the entire Sikh community. This miscalculation cost Mrs Gandhi her life, and left the



*The Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, after the Operation Blue Star in 1984.*

communities of Punjab and of India in general scarred and polarised. This polarisation peaked with the genocidal violence against the Sikh minority in

Delhi and many other North Indian Hindu majority towns in November 1984 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh security guards. Sikh nationalists in Punjab were eventually defeated, at least militarily, by the 1990s, but Hindu nationalism was promoted so powerfully that the Hindu nationalists succeeded within a few decades in capturing the Indian state.

In the Sikhs’ collective memory of 1984, the deaths by army action in June and those by genocidal mob violence in November constitute two ends of the same arc of killings. The two cannot be separated and, therefore, remain indelibly linked to the memory of Operation Bluestar, which is seen as the trigger both for the killings and for later disappearances, killings in custody and deaths by ‘encounters’ during the military operations against the armed Sikh opposition movement after the events of 1984.

Operation Bluestar is gradually finding a place in the Sikh practice of ardaas (prayer). This practice is unique in the

history of world religions because it gives collective memory a central place. On all important occasions – birth, marriage, death, new job, promotion, passing an examination, new house, Gurdwarab celebrations (in honour of the gurus’ birthdays), or even the daily rituals in a gurdwara – the ardaas recounts in capsule form the history of the Sikh faith.

The ardaas narrative starts with the founding of the faith by Guru Nanak, its continuation by his nine successors and the sacrifices made by the tenth guru Guru Gobind Singh’s four sons (sahibzade), the five Beloved Ones (panj piare), the 40 Liberated Ones (chali mukte) and numerous other martyrs right up to the present time. Sikhs have a long memory. Udham Singh waited for 21 years to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 by assassinating Michael O’Dwyer in 1940. The Naxalite Sikhs punished a Sikh landlord Ajaib Singh Kokri, a witness against the revolutionary Bhagat Singh, by assassinating him in 1974, 43 years after Bhagat Singh was hanged in 1931. The



*Akal Takht reconstruction work in 1992 – Photo: Hb Singh / Asia Samachar.*

## From P14

socialisation from early childhood of anyone growing up in a Sikh household (irrespective of the political affiliation of the household) involves such a focused exercise in historical remembrance that most adult Sikhs remember the ardaas by heart, whether they are illiterate farmers or university academics. The ardaas contributes to the making of an active historical being who remembers the past, relates that past to the present and imagines the shaping of the future.

## Blue Star bloodbath

Shortly after 10.30 p.m. on June 5, 1984, 20 men in black dungarees stealthily entered the Golden Temple. They wore night-vision goggles, M-1 steel helmets, bulletproof vests and carried a mix of MP-5 submachine guns and AK-47 assault rifles. The men of sg's 56th Commando Company were then the only force in India trained for room intervention, the specialised art of fighting in confined spaces. Each commando was a sharpshooter, diver and parachutist and could do 40-km speed marches. Some of them wore gas masks and carried stubby gas guns meant to launch CX gas canisters, a more potent tear gas. Three months before this night, the commandos had stayed around the temple and rehearsed for Operation Sundown. Some of them still sported the beards they had grown for their undercover work as volunteers in the Golden Temple's langar. When the plan was called off, they returned to their base in Sarsawa. They had flown into Amritsar the previous day at the request of Lt-Gen Sundarji.

The three battalions that Lt-Gen Brar's 9th Infantry Division sent into the Golden Temple that night were trained to fight a conventional combat on the plains of Punjab and in the deserts of Rajasthan. They would overwhelm the enemy by sheer force of numbers. The commandos, who spearheaded the assault, made use of stealth, speed and surprise to achieve results. Soon after arriving, one of the sg officers had briefed Lt-Gen Ranjit Singh Dayal, Sundarji's chief of staff, on a plan to capture the Akal Takht by blowing off its rear wall. General Dayal, a paratrooper who had captured the Haji Pir pass in an unconventional operation in the 1965 war, immediately overruled it. "There must be no damage to the Akal Takht," he said. The commandos were to capture the sacred building by using gas to flush out the militants, he said.

The Army had clearly underestimated the defences. As soon as they entered the temple, a sniper shot the unit's radio operator clean through his helmet. The rest took cover in the long gallery of pillars that led to the Akal Takht. Light machine guns and carbines crackled from behind impregnable walls of the temple, their multiple gun flashes blinding the commandos' night-vision devices, forcing them to take them off. The commandos and infantry soldiers cautiously advanced, sheltering behind rows of pillars. Those who tried to advance towards the Akal Takht were cut down on the marble parikrama. An armoured personnel carrier bringing in troops was immobilised by a rocket-propelled grenade. "Shabeg knew the Army's Achilles heel," says an SG colonel. "He knew we couldn't fight in built-up areas."

Post-midnight, remnants of the sg unit and the Army's 1 Para huddled near a fountain at the base of the Akal Takht. The area between the Akal Takht and the Darshani Deori that led to the Golden



CRPF personnel take position for the siege of the Golden temple during Operation Blue Star.



Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Harchand Singh Longowal, Balwant Ramoowalia, and others take an oath of 'marjeevrajs' in front of Sri Akal Takht Sahib to defend the sanctity of Sri Dabar Sahib complex in case it is attacked by the Indian forces.

Temple had turned into a killing zone, covered by Shabeg's light machine guns. Attempts by the para-commandos to storm the defences were repeatedly beaten back. They lost at least 17 men, their black dungaree-clad bodies lying prone on white marble. Commandos who tried to fire the CX gas canisters discovered that the Akal Takht's windows had been bricked up. The only openings were horizontal slots out of which machine guns poured deadly fire. The commandos neutralised two of the machine gun nests by dropping grenades into them but the Akal Takht was impregnable. Then, around 7.30 a.m. on June 5, three Vickers-Vijayanta tanks were deployed. They fired 105 mm shells and knocked down the walls of the Akal Takht. Commandos and infantrymen then moved in to mop up the defenders, tossing gas and lobbing grenades inside the building.

The temple premises resembled a medieval battlefield, one sg trooper recalls. Bloodied and blackened bodies lay scattered around the white temple parikrama. In the basement of the blackened, still-smoking ruin of the Akal Takht, the commandos found the body of Shabeg. The Army recovered 51 light machine guns, 31 of which had been concentrated around the Akal Takht. "Normally, an army unit (of around 800 soldiers) would deploy this quantum of firepower to cover an area of about eight km," Lt-Gen Brar recounted in his book Operation Blue Star: The

True Story. Shabeg, he believed, wanted to hold out until daylight in the hope that there would be a popular uprising among the people when they get to know of the army action. The former war hero had extracted a bloody price on an army he felt had wronged him.

Operation Blue Star has come to be remembered as the teeja Ghallughara (the third holocaust). Many gurdwaras outside India and perhaps some even in India have incorporated the remembrance of the teeja Ghallughara in the ardaas. In Sikh historical memory, there have been two Ghallugharas before Operation Blue Star – the chhota Ghallughara (the small holocaust) and the wadda Ghallughara (the big holocaust). The chhota Ghallughara took place in May 1746 when, according to estimates made by the celebrated Sikh historian Professor Ganda Singh, about 10,000 Sikh men and women were killed. The wadda Ghallughara took place in February 1762 when about 30,000 Sikh men, women and children were slaughtered. According to one as yet unconfirmed estimate, about half of the total Sikh population was liquidated during the wadda Ghallughara.

These were the darkest times in the history of the Sikhs. These massacres could have demoralised them to the point of extinction, but, inspired by the memories of their gurus and martyrs, they regrouped and within a few decades of the wadda Ghallughara, emerged literally from the ashes to

become the de facto rulers of Punjab in the last quarter of the 18th century. By 1799, one of them (Ranjit Singh) formalised that de facto rule to become the Maharaja of Punjab. The force of memory weighed upon him too and he ruled, therefore, in the name of the gurus. Some features of feudal degeneration which emerged during his rule were the result of his dissociation from the memory of the path of the gurus.

During the dark times the Sikh community faced from 1716, when the Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur was martyred, to 1799 when Ranjit Singh came to power, Harmandar Sahib (later known more popularly as the Golden Temple) became the nerve centre for the moral, political, military, spiritual and even economic empowerment of the community. While living the life of guerrilla combatants against the Moghul powers, the leading members of the community would meet twice a year on Vaisakhi and Diwali for deliberations and collective decision-making for the future survival of the community. Once in the precincts of the Harmandar Sahib, they considered themselves protected by the Guru and had no fear of any earthly powers such as the Moghul rulers they had to confront. The mystique of the Harmandar grew and this mystique has continued and strengthened over the centuries. The Golden Temple has literally become the heart of the community.

The death, destruction and sacrilege caused during Operation Blue Star pierced the heart not only of the Sikhs but also of many Punjabi Hindus. The devastation it caused in the personal lives of so many millions has still not been fully recorded and acknowledged because the political divide over the attitudes towards Operation Blue Star has overshadowed the human stories.

A whole generation has grown up after the Operation and many in this new generation have become parents. They hear and read about the Operation and try to understand the meaning of it to reconnect to the history of their parents, their grandparents and before. Many of them are devising new tools and media to relate to that history. Of many doctoral dissertations I have evaluated as an external examiner, one by Shruti Devgun of Rutgers University, USA on 'Re-Presenting Pasts: Sikh Diasporic and Digital Memories of 1984' stands out for its subject and methodology. Her thesis focuses on the work of an intergenerational cohort of Sikhs in the diaspora (in the US and Canada) who are trying to piece together the fragments of painful pasts 'to give cultural meaning and shape to broken traumatic experiences'.

Through their work, they are puncturing, and perhaps demolishing, the Indian State's narratives of Operation Blue Star. This painful 'memory work' is creating new spaces for them to understand and connect with the pain of the victims of many other genocides e.g., the Jews, the Palestinians, the Armenians and the Rwandan Tutsis.

The wounds may never heal but by connecting your pain to the pain of others, the meaning and experience of pain is transformed.

Source: *The Wire and India Today*.  
Writers: Pritam Singh and Sandeep Unnithan



### WILL BE A SMALL SOLDIER OF PM MODI, SAYS HARDIK PATEL BEFORE JOINING BJP

Ahead of joining the BJP on Thursday, June 2, Hardik Patel tweeted he is going to start a new chapter in his life with the national interest, state interest, public interest and social interest being on the top of his mind. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Hardik Patel wrote, "I will work as a small soldier in the noble service of the nation under the successful leadership of PM Narendra Bhai Modi."

The Patidar leader will be inducted into the BJP by Gujarat party president CR Paatil.

After expressing his disappointment with the Congress for months, Hardik Patel on May 18 resigned from the party accusing the senior leadership of the Grand Old Party of disinterest in the real issues of Gujarat.

"It is a fact that Congress benefited immensely in the 2017 Assembly polls due to the Patidar quota agitation (led by him). However, I was not given any responsibility even after making me working president. I was not even invited to the key meetings of the party. It never arranged my press conference during the last three years," Hardik Patel said after he quit the Congress. *Source: HT*

# ED summons Sonia Gandhi, Rahul in National Herald case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Weeks after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal in connection with its National Herald money laundering probe, the central agency has summoned the party's president Sonia Gandhi and Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi to appear before it on June 8 in connection with the case filed six months ago.

The summons drew furious reactions from the Congress, which described the case as "weird" since "no money was involved" and said that the charges were "more hollow than a pack of cards". "We will face them. We are not a bit scared or overawed or intimidated by such cheap tactics," the party's spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said at a press conference along with the party's communication head Randeep Surjewala.

Reacting to the Congress' allegations that the Government was trying to quell the opposition like how the British had tried during the freedom struggle, BJP president J P Nadda said that "documents don't lie, and documents are permanent and thereby they are being scrutinised". "The problem is with the face but the mirror is being cleaned," Nadda told reporters in Bhopal where he is on a three-day visit.

The ED case is based on a trial court order that allowed the Income Tax Department to probe the affairs of National Herald newspaper and conduct a tax assessment of Sonia and Rahul. The order was the result of a petition filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Swamy's complaint had alleged cheating and misappropriation of funds on part of the Gandhis in acquiring the newspaper. Swami had alleged that the Gandhis acquired properties owned by National Herald by buying the newspaper's erstwhile publishers, AJL, through an organisation called Young India in which they have 86 per cent stake. Sonia and Rahul were granted bail in the case by the trial court on December 19, 2015.

In Swamy's complaint before the trial court, Sonia, Rahul and others have been accused of misappropriating funds by paying Rs 50 lakh for Young Indian (YI) to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AJL owed to the Congress.

It was alleged that YI, which was incorporated in November 2010 with a capital of Rs 50 lakh, had acquired almost all the shareholding of AJL, which was running



National Herald. The I-T department had claimed that the shares owned by Rahul in YI would lead him to have an income of Rs 154 crore and not about Rs 68 lakh, as was assessed earlier. It has already issued a demand notice for Rs 249.15 crore to YI for the assessment year 2011-12.

Earlier, ED had initiated a money laundering probe against AJL in 2018 in connection with a plot allotted to it in Haryana's Panchkula by then chief minister and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The ED had attached the plot, accusing the company of having acquired it "fraudulently". Hooda is an accused in the money laundering case registered by the agency in the matter.

The Congress said on Wednesday that the summons for Sonia and Rahul were received "just a few days ago" and Sonia will "100 per cent" appear before the ED. "If Rahul Gandhi is here, he will also go. Otherwise we will seek some time," Singhvi said.

Singhvi said that AJL had come under financial stress over the decades after which the Congress stepped in and over a period of time gave around Rs 90 crore as financial support. "So AJL became an indebted company, a company with debt. AJL did what every company in India does...it converted its debt into equity. So this debt of Rs 90 crore was assigned to a new company. It is called Young India so that the books of AJL become debt-free," he said. *Source: The Indian Express*

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence witness attacked in UP

LAKHIMPUR KHERI (TIP)

BKU leader Dilbag Singh, a witness in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, was allegedly attacked by two men here, police said on Wednesday, June 1.

The attack took place on Tuesday night when the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Tikait) district president was returning home from Aliganj-Muda road in Gola kotwali area in his SUV when the bike-borne miscreants opened fire on him.

Singh did not receive any injury.

Singh is one of the witnesses in the Tikunia violence of October 3, 2021 in which eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, had died. Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was arrested in the case.

Talking to PTI over phone, the BKU leader said the miscreants punctured a tyre of his SUV following which he had to stop the vehicle.

"The assailants tried to open the



doors and windows of the SUV. Having failed to do so, they fired two shots at a windowpane," he said.

Singh said he was driving the SUV and was alone. He said sensing the intentions of the attackers he folded the driver seat and bent down.

As the windows were covered with a dark film, the attackers could not locate him in the SUV and fled the scene. *Source: PTI*

## Satyendar Jain, Delhi health minister, sent to ED custody till June 9

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Satyendar Jain, Delhi's health minister, was sent to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till June 9, a day he was arrested by the agency in a money laundering case.

Jain, who holds various portfolios, including health, home and power, in the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi, was produced in the Rouse Avenue Court.

Special judge Geetanjali Goel remanded Jain in ED's custody, noting that his custodial interrogation was required to unearth the larger conspiracy. Jain was represented by senior advocate N Hari Haran, while the solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for the central agency.

Hours ago, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the ED case against his cabinet colleague is a fraud one (farzi), adding that his government "is honest and does not tolerate

corruption".

"We have faith in judiciary. This farzi (fake) case won't last. We are following the path of truth," Kejriwal told reporters.

In January, ahead of the Punjab Assembly election, Kejriwal had said he had learnt from sources that Jain could be arrested by the ED.

The central agency's probe is based on a 2017 case of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in which it was alleged that the AAP leader and his wife Poonam Jain had amassed disproportionate assets worth ₹1.47 crore between February 2015 and May 2017, which was more than double their known sources of income.

The Delhi minister was arrested under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after around four hours of questioning on Monday, during which he reportedly gave evasive replies on the money trail. *Source: HT*



MOOSEWALA MURDER

# Police begin process to bring Lawrence Bishnoi to Punjab; SIT recast

**Recce before attack: Toyota Corolla car used in the crime seen multiple times in CCTV footage three days before murder of Moosewala, say Punjab Police**

BATHINDA (TIP)

Punjab Director General of Police VK Bhawra on June 1 strengthened and reconstituted the special investigation team (SIT) probing the Sidhu Moosewala murder case even as the Punjab Police have begun the process to bring jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to the state for interrogation.

The six-member SIT will be headed by ADGP, Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), Pramod Ban. It will have a new chairman, IGP (Punjab Armed Police) Jaskaran Singh, and two other new members — Assistant Inspector General (AGTF) Gurmeet Singh Chauhan and Mansa SSP Gaurav Toora.

Mansa SP (Investigation) Dharamveer Singh, Bathinda DSP (Investigation) Vishawajeet Singh and Mansa CIA in-charge Prithipal Singh are its existing members.

In his fresh order, DGP Bhawra stated that the SIT should conduct the investigation on a day-to-day basis, arrest the perpetrators of the crime and on the completion of the investigation, submit the report in the court of competent jurisdiction.

Talking to mediapersons, the Mansa SSP said: “We will question jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi after bringing him to the state in connection with the murder of Sidhu Moosewala. At present, Bishnoi is in the custody of the Delhi Police. We will make him join the investigation in this case, as per law.”

It has been learnt that a Punjab Police team has left for Delhi to bring Bishnoi on production warrant.

He said the police were probing various angles in connection with the murder of the singer as they had got a number of leads. “Cops have traced the route the criminals took from the CCTV footage. From where they came, how they conducted the recce and how they escaped – we have got it all,” the SSP said.

“We have arrested one person and have brought two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang on production warrant from Bathinda and Ferozpur jails to Mansa. They have been remanded in six-day police custody,” the SSP said, adding that during the interrogation “we expect to get some more information about the assailants”.

The police are probing the role of Lawrence Bishnoi and his Canada-based aide Goldy Brar, who had taken



Forensic team investigates Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala's vehicle at Mansa Police Station.(ANI)

responsibility for the crime, the SSP added. Sidhu Moosewala was killed by unidentified persons at Jawaharke village in Mansa on Sunday evening. He suffered 25 bullet wounds. On Tuesday, he was cremated in the presence of thousands of his fans.

**Suspect facing 10 criminal cases**

Manpreet Singh, a person arrested by police from Dehradun, in Sidhu Moosewala murder case, belongs to Dhaipai village of Faridkot.

Police have accused Manpreet Singh of supplying vehicles and logistic support to the assailants who murdered Moosewala.

As per Faridkot police record, Manpreet Singh was involved in 10 criminal cases so far. Maximum of these cases, seven are registered at different police stations in Faridkot district. He is facing one criminal case each at Muktsar and Kurali.

In most of these cases, he was accused of making criminal assaults, possessing illegal weapons and also possessing narcotics. In four of these cases, he has been acquitted by the court. In all other cases, he is out on bail.

Baljit Kaur, mother of Manpreet Singh, claimed innocence of their son. Accusing police of framing her son in Moosewala's murder case, she alleged that her son was made an easy target due to a dossier of criminal cases against him in the past.

Source: TNS



**SINGLE-DAY RISE OF 3,712 NEW COVID-19 INFECTIONS, 5 DEATHS**

With 3,712 new coronavirus infections recorded in a day, India's infection tally rose to 4,31,64,544, while the total number of active cases increased to 19,509, the Union health ministry said on Thursday, June 2.

The country's covid-19 death toll has climbed to 5,24,641, with five latest fatalities reported from Kerala, the ministry data updated at 8am stated.

The active cases comprised 0.05 per cent of the total infections, while the national covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74 per cent, the health ministry said.

An increase of 1,123 cases has been recorded in the active covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.84 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.67 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,20,394, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

The cumulative number of doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 193.7 crore.

In April, IIT-Madras, had turned into a cluster with a total of 237 students turning positive and officials had said then it was due to students returning to campus from various parts of the country.

India's weekly positivity rate stands at .67 per cent.

**SRINAGAR (TIP)**

A Hindu teacher from Jammu's Samba district, posted in Kashmir Valley's Kulgam, was shot dead just outside the school by militants on Tuesday, May 31, morning. Target killings have left seven civilians dead this month in the Valley.

Two local Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants were shot dead in an anti-militancy operation in Pulwama, taking their death toll to around 27 this month.

Officials said militants fired from close range at Rajni Bala, 36, around 10 a.m. The staff and students of the Government High School, Gopalpora in Kulgam were about to finish the morning assembly when militants intercepted Ms. Bala outside the school, which is located around eight km away from the Kulgam town at a secluded place with orchards around.

“The gunmen shot Ms. Balal in her head,” the officials stated.

# Hindu teacher shot dead at Kulgam school as Kashmir sees 7th targeted killing this month

The police said Ms. Bala was shifted to a hospital in critical condition but died of her injuries. She was recruited under the Schedule Caste (SC) quota five years ago and was posted in Kashmir.

In October last, a teacher from Jammu, also recruited under the SC category, was shot dead inside a school in Srinagar's Eidgah locality.

“The government should do something about targeted killings. We want justice in our case. My sister-in-law was here (Samba) two months ago. She never complained of any threat, though she did talk about lurking fear of late,” a relative of Bala said in Samba.



Rajni Bala

Earlier this month, militants killed six civilians, including a Kashmiri Pandit

employee, a woman artist, a wine shop employee and three policemen, in six separate targeted attacks in the Valley.

The killing of policeman Saifullah Qadri outside his house on May 24 in Srinagar's Soura saw the security forces stepping up operations against militants. Sixteen militants have been killed since then in the Valley. The police claimed that among the slain militants included those behind four target killings, including the cases of Kashmiri Pandit employee Rahul Bhat, artist Amreen Bhat and two policemen. Besides, the module behind the wine shop attack in Baramulla was also busted.

Source: The Hindu

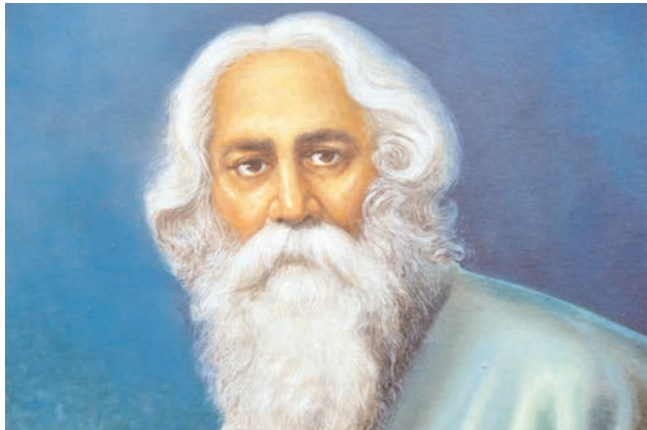
# India in history this Week

## JUNE 3, 2022, TO JUNE 9, 2022

### 03 JUNE

1867 Birth of India's famous educationist, politician, social reformer, jurist and writer Harvilas Sharda.

1901 Birth of first winner of Jnanpith Award Mahakavi Ji Shankar Krup.



1915 The British government conferred the title of knighthood on Rabindranath Tagore.

1918 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' was organized in Indore under the chairmanship of Mahatma Gandhi and based on a resolution passed in it, Hindi was considered as the official language.

1924 The birth of M Karunanidhi, five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

1930 The birth of George Fernandes, the historic railway strike organizer in India.

1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India under the British Raj, announced the partition of India.

1972 The country's first modern warship, the Nilgiris, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi.

1974 Death of Bihar Chief Minister and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahay.

1985 The Government of India started a five-day working day week.

2014 Former Union Minister Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi.

### 04 JUNE



1936 India's unmatched actress Nutan was born on 4 June.

1959 C. Rajagopalachari announced the formation of the Swatantra Party.

1997 Telecom satellite reached 2D chamber.

2008 In 2008, the Haryana government also announced the benefit of family pension to girls below 25 years of age.

1931 Hindi film actress Bina Rai was born in 1931.

1959 Anil Ambani, president and famous businessman of Reliance Group, was born in 1959.

1947 Hindi and Marathi film actor Ashok Saraf was born in 1947.

1962 Achanta Lakshmipati, famous for the propagation of Ayurvedic medicines, died in 1962.

1984 Operation Bluestar was carried out by the Indian Army in the Golden Temple located in Amritsar, Punjab, the religious site of Sikhs.

### 05 JUNE

1659 Aurangzeb, the ruler of the Mughal Empire, officially ascended the throne of Delhi in 1659.

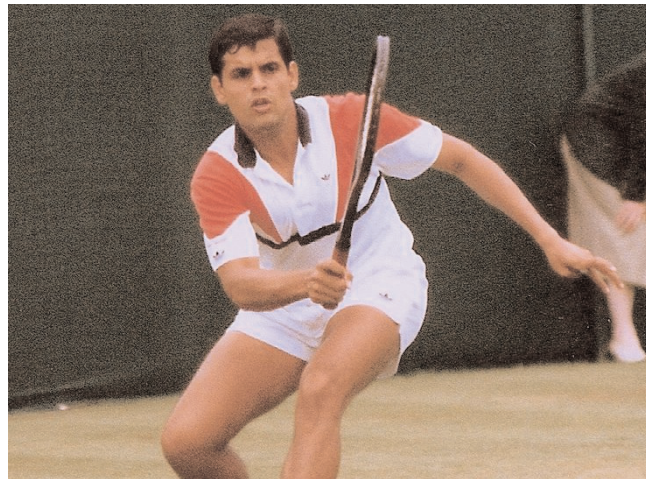
1882 In Bombay (now Mumbai), about one lakh people died in 1882 due to storms and floods.

2001 In 2001 the work of investigating the royal family in Nepal was blocked by the resignation of Madhavan, a member of the royal assassination inquiry commission.

2002 In 2002 Pakistan rejected the proposal of a joint patrol along the Indian border.

2017 Successful launch of the heaviest rocket "GSLV Mark-3D-1" in 2017.

1972 Yogi Adityanath, the 21st Chief Minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh, was born in 1972.



1961 India's famous tennis coach and former tennis player Ramesh Krishnan was born.

1879 The originator of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India. M. Joshi was born.

### 06 JUNE



1929 Actor, politician and social activist Sunil Dutt was born in Jhelum (present-day Pakistan), West Punjab.

1674 Kshatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was crowned.

1981 A train fell in Bihar's Bagmati river, killing 800 of the 1000 people on board.

1997 In Bangkok, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand formed an economic cooperation group called 'Bistek'.

1999 Indian tennis duo Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the Grand Slam title.

### 07 JUNE

1893 Mahatma Gandhi used civil disobedience for the first time in South Africa.

1914 Film director, writer and journalist Khwaja Ahmed Abbas was born on June 7 in Panipat.



1974 Indian tennis superstar Mahesh Bhupathi was born on 7 June in Chennai.

1975 The first match of the first World Cup was played between India and England at Lord's Stadium. India lost in this match.

1631 Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife Mumtaz Begum died at the age of 39 in Burhanpur.

1989 India's second satellite Bhaskar I was launched with a Soviet rocket.

2006 India decides to give one billion rupees to Nepal for economic reconstruction.

2008 The Uttar Pradesh government declared 4% VAT on LPG to be completely abolished.

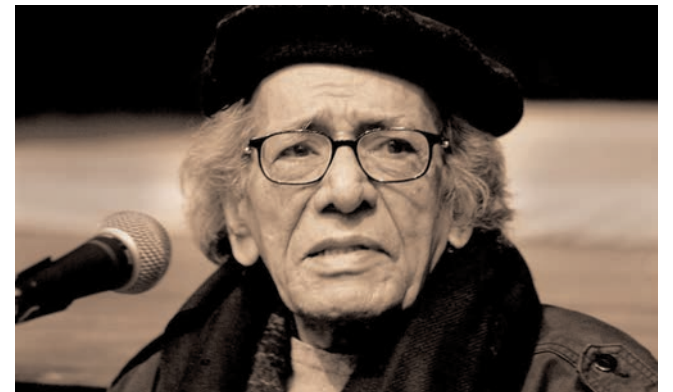
### 08 JUNE

1948 India's first airline, Air India, started air service between India and Britain.

1658 Aurangzeb captured the fort of Agra and Shah Jahan was imprisoned.

1936 The Indian State Broadcasting Service, the official radio service of India, was renamed All India Radio.

2004 After 122 years, the amazing sight of Venus transit was seen again in many countries of the world including India.



2009 Famous screenwriter, theatrical director, poet and actor Habib Tanveer passed away.

### 09 JUNE

1964 Lal Bahadur Shastri became the second Prime Minister of India.

2001 The pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the French Open doubles title.

1900 Freedom fighter Birsa Munda died in Ranchi jail under suspicious circumstances.

2011 India's famous painter MF Hussain died in London.



# Sri Lankan agricultural minister seeks India's help for food security

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan agricultural minister Mahinda Amaraweera on June 1 met Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and sought India's help for food security and environmental protection in the island nation, as it faces the worst economic crisis in its post-independence history.

Last month, India assured Sri Lanka to immediately supply 65,000 metric tonnes of urea to avoid any disruption to the current Yala cultivation season in Sri Lanka.

Yala is the season of paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka that lasts between May and August.

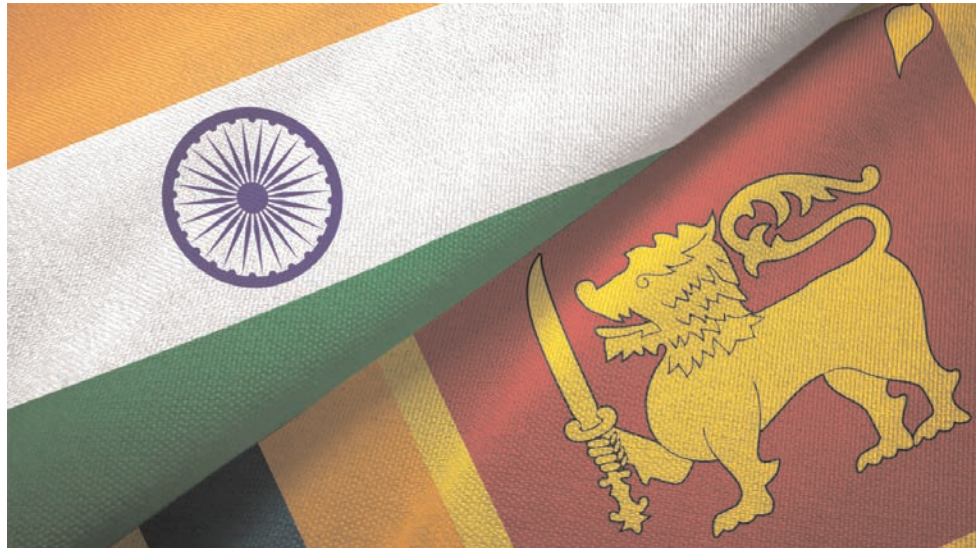
Sri Lankan Agriculture Minister Amaraweera met Indian High Commissioner Baglay and they had discussed the importance of bilateral cooperation for food security and environmental protection, a statement from the High Commission said.

Sources said Amaraweera was keen on getting chemical fertiliser from India under the Indian Line of Credit.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's decision last year to ban chemical fertiliser imports in order to turn into a green economy has caused a food shortage with crop losses amounting to 50 per cent.

Rajapaksa a few weeks ago admitted his decision to ban chemical fertiliser to go 100 per cent organic was wrong.

The agriculturists have warned that the country may encounter a food



shortage by mid-August in the ongoing economic crisis.

India has committed more than USD 3 billion to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year.

Sri Lanka is aiming to boost its agriculture sector to avoid any disruption in the agriculture market following the drop in the paddy cultivation in the Maha session.

Sri Lanka's annual fertiliser imports cost USD 400 million. Farmers across Sri Lanka have intensified their protests due to the lack of fertiliser and being compelled to abandon their farmlands.

The chemical fertiliser ban, combined with bad weather, led to falling crop

yields and contributed to inflation hitting a 47-month high of 8.3 per cent in October with food inflation at 11.7 per cent, Daily Mirror, an online news portal said.

Sri Lanka has more than 2 million farmers and up to 70 per cent of its 22 million people are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

The crisis has provoked widespread protests calling for political reform and the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. (PTI)

## 21 BODIES RECOVERED FROM TARA AIR PLANE CRASH SITE IN NEPAL

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Rescuers on Monday recovered 21 bodies from the wreckage site of the Tara Air plane that crashed in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district on May 29 with 22 people on board, including four Indians, minutes after taking off from the tourist city of Pokhara, officials said.

The turboprop Twin Otter 9N-AET plane went missing on May 29 morning in the mountainous region of Nepal. The Canadian-built plane, flying from Pokhara to the popular tourist town Jomsom in central Nepal, was carrying four Indians, two Germans and 13 Nepali passengers, besides a three-member Nepali crew.

Rescuers have recovered 21 bodies from the crash site, said a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN).

One person was still missing, the statement added.

It said that 10 bodies were brought to Kathmandu, while 11 bodies were taken to the base camp from where the rescue operation is being coordinated.

Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson for Tara Air, said that search and rescue teams are scouring the area for the remaining person.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba have condoled the death of crew members and passengers in the plane crash.

The government has formed a five-member commission of inquiry headed by senior aeronautical engineer Ratish Chandra Lal Suman to find out the cause of the Tara Air plane crash.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the aircraft had crashed into the mountains after it swerved to the right, instead of turning to the left due to inclement weather, CAAN Director-General Pradeep Adhikari said during a meeting of the International Committee of the Parliament on Monday.

Earlier in the afternoon, the CAAN in a statement said that the plane had crashed at Thasang-2 in Mustang district at the height of 14,500 feet.

Inda Singh, who was on his way to clear a blocked road, found out that the plane had crashed. He said the plane was found in a completely damaged condition, MyRepublica newspaper reported.

"All the passengers on the aircraft are found dead," he was quoted as saying by the paper. "The dead bodies are intact and the faces of all victims are recognisable."

He said there was no fire on the aircraft. The aircraft could have met with an accident after hitting a cliff nearby.

Search and rescue teams from Nepal Army, Air Dynasty, Kailash Helicopter and Fishtail Air Helicopter and other rescue workers were deployed at the crash site. (PTI)

## Pakistan's fuel supply threatened as foreign banks refuse financing

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Amid rising subsidy allocations, the Pakistan oil industry is now facing challenges in arranging international finances for import of crude and oil products.

Informed sources told Dawn news that the Petroleum Division had informed the Prime Minister and Finance Minister that arrangements of oil imports were getting tough by the day as foreign banks were not providing financing against Letters of Credit (LCs) opened by oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refineries with the local banks.

A senior official told Dawn that except two large corporations, Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and Pak-Arab Refinery Limited (Parco), all OMCs and refineries were struggling to arrange import of petroleum products and crude.

The sources said about six-seven cargoes worth \$50-75 million each (\$350-500 million cumulative) depending on size and product were held up at present because of the increased risk following some critical statements from the



relevant ministries about the tough fiscal and foreign exchange position.

They said Pakistani banks were opening LCs on behalf of the oil industry, but their partner banks were not extending credit cover, Dawn reported.

"Unfortunately, the country's fuel supply is now also being severely threatened by limited credit facilities, high inflation and increasing rupee-

dollar parity," stated an oil industry's report sent by the Petroleum Division to the Prime Minister Office and the Finance Minister.

The oil industry has told the government that this financial predicament had left the oil industry extremely vulnerable and fragile, adding that this "may result in breakdown of the supply chain". IANS



## Poonam Pandey gets in trouble again

Lock Upp's former contestant Poonam Pandey seems to be stuck in a trouble yet again! A charge sheet has been filed against the model actress and her ex-husband Sam Bombay. Yes, you read that right! Canacona Police has filed a charge sheet against Poonam and Sam for committing an obscene act in 2020. The charge sheet says that model Poonam had indulged in a nude photoshoot at Chapoli Dam, Goa.

In 2020, several people had complained against Poonam, when a video of her photoshoot went viral on social media. This video left netizens angry. The cops have now registered a case against Poonam and Sam for obscene acts in public, vulgar videography, and dancing-singing in an open public space.

For the uninitiated, in November 2020, Poonam and Sam went on a holiday in Canacona, Goa where the incident took place. Now, Poonam has parted ways from Sam in 2021 and he was arrested by the Mumbai police after she accused him of physically assaulting her.

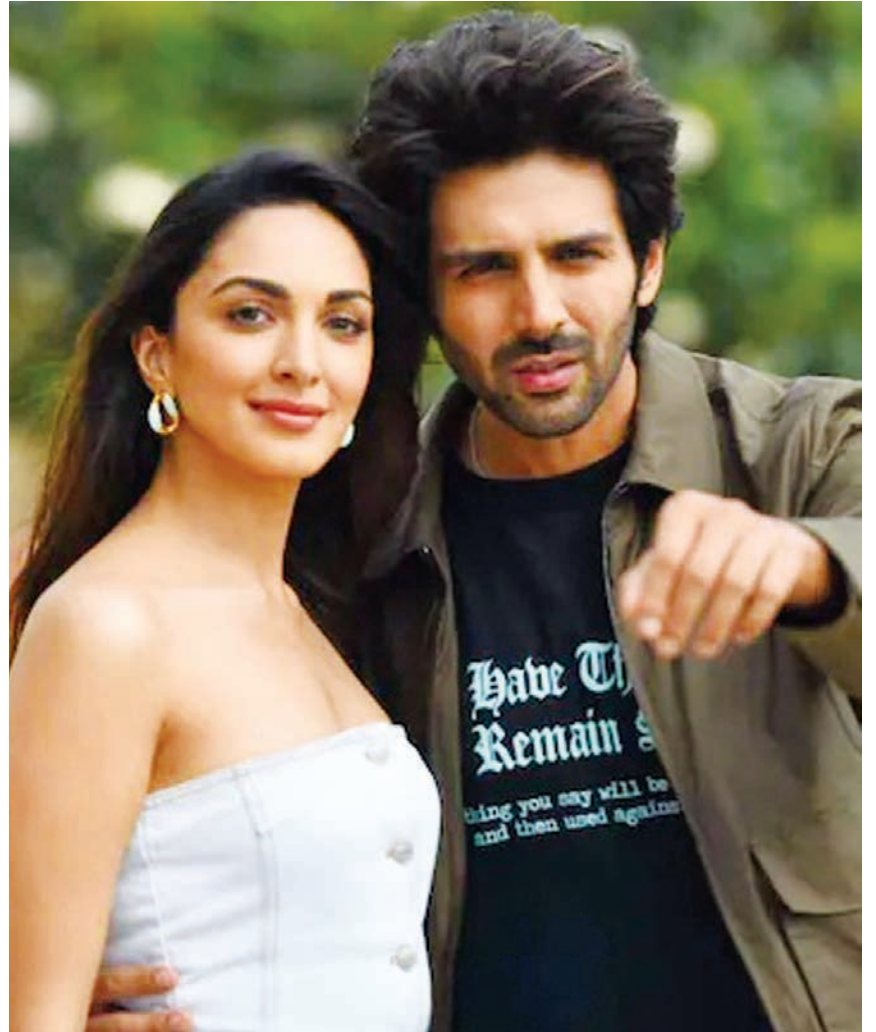
## Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2: Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani's film continues its dream run

**B**hool Bhulaiyaa 2 has managed to impress the audience well. It has been doing a roaring business at the box office ever since its release. The Kartik Aaryan film even managed to cross the Rs 150-crore mark at the worldwide box office collection. Meanwhile, in India, it collected around Rs 133 crore at the total box office collection reportedly. Directed by Aneez Bazmee, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 hit the cinemas on May 20.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 opened to good numbers at the box office. The film received good reviews, and it is attracting crowds to cinemas. According to early trade estimates, the Kartik Aaryan-starrer collection approx Rs 5 crore on Day 12. Hence, the total domestic box office collection would now stand at Rs 133.24 crore. Meanwhile, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 had an overall 15.00 per cent Hindi occupancy on Tuesday, May 31.

Directed by Aneez Bazmee, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 features Kartik Aaryan, Tabu, Kiara Advani and Rajpal Yadav in pivotal roles. The film has been co-produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Murad Khetani and Anjum Khetani. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 released in cinemas on May 20, 2022. The storyline follows Ruhana, a fraud psychic who is brought in to deal with the return of Manjulika in the Thakur palace. However, he unintentionally aggravates problems. The first part of the film featured Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan in key roles and was a huge hit.

Source: India Today



## Singer KK dies after concert in Kolkata

**S**inger KK died hours after a concert in Kolkata on May 31. His official Instagram page has visuals of a concert in a Kolkata auditorium held some 10 hours ago.

The 53-year-old singer collapsed at the hotel where he was staying after the concert in Kolkata's Nazrul Mancha auditorium. Doctor at CMRI hospital said the singer was brought dead.

His post-mortem was conducted at the SSK government hospital in Kolkata. It suggests that the singer suffered a massive cardiac arrest and that he had a chronic liver and a serious lung condition, reports Times Now.

Krishnakumar Kunnath, whose stage name was KK, was known for songs like 'Pal' and 'Yaaron', which went on to become big hits among teens in the late 1990s, often heard during school and college farewells and teen cultural events. "There is a certain energy an artiste gets when he or she is on stage. No matter what one's condition is, once I am on stage, I forget everything and simply perform," KK had said in his memoir on his official website, The Mesmerizer. His 1999 debut album Pal was critically acclaimed. From the early 2000s, he blazed a career in playback singing and recorded a wide range of popular songs for Bollywood films.



## Ranbir says Brahmastra was reshot on Rajamouli's dad's suggestion

**R**anbir Kapoor has revealed that director Ayan Mukerji made changes to their upcoming film Brahmastra, after he got suggestions from SS Rajamouli's father KV Vijayendra Prasad. Brahmastra also stars Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy, Nagarjuna, Amitabh Bachchan among others.

Brahmastra is slated for a theatrical release on September 9. Ranbir and Ayan were in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday to promote the film where he talked about the changes. Ranbir also revealed that Ayan even reshot for four days for the changes in the film.

A Pinkvilla report quoted Ranbir as saying, "After your father watched the film. Ayan made us reshoot for four days after receiving suggestions from SS Rajamouli's father. This is because he values him so much and we all are very grateful for his contribution to our film."

Brahmastra is a mythology-based fantasy trilogy with Ranbir and Alia playing central characters Shiva and Isha. Amitabh plays Professor Arvind Chaturvedi and Nagarjuna is an archaeologist named Ajay Vashisht. Mouni's character is named Damayanti.

Alia could not be present for the event but she sent a video message for her Visakhapatnam fans. She also had a special message for Ranbir Kapoor. She said in the video, "I really wish I could be there today with everyone. I am missing the whole team, Ayan, and Ranbir. But I am there in spirit and especially there in Ranbir's heart." She is shooting for her Hollywood debut outside India.





**Rachel Zegler to play Lucy Gray Baird in Hunger Games prequel**

Fresh off her breakthrough role in Steven Spielberg's West Side Story, Rachel Zegler will star in Lionsgate's planned Hunger Games prequel.

The studio announced Tuesday that Zegler will play Lucy Gray Baird in The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, an extension of the Hunger Games saga that takes place decades before the adventures of Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen. Katniss played in the 74th Hunger Games; Baird will be a part of the 10th Hunger Games.

Suzanne Collins, whose books were adapted into the \$3 billion blockbuster franchise, in 2020 published a prequel novel upon which The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is based. In the film, Lucy Gray Baird, a tribute from the impoverished District 12, sings in a pivotal moment during the reaping ceremony. Zegler stars opposite Tom Blyth, who plays the 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow. *Source: AP*

**Kate Miner, Jason Canela to star in horror-thriller 'Stay Safe'**

Kate Miner, who is known for her work in the comedy-drama TV series 'Shameless' will be leading the horror-thriller 'Stay Safe' along with and American-Cuban actor Jason Canela. The film is about a pandemic hotzone, reports 'Deadline'.

As per 'Deadline', the film has entered post-production and features Miner as Eva and Canela as Patricio, with Katalina Viteri also starring.

Stationed on the front lines of a Pandemic Hotzone, the pic follows Army Surgeon Eva's attempt to uncover the truth behind a subliminal message she received from a patient, while dealing with the unexpected arrival of an illegal immigrant into her home.

'Deadline' further states that American Entertainment Investors, Synkronised Films and Elipsis Capital are behind the film, with Daniela Delfino, who also features in 'Stay Safe', Joseph Cohen and Alex Cohen serving as producers.

'Stay Safe' has been penned by David Gregg, Gia Neri, Rolando Vinas with director Carlos V. Gutierrez at the helm of affairs, who has developed the movie from a story by Clarence Williams IV.

Miner, who is also a singer-songwriter, was most recently seen wrapping the final 11th season of Showtime's 'Shameless', in which she played Phillip Gallagher's love interest Tami Tamietti. Her past credits include 'Fifty Shades of Black' and 'The Campaign'.

Canela joined ABC's 'The Rookie' last year, playing Cesar Madrigal, and has also featured in 'The Glades', Josh Waller's 'Camino', Fox's 'Pitch' and Netflix's 'Always be my Maybe'.

*Source: IANS*



**Tom Cruise had no problem with training 'Top Gun: Maverick' cast hard**

Hollywood star Tom Cruise had no issues with pushing the cast of 'Top Gun: Maverick' to the limit with the flying sequences.

Asked if he considered easing the workload, Tom told Screen Rant: "No, absolutely not. Absolutely not. Listen, the whole point of making films and the beauty of it is that you get to travel the world and see other cultures and be part of communities. To look and walk in someone else's shoes and feel what they are feeling."

The 'Mission: Impossible' star continued: "Making movies, you're constantly learning; you have to constantly work to become more and more competent in many different fields. And I want to tell them, that's the beauty of making movies."

"That's why I've always pushed my films to go international, around the world and in different communities. And to be part of that right from the beginning. It was my dream. You've got to work. It's not a bunch of parties and doing that, and that's what I love."

The movie sees Cruise's alter ego reunite with Val Kilmer's Tom 'Iceman' Kazansky and the actor has urged audiences to watch Kilmer's performance in the film.

Cruise said: "I think people just have to see it; I don't even want to try. He's such a fine actor, and you see what he brings to this movie; the power that he has. And I think that relationship and the structure of the story, where it works, I don't want to talk about. I just want people to experience it."



# DESI-CONNECTION FILMS AT TRIBECA 2022

BY MABEL PAIS

The following films have a desi connection via directors, writers, producers or actors of Indian origin:

**WES SCHLAGENHAUF IS DYING**

Thursday June 9, Village East Cinema 7, 8:15pm, June 11, Online, 6pm

Dir: Parker Seaman | Writ/Prod/Cast: Devin Das | Cast: Aparna Nancharla

After finding out their best friend is dying, aspiring filmmakers Parker and Devin decide to document their journey to see Wes one last time - all in the name of Hollywood success - decide to make the next great American indie on the way.

**MY NAME IS ANDREA**

Friday, June 10, Village East Cinema 2 & Online  
Dir: Pratibha Parmar | Doc Competition | 1h 31m



Andrea Dworkin (1970)

Photo / Jerry Bauer

A documentary about controversial feminist writer and public intellectual Andrea Dworkin. Decades before #MeToo, Dworkin called out the pervasiveness of sexism and rape culture, and the ways it impacts every woman's daily existence. Shaped by the values of justice and equality learned in the civil rights movement, she demanded that women be seen as fully human.

Followed by Q&A with dir. Prathiba Parmar; prod. Shaheen Haq, EP Gloria Steinem and cast members Amandla Stenberg, Christine Lahti and Soko

**LAND OF GOLD - 2021 AT&T Untold Stories winner**

Tuesday, June 14, Village East Cinema 01, 5:15pm  
Dir/Writ/Cast: Nardeep Khurmi | Prod/Cast: Pallavi Sastry, et al. |

Prod: Keertana Sastry | Cast: Dhruv Uday Singh, et al. Kiran Singh (Nardeep Khurmi), a 1st generation Punjabi-American, has just accepted a last-minute trucking job to Boston which causes a blow-up argument with Preeti (Pallavi Sastry), his 37-week pregnant wife, who admits to feeling abandoned. More surprises follow.

**LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER**

WORLD PREMIERE - Tuesday June 14, SVA Theater, 8:00 pm

Dirs: Sam Pollard & Geeta Gandbhir | 2022 | USA | Eng | Doc Spotlight | 1h 30m



Lowndes County And The Road To Black Power

Photo / Courtesy dmagpr.com

In 1960, Lowndes County, AL--despite being 80% Black--had zero registered Black voters. The film chronicles the courageous men and women, Black and white people, famous and unknown, who put their lives on the line to secure the right to vote for everyone. Against a backdrop of blatant and brutal violence against freedom fighters, a young Stokely Carmichael brings passion to the crusade, and we witness the evolution of the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) into a powerful force on the frontlines, fanning the cause outward throughout the

South.

**FOUR SAMOSAS - World Premiere**

Friday June 10, Village East Cinema 6, 6:00pm

Saturday June 11, Cinepolis Chelsea 4, 8:45pm

Saturday June 18, Cinepolis Chelsea, 2:45pm

Sunday June 12, 6pm onwards, Online

Dir/Writ/Co-Prod: Ravi Kapoor | Co-Pros: Venk Potula, Rajiv Maikhuri, Craig Stovel

Determined to disrupt the wedding of his ex-girlfriend by stealing her dowry thereby bankrupting her family, underachieving, wanna-be rapper Vinny and his neighborhood pals in LA's "Little India" concoct a plan to steal her family's jewels from a supermarket safe.

**TWO SISTERS AND A HUSBAND - World Premiere**

Dir: Shlok Sharma | Writ: Shilpa Srivastava & Shlok Sharma and | Prod: Navin Shetty, Shlok Sharma, Anurag Kashyap | Cast: Avani Rai, Dinker Sharma, Manya Grover, Himanshu Kohli, Ashutosh Pathak | India |

Hindi w/Eng subs

Tara and Amrita are sisters. One is married to hotel manager Rajat, while the other is expecting his child. Set in the beautiful Himalayan foothills, this is a compelling drama about a thorny domestic arrangement.

**COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE**

Dir/Co-Writ: Naman Gupta | Co-Writ: Janki Parikh | Prod: Neetu Sharma Gupta, James Orfanos |

Cast: Karan Soni, Sangeeta Agrawal, Raghuram Shetty | USA | Narrative Short

When coming out to his traditional Indian parents, Sid uses his time machine to reset the day in an attempt to make sure everything goes perfectly.

**FOR LOVE AND LEGACY**

Dir/Prod: A.K. Sandhu | USA | Doc Short

Sculptor Dana King's hands and activist Fredrika Newton's memories come together to build a new monument that honors the Black Panther Party's vital place in American history.

**HEART VALLEY**

Dir: Christian Cargill | Writ: Kiran Sidhu | UK, Wales | Doc Short | World Premiere

'Heart Valley' follows a day in the life of solitary Welsh shepherd Wilf Davies.

**DOGFRIEND (Hundefreund)**

Dir: Maissa Lihedheb | Prod: Sailesh Naidu | German w Eng/subs | Narr Short

A date takes an unexpected turn in this meditation on race, politics, and history in Germany.

## DFW SAFF CELEBRATES AWARDS NIGHT

BY MABEL PAIS

The 8th annual Dallas/Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival (DFW SAFF) screened 33 films, May 20-22, 2022, at the GrandScape in The Colony, Texas. The Festival came to a celebratory close with the Awards Night.

"After the plague, a Renaissance is sure to follow," said Jitin Hingorani, Founder & Festival Director. "We dedicate this festival to all the courageous filmmakers who continued to create content while the pandemic raged on. These are the fruits of their labor. Without them, festivals like ours would cease to exist. We are witnessing the beginning of our Celluloid Renaissance!"

**The following were the award recipients:**

Best Shorts Director (Male): Shawn Parikh and Harsh Mahadeshwar for IS THIS MRS. VARMA?

Best Shorts Director (Female): Vijayeta Kumar for KICKING BALLS

Best LGBTQ Short: COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE by Naman Gupta

Best Diaspora Short: AUNTIE by Fawzia Mirza

Best South Asian Short: SMILE PLEASE by Bakul Matiyani



Best LGBTQ Short: COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE (From L to R): Manny Bansi, Vijay Mirchandani, James Orfanos, Sangeeta Agrawal, Neetu Sharma, Nav Gupta, Teddy Orfanos, Jitin Hingorani (DFW SAFF)

Photo / John R. Strange & Stephen Duffy

Best Child Actor: Bhavin Rabari for LAST FILM SHOW

Best Actor: Vaibhav Tatwawadi for NIRMAL PATHAK KI GHAR WAPSI

Best Actress: Radhika Hingwe for IS THIS MRS. VARMA?

Best Director: Pan Nalin for LAST FILM SHOW

Best Feature: SHANKAR'S FAIRIES by Irfana

Majumdar

Best TV Series: NIRMAL PATHAK KI GHAR WAPSI by Rahul Pandey

Prolific Pandemic Programming: MASTERJI by BYJU's & Dora Digs



Sai Ganesh Nagpal, Gopi Para, Dancers- Saraswati Nagpal, Swapna Maini, Sia Bhutani, Saisha Bhutani

Photo / John R. Strange & Stephen Duffy

The awards ceremony was followed by Swapna Maini's dance film GANGA: RIVER ETERNAL, juxtaposed with Bharatanatyam and Kathakali performances and a musical finale, all of which received a rousing standing ovation from the audience.

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



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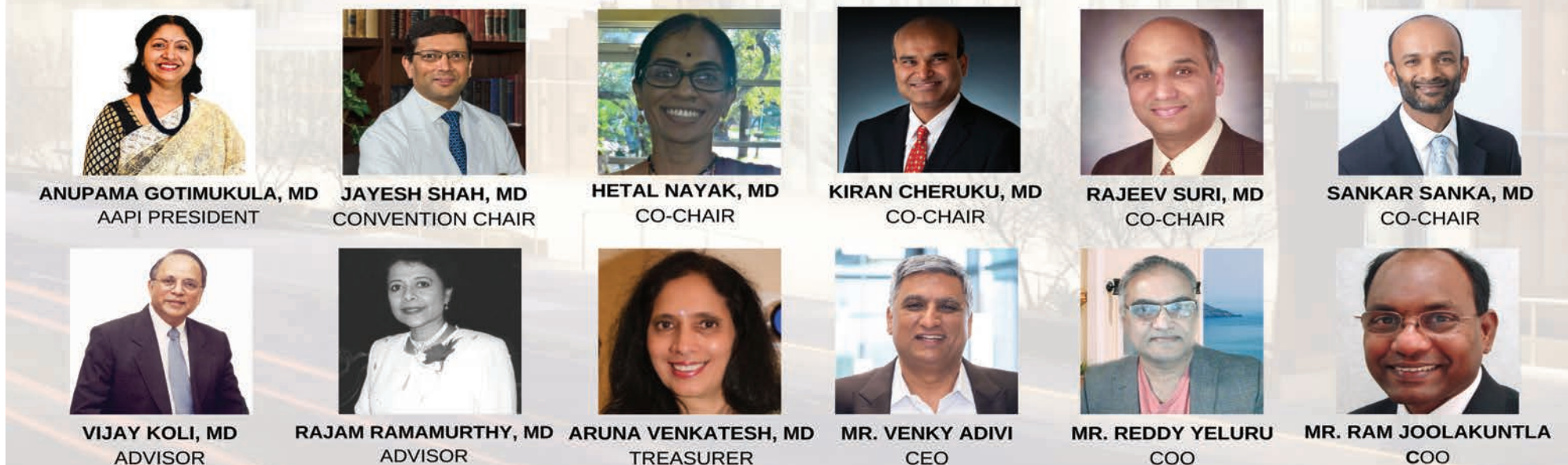


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- **WOMEN'S FORUM: TRAILBLAZING TITANS TELL THEIR TALES:** Dr. Juby A. Jacob-Nara; Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli; Dr. Sowjanya Mohan; Ms. Rosemary Hickman
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## WEST ADDING FUEL TO FIRE: MOSCOW OVER MORE ARMS SUPPLY TO KYIV

**KYIV (TIP):** Western nations promised more and more advanced arms to bolster Ukraine's defence as its troops battled a grinding Russian offensive that was closing in on capturing a key city in the east.

Germany said on June 1 it would supply Ukraine with modern anti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, and the US will also unveil a new weapons package that will include high-tech, medium-range rocket systems.

The Kremlin spokesman said the US was "adding fuel to the fire". Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better equipped military — thwarting its initial efforts to take the capital and forcing Moscow to shift its focus instead to the eastern industrial Donbas region.

But as the war drags on and Russia bombards towns in its inching advance in the east, Ukraine has repeatedly pleaded for more and better weapons. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has occasionally criticised the West for moving too slowly in shipping arms — and military analysts have said Russia is hoping to overrun the Donbas before any weapons that might turn the tide arrive.

In addition to the rocket systems it has promised, the US package will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said on Tuesday. Moscow views the US plans to supply more weapons "negatively", Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday. — AP

## JOHNSON IN ROW WITH HIS ADVISER OVER PARTYGATE

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been forced to explain, by his own independent ethics adviser, why he believed that the partygate fine slapped on him by Scotland Yard did not breach the country's Ministerial Code.

Lord Christopher Geidt, who reports directly to the PM in an advisory capacity, said in an annual report on ministerial interests released on June 1 that a "legitimate question" has arisen as to the fixed penalty notice issued by the Metropolitan Police over a Covid lockdown-breaching birthday party in June 2020. (PTI)

# 4 killed, 14 injured as 6.1-magnitude earthquake hits China's Sichuan province

**BEIJING/CHENGDU (TIP):** A powerful earthquake of 6.1-magnitude killed at least four people and injured 14 others as it jolted the city of Ya'an in southwest China's quake-prone Sichuan province on June 1 afternoon, according to local authorities.

The quake rattled Lushan County of Ya'an in Sichuan at 5:00 pm local time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC).

The epicentre, with a depth of 17 km, was monitored at 30.4 degrees north latitude and 102.9 degrees east longitude, the CENC said.

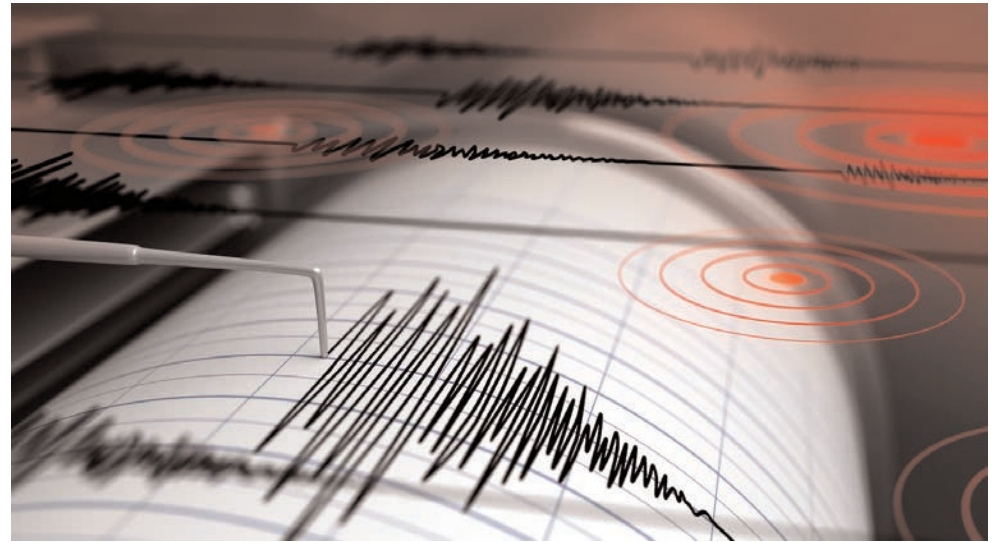
Sichuan province suffered China's deadliest 7.9-magnitude earthquake in 2008 in which 90,000 people were killed.

Wednesday's earthquake was followed by another 4.5-magnitude jolt in Baoxing County, also under the city of Ya'an.

Four people were killed and 14 others injured in the quake, the state-run People's Daily reported.

All the casualties were reported from Baoxing County, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting Ya'an city's earthquake relief headquarters.

Ya'an has activated the second-highest level of emergency response for



the earthquake and is conducting damage assessments.

More than 800 personnel from emergency rescue, the armed police, the fire department, the medical sector and the public security bureau were immediately dispatched to the earthquake-hit areas to search for and rescue the injured, repair roads and relocate affected residents.

The Ministry of Emergency Management said an A level-III

national emergency response has been activated to conduct the relief operations.

A work team has been dispatched to guide and assist the local emergency rescue efforts, the ministry said.

Local firefighters have reached the epicentre, while quake rescue teams of Sichuan and other neighbouring regions are on standby for relief operations, the ministry added. (PTI)

## Japan PM Kishida's support hits highest ever as election nears: Survey

**TOKYO (TIP):** Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida scored his highest approval ratings since taking office eight months ago in a weekend survey, the Nikkei daily reported, with critical upper house elections just weeks away.

Should Kishida, fresh from talks with US President Joe Biden last week, and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) win a decisive victory in July's election, he won't face another scheduled ballot for three years. That would give him full scope to focus on a policy programme that includes revising Japan's pacifist constitution at some point in the future.

Support for Kishida and his Cabinet climbed to 66%, a rise of 5 points from the previous April survey and the highest since he took office last October, according to a weekend survey by the Nikkei and TV Tokyo.

A total of 61% of respondents said they "approved" of his talks with Biden. During the meeting the pair agreed to cooperate on pressing security issues, such as China's increasing assertiveness, while Kishida pledged to seek a "substantial" increase in Japan's defence budget.

Kishida has recently concluded a



whirlwind schedule of diplomatic visits and talks in Tokyo, including hosting the leader of the "Quad" security pact countries - Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

Though analysts say the optics of meeting with Biden certainly won't hurt Kishida, diplomacy is unlikely to weigh as heavily with voters as domestic issues, such as the coronavirus and the economy.

Asked about the government's

handling of price rises in the wake of the war in Ukraine and surging fuel prices, 61% said they did not approve against only 28% who did.

Kishida's support also rose in a survey last week by Fuji News network, hitting 68.9%, up 3 points from the previous month. But asked to explain why they supported him, the greatest number of respondents - 38.2% - said "because there's no other suitable person". (Reuters)



# Italy imports more Russian oil despite impending embargo

**MILAN (TIP):** Even as the European Union decided to reduce Russian crude oil imports by 90 per cent by the end of the year, Italy has become the only country in Europe to increase them, an unintended consequence of EU sanctions against Russia.

Meant to punish Russia for invading Ukraine, the EU oil embargo is now putting at risk one of Italy's largest refineries, located in Sicily, which would deal an economic blow to the depressed region's economy.

Italy agreed with its EU partners to cut Russian crude imports by 2023, a move that Premier Mario Draghi called "a complete success, that wouldn't have been believable just a couple of days ago." But Rome also has to deal with the fate of the refinery in Sicily owned by Russia's Lukoil. As a result of previous sanctions against Russia, ISAB Srl has paradoxically gone from processing 15 per cent of Russian crude to 100 per cent.

That's because banks have refused to take the risk of extending credit to Russia-controlled ISAB that would allow it to buy oil from non-Russian sources, even if not specifically barred from doing so, said Matteo Villa, an energy analyst at the ISPI think tank in Milan.

Ships continue to arrive at the port-side refinery with crude oil from the Russian parent company.

Italy in May received about 400,000 barrels of Russian oil a day in May, four times the pre-invasion levels, according to the Kpler commodity data company. Of that total, ISAB received 220,000 barrels a day from Russia.

"Italy is the only country in Europe increasing oil imports," Villa said, going from the sixth-largest importer of Russian oil to the the largest in the three



months since the invasion.

The plant employs 3,500 people at three production sites, including a refinery, gasification and electricity cogeneration plant, in Sicily's Syracuse province, and risks closure if a solution isn't found before the embargo kicks in. The plant and related activities generate half of the provincial gross domestic product and 8 per cent of the region's economic activity, processing one-fifth of Italy's crude oil imports.

The refinery's future was already at risk in the longer term, due to Italy's energy transition to more sustainable sources. The embargo has only increased the sense of urgency to find a solution.

"The mood today is even worse than yesterday," said Fiorenzo Amato, the secretary general of the Filctem Cgil union in Syracuse. "The industrial hub ... employs many people, giving families the chance to live." Since learning of the

embargo, refinery workers are growing more concerned about their future.

"It will be a disaster," said Marco Candelargiu. "We hope they find a solution. You cannot destroy a province. The choice was made a long time ago to base the economy prevalently on the refinery." Villa said one solution would be for Italy to temporarily nationalize the refinery, a move permitted for energy emergencies under Italy's Constitution, but a week of discussions has yielded no agreement.

As an Italian-owned refinery, ISAB would be able to get the necessary financing to purchase crude from other sources and keep operating while longer-term solutions are sought.

"This is important for employment in Sicily, for the provisioning of gasoline and diesel to Italy and for our own political face-saving in Europe," Villa said. AP

## UKRAINIAN ARMY SAYS RUSSIA LOST ABOUT 30,700 TROOPS IN UKRAINE

**KIEV (TIP):** Russia has "lost about 30,700 troops" in Ukraine between February 24 and June 1, Ukrainian army claimed.

The statement was made by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on Facebook, Ukrinform news agency reported on June 1.

"The enemy's total combat losses, between February 24 and June 1, also included 1,361 tanks (+3 over the past day), 3,343 armored fighting vehicles (+41), 659 artillery systems (+10), 207 multiple launch rocket systems (+0), 94 anti-aircraft warfare systems (+1), 208 aircrafts (+0), 175 helicopters (+1), 2,290 motor vehicles and fuel tanks (+15), 13 warships/boats (+0), 519 unmanned aerial vehicles (+4), 49 special equipment units (+1). A total of 120 enemy cruise missiles (+0) were shot down," the report noted.

Over the past day, Russian troops have suffered the "highest losses" in the Kryvyi Rih and Bakhmut direction. The data are yet to be updated.

It is noteworthy that the Russian troops continue to conduct offensive operations in the eastern operational zone to gain "full control" over Donetsk Region and Luhansk Region. --IANS

## EU AGREES ON GRADUAL RUSSIAN OIL EMBARGO

**BRUSSELS (TIP):** European Union leaders have agreed an embargo on Russian oil imports that will kick in around the turn of the year - and for now exempts the pipeline imports that Hungary and two other landlocked Central European states rely on.

The ban, agreed overnight after weeks of wrangling, aims to remove 90 per cent of Russia's crude imports into the 27-nation bloc within eight months or so, officials said.

It is the toughest sanction yet on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, and one that will affect the EU itself.

Russia provided just over a quarter of EU oil imports in 2020, while Europe is the destination for nearly half of Russia's crude and petroleum product exports. "The sanctions have one clear goal: To prompt Russia to end this war, to withdraw its troops, and to agree a sensible and fair peace with Ukraine," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said. Ukraine said they would deprive the "Russian military machine" of tens of billions of dollars. French Pres ident Emmanuel Macron said nothing could be ruled out regarding further sanctions, although other leaders poured cold water on the idea of banning purchases of Russian gas, which Europe depends on heavily. — Reuters

## Shanghai moves toward ending 2-month lockdown

**BEIJING (TIP):** Shanghai authorities say they will take some major steps on June 1 toward reopening China's largest city after a two-month Covid lockdown that has throttled the national economy and largely bottled up millions of people in their homes.

Full bus and subway service will be restored as will basic rail connections with the rest of China, Vice Mayor Zong Ming said on Tuesday at a daily news conference.

Schools will partially reopen on a voluntary basis for students and shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores will continue to reopen gradually with no more than 75 per cent of their total capacity. Cinemas and gyms will remain closed. Officials, who set June 1 as the target date for reopening earlier in May, appear ready to accelerate what has been a gradual easing in recent days. — AP



# Hair loss: Know the causes, ways to prevent it

It can be disheartening to see hair strands in the shower drain. If you have wondered why you lose more hair in summers than in winters, there is a reason for it that Pooja Nagdev, aromatherapist, cosmetologist and founder of Inatur explains.

According to her, in summers, hair breakage increases due to excessive sweating in the scalp, heat, chlorine, and sun exposure. If not taken care of, the hair can become brittle, dry, and prone to damage.

"The summer season in most parts of India is brutal. The combination of harsh sun, pollution, and dryness can cause havoc, resulting in irritated skin and scalp. The same can be said for your hair, which may become frizzier, drier, and less lustrous during the summers," Nagdev says.

She adds that the influence of both sun and wind is relatively strong during summers, affecting the body's mechanisms. "The heat has an effect on the body's fire element, pitta dosha. Hair is a by-product of bone tissue, and it has been linked to gut health. The digestive fire becomes erratic in summer, and the nourishment of body tissues deteriorates, impairing hair growth and affecting both appearance and strength."

She shares the following tips that should help with summer hair loss:

- Make sure you minimize or avoid the heat and chemical styling treatments. Go for towel drying, instead of using a hairdryer.
- Control hair damage by tying them into a bun, braid, or ponytail on bad hair days.



- Choose natural and reliable hair care products like shampoos, conditioners, hair masques, etc., that are sulfate-free and vegan. Too many chemical-laden products can further damage the hair.
- It is always better to go for products that are specifically made for your hair and scalp.
- Try amla hot oil treatment/hair mask at home at least once a week. It is excellent for dry damaged hair.
- Deep conditioning hair masks such as argan and keratin can also serve you. Deep conditioning hair masks will restore the lost moisture and hydrate hair strands.
- Regular trimming will make sure the dry, dead, split ends are chopped off.
- Never rub towels aggressively on your hair to dry them after washing. Just wrap a towel to squeeze out the excess water.
- Apply hair serum when the hair is still in a semi-dried state; this will make sure that not too many knots are formed.
- As a precautionary measure, wear hats, and scarves when going out, since the sun can further damage the hair.
- Try making your own massage oils with organic cold pressed and essential oils.

Source: The Indian Express

## FOOD



### Nawabi Pulao

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 kg chicken
- 1/4 kg mutton
- 1/2 kg rice
- 1 cup curd, well beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 3 onions
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup green peas, shelled
- 1 pod arlic
- 1 big piece of ginger
- 1 tsp rose water
- Ghee or oil for frying
- Salt to taste

#### Method

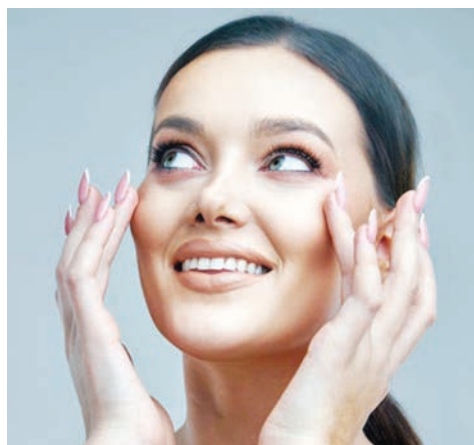
1. Clean and wash rice and soak it in water for 15 minutes.
2. Cook the rice till half done. Keep aside.
3. Clean and cut the mutton into cubes. Joint the chicken. Boil the eggs and keep aside.
4. Slice the onions. Grind ginger and garlic to a paste.
5. Heat ghee in a frying pan, add onions, ginger-garlic paste and fry well.
6. Add the jointed chicken and fry. Add 3 cups of water and salt to taste and cook on slow fire till the meat is tender and only 1/3 of the gravy is left.
7. Add some more ghee and the well beaten curd. Cook on a slow fire until the curd gets absorbed.
8. Add 1 tsp of rose water after the meat has cooled.
9. Take a heavy bottomed pan and arrange alternate layers of rice and cooked meat taking care that the first and last layers are that of rice.
10. Place in an oven and cook for about 15-20 minutes on low heat.
11. Garnish with fried onions, quartered boiled eggs and boiled green peas.

# Hydrate, exfoliate, moisturize to avoid dry skin

Save your skin from dryness and dehydration. Increase water intake and exfoliate the dead skin cells to achieve smooth skin, says an expert.

An expert has shared a few tips to get spotless skin:

- Hydrate: Hydrating yourself is absolutely essential to keep your skin healthy. A lot of water content from the body is lost while you sweat during summer season. Therefore, it is essential to increase water intake by a couple of glasses every day.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks and keep away from aerated drinks too as they further dehydrate the skin. Instead, opt for freshly squeezed lime juice or go for coconut water and other fresh juices.
- Exfoliate: Exfoliation helps in the removal of dead skin cells and in achieving smooth skin. You can do



it yourself at home with the right mix.

Oatmeal, honey, lemon, curd, cucumber are some of the ingredients that can work wonders on your skin. In summer season, exfoliate at least thrice a

week to remove dead skin and improve blood circulation.

- Moisturize: It is necessary to moisturise your skin before you step out in the searing sun. This will keep your skin hydrated and prevent it from becoming dry and scaly.

Apply a light and non-greasy moisturiser after you step out from a shower and before applying sunscreen. Follow this procedure in the night.

- Balanced diet: It is not just water that helps you to stay hydrated; indulging in fresh fruits, leafy vegetables and salads help as well. Eat the right food to nourish your skin and stay fit during summer. Avoid boiling or steaming vegetables for too long, as this will reduce their water content. Junk food, beverages, non-vegetarian and

spicy preparations are a strict no-no as well during summer.

#### Milk

Milk products work wonders on your skin. If you have dry and itchy skin, try applying milk. Take a piece of cloth, soak it in milk and apply it on your skin. Leave it on for five to eight minutes and wash with lukewarm water. Apply it on alternate days and see how your skin begins to glow in a matter of weeks.

#### Olive Oil

Olive oil helps condition your skin since it has many properties that can leave your skin smooth. Take some olive oil and apply it on your skin half an hour before you take shower. Take a hot water bath, and moisturise your skin using a cream. As the procedure takes time, try this over the weekends.

# Thyroid: Types of disorders, risk factors, symptoms

The thyroid gland, located in the front of the neck, is the main source of thyroid hormones in the body and hypothalamic thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) stimulates thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) synthesis from pituitary gland of our body. TSH stimulates thyroid hormone (T3,T4) synthesis with the help of thyroid peroxidase (TPO) enzyme from thyroglobulin protein and iodine within the gland.

Very minute amount of total thyroid hormones is not bound to any proteins in the circulation and known as free thyroid hormones, which are responsible for the biological activities within the body. For the uninitiated, thyroid hormones maintains key functions such as metabolism rate in body, heart functions, digestive functions, muscle health, brain development, bone health etc.

## Disorders due to imbalance in thyroid hormones

Dr Soumi Ghosh, Consultant Biochemist at Neuberger Anand Reference Laboratory, highlighted two types of thyroid disorders and their symptoms as:

### Hypothyroidism

It is associated with decreased free and total thyroid hormones and increased or decreased TSH according to the causative factors. Subclinical hypothyroidism is a condition where persistent elevation in TSH (6 to 12 weeks or longer) is seen but FT4 concentrations is found within the normal range.

Among the varieties of hypothyroidism, congenital hypothyroidism (presence since birth) is the most important, as it requires an early diagnosis and treatment to prevent brain damage. Maternal hypothyroidism is a risk factor for developing this disease. Other causes of hypothyroidism are antibodies developed in a person against his or her own thyroid gland, bacterial or viral inflammation in the thyroid glands leading to its damage, radiation or surgery in the thyroid glands. Apart from that certain foods (for example cabbage, cauliflower, soy products, peaches, peanuts) and certain drugs can interfere with thyroid hormone synthesis and cause hypothyroidism.

Risk factors for hypothyroidism include advancing age, type 1 diabetes, family history of thyroid disease, goitre, previous hyperthyroidism, external-beam



radiation in the head and neck area, baby born with Down syndrome and females are more prone to develop thyroid disease.

### Hyperthyroidism

This results from increased free and total thyroid hormones and decreased hormonal or increased TSH in the body as per the causative factors.

The causes are autoimmune thyroid disease like Graves' disease, viral or bacterial infections of thyroid gland lead to release of more thyroid hormones, overproduction of thyroid hormones due to certain unknown causes and over consumption of Iodine etc. Risk factors for hyperthyroidism include advancing age, personal or family history of thyroid diseases, and intake of iodine-containing drugs, like amiodarone, and females are more prone to develop thyroid disease.

Symptoms include nervousness, emotional liability, restlessness, sleeplessness, difficulty in concentrating, smooth and/or shiny hair and skin, weight loss, excessive sweating, heat intolerance, menstrual irregularities, diarrhoea etc. Physical signs are increased heart rate, irregular heartbeats, increased blood pressure, warm and damp skin, tremor, signs of ophthalmopathy (changes in the eye). Euthyroid hyperthyroxinemia is a condition where total T4 is increased but TSH, free thyroid hormones and total T3 are normal. This is usually seen in nonthyroidal illness and abnormalities in thyroid hormone binding proteins. *Source: HT*



## Previous Covid infection does not protect kids from Omicron: Study

Children who previously had COVID-19 or the inflammatory condition MIS-C are not protected against the Omicron variant of coronavirus, according to a study which found vaccination, however, does afford protection.

The findings of the study, published recently in the journal Nature Communications, are similar to those found in adults.

"I hear parents say, 'Oh, my kid had COVID last year,'" said Adrienne Randolph, of Boston Children's Hospital, US, senior author of the research paper.

"But we found that antibodies produced by prior infections in children don't neutralise Omicron, meaning that unvaccinated children remain susceptible to Omicron," Randolph said.

The researchers, including Surender Khurana, from the US Food and Drug Administration obtained blood samples from 62 children and adolescents hospitalised with severe COVID-19.

They also used data from 65 children and adolescents hospitalised with MIS-C, and 50 outpatients who had recovered from mild COVID-19.

All the samples were taken during 2020 and early 2021, before the emergence of the Omicron variant.

In the laboratory, the researchers exposed the samples to a pseudovirus, and measured how well antibodies in the samples were able to neutralise five different SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Omicron.

A pseudovirus is derived from SARS-CoV-2, but stripped of its virulence.

Overall, children and adolescents showed some loss of antibody cross-neutralisation against all five variants, but the loss was most pronounced for Omicron, the researchers said.

"Omicron is very different from previous variants, with many mutations on the spike protein, and this work confirms that it is able to evade the antibody response," said Randolph.

"Unvaccinated children remain susceptible," the researcher said. In contrast, children who had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine showed higher neutralising antibody titers against the five variants, including Omicron.

The researchers hope these findings will encourage parents to have their children and teens vaccinated. *Source: PTI*

## Monkeypox can be contained if we act now, says World Health Organization

A World Health Organization senior official said on Friday that the priority needs to be containing monkeypox in non-endemic countries, saying that this can be achieved through quick action.

Monkeypox, typically a mild viral infection, is endemic in the African countries but its spread to non-endemic countries such as in Europe and the United States has raised concerns. So far, there are more than 200 confirmed or suspected countries in around 20 cases where the virus was not previously circulating.

"We think if we put the right measures in place now we can contain it easily," Sylvie Briand, WHO director for Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness said at a technical briefing to member states at the UN health agency's annual assembly. She stressed that there was a window of opportunity to prevent further spread, urging the



general public not to be worry since transmission is much slower than other viruses such as the coronavirus. WHO officials said that there was no need for mass vaccination at present, but targeted vaccination where available for close contacts of people infected. "Case investigation, contact tracing, isolation at home will be your best bets," said Rosamund Lewis, WHO head of the smallpox secretariat

which is part of the WHO Emergencies Programme.

Monkeypox, a mild viral infection, is endemic in the African countries of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria.

The recent outbreak in non-endemic countries has raised concerns. The strain circulating globally is thought to have a fatality rate of around 1%, although effective vaccines and treatments are available.

Talking during an online briefing, WHO's senior epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove said cases have so far been detected in more than 20 non-endemic countries, adding that the agency expected the numbers to go up. "We expect more cases to be detected. We are asking countries to increase surveillance...This is a containable situation. It will be difficult, but it's a containable situation in the non-endemic countries." *Source: Reuters*

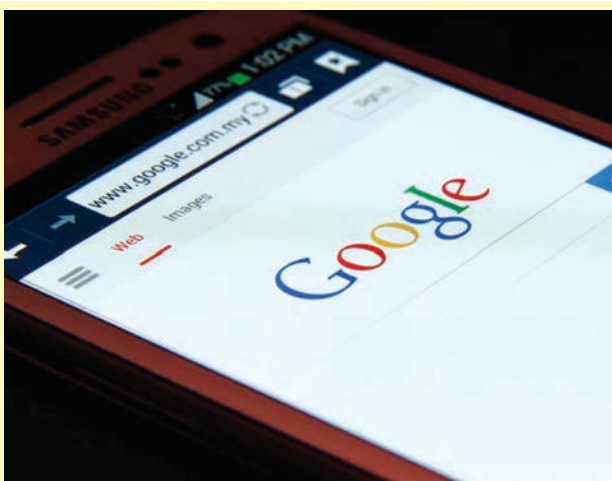
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## Google Assistant to soon recognise your voice

Google Assistant will soon recognise your voice as the company is working on a personalised speech recognition feature. According to 9to5Google, the tool will help Google Assistant get “better at recognising your frequent words and names.” The “Personalised speech recognition” feature will appear in Google Assistant settings.

The feature description reads: “Store audio recordings on this device to help Google Assistant get better at recognising what you say. Audio stays on this device and can be deleted any time by turning off personalised speech recognition”.

The upcoming feature looks to expand AT and ML-based improvements beyond “Hey Google” to your actual Assistant commands, “especially those with names (using your voice to message contacts) and frequently spoken words”.

It's still not clear when this capability will launch.

The feature will allow more advanced recognition of commands and contact names.

Owing to privacy concerns, Google will give users an option in settings to opt out of the personalised speech recognition if they don't want their voice to be stored.

Source: IANS

# US-built ‘Frontier’ now world’s fastest supercomputer

US-built supercomputer titled ‘Frontier’ has dethroned Japan’s ‘Fugaku’ (developed by the Riken Institute and Fujitsu), as the world’s fastest machine with 1.1 exaflops of performance on the 59th TOP500 list published by an international conference of computer experts.

The Frontier supercomputer at the US Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory is the first to achieve an unprecedented level of computing performance known as exascale, a threshold of a quintillion calculations per second.

Frontier features a theoretical peak performance of 2 exaflops, or two quintillion calculations per second, making it 10 times more powerful than ORNL’s Summit system.

“Frontier is ushering in a new era of exascale computing to solve the world’s biggest scientific challenges,” ORNL director Thomas Zacharia said in a statement.

“This milestone offers just a preview of Frontier’s unmatched capability as a tool for scientific discovery,” he added.

Frontier leverages ORNL’s extensive expertise in accelerated computing and will enable scientists to develop critically needed technologies for the country’s energy, economic and national security, helping researchers address problems of national importance that were impossible to solve just five years ago.

Frontier’s speeds surpassed those of any other supercomputer in the world, including ORNL’s Summit, which is also housed at ORNL’s Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility.

Frontier, a HPE Cray EX supercomputer, also claimed the number one spot on the Green500 list, which rates energy use and efficiency by commercially available supercomputing systems, with 62.68 gigaflops performance per watt.

The work to deliver, install and test Frontier began



Frontier features a theoretical peak performance of 2 exaflops, or two quintillion calculations per second, making it 10 times more powerful than ORNL’s Summit system.

during the Covid-19 pandemic, as shutdowns around the world strained international supply chains.

More than 100 members of a public-private team worked around the clock, from sourcing millions of components to ensuring deliveries of system parts on deadline to carefully installing and testing 74 HPE Cray EX supercomputer cabinets, which include more than 9,400 AMD-powered nodes and 90 miles of networking cables.

“When researchers gain access to the fully operational Frontier system later this year, it will mark the culmination of work that began over three years ago involving hundreds of talented people across the Department of Energy and our industry partners at HPE and AMD,” said Jeff Nichols, ORNL associate lab director for computing and computational sciences.

Source: IANS

# Humans could land on an asteroid between 2071 and 2087: Research

It is possible that you may witness human astronauts landing on the moon within your lifetime, according to a recently authored research article. The researchers analysed how NASA’s budget has changed over the years since the 1960s to gauge how likely it is that the space agency will deploy a mission to Asteroids beyond Mars in the next century.

The non-peer-reviewed paper titled, “Impact of Economic Constraints on the Projected Timeframe for Human-Crewed Deep Space Exploration,” is available on ArXiv. Co-authors include researchers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Radboud University, and Beijing Normal University.

While analysing how NASA’s budget has changed since its inception in 1958, the researchers noticed many spikes in the amount of money that the space agency burned over the years. These spikes corresponded with the key



Illustration of the planned Psyche spacecraft near the massive asteroid Psyche. (Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASU).

events of the space age, including the early years of the Apollo program in 1966 and the announcement of man’s impending return to the Moon with the Artemis project in 2018.

The researchers propose that a spacefaring nation or a group of spacefaring nations will send a mission to the asteroid

belt beyond Mars between 2071 and 2087. They also predict that a mission to the Jovian System, which includes Jupiter, its rings and moons, will happen between 2087 and 2101. A launch to the Saturn system is predicted to happen in the window between 2129 and 2153.

For arriving at these numbers, didn’t just use NASA’s budget numbers. They also analysed the evolution of technology capabilities related to deep space exploration over the years. The exploration of deep space required a variety of technological capabilities such as computing power, and the design, manufacturing and operation of hardware such as launch vehicles, guidance systems and life support systems

Since it is difficult to quantitatively ascertain the evolution of such technologies, they analysed the number of published peer-reviewed technology articles about deep space exploration over the years. This number showed a clear upwards trend which allowed the scientists to create a model with both the technology evolution data and the budget data; allowing them to arrive at their conclusions.

Source: The Indian Express

## New MRI technique set to transform heart transplant care

The days of heart transplant survivors undergoing invasive biopsies could soon be over after a new MRI technique has proven to be safe and effective, reducing complications and hospital admissions.

Scientists at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney, hope the new virtual biopsy designed to detect any signs of the heart being rejected will be adopted by clinicians the world over.

Approximately 3,500 people worldwide receive heart transplants each year. Most patients experience some form of organ rejection and whilst survival rates are high, a small percentage will die in the first year after surgery.

The new MRI technique, described in the journal *Circulation*, has been proven to be accurate in detecting rejection and works by analysing heart oedema levels which the team demonstrated are closely associated with inflammation of the heart.

**INDIA COLLECTS RS 1.41 LAKH CR GST IN MAY, UP 44% YOY**

GST revenue bucked the two-month rising trend in May and stood at nearly Rs 1.41 lakh crore, registering a year-on-year increase of 44%.

Though the May Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue came in lower than the record high collection in April at Rs 1.68 lakh crore and Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, it is still the fourth highest collection since the rollout of the new indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017.

In February, revenue from taxing sale of goods and services was at Rs 1.33 lakh crore, while in January it was Rs 1,40,986 crore.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is Rs 1,40,885 crore of which CGST is Rs 25,036 crore, SGST is Rs 32,001 crore, IGST is Rs 73,345 crore (including Rs 37,469 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,502 crore (including Rs 931 crore collected on import of goods)," the Finance Ministry said.

**TATA MOTORS BEATS HYUNDAI TO BECOME 2ND LARGEST CARMAKER IN MAY**

The homegrown automaker, Tata Motors has become the 2nd largest carmaker in the month of May 2022. Tata Motors sold 43,341 cars last month, while Hyundai's total domestic sales for the month of May 2022 stood at 42,293.

Hyundai has lost its number 2 spot to Tata Motors for the second time in last 6 months. In December 2021, Hyundai recorded low sales and was slipped to No.3 in the list of top 10 car manufacturers. In May 2022, Tata Motors has defeated Hyundai by good 1,048 units.

Hyundai Motor Company sold 42,293 cars and SUVs in domestic market in May 2022, reporting a year-on-year sales growth of 69.17 per cent. In May 2022, the company's export increased by 57.31 per cent to 8,970 units from 5,702 units in May 2021.

The company reported a cumulative sales of 51,263 units (Domestic + Exports) in May 2022, registering a year-on-year sales growth of 66.96%.

Commenting on the May 2022 sales, Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "Indian customers have showcased their love and trust in Hyundai, making us the most sold SUV brand of 2020 and 2021. At Hyundai, we will continue to excite our most loved customers with unique and exciting products, and I am glad to announce the launch of the new Hyundai VENUE in June this year. I am sure, the new Hyundai VENUE will continue to thrill customers both in India as well as export markets."

Tata Motors has sold 43,341 cars in the passenger vehicle segment in May 2022, registering a massive year-on-year sales growth of 185%. The company had delivered 15,181 PVs in the same month last year. The company sold 39,887 ICE passenger vehicles in May 2022 as against 14,705 units in the same month last year.

# India's GDP grew by 8.7% in FY22 after 6.6% contraction previous fiscal

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's economic growth or GDP slipped to 4.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, while annual growth stood at 8.7 per cent, according to the government data released on Tuesday. In the previous fiscal 2020-21, the economy had contracted by 6.6 per cent as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted business activities.

The growth was 20.1 per cent, 8.4 per cent, and 5.4 per cent, in the first, second and third quarters, respectively, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 2.5 per cent in the corresponding January-March period of 2020-21, according to the NSO.

The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament in February had estimated the GDP growth for the current fiscal (2022-23) in the range of 8 - 8.5 per cent.

According to the NSO data, India's real GDP grew to ₹147.36 lakh crore from ₹135.58 lakh crore in 2020-21.

The NSO, in its second advance estimate, had projected GDP growth during 2021-22 at 8.9 per cent. China had registered an economic growth of 4.8 per cent in the first three months of 2022. Rising global commodity prices have sparked concern among policymakers, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announcing its first interest rate hike in nearly four years earlier this month.

Government's chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran ruled out the risk of stagflation in India as the country is better placed than other nations.

Stagflationary risk to India is quite low compared to other countries, he said.

Stagflation is the phase when both inflation and unemployment rates are high with moderation in GDP growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government earlier this month announced tax breaks to offset higher food and petrol costs. Consumer inflation hit 6.95 per cent in March, according



The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament in February had estimated the GDP growth for the current fiscal (2022-23) in the range of 8 - 8.5 per cent.

to the Reserve Bank of India, which slashed its own yearly growth forecast to 7.2 per cent.

**Eurozone inflation hits record 8.1% amid rising energy costs**

Inflation in the 19 countries that use the euro currency hit a record 8.1% in May amid surging energy costs prompted in part by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Annual inflation in the eurozone soared past the previous record of 7.4% reached in March and April, according to the latest data from European Union statistics agency Eurostat.

Energy prices jumped 39.2%, highlighting how the war and the accompanying global energy crunch are making life more expensive for the eurozone's 343 million people.

## Ford workers face uncertain future, stage protest, seek help from Tamil Nadu govt

CHENNAI (TIP)

With the deadline for winding up operations nearing and with no ray of hope of another company taking over the unit, workers at Ford's Chennai car plant have started a protest demanding better severance package. Currently, production at the plant has come to a standstill.

Those workers who went in for their shift on Monday refused go to the shop floor and started an in-house agitation. "We went inside and said we won't work until they provide a solution to us. The management told us that if we don't work, it would be marked as loss of pay," one of the workers inside, who has been there for the last 36 hours, told The Hindu.

Apart from this, those who came in for the second shift are protesting outside the plant. One of the protestors, also an employee said, "the management asked us to sign a declaration that we will not protest, we refused and we are all sitting here at the plant," he added. Around six workers who spoke said they were being utilized till the company finished production of all its pending cars. "We have finished all the pending work. Work on 1,500 cars is pending, and this will get over in a week's time. So now, the management has started treating us differently," one of them lamented.

One of the key union members said there was news about plans to use this plant for making electric vehicles, so the union put on hold talks for a few days. "We were hopeful that we will get jobs. But in the second week of May, we were told that there are no such plans. And now the company has indicated that business would be wound up by end of June," he added.

Sources said the Deputy Labor Commissioner from Sriperumbudur visited the plant and held talks, and more details would be made available later.



Ford Workers in an in-house agitation, Monday, May 30.

The employees requested the Tamil Nadu government to immediately look into this issue and extend help.

Last year, on September 9, the U.S.-headquartered carmaker said it would cease manufacturing vehicles for sale in India immediately; manufacturing of vehicles for export would wind down at the Sanand vehicle assembly plant by the fourth quarter of 2021 and the Chennai engine and vehicle assembly plants by the second quarter of 2022. There was no update from Ford's public relations team on the protest until the story had gone to print.

(Source: The Hindu)

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone +91-9638770377 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)**

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 6 TO JUNE 12, 2022



**Aries**

Ganesha says, Dear Aries, to get started on your goals, you'll have a lot of materials this week. Because of your bravery, you will be admired professionally. This week, you'll encounter someone really trustworthy, who will help you advance financially in the coming. This week, your fiscal position will get drastically better. In terms of your organization, you will also make significant payments. Your love life will get through issues in the first half of the week, but, in the latter half of the week, things will get better as Lord Sun will bless your seventh house. Your health will need attention in the first half of the week as you might suffer from periodic headaches.



**Taurus**

This week, your unshakable dedication to everybody will reward dividends, Dear Taurus. This week, all of your perceptions will be amplified, so go with the flow and let things happen as they will. If you delay a bit too much, don't get riled up about it. This week, you may have maximum profits in your firm, and you'll reap a multitude of rewards. You'll have a number of choices to make, so choose wisely and efficiently. Take your leisure and cope with the problems as they arise. Dear Taurus, your love life will remain stable this week as your partner and you both will be tied with amazing mutual understanding. Married couples will have to be really careful this week. Your health will not need any special attention but, you must be really careful about what you eat.



**Gemini**

This week, you'll be in a pleasant mood, Dear Gemini. Collaboration, objectivity, and a well-informed viewpoint will open many opportunities for you. You may easily blow your composure, resulting in a violent confrontation. to feel at ease in a tense situation You'll be up against some tough competition, and the week will be tight. This week, don't begin a fresh job; rather, concentrate on the ones you're presently engaged upon. As far as your love life is concerned, will have to be careful about any big decisions you pick. Due to the negative effect of Rahu, you might not be able to think things through before choosing something. Your health will be all well this week.



**Cancer**

This week will be a test of your fortitude Dear Cancer. You will be able to take risks this week. Try to build a monetary buffer before investing all of your capital in one project. You may

start a new company, but only with the help of a colleague. Make a financial commitment to the culinary industry this week. This week, you must avoid trusting people who have Capricorn as there is Zodiac sign. As suggested by the position of Venus in your 7th house, you will be drawn towards someone who is dealing with the same kind of emotional issues as you. Going through same kind of problems will create a mutual understanding and this will ignite romantic bond eventually. As far as your health is concerned, you are more likely to get into a new Wellness routine this week.



**Leo**

Dear Leo, this week is all about small victories and big celebrations. You will move at a faster pace this week. On a corporate basis, you'll be successful in convincing your coworker to stick to your well-established plans. People who operate in the entertainment industries will gain greatly this week. This week, Jupiter is on your side when it comes to money. On the economic front, long-standing issues will be addressed. Your love life will need to be addressed by your close friend or your parents in order to get to amicable solutions. You will not be able to sustain things with your partner as few negative energies will cloud the 7th House of your Zodiac this week. Do not worry everything will get better by the end of the week. As far as your health is concerned, you do not need to worry about anything as you will sink in the pleasant pot of fitness.



**Virgo**

Dear Virgo, you will be blessed with pleasant energies this week. you will strive harder than usual this week. Because of occupational disparities, there are likely to be some conflicts between your partnership and workers but take the opportunity to clarify your viewpoint and reinforce your grasp using comparisons they can understand. Individuals who have a pointless job will be exhausted since they will expend years commuting. In terms of your love life, this week is going to be really fortunate as you will surely meet someone who would be very compatible with you. People who have lost trust and commitments and relationships will turn a little bit positive this week as they will meet the right person. Your health will not need any attention this week as you will feel completely alright.



**Libra**

Dear Libra, this week, you may be ecstatic since you will encounter the ideal counselor who will help you overcome your negative thought patterns. This week, you will be blessed with the

ability to think creatively. This is a great week to begin anything new. This week is a great time to put money into equity products. You can anticipate money from various avenues this week. Make an attempt to have honest conversations with your kids since they are thinking about a lot of things. The differences between your spouse or companion and you will be resolved this week as Venus will give you better energies. This week is not an ideal week to discuss marriage. As far as your health is concerned, minor back pain and body ache will bother you in the latter half of the week therefore be careful.



**Scorpio**

Dear Scorpios, all of your desires will be fulfilled this week. This is an ideal time to purchase new properties. Surprising guests will knock on your doorway, and you'll be free of the baggage. You should be wary about being deceived. Pay proper heed to anything, including the details, before you commit something. The travel industry is on the horizon this week. Focus solely on your objective. In terms of love life, your week is going to be absolutely alright. Your partner will help you is out a little from the burden you have been carrying for a long. This week, you will not be able to be consistent regarding your health routine and this will bring drawbacks.



**Sagittarius**

This week, you will be welcomed into your life by real contemporaries and powerful guidance. The constellations are often intended to reflect this horoscope. Discord will be the main topic in the latter half of this week. You'll have a lot of problems if you're having a disagreement with your supervisor. Keep your calm and don't say anything harsh. Your children will come to you for guidance on how to deal with problems in their educational career, so tread carefully while giving it. For you, this week will be a week of huge riches. Remain to be persistent. Continue to be firm. This week, your love life will be in the stable hand of positive energies. You'll be able to make improvements in your partner's nature. Your health will be alright this week and you do not need to take any extra precautions.



**Capricorn**

This week will be dedicated to removing the roadblocks that have been striving to keep you behind for a long period. This week, Lord Ganesha will bless you with enthusiasm and energy. On a competitive level, you will be able to complete

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 6 TO JUNE 12, 2022

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

**JUNE 6 :** Ganesha says you are gifted with strong intuition, a lot of talent and a remarkable imagination. You are simple and honest, but you need to control your tendency to behave erratic, hypocrite and ungrateful at times. Investments in real estate during this year will prove highly rewarding.

However indulging in speculation will be detrimental and should be avoided. Legal disputes, which have been bothering your mind, will settle amicably to your satisfaction. Children will be a major source of happiness and spouse will keep you happy.

**JUNE 7:** Ganesha says you are energetic, practical, enthusiastic, authoritative and trustworthy. You are intelligent and can-do wonders with your ability to put in your maximum effort, but you need to control your tendencies to behave reckless, stubborn and impatient at times. New alliances and partnerships would bring in prosperity. Your confidence and determination will be at its peak. Financial gains as delayed payments and bad debts are recovered. Speculation in real estate and stocks will prove to be profitable. Your partner would be supportive to your concerns and provide you with love and affection.

**JUNE 8 :** Ganesha says you are a great admirer of music and literature. You are research oriented and have a strong determination. You may get brilliant opportunities that will come your way but you need to grab them before others. Financial gains will

accrue from past investments. A wonderful period to do things that you enjoy and make you feel good. A distant journey for pleasure or pilgrimage seems likely later in the year. Your health will remain good but the health of an aged family member will become a matter of concern. New friendships and contacts developed during this period will be highly worthwhile.

**JUNE 9 :** Ganesha says your energy will be high and will bring you immense gains. Speculation in real estate will yield handsome returns. Distant travel will be undertaken for business purposes as well as pleasure. Children need to concentrate more on their career. Health despite some initial hiccups will be more or less fine. You need to spend time on meditation and yoga for remarkable gains. Your best opportunities will develop through your association with people who hold positions of authority. Sudden gains and losses are foreseen. Expect gifts and goodies both in cash and kind, but some unexpected expenses will take you by surprise.

**JUNE 10 :** Ganesha says you should plan things well in advance to reap benefits. Efforts that you put in during this period will bring desired results in the long run. Favourable period for property investment. Romance will be on top of your list. There seem to be chances of a new arrival as well. You would work on new ideas, which would help you increase your

income. Your financial condition will improve as you pick up a job involving higher responsibility and position. Some exhilarating news from distant relations will boost up the spirits of the entire family. Travel and journey will be pleasurable.

**JUNE 11 :** Ganesha says your work atmosphere would be there, giving you a lot of job satisfaction. You would interact with important people who would also help you in your career. Your contacts with the public will be lively and challenging. Your earnings would improve but it would be essential for you to save. Your beloved would be in a highly romantic mood and the two of you would have a good time together. A property transaction or acquiring a new vehicle during this period seems likely.

**JUNE 12 :** Ganesha says you should try to focus your energy into professional endeavors. It would be a period of success and happiness, as you would make major gains. You would easily outsmart your competitors because of your better skills and aptitude. Investments during this period would also yield handsome gains. New proposals for joint ventures would be alluring, but a partnership is definitely not on your cards this year. You would make new friends through old ones. Investment would be profitable, but do not put all your money in one place.

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

all of your tasks. You are more prone to overspending on luxury items, so think twice before purchasing. This week, don't give loans to anybody or take out any mortgages. This week, you'll meet your ideal match. You'll be able to share things with ease and more comfort with them which will make you feel much better than before. This week, your health will need minor attention as you might suffer from abdominal pain. It is advised to keep your children away from heights this week.



Aquarius

This week, you'll transform into a greater version of yourself. This week is a great time to make a strategy for your goals and take the measures necessary to attain them. This week, your identity attitude may be affecting your peers. You may also waste time by constructing an air castle that will distract you from your important chores. You will get the rest of your payments and outstanding income. Development and construction investments should be avoided at all costs. Your romantic fronts will be OK this week, as will your partner's, and you will be able to spend a lot of time together. Your spouse will assist you in making family-related decisions and they will turn out to be the best ones for you. Your health will not need any attention as such as you'll feel fit and fresh throughout the week.



Pisces

This week's objective is accomplished as a sign of self-care. This week, you'll forgive yourself and let go of whatever grudges you have against others. This is also a fantastic moment to start a

new company. You will feel emotionally exhausted in the second half of the week. You can lose out on important opportunities if you're careless. Your scientific skill will win you a position in

the hearts of your bosses. This week is the best time for you to ask for promotions. This is hardly the week to arrange a romantic getaway. Because Venus will be transiting in an unfavorable sign in the

second half of the week, you should avoid discussing marriage or engagement. In that period. Your health will not need any attention this week, your headaches will be gone.

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The festival of Ganga Dussehra is celebrated on the tenth day of the Shukla Paksha of Jyeshtha month. This day is a special day for Hindus as well as all mankind. Ganges Dussehra falls in the months of May and June. On Jyeshtha Shukla Paksha Dashami on Monday and Hasta-nakshatra, this date is considered to destroy the sins. Gangavataran took place on Wednesday in Hasta Nakshatra, on this date Ganga Dussehra is also known as Gangavataran. Therefore, this date is more important. On this date, ten sins are destroyed by bathing, charity, and tarpan, hence it is called Dussehra.

This is the day when Ganga was brought down to earth to cleanse the cursed souls of her ancestors and destroy sins. Before coming to earth, Goddess Ganga was residing in the kamandal of Lord Brahma.

Bathing in the Ganges has special significance on this day. All the sins of a person are destroyed by bathing the Ganges. The Ganges does not rot even if it is kept year round.

On this day, the fair of Ganga Dussehra is also held at Prayagraj, Allahabad, Garhmukteshwar, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi, devotees can also enjoy the fair after bathing in the Ganges. The Ganga Dussehra celebrations in Varanasi are legendary. Thousands of devotees bathe in the Ganges on the day of Ganga Dussehra and participate in the Ganga Aarti at Dasaswamedh Ghat in Varanasi and Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar.

#### Story

In ancient times, a king named Sagar ruled in Ayodhya. He had two queens named Keshini and Sumati. Keshini had a son named Anshuman and Sumati had sixty thousand sons. Once King Sagar performed the Ashwamedha Yagna. A horse was left for the Yajna fulfillment. Indra stole the horse and tied it in Kapil Muni's ashram to dissolve the yagna. Kapil Muni was doing penance. The king asked his sixty thousand sons to bring a horse. The king's sons reached the ashram of Kapil Muni, which disrupted the austerity of Kapil Muni and the anger of Kapil Muni was consumed by the fire.

Seeing his brothers after getting permission from the father of Anshuman, when Kapil reached Muni's ashram, Gurud ji told all the accounts of his brothers being consumed. Garuda ji also told Anshuman that if he wants his liberation, then Ganga ji will be brought from heaven to the earth.

After the death of Maharaja Sagara, Anshuman meditated to bring Gangaji to earth, but he failed. After this, his son Dileen also did penance but he also failed.

In the end, Dileep's son Bhagiratha went to the Gokarna Tirtha to do austerities to bring Gangaji to earth. Pleased with the austerity of Bhagiratha, Brahmaji gave the boon to take Ganga to earth. Now the problem was that after leaving Brahmaji's corpuscle, who would handle the velocity of Ganga on earth. Brahmaji said that none other than Lord Shankar have this power in the land which can handle the velocity of the Ganges. Therefore, it is appropriate that Lord Shiva be favored for handling the velocity of the Ganges. Bhagirath stood on one thumb and started worshiping Lord Shankar. Pleased with the harsh penance of Bhagiratha, Shivji agreed to handle Ganga in his jatas. In this way, with the inclinations of Lord Shiva, Ganga ji went to the plains by making a chalk in the valleys of the Himalayas.

Pleased with this act of Bhagiratha, Brahmaji declared that Gangaji would also be known as Bhagiratha on earth. In this way, mother Ganga came to earth.

#### Legend Behind The Celebration

The festival Ganga Dussehra is dedicated to the Goddess Ganga and it is believed that Ganga descended to Earth on this day. She descended to accomplish her mission to free the cursed souls of Bhagirath's ancestors. As per the tradition, before coming to Earth, Goddess Ganga was living in the kamandal of Lord Brahma. When Ganga descended to Earth, she also brought the purity of heaven to Earth.

River Ganga is a gift to humanity due to the great penance of Bhagirath, after which she is also known as Bhagirathi. Bhagirath was the descendant of the Sagara dynasty. He prayed for the Ganga river to descend on the earth and bring life. However, it turned out to be a destructive force. Therefore, Lord Brahma

# Ganga Dussehra



#### Important information

##### Ganga Dussehra

Thursday, June 09, 2022

Dashami Tithi starts : June 09, 2022 at 08:21 AM

Dashami Tithi ends : June 10, 2022 at 07:25 AM

asked Lord Shiva to hold in the locks. As a result, Ganges lost force and became a placid life-living river.

The Ganges is not only the sacred river but also the heart of India. Devotees worship this river for a better fortune. On the day of Ganga Dussehra, thousands of lamps are lit in the flowing river for bringing peace and goodness. Haridwar, Prayag, and Varanasi are the most popular celebration spots of Ganga Dussehra in India. It arises from Gangotri in the snow-clad Himalayas, flows in the hot plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and meets in the Bay of Bengal. Rivers Ganges meets with Saraswati and Yamuna river in the Allahabad. The confluence of these rivers in Prayag is the holiest spot in India.

#### Regions Where Ganga Avaratan Is Celebrated

The festival of Ganga Dussehra is observed by Hindus mostly in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, and West Bengal, where the river Ganga flows. Haridwar, Varanasi, Garhmukteshwar, Rishikesh, Allahabad now Prayagraj, and Patna are the major locations of the celebrations. Here the devotees gather at the banks of the Ganges and perform aartis (a religious ritual in which a light lamp is moved clockwise circularly in front of a deity as a part of prayer) to the river.

Invoke the blessings of Goddess Ganga and get rid of all the sins by following special personalized rituals based on your birth chart.

#### The Significance Of Ganga Avataran Festival

Dussehra signifies ten auspicious Vedic calculations which show Ganga's power to wash ten sins related to thoughts, actions, and speech. The ten Vedic

calculations include Jyeshtha month, Shukla Paksha, Tenth day, Thursday, Hasta Nakshatra, Siddha Yoga, Gar-Anand Yoga and Moon in Virgo and Sun in Taurus. The offering of prayer allows one to attain salvation. It is a favourable day for purchasing valuable items, new vehicles, or new property. Reciting Ganga Stotra on this day while standing in the Ganges can remove all the sins.

It is believed that taking a dip in the river on this day can bring the devotee to a state of purification and also heal any physical ailments he may have. In Sanskrit, Dasha means ten and Hara means destroy; thus bathing in the river during these ten days is believed to rid the person of the ten sins or, alternatively, the ten lifetimes of sins.

Gain health, wealth, and prosperity by performing personalized Rudrabhishekam Puja on the Ganga Dussehra.

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# History This Week June 6 to June 12

**"History has demonstrated that the most notable winners usually encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to become discouraged by their defeats." B. C. FORBES**

## June 6



Susan B. Anthony

June 6, 1872 - Pioneering feminist Susan B. Anthony was fined for voting in a presidential election at Rochester, New York. After voting rights had been granted to African American males by the 15th Amendment, she attempted to extend the same rights to women. She led a group of women that voted illegally, to test their status as citizens. She was arrested, tried and sentenced to pay \$100, which she refused. Following her death in 1906 after five decades of tireless work, the Democratic and Republican parties both endorsed women's right to vote. In August of 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was finally ratified, allowing women to vote.

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.



Nathan Hale

Birthdays - American patriot Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was born in Coventry, Connecticut. During the American Revolution, he volunteered for a dangerous spy mission in Long Island and was captured by the British on the night of September 21, 1776. Brought before British General William Howe, Hale admitted he was an American officer. Howe ordered him to be hanged the following morning. As Hale mounted the gallows he uttered, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

## June 7

June 7, 1965 - The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Connecticut law banning contraception. In *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the Supreme Court guaranteed the right to privacy, including freedom from government intrusion into matters of birth control.



Paul Gauguin

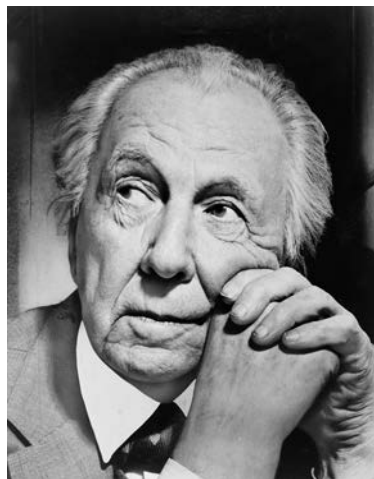
Birthdays - French painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) was born in Paris. He worked as a stockbroker, then became a painter in middle age. He left Paris and moved to Tahiti where he developed an interest in primitive art. Among his best known paintings; *Vision After the Sermon* (1888), *When Shall We Be Married?* (1892), *Holiday* (1896), and *Two Tahitian Women* (1899). His style using broad, flat tones and bold colors, inspired artists such as Edvard Munch, Henri Matisse, and the young Pablo Picasso.

## June 8



Cochise

June 8, 1874 - Apache leader Cochise died on the Chiricahua Reservation in southeastern Arizona. After a peace treaty had been broken by the U.S. Army in 1861, he waged war against settlers and soldiers, forcing them to withdraw from southern Arizona. In 1862, he became principal chief of the Apaches. He and 200 followers avoided capture by hiding in the Dragoon Mountains. In June of 1871, Army General George Crook assumed command in Arizona and managed to win the allegiance of many Apaches. Cochise then surrendered. He disappeared briefly in the spring of 1872 but returned and settled on the reservation where he died.



Frank Lloyd Wright

Birthdays - American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. He designed about 1,000 structures and is considered the most influential architect of his time. He became the leader of a style known as the Prairie School featuring houses with low-pitched roofs and extended lines that blend into the landscape. He once wrote, "No house should ever be on any hill or on anything. It should be of the hill, belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other."

## June 9

June 9, 1898 - The British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong, located on the southeastern coast of China. Hong Kong, consisting of an area measuring 400 square miles, was administered as a British Crown Colony until July 1, 1997, when its sovereignty reverted to the People's Republic of China.

Birthdays - Composer and lyricist Cole Porter (1893-1964)



Cole Porter

was born in Peru, Indiana. He published his first song *The Bobolink Waltz* at the age of ten. His Broadway career was launched in 1928 when five of his songs were used in the musical play *Let's Do It*. Among his many contributions to the Broadway stage; *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, *The Gay Divorcee*, *Anything Goes*, *Leave It to Me*, *Du Barry Was a Lady*, *Something for the Boys*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Can and Silk Stockings*.

## June 10

June 10, 1652 - In Massachusetts, silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America, in defiance of English colonial law. The first coin issued was the Pine Tree Shilling, designed by Hull.

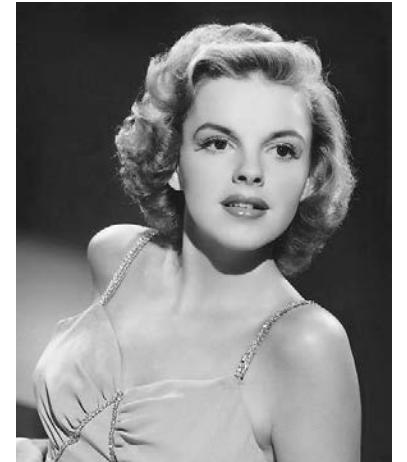
June 10, 1942 - In one of the most infamous single acts of World War II in Europe, all 172 men and boys over age 16 in the Czech village of Lidice were shot by Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of SS leader Reinhard Heydrich. The women were deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp where most died. Ninety young children were sent to the concentration camp at Gneisenau, with some later taken to Nazi orphanages if they were German looking. The village was then completely leveled until not a trace remained.



Hattie McDaniel

Birthdays - African American actress Hattie McDaniel (1889-1952) was born in Wichita, Kansas. She won an Academy

Award in 1940 for her role as 'Mammy' in *Gone with the Wind*.



Judy Garland

Birthdays - Judy Garland (1922-1969) was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota (as Frances Gumm). She is best remembered for her portrayal of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) and other films including *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944) and *Easter Parade* (1948). She became one of the most popular concert performers of the 1950s and '60s and broke box-office records in New York City and London. She was found dead of an overdose of sleeping pills in London on June 22, 1969.

## June 11

June 11, 1991 - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted, spewing ash into the air, visible over 60 miles. The surrounding areas were covered with ash and mud created by rainstorms. Nearby U.S. military bases were also damaged.

June 11, 1994 - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.



Jeannette Rankin

Birthdays - American feminist and politician Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973) was born in Missoula, Montana. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

contd from page 1

## Hunt on for killers of Sidhu Moosewala; Special Investigation Team constituted

Talking to reporters in Mansa on Wednesday, June 1, Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Toora said the police have got important leads and they are working on it. On whether Mansa police will bring Bishnoi on remand, the SSP said, "Definitely. We have information that the Delhi Police has taken the remand of Bishnoi. After that we will make him join the investigation in this case as per the law."

The Punjab Police has described Moosewala's murder as a case of an inter-gang rivalry. Canada-based Goldy Brar, who is a member of the Bishnoi gang, has claimed responsibility of the murder.

SSP Toora further said the police have traced the route the criminals involved in the murder took. "From where they came, how they conducted a recce and how they escaped - we have cleared this all," he said.

He said different police teams, including the cyber cell, were involved in the investigation. "We have got important leads and we are working on that," he added.

Referring to the murder, the SSP said it was the work of organized criminals and gangsters. He said two gangsters were brought here on production warrants from prisons.

One person has already been arrested in this case, he said. "They are being questioned," the SSP added.

The police on Tuesday, May 31, said they had arrested Manpreet Singh in the Moosewala murder case. Singh has been accused of supplying vehicles to the assailants who were involved in the killing. (With inputs from PTI, Tribune)

## Canada to put a freeze on importing, buying or selling handguns

Bill Blair, minister of emergency preparedness, said Canada is very different from the United States.

"In Canada, gun ownership is a privilege not a right," Blair said. "This is a principal that differentiates ourselves from many other countries in the world, notably our colleagues and friends to the south. In Canada, guns are only intended to be used for hunting

and sport purposes."

Canada has had far fewer mass shootings than the US in part because of a lack of easy access to guns, though the US population also is far larger than Canada's.

Blair noted guns are often smuggled in illegally from the US, which he noted has one of the largest small arms arsenals in the world.

The government plans to fight gun smuggling and trafficking by increasing criminal penalties, providing more tools to investigate firearms crimes and strengthening border measures. Trudeau said increased funding already helped border officials double the amount of smuggled guns confiscated at the U.S. border.

The government also said the bill would also allow for the removal of gun licenses from people involved in acts of domestic violence or criminal harassment, such as stalking.

The bill would create a new "red flag" law allowing courts to require that people considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to police. The government said the measure would guard the safety of those applying through the process, often women in danger of domestic abuse, by protecting their identities.

The government said it will require rifle magazines to be permanently altered so they can never hold more than five rounds and will ban the sale and transfer of large-capacity magazines under the Criminal Code.

"Canada can teach us a lot," tweeted Bruce Heyman, a former U.S. ambassador to Canada under the Obama administration.

Trudeau said his government recognizes the vast majority of Canadians who own guns are responsible but the level of gun violence is unacceptable. "This is a concrete and real national measure to long way toward keeping Canadians safe," Trudeau said.

The new measures are assured of passing in Canada's Parliament as the ruling Liberals and leftist opposition New Democrats have enough votes.

Pierre Poilievre, who is running to be leader of the Conservative party, said law-abiding gun owners should be respected and dangerous criminals should be jailed. (Agencies)

## National Commission for Women meet recommends helpline for abandoned wives of NRIs

challenges faced by deserted wives in the legal system in India and abroad.

"The meeting took up issues such as ways to serve a non-bailable warrant against a male offender residing abroad who has abandoned his wife. Often, these men keep changing their address and it gets challenging to track them. So, we have suggested that a special website be set up, so that summons posted there are deemed as served on a person. Another way to track them would be through their Social Security Number," ex-Chairman, Punjab State Commission for NRIs, Justice (Retd) Rakesh Kumar Garg told The Hindu.

Other matters discussed were ex-parte judgments on divorce obtained by husbands abroad, which are already addressed under Section 13 of the Civil Procedure Code that deals with conditions under which foreign judgments are not conclusive, said Mr. Garg.

Instances of child custody disputes were also raised. "For such matters, when a habeas corpus writ is brought to India for producing a child before a foreign court, Indian courts have often held that both parents are natural guardians under Indian laws and, in fact, mother is the guardian of a child under five years. We are also not signatories to the Hague convention, so we don't have to return the child."

The consultation did not, however, discuss whether India should sign the Hague Convention, which requires that if a parent has run away with a child from one country to another due to a marital dispute, the child has to be returned to the country from where he or she has been removed. The Indian government maintains that it is not ready to sign the treaty.

Another person who attended the meeting said on condition of anonymity that ways to ensure maintenance for such wives, legal assistance, and financial support through a dedicated fund were also raised.

Many of the suggestions made are not new. They were part of the report of an expert committee formed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and headed by Justice Arvind Kumar Goel, ex-Chairperson, NRI Commission, Punjab, submitted in August 2017. On the basis of these suggestions, a meeting chaired by the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in November 2017 took a decision to ensure compulsory registration of NRI marriages and set up a website of MEA for posting summons.

Following this, in February 2019, the Ministry of External Affairs introduced the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019, in Rajya Sabha. The Bill was sent to a Parliamentary Standing Committee, which approved it with some recommendations. But after the passing of Sushma Swaraj in August 2019, the Bill has been put in cold storage. (Source: The Hindu)

## Amritsar-born chef Vikas Khanna ranked in global top 10 list by Gazette Review

The 50-year-old Amritsar born, and New York-based Khanna is known for taking Indian cuisine across the globe and on the world food map.

He is the only Indian origin chef who has made it to the list along with great names in the industry.

Khanna, who also wears other caps including that of being a writer, filmmaker and philanthropist, took to social media on Tuesday, May 31 and shared his joy on being listed.

"Humbled to be in 2022 'TOP 10 CHEFS IN THE WORLD' - The Best in 2022 by Gazette Review. Humbled to be in the company of some of my mentors," he wrote on Instagram.

Others on the list include Anthony Bourdain, Paul Bocuse, Alain Ducasse, Emeril Lagasse, Marco Pierre White, Heston Blumenthal, Wolfgang Puck and Jamie Oliver.

Khanna is one of the first Indian chefs to receive international acclaim. Since 2011, his main restaurant Junoon in New York City has received a Michelin star, a hallmark of fine dining.

Khanna has served food to the former US president Barack Obama, the Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and many other world leaders and celebrities.

Khanna is known for creating the most expensive cookbook in the world. From 2011, Khanna hosted five seasons of Master Chef India, a series based on the original British version. (Source: PTI)

## Facebook sees 82 per cent jump in hate speech; violent content rises 86 per cent on Instagram in April

The majority of the content in the report is based on detection by social media platforms before users reporting to them.

According to the report released on May 31, Facebook detected 53,200 hate speech in April, which is 82 per cent higher compared to 38,600 detected in March, on which the platform took action.

The report showed that Instagram acted on 77,000 violence and incitement related content in April compared to 41,300 in March.

"We measure the number of pieces of content (such as posts, photos, videos or comments) we take action on for going against our standards. This metric shows the scale of our enforcement activity. Taking action could include removing a piece of content from Facebook or Instagram or covering photos or videos that may be disturbing to some audiences with a warning," the report said.



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Thimphu is known as the heart of Bhutan nestled in its central-western part. Replaced by Bhutan's ancient capital - Punakha, Thimphu was declared the capital city of the Himalayan Kingdom in the year 1961. Originally pronounced as 'Thimbu', the city is known as the most modernised place in Bhutan with internet cafes, restaurants and pubs.

The Nightlife in Thimphu is also one of its highlights. However, Thimphu still holds on to the Bhutanese Traditions as it houses various architectural structures like the Buddha Dordenma, which marks your entry to Thimphu. The Motithang district of Thimphu also preserves the national animal of Bhutan - The Takin. With institutions like Textile Museum, Library, Art schools and the weekend market; the city isn't just a heritage centre but a cultural site as well. An hour drive from Paro International Airport, the city of Thimphu is a blend of both tradition and modernity. It is also known as the only capital that doesn't have any traffic lights installed.

**MEMORIAL CHORTEN**

The Memorial Stupa, also known as Thimphu Chorten is one of the most prominent landmarks of the capital city. Envisioned by Thinley Norbu (1904-1987), the chorten was erected in 1974 as per Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism to honour the third Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1928-1972). This is to fulfil his wish of building a chorten which represents the mind of Buddha while Jigme Dorji was alive. The remarkable thing about this stupa is that it does not preserve any human remains unlike other chortens and got only a photo of Jigme Dorji in ceremonial dress. As you will enter the gate, 100s of devotees would be seen praying around this stupa, mainly the older people. Memorial chorten is located on Doeboom Lam in the southern part of the city.

**ARCHERY IN THIMPHU**

Since archery is the national sport of Bhutan, it would be an experience of a lifetime for traveller to witness a game of archery. All you need to do is pay a visit to the archery stadium in Thimphu and simply sit back and enjoy a game which is as common as soccer in many countries. What adds to the experience is the traditional dance when an archer hits the bull's eye. Make sure you carry a pair of sunglasses and some munchies to enjoy your entire time at the stadium.

**ROYAL TEXTILE ACADEMY**

Bhutan's best museum is located at Royal Textile Academy, which was started in May 2005 with an aim to preserve and showcase the traditional art of Bhutan, weaving. It was started under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck as a non-profit organisation. The objective of this organisation has been to develop conservation centre to restore the Bhutanese textile, as well as provide the professional training to men and women in weaving and textile. The training is given free of cost to the women in lieu of promoting women empowerment. The Royal Textile Academy is Bhutan's first institute to educate, train, and fill the younger

# Thimphu: A blend of tradition and modernity



generation with a comprehensive knowledge of the country's textiles.

**CHANGANGKHA LHAKHANG**

One of the ancient temples in Thimphu, Changangkha Temple was established on a site chosen by Phajo Drukgom Shigpo, the founder of Drukpa Lineage in Bhutan. The temple was laid in 12th century, the work of which was extended by his son in the 13th century. This oldest temple houses an eleven-headed, thousand-armed manifestation, and large prayer wheels. In fact the temple also houses incredibly huge size of Tibetan texts which are unusual from the rest. Enjoy the view from the courtyard, which has got restored in 1998-99.

**TASHICHOO DZONG**

Tashichoo Dzong which translates to fortress of auspicious religious conviction conventionally was the seat of monastic body, and summer capital of the country. The dzong is serving as the government seat since 1952, and presently it houses the king office, secretariat, and other government organisations located nearby. It is also the headquarters for central monastic body of Bhutan, which opens up for general public after 5:30 pm. Unlike other dzongs, Tashichoo has two main entrances. One heads towards the south of the administrative section, and another leads towards the north to the monastic section, where annual tsechu festival is celebrated. The foundation of Thimphu dzong was first laid by Lama Gyalwa Lhanangpa in 1216. The dzong is located next to the banks of Wangchhu River, which is surrounded by a beautiful lawn. Visit this dzong for its authentic and stunning architecture. Don't forget to spot the parliament building of Bhutan, which is quite visible from here.





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**INDIA TO PLAY 3 ODIS AND 5 T20IS VS WEST INDIES BETWEEN JULY 22-AUGUST 7**

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the BCCI on Wednesday announced India's tour of the West Indies where the 'Men in Blue' will play three ODIs and five T20Is between July 22 and August 7.

India will finish its white-ball leg of UK tour on July 17 and those selected would directly leave for the West Indies from England. The ODI series and three T20Is will be hosted across Trinidad and Tobago and St Kitts & Nevis, with the final two T20Is scheduled to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the USA.

The three ODIs will be played on July 22, 24 and 27 respectively at Port of Spain's (Trinidad & Tobago) iconic Queen's Park Oval and will be followed by five T20Is, two of which will be played at Florida's Fort Lauderdale.

The first T20I will be held at Brian Lara Stadium (Port of Spain) on July 29 and followed by two games at St Kitt's Warner Park on August 1 and 2 respectively. The final two games, in order to cater to the Indian diaspora in the United States, will be held at the Broward County Stadium in Florida on August 6 and 7. The entire series will be live-streamed exclusively on FanCode.

West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran said on the upcoming series, "We have a young team that is eager to restore the brand of cricket the West Indies team is known for playing.

"As I take charge of this team, our ambition is to always be competitive, as we look to use this series to fine tune our preparations for the upcoming T20 and 50 Over World Cups." Talking about this, Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies said: "Our four-year deal with FanCode has brought Indian cricket fans closer to CWI's live properties across multiple formats that has featured the top cricketing nations like South Africa, Pakistan, Australia and England.

# Gujarat Titans complete dream debut with IPL title

**AHMEDABAD (TIP)**

Nobody gave them a chance but Gujarat Titans, bucking all pre-tournament predictions, surprised everyone by lifting the Indian Premier League title in a dream maiden season after a seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in the final here on May 29.

Gujarat's highly-rated bowling attack, led by skipper Hardik Pandya (3/17) himself, limited a formidable Rajasthan Royals batting unit to 130 for nine after losing the toss.

Shubman Gill and David Miller remained unbeaten on 45 and 32, respectively, to complete an emphatic win for their team.

It should have been a comfortable chase but Rajasthan bowled their hearts out to make it an interesting final. As they showed all season, Gujarat remained calm in tough situations to finish the chase in 18.1 overs.

Not many gave Gujarat a chance in their first season especially after a mixed auction where they waited till the end to secure the services of wicketkeepers Wriddhiman Saha and Matthew Wade.

It was not a team studded with star players but Hardik impressed with his leadership and got the best out of his colleagues.

His performance with bat and ball also contributed immensely to the team's triumph besides the ability to bounce back from any situation through the brilliance of Miller and Rahul Tewatia.

After posting an underwhelming total, Rajasthan had to produce a special effort



David Miller and Shubman Gill of Gujarat Titans during the final T20 cricket match of the Indian Premier League 2022, between the Gujarat Titans and the Rajasthan Royals, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, on Sunday, May 29, 2022. PTI

with the ball to get back in the game.

The pace duo of Trent Boult and Prasidh Krishna were brilliant in the powerplay, reducing Gujarat to 31 for two with Wriddhiman Saha (5) and Matthew Wade (8) back in the dugout.

Krishna got one to seam back in from good length to breach Saha's defence and crash into the stumps.

Boult, who also bowled a maiden over in his tidy spell, removed Wade. Gujarat would have been three down in the powerplay if Yuzvendra Chahal held on to a simple catch of Gill off Boult in the first over of the innings.

Hardik and Gill struggled to get the boundaries but never felt extreme pressure as the asking rate remained very much in control.

R Ashwin was introduced in the 12th over and Hardik (34 off 30) decided to go after him, collecting a four and six off successive balls to bring up the 50-run stand with Gill and take Gujarat to 77 for two in 12 overs. The skipper fell to a brilliant leg break from Chahal but Gill and Miller got the job done in the end. The entire stadium, housing more than a lakh people, erupted when Gill hit the winning six. *Source: PTI*

## Messi inspires Argentina to 3-0 Finalissima win over Italy

Energized at Wembley by Lionel Messi's assists, Argentina's players threw their superstar teammate in the air after he inspired them to a second title in a year. National team success is finally coming for the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, late in his trophy-filled club career.

Argentina collected the first Finalissima trophy on Wednesday by beating Italy 3-0 in a meeting of the South American and European champions, with Messi having helped Argentina win the Copa America last July for his first major title with the national team.

And judging by the two assists on his record-extending 161st Argentina appearance, there is no sign of the 34-year-old Messi slowing down with the chance to win a first World Cup title later this year.

"What we experienced here was beautiful," Messi said. "We knew it was going to be a nice game and a nice setting in which to be champions."

The opener was created by Messi's solo brilliance taking him past Giovanni Di Lorenzo and the Argentina captain



squared for Lautaro Martínez to slot past goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the 28th minute.

Martínez turned creator in first-half stoppage time by threading a pass through for Ángel Di María to chip Donnarumma, having got past Giorgio Chiellini. The 37-year-old Italy captain came off at halftime of his 117th and final international appearance.

The win was wrapped up in the fourth minute of stoppage time with Messi gaining possession on the halfway line and rampaging to the edge of the penalty area where he evaded Di Lorenzo's challenge to set up the substitute Paulo Dybala to strike low into the net.

## Asia Cup slips out of India's hands after 4-4 draw with South Korea

**JAKARTA (TIP)**

India bowed out of the title race in the Asia Cup hockey tournament as they drew 4-4 with South Korea their final Super 4 stage match on May 31.

Malaysia's 5-0 win over Japan early in the day meant that an outright win became a pre-requisite for India to qualify for the summit clash.

India, Malaysia and South Korea finished on five points each in the Super 4 stage but the Birendra Lakra-led Indian team fell short on goal difference.

Nilam Sanjeep Xess (9th minute), Dipsan Tirkey (21st), Mahesh Sheshe Gowda (22nd) and Sakthivel Mareeswaran (37th) scored for India, while South Korea scored through Jang Jonghyun (13th), Ji Woo Cheon (18th), Kim Junghoo (28th) and Jung Manjae (44th).

The Koreans take on Malaysia in the final tomorrow, while India play Japan in the third-fourth place classification match.

Today's match saw a midfield slugfest between India and South Korea as they



tried to take the upper hand in the first quarter.

India secured a penalty corner in the second minute but Xess' effort was saved by the Korean goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim. But in the ninth minute Xess made no mistake from the team's second penalty corner.

Two minutes from the end of the first quarter, India conceded a penalty corner and Jonghyun levelled the scores.

The Koreans made it 2-1 five minutes later when Cheon chose his spot after being fed by Jungjun Lee following a defensive lapse by Pawan Rajbhar inside his own circle. *Source: PTI*



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