



INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA (August 15) Special Edition

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the 75th Year of Independence Day of India, being celebrated by government of India as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".



Articles and advertisements are invited for the historic occasion. All material-whether articles or advertisements- may please be mailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by August 2, 2022.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 646-247-9458.

Droupadi Murmu Elected 15th President of India; will be sworn in on July 25

THE FIRST TRIBAL WOMAN, AND THE SECOND WOMAN TO BECOME THE PRESIDENT IN THE REPUBLIC'S HISTORY



NEW DELHI (TIP): Droupadi Murmu scripted history on Thursday, July 21, by becoming India's first tribal woman President in the one-sided contest, defeating Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Murmu, 64, won by an overwhelming margin against Sinha after receiving over 64 per cent valid votes in a day-long counting of ballots of MPs and MLAs, comprising the electoral college, to succeed Ram Nath Kovind to become the country's 15th president. After the end of the counting process that continued for more than 10 hours, returning officer P C Mody declared Murmu as the

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited President Elect Droupadi Murmu at her residence in New Delhi to congratulate her.

Biden plans talks with China's Xi Jinping soon over Taiwan and Trade



US President Joe Biden with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. File photo / Reuters

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden plans to speak with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, by the end of the month at a moment of simmering tensions between the countries over Taiwan and trade, reports Reuters.

"I think I'll be talking to President Xi within the next 10 days," Biden told reporters as he returned from a climate-related trip to Massachusetts.

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Rishi Sunak clinches spot for final leg in UK PM race, faces Liz Truss



Rishi Sunak (right) clinches spot for final leg in UK PM race, faces Liz Truss (left)

LONDON (TIP): Rishi Sunak on Wednesday, July 20, clinched his place for the final leg of the race to succeed Boris Johnson and will go head-to-head with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as one of two finalists to take charge as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister.

Sunak won the fifth and final voting round of Tory MPs with a resounding 137 votes, while second-placed Truss won the support of 113 MPs. Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt was knocked out of the race after coming in third with 105 votes.

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Manganos cannot remain free on bail; start prison term next month, orders Judge Joan Azarack



A federal judge ruled that Ed and Linda Manganos couldn't stay free on bail while appealing their conviction

File photo of Linda and Ed Manganos

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY (TIP) A federal judge has denied a request from Edward and Linda Manganos to remain out on bail while they appeal their convictions. However, the judge has postponed their surrender date by another month.

Manganos, 60, was convicted in 2019 of a string of charges related to accepting bribes in his position as Nassau County executive. His wife Linda, 59, was found guilty of lying to the FBI about a no-show job she had.

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Almost all of these are applicants under the EB2 and EB3 (for professionals and skilled workers) categories, used by technology cos to sponsor visas for immigrant workers.

Photo for representation only

Green card wait time likely to remain high for Indian applicants

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The wait for green cards for Indian applicants is likely to remain long, with 369,322 applicants having approved employment visa petitions awaiting visa availability, according to recent data from the US immigration agency.

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Deficit doubts: On concern over current account deficit

FRETTING ABOUT THE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT IS WARRANTED; FISCAL SPACE MUST ALSO BE REASSESSED

In its latest review of the economy encompassing the period from June till July 10, the Finance Ministry is sanguine about India's economic recovery and has asserted that major macro-economic risks have subsided over the past six weeks. The Government's cautious optimism is tinged with impending concerns of a speedier tightening of monetary policies by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the resultant dip in asset markets, which can mar sentiment and consumption, on top of persistent geopolitical strife. But for now, interest rate hikes and measures to curtail the outflow of dollars announced by the central bank, with several steps from the government such as the imposition of windfall taxes and higher import duties on forex-drainers like gold, have been credited for lifting some of the dark clouds over the economy. Despite excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel, the Ministry believes India's fiscal math for the year will not unravel thanks to the recent tax levies, and healthy Goods and

Services Tax collections (that could get healthier as some GST rate hikes kick in from Monday). Industrial metal prices slipping to 16-month lows, prices for some food items falling off their peaks and crude oil prices descending in the face of fears of a recession in many developed nations, have helped. However, if these fears do not translate into 'a sustained and meaningful' drop in food and energy prices, India's current account deficit will deteriorate in 2022-23 on account of costlier imports and tepid exports on the merchandise account, the Ministry has cautioned.

India's high import dependence for fuel means oil price trajectories affect most macro parameters, including inflation, growth, current account balances, fiscal management and the rupee. And economic policymakers are rightfully concerned about the current account deficit (CAD) widening sharply from the 1.2% of GDP last year. There is a vicious circle at work here that may take a while to break. Slowing exports

and costlier inelastic imports of oil have triggered record merchandise trade deficits for two consecutive months, exacerbating the CAD, which is tripping the rupee, making imports even costlier and widening the CAD further. The CAD may have hit 2.7% of GDP in the first quarter, some reckon, but if developed economies slow down as expected and shale oil supplies pick up, crude oil prices could drop lower, and the full-year deficit may improve. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has assured the country of a pointed 'item by item' attack on inflation to ensure growth prospects are not hindered. If the fiscal deficit is not a concern, and tax revenues may, in fact, overshoot Budget estimates owing to high inflation, the Government can consider reviewing its fiscal capacity and think of more measures to stimulate growth and mitigate the detrimental effects of high inflation and interest rates on consumption and investments.

(The Hindu)

No US sanctions

NEW DELHI CAN TAKE COMFORT FROM LIKELY WAIVER

With the decks being cleared for an India-specific waiver of sanctions under a United States law that imposes punitive action against countries buying weapons from Russia, there is much to take comfort from another diplomatic high point after warding off an upset West over the cheaper oil buyouts from Moscow. However, the limits of the likely breakthrough would not be lost on New Delhi as it tries to counterbalance its strategic partnerships. As the Ukraine war tests the international order, the benefits of cooperation may have prevailed over the costs of disagreement but viewing the development as a paradigm shift in Washington's ideological stance would be an exaggeration.

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) had become a sticking point in India's deal to secure the Russian S-400 missile defense system, threatening to disrupt ties cultivated with extra care by the US over more than two decades in a bid to check China's increasingly assertive influence in Asia. After Turkey, a NATO ally, concluded a similar deal in 2017, the US banned it from buying the F-35 stealth fighter, which the S-400 system is partly designed to counter. Expecting India to forgo Russian arms is unrealistic in the short to medium terms; the practical rationale of lower costs, time-tested weapon systems and reliability plays a huge role in the dependence on Kremlin.

China's military modernization and

expansion, with an aim to cement its global power projection capabilities, is a challenge central to both democracies. Since the beginning of the Ukraine-Russia war, India has been aggressive in defending national security and foreign policy decisions taken squarely in its interests. The Ro Khanna amendment, while affirming America's defense partnership with India, asks for additional steps to encourage the US to take a larger strategic view over India's defense requirements. New Delhi, on its part, would expect President Biden to prevent issues such as CAATSA looming large over every Indian arms purchase from Russia.

(Tribune, India)

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India Day Parade of Long Island on August 7



HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): IDP USA is organizing the 11th India Day Parade of Long Island on August 7.

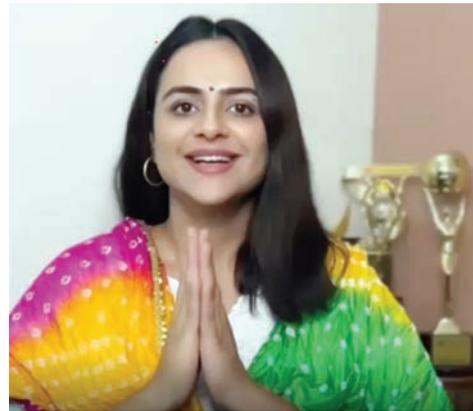
According to a press note issued by Parveen Chopra, Media Coordinator for IDP USA, "famous Bollywood actress Prachi Tehlan, singing sensation Shibani Kashyap and Hollywood / Bollywood actor Prashantt Gupta have been signed on to raise the EQ, entertainment quotient, of the parade celebrating the landmark 75th anniversary of India's independence."

All the arrangements for holding a safe and successful parade in Hicksville on Sunday, August 7 are in place. The parade organizers are grateful to the full cooperation from the officials concerned of Nassau County and Town of Oyster Bay and the police department.

The parade will originate from Hicksville Community Center on Carl Street West and culminate at 125 West John Street where the entertainment stage and vendor stalls will be set up. Children's carnival and games area will be free. The raffle will have attractive prizes.

The parade celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with a focus on India's culture and heritage. The two themes IDP adopted this time are: 'Each One Plant One' to combat global warming, and 'Anekta Mein Ekta' (Unity in Diversity).

About the star attractions
Prachi Tehlan - Grand Marshal



A renowned TV and film actress Prachi has played starring roles in both many films and TV series. She made her acting debut on television in Diya Aur Baati Hum on Star Plus in 2016. She made her movie debut in Punjabi film Arjan (2017) opposite Roshan Prince and after Malayalam movie Mamangam (2019), she has more exciting projects in

her kitty. Prachi is a former Indian netball and basketball player who spearheaded the Indian Netball Team in the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Shibani Kashyap - Guest of Honor



Bollywood playback singer Shibani has given hits like 'Ho Gayi Hai Mohabbat', 'Sajna Aa Bhi Jaa,' 'Zinda Hoon Main', and 'Kya Nazakhat Hai,' Recipient of the best playback singer award at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival, Shibani has rendered her voice for popular movies like 'Waisa Bhi Hota Hai', 'Mr Ya Miss', 'Zindaa', 'The Great Indian Butterfly', etc.

Prashantt Gupta - Guest of Honor



Prashantt Gupta was born in Queens and raised on Long Island. Shifting to Mumbai, he has played key roles in movies like Neerja, Irada, OTT series Aashram, and Regards and Peace. He is now a partner in a Hollywood company called Mulberry, and recently produced and starred in his first American film, A New Christmas.

For more information: -Vimal Goyal, IDP USA President, Ph: 516 978 7125, VimKGoyal@yahoo.com.

Parveen Chopra (Media Coordinator), 516 710 0508, Parveen.Chopra@gmail.com

MAYOR ADAMS CALLS FOR FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH ARRIVING ASYLUM SEEKERS

NEW YORK (TIP) New York City Mayor Eric Adams, on July 19, called for federal resources to assist with arriving asylum seekers in New York City, after - over the last several weeks - New York has experienced a sharp increase in asylum seekers from Latin America and other regions, with more than 2,800 individuals entering New York City's shelter system. New York City is working with the federal government to ensure the city can provide comprehensive support and resources to these individuals. Mayor Adams released the following statement as the situation continues to evolve:

"New York has been and will always be a city of immigrants that welcomes newcomers with open arms. This value has made our city a beacon of freedom for people around the world and the economic and cultural powerhouse that it is. These very same humanitarian values apply to those who are experiencing homelessness. In New York City, we have both a moral - and legal - obligation to house anyone who is experiencing homelessness for any reason. Currently, New York City is experiencing a marked increase in the number of asylum seekers who are arriving from Latin America and other



New York City Mayor Eric Adams has called for federal resources to assist with arriving asylum seekers in New York City
File photo / @NYC Mayor-Twitter

regions. In some instances, families are arriving on buses sent by the Texas and Arizona governments, while in other cases, it appears that individuals are being sent by the federal government. In order to both meet the legal mandate as a right-to-shelter city and provide high-quality shelter and services for those who enter our system, New York City needs additional federal

resources immediately. If we do not get these urgently needed resources, we may struggle to provide the proper level of support our clients deserve, while also facing challenges as we serve both a rapidly growing shelter population and new clients who are seeking asylum. We are calling on the federal government to partner with New York City as we help asylum seekers navigate this process, and to provide financial and technical resources.

"By law, asylum seekers have a right to be in the United States while they seek humanitarian protection. In New York City, we are responsible for the provision of services and infrastructure for newly arrived asylum seekers and currently residing populations alike. We've been in discussions with our federal partners on this matter and look forward to a quick resolution."

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Indian American Physician Nahid Bhadelia joins White House Covid-19 response team

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Nahid Bhadelia, an Indian American infectious diseases physician has joined the White House Covid-19 response team as senior policy advisor for global Covid response.

A Boston University School of Medicine associate professor of infectious diseases, Bhadelia is founder of BU's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Policy & Research (CEID). She is taking a sabbatical for the duration of the full-time position, according to media reports.

Established by President Joe Biden to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic in the US, the response team is currently led by White House Covid-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha. Jha is currently on a short-term leave from the Brown University School of Public Health where he served as the Dean.

Born in India, Bhadelia grew up in Sweden and Saudi Arabia. She came to the United States as a young teenager.

"Some big personal news," Bhadelia tweeted. "I am honored to join @WHCovidResponse as the Senior Policy Advisor for Global Covid-19 Response. I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve my country & to continue working with our



Nahid Bhadelia, an infectious diseases physician has joined the White House Covid-19 response team as senior policy advisor for global Covid response.

global partners."

"Dr. Bhadelia is widely known as an international expert and leader in highly communicable and emerging infectious diseases," says Gloria Waters, BU vice president and associate provost for research.

Bhadelia is also an associate director of BU's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) and helped

launch and develop the Special Pathogens Unit at Boston Medical Center, BU's primary teaching hospital.

"She has extensive clinical, field, academic, and policy experience in pandemic preparedness," says Waters. "Her background in health and human security, international affairs, and her training in infectious disease, coupled with her extensive experience in health system

response to emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola, Zika, and more recently, Covid-19 have provided her with invaluable insights into the underlying challenges to pandemic preparedness."

Bhadelia brings a broad global health background to the White House position, the report said. She worked in West and East Africa during multiple Ebola virus outbreaks, contributed to pandemic preparedness in Liberia and Uganda, and codirects the BU and University of Liberia Emerging and Epidemic Virus Research Program, which is funded by the Fogarty International Center.

She's also a member of the World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group for Universal Health and Preparedness Review, which is working to improve the metrics used to measure pandemic preparedness.

Since founding CEID in 2021, Bhadelia has grown it into a hub for research and actionable policies-the center has contributed to congressional hearings, advised legislative offices, prepared policy briefs, and provided input on pandemic preparedness bills, the media reported.

Indian-origin woman on FBI's 'Missing Persons' list



The Federal Bureau of Investigation has Mayushi Bhagat, who has been missing from New Jersey for the last three years, to its list of "Missing Persons" and is asking for assistance from the public on her whereabouts.

NEW YORK (TIP): The Federal Bureau of Investigation has added a 28-year-old Indian-origin woman, who has been missing from New Jersey for the last three years, to its list of "Missing Persons" and is asking for assistance from the public on her whereabouts.

Mayushi Bhagat was last seen in the evening hours of April 29, 2019, leaving her apartment in Jersey City, New Jersey. She was last seen wearing colorful pajama pants and a black T-shirt. Bhagat was reported missing by her family on May 1, 2019.

She is described as 5 feet 10 inches tall, medium build with black hair and brown eyes.

Bhagat came to the United States in 2016 on an F1 Student Visa. She was enrolled at the University of New Hampshire and then the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), according to information released by the FBI.

FBI's Newark Division on Wednesday added Bhagat to the list of "Missing Persons" on its webpage, FBI Special Agent in Charge James Dennehy said.

Bhagat speaks English, Hindi, and Urdu and has friends in the South Plainfield, New Jersey, area.

The FBI said any person with information about Bhagat should contact the local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

The FBI has put Bhagat's 'Missing Person' poster on its website under the "Most Wanted" list of "Kidnappings/Missing Persons."

NRI's now can fly to Vancouver, San Francisco from Amritsar airport



Now, fly to Vancouver, San Francisco from Amritsar airport

AMRITSAR (TIP): In a further boost to international air connectivity from Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport, the Singapore Airlines, Scoot, will now connect Amritsar with Vancouver in Canada and San

Francisco, Seattle, and Los Angeles in the USA via one of the world's best airports - Changi Airport in Singapore.

Welcoming the decision, members of FlyAmritsar, an organization advocating increased air connectivity to the holy city, stated that before the Covid pandemic, Scoot along with its group partner Singapore Airlines connected Amritsar with many destinations, including Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in Australia.

Sameep Singh, global convener of FlyAmritsar, said, "After the resumption of its flights to Amritsar in February, the airline has been successful in recapturing the travel market to Southeast Asia and Australia, and they are now eyeing Amritsar's North America air travel market, especially to Vancouver and San Francisco, by connecting with flights through their flagship carrier Singapore Airlines."

He said with the airline again starting direct non-stop flights to west coast of North America, Punjab would once again be connected to these destinations from Amritsar through Singapore.

The FlyAmritsar Initiative recently held a special meeting with officials from Scoot airline and urged them to increase the number of flights to Amritsar. The organization had urged the airlines to reduce the long layover time at Singapore for passengers arriving from Vancouver and other destinations in the US and Australia.

INDO-CANADIAN SIKH MAN SHOT DEAD AT NIGHTCLUB IN TORONTO



Pardeep Brar died after he was critically injured in a nightclub shooting in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

BRAMPTON (TIP): A 26-year-old Sikh man died after he was critically injured in a nightclub shooting in Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

The man has been identified as Pardeep Brar and was residing at Brampton.

Police said that a 24-year-old woman was also injured in the incident, but she was released from the hospital after treatment.

The information on the suspect is yet to be released by the police.

Pardeep Brar was wounded early on Sunday, along with a 24-year-old woman at 647 King St. W., near Bathurst Street, Toronto police said in a news release on Monday.

Officers were called to the scene at 3:33 a.m., reported media,

Toronto paramedics took Brar and the woman to the hospital. It is yet to be known whether the shooting was targeted or not.

AAPI Victory Fund appoints two Indian Americans advocates to top jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The AAPI Victory Fund has appointed two Indian American community advocates to top jobs as part of efforts to educate, empower, and mobilize its 23 million-strong electorate ahead of 2022 midterm elections.

Shehn Datta, a seasoned strategist who worked on President Barack Obama's campaigns in 2008 and 2012, has been appointed National Political Director.

Vaibhav Jain, who served as Senior Advisor for AAPI Outreach and Engagement on Joe Biden's winning presidential campaign in 2020 and then joined his transition team, has been named National Outreach Director.

"We, at AAPI Victory Fund, are so excited to have Shehn Datta and Vaibhav Jain join our team as National Political Director and National Outreach Director, respectively," AAPI Victory Fund President and CEO Brad Jenkins stated.

"These two individuals have dedicated their time, resources, and lives to empowering communities and ensuring our democracy works for everyone."

"Shehn Datta comes to us with over a decade of experience and expertise in advocacy, creating collaborative spaces, and movement building," Jenkins said. "As National Political Director, we look forward to strategizing with her to build AAPI political power across the country."

"Vaibhav Jain has been an integral member of the AAPI Victory Fund, dating back to his organizing work on the 2021 US Senate runoff elections in Georgia."

"Thanks to Vaibhav, we have expanded engagement with diverse community groups across the country, increased our digital footprint, and are better positioned to mobilize key blocs of AAPI voters in upcoming elections," he stated.

"With their guidance, we can help the AAPI community reach its potential and save the future of our democracy," Jenkins added.

"I am elated to join AAPI Victory Fund as their National Political Director and join in on their efforts to engage and empower progressive AAPI voters to be the margin of victory at all levels of the ballot," Datta stated.

"This year's elections are going to steer the direction of our democracy, making it more important than ever to band together and get out the vote."



Shehn Datta and Vaibhav Jain have been appointed to top posts in AAPI Victory Fund

"As National Political Director, I look forward to working with AAPI Victory Fund to enfranchise and motivate the AAPI community to flex their political power, while bringing culture to the forefront of our work," Datta added.

"As an immigrant, I have learned that America's promises of equality, opportunity, and freedom are not a guarantee. They are commitments that must be renewed by each successive generation," Jain stated.

"Civic engagement and participation in democratic processes are what bind us together and strengthen our union. I am humbled to serve the AAPI Victory Fund as National Outreach Director to ensure that we continue to be the margin of victory in elections and the redeemers of the values that drew so many of us here."

"I look forward to scaling our efforts to recruit, educate, mobilize, and turnout 11 million AAPI voters, whose voices will be heard at the ballot box and whose leadership

will be reflected in the halls of power," Jain stated.

Datta most recently served as the Senior Political Strategist at the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, where she collaborated closely with external partners and internal teams to bring about just and fair redistricting, while battling an undercount in communities of color and for marginalized people.

Over her career she has worked to elect candidates who support progressive policies with a focus on mobilizing the young voters and climate champions at NextGen America.

She has advised donors on political programs and opportunities in the states at the Democracy Alliance and fought for a stronger democracy at both State Voices and the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center.

Datta additionally fought to elect - and then re-elect President Barack Obama, spending the majority of the campaign cycles in North Carolina.

Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Datta received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law and her Bachelor's degree from Mills College, in Oakland, California.

Jain is responsible for developing and executing the Fund's strategy to mobilize and turnout 11 million Asian American and Pacific Islander voters in US elections.

Jain leads constituent outreach, manages candidate endorsements, and is responsible for curating the Victory Fund's digital and social media channels.

A public health specialist, graphic designer and consummate organizer, Jain began his career as a community health dentist in small villages across southern India.

Prior to his experiences in electoral politics, Jain spent five years as a qualitative researcher at the American Institutes for Research. He was also a fellow at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jain has a master's degree in public health from George Washington University in Washington, DC and a bachelor's degree in dental surgery from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Bangalore, India.

Jain is a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. He grew up in New Delhi and now lives in New York with his husband Parag Mehta. In October of 2020, they filed a petition with the Delhi High Court seeking recognition of their marriage.

INDIAN AMERICAN FRANK ISLAM NAMED BY BIDEN TO COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Frank F. Islam to the Commission on Presidential Scholars which is tasked with selecting 161 Presidential Scholars from academics, the arts, career and technical education.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Frank F. Islam to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

The 21-member commission, announced by the White House Friday, July 15, in a press release, includes prominent Americans from across the country in various fields. It will be

chaired by Delawarean Margaret Aitken Haggerty, a communications professional who previously served as the spokesperson and press secretary for Biden during his Senate days.

The commission is tasked with selecting 161 Presidential Scholars from academics, the arts, career and technical education.

"It is an honor to be appointed to the Commission on Presidential Scholars," Islam told The American Bazaar. "Those students who are selected to be Scholars represent the best of America and will be leaders in creating its future. I look forward to serving on the Commission with the other members and collaborating with them to choose Scholars who will use this experience and their already impressive accomplishments in order to help build an even stronger and better America."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICAN WRITER AADRITA MUKERJI SIGNS DEAL WITH UNIVERSAL TELEVISION

NEW YORK (TIP): Aadrita Mukerji, an Indian American film and television writer originally from Kolkata, India, who worked on 'The Endgame' and 'Reacher', has struck an overall deal with Universal Television, media reported.

Mukerji, who will write, develop and produce projects across all platforms for the USG studio, has already signed up to her first job as part of the pact - she will join NBC's reboot of 'Quantum Leap' as a co-exec producer.

"I am thrilled and honored to join the Universal Television family," said Mukerji. "I count myself lucky to have found a creative home with such a talented, dedicated, and supportive team, and I look forward to the stories we'll tell together."

"We were fortunate enough to develop with Aadrita last season while she was also an integral part of The Endgame writing staff," added Vivian Cannon,



Aadrita Mukerji will join Universal Television's 'Quantum Leap', which premieres on NBC on Sep 19.

EVP of Drama Development at UTV.

"She's a truly gifted writer and producer who brings her own unique perspective to everything she writes. We are thrilled to continue our relationship with Aadrita and look forward to lots of continued success with her in the future." Mukerji got her start as a writer on the CBS television series Scorpion before becoming an executive story editor of Supergirl.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Velvety voice of the everyday citizen Bhupinder Singh bids goodbye to his fans

BY B B NAGPAL



'Naam gum jaayega, chehra yeh badal jaayega, meri awaaz hai pehchaan hai, gar yaad rahey' (My name will be lost, my face will be forgotten, but my voice will remain, if you remember it.)



The suave Bhupinder Singh

These words from a famous and emotional song from the 1977 film 'Kinaara' was sung as a duet by Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar who passed away earlier this year, and Bhupinder Singh who died earlier this week on July 18. And the lyrics by themselves convey that these two singers will never be forgotten and will live on through their songs.

Bhupinder died of cardiac arrest at the age of 82 but was also suffering from covid and a suspected colon cancer.

Bhupinder (6 February 1940 - 18 July 2022) was born in Amritsar in Punjab to Natha Singhji, a musician and his introducer to music. Bhupinder's father was a stern teacher, and at one point, he detested music and its instruments.

Bhupinder started his career as a casual artist for All India Radio under the direction of Satish Bhatia. He also worked at Doordarshan in Delhi. He learnt the guitar. In 1962, music director Madan Mohan heard him at a dinner hosted by Satish Bhatia in his honor (Satish Bhatia was Producer in AIR Delhi and Bhupinder was working under him as a guitarist) and called him to Mumbai then known as Bombay.

His proficiency with the Hawaiian, Spanish and electric guitars also spread, and he became part of the famed R.D. Burman team. The Dum Maro Dum riff emerged from Mr. Singh's instrument. "When Dev (Anand) sahib narrated the situation in his inimitable style, he said imagine smoke and clouds of heroin. Moved by his descriptions, I started playing a tune on my electric guitar, and R.D. said, this is it," Mr. Singh once told this journalist.

Bhupinder was given the opportunity to sing the very emotional song Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bhulaya Hoga alongside Mohammed Rafi, Talat Mehmood and Manna Dey in the film Haqeeqat by Chetan Anand (eldest brother of Dev Anand). A song that brings tears to the listeners eyes, it is a scene of Indian soldiers who are convinced they will die as nobody knew their whereabouts during the India-China conflict of 1972 and so all the singers had to sing it with a tinge of despair and sadness. The actors included Jayant, Balraj Sahni, and Dharmendra, among others.

Bhupinder was given a solo by the renowned Khayyam in the film Aakhri Khat and this brought him into notice by other music directors.

Bhupinder's slightly nasal voice was one of the most unique in playback singing and suited some of the actors of 1970s and 1980s. Apart from being a singer, he



The melodious Bhupinder Singh

was an actor and a musician and played instruments in some of the iconic Hindi songs.

The mid-1970s was also the time when the angry young man films had to compete with those of the average citizen. Bhupinder's voice could convey the pain of the common man struggling to find a niche in the big city well. Most of his songs live on because they generate the same emotions as they did in the late 70s. Being a migrant himself, he could identify with the emotional dilemma expressed in Ek Akela Is Shehar Main (Gharaonda) or the urge to embrace life in Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana (Dooriyan).

Outside the sublime world of Khayyam and Jaidev, Mr. Singh also struck a chord with Bappi Lahiri when he sang the irresistible ghazal, Kisi Nazar Ko Tera Intezar Aaj Bhi Hai (Aetbaar) for him.

He also started releasing private albums wherein his first LP had three self-composed songs and was released in 1968, a second LP of ghazals wherein he introduced the Spanish



Bhupinder and wife Mitali performing at a concert

guitar, bass and drums to the ghazal style, released in 1978 and his third LP titled Woh Jo Shair Tha, for which the lyrics were written by the renowned lyricist Gulzar in 1980.

He moved away from playback singing in the mid-1980s after his marriage with Bangladeshi singer Mitali Mukerji, and since then had been singing jointly for several albums and live concerts. Together they produced many ghazal and geet cassettes.

His famous film songs include "Dil Dhoondta hai", "Do diwane shahar mein", "Naam gum jayega", "Karoge yaad to", "Meethe bol bole", "Kabhi kisi ko mukammal", "Kisi nazar ko tera intezaar aaj bhi", and "Ek akela is Shehar Mein". Other songs include Duniya Chute Yaar Na Toote, Kahiya Kahan Se Aana Hua and Beete Na Bitaaai Raina, Kisi Nazar Ko Tera Intezar Aaj Bhi Hai, "Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Aasman, Ek Akela Is Shaher Mein, Huzoor Is Kadar bhi na Itra ke Chaliye, Hothon Pe Aisi Baat, Karoge Yaad to Har Baat Yaad Aayegi, Kabhi Kisi Ko Mukammal Jahan nahi milta, and Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana. Aane Se Uske Aaye Bahar

What Bhupinder lost because of competitors was made up by his songs. A large number of his songs listed above as a tinge of sadness or nostalgia in his voice, and the voice of every man's heartache, and this made them so unique. At the same time, he gave romantic songs like Huzoor is kadar bhi na itra ke chaliye, Raat Banoo Mein Geet Bano Tum,



Bhupinder and wife Mitali rehearsing

In addition, he and his wife together had around ten discs. Bhupinder also gained fame by playing the guitar in films like Dum maro dum, Ek Hi Khwaab, Waadiyaan Meraa Daaman, Chura liya hai, Chingari Koi Bhadke, Chalte, Mehbooba O Mehbooba, Ambar ki ek paak surahi, and Tum jo mil gaye ho.

Mr. Singh won numerous awards but he was elated only when the Sangeet Natak Akademi conferred on him its award in the 'sugam sangeet' (light music) category.

The year has seen the departure of many important personalities of the music world. Apart from Lata and Bhupinder, India lost the eminent santoor (Kashmiri string instrument) player Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pandit Bhajan Sopori, music maestro Bappie Lahiri, playback singer Sandhya Mukherjee, and singer KK. In addition, India lost filmmaker Ravi Tandon (father of actress Raveena Tandon), filmmaker T Rama Rao, actor Ramesh Deo, and actor Salim Ghose.

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Fate of human rights in India

DORMANT FOR TOO LONG, CIVIL SOCIETY MUST LEARN TO PROTECT ITS EXEMPLARS

BY SHIV
VISVANATHAN



"INDIA IS MOVING FROM MAJORITARIANISM TO AUTHORITARIANISM. ITS INDIFFERENCE TO MARGINS, INFORMAL ECONOMICS, MINORITIES IS INCREASING. AUTHORITARIAN SOCIALITES AND OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION, ESPECIALLY AS MEDIA, ADD TO THE OBSCENITY OF THE REGIME. AN INFORMAL ECONOMY OF TRUTH WAS KEPT ALIVE AS MEMORY BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY. OUR CIVIL SOCIETY HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR TOO LONG, ALLOWING PARTIES TO TAKE OVER, OR WORSE, LETTING THEM BE THE SIMULACRUM OF OUR CIVIL SOCIETY."



Demonizing human rights activists. Like the 'Urban Naxal', Sreekumar and Teesta are seen as a threat to democracy and the law. Photo / PTI

Last fortnight was a sad one for me. My two friends, Teesta Setalvad and ex-DGP Sreekumar, were arrested. The sadness was deepened by the reactions that followed. Teesta and Sreekumar are not mere knee-jerk activists. They have a vision of the world. For Teesta, the Constitution is a playground of new freedoms. For Sreekumar, Sanskrit is a way of looking at the world, where an ethical reality comes alive with each sloka. They are both professional people with a deep sense of dignity in their concern for India.

What do the ordinary citizen and the argumentative Indian do when dissent, instead of being a part of the fabric of culture, is defined as unpatriotic and anti-national?

The silence around the arrests, beyond the protest of the few standard groups, was worrying. They are citizens acting as concerned individuals, struggling for 20 years to find and state the truth of a society. There is little sense of an ego trip as they struggle with the bureaucracy. Like Stan Swamy, Teesta and Sreekumar are activists who have fought for life-giving rights. Yet, the court and State read them as amateur busy bodies, seeking to forge events and fostering conspiracies. I was wondering why ordinary citizens did not react to the obscenity of the situation. Was it fear, indifference, tiredness?

I am not talking of political parties responding, just ordinary citizens out of a sense of decency and concern. I think the great victory of the Modi regime is in the way it has demonized human rights activists. People who are exemplars of this society are treated like dirt. In a freer India, universities would have had discussions, requested the government to stop such harassment. The general silence that followed was the great victory of the regime.

Is it a sign of things to come? What do

the ordinary citizen and the argumentative Indian do when dissent, instead of being a part of the fabric of culture, is defined as unpatriotic and anti-national? Like the 'Urban Naxal', Teesta and Sreekumar are seen as a threat to democracy and the law.

How does one look at freedom and dissent and its relationship to citizenship at this moment? A friend gave me a more elliptical answer. She said we have to make rights part of myth and folklore, not just want the media to spout a particular story. Human rights need to go back to the oral tradition. Rights cannot be constructed in the neighborhood of text, contract, law. Orality has to become dynamic again. One needs a 'Hari Katha' of human rights where speech takes the story of human rights struggles to every village. Teesta has to be a part of memory, not record.

She made the above point as an anthropologist. She said the court and the CBI acted as custodians of the textual domain, playing guardian of minutes of the meeting, procedures, records. It displayed a clinical correctness which is not truth. Sanitizing documents does not lead to the truth. It is not an assembly line of certifications. One has to battle hard to tell the truth. It is time human rights reclaim the storyteller and recite these stories from Stan Swamy to Sreekumar. Memory, the cultural memory of rights battles, has to become a significant part of such efforts. Memory has a different flavor, even authenticity from record when the State becomes a custodian of the latter. I remember schools would have moral science classes where such anecdotes would be told. We have to return to that pedagogy of rights. One has to capture rights as a pilgrimage, a search for truth beyond State certainties. The nature of the quest is different. In telling the story this way, one is honoring all the Teestas and Sreekumars of the world.

One hopes between pedagogy and the new civil rights politics, a different stand is taken, and the Stan Swamys, the Sreekumars feel that their vision of life is not lost on the new generation.

India is moving from majoritarianism to authoritarianism. Its indifference to margins, informal economics, minorities is increasing. Authoritarian socialites and other forms of communication, especially as media, add to the obscenity of the regime. An informal economy of truth was kept alive as memory by the civil society. Our civil society has been dormant for too long, allowing parties to take over, or worse, letting them be the simulacrum of our civil society. I remember Sreekumar would be invited by literary groups in Kerala to tell his story. They would cross-examine afterwards. It is that sense of openness and debate we need to recreate. A civil society must learn to protect its exemplars as living testimonies to a visionary right, not just the details of the case. The human rights records of the Setalvad family from Independence to now are worth looking at as a testimony in its own right. It tells you about the traditions across generations of treating human rights with a different texture of respect.

There is a third aspect we must consider. Eminent scientist CV Seshadri would often tell me that whether it is science or rights, we have to read it at three life-giving levels. First was storytelling, and he added, the storyteller and the story often disappear in the first phase of the tragedy. The activist then becomes the storyteller, as in the Narmada struggle. Imagine a graphic novel on Medha's struggle.

The second phase he called discourse, the framework of culture, through the concept around which law as thought is built. This needs metaphysics, a study of the 'tacit Constitutions', the unstated unconscious around ideas. One has to look at violence, justice and ways of being. Rights have to be located between property and commons. An exegesis of rights as a metaphysic becomes critical.

Finally, there is the paradigm of law, the case as is unfolding. One has to ask what the role of law and lawyers is. How do they react, read the text? Do national law schools greet such a verdict in silence, or is the argumentative India a part of the law? One has to read the Teesta episodes through all three gradients. From a particular case it becomes a lens, a kaleidoscope for reading the fate of rights in India. One hopes between pedagogy and the new civil rights politics, a different stand is taken, and the Stan Swamys, the Sreekumars feel that their vision of life is not lost on the new generation.

(The author is a sociologist)

A Senator Representing Fewer than 2 million Americans Hijacks the Agenda of 330 million Americans Multiple Times

By Ajay Ghosh



West Virginia's population shrank 3.7% to 1,782,959 in 2021, from the 1.9 million people who lived there in 2010. In contrast, as per a report by The Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program, the population in the US grew 6.5% during that period to 330 million people across all the 50 states and DC. The state of West Virginia ranks 50 out of all 50 US states in population.

West Virginia's gross state product (GSP) reached \$72.2bn, with growth of 0.6% over the 5-years to 2019. West Virginia's GSP growth ranks 45 out of all 50 US states. GSP is a measurement of a state's output, or the sum of value added from all industries in the state. The state employs 0.9 million people with a growth rate of -0.2% over the five years to 2018, which ranks it 50 out of all US states.

Senator Joseph Manchin III, representing the state of West Virginia in the US Senate since 2010, is a politician and businessman. A member of the Democratic Party, he was the 34th governor of West Virginia from 2005 to 2010 and the 27th secretary of state of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005. As per his website, Senator Manchin currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and also serves on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Armed Services, and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs - four critical committees that tackle the important work of addressing our nation's energy needs, overseeing discretionary spending, standing up for our Veterans, and defending our nation.

Democrats now have a thin majority in the US Senate, and passing sweeping legislation is not easy, due to a rule requiring votes from 60 of the Senate's 100 members. With just 50 members and a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Kamala Harris, Senate Democrats will have the power to confirm executive and judicial nominees and launch investigations in a range of areas.

The current predicament of a 50/50 split in the Senate gives the ruling Democratic party very little scope for legislating President Biden's Agenda. And that makes every one of the 50 Democratic Senatorial a strong voice, allowing them to choose to support or reject any agenda or policy of the Biden administration. Manchin is powerful in part because of circumstance - in a 50-50 Senate, his party can pass almost nothing without him.

In order to advance any legislation, President Joe Biden's administration may need to modify its priorities on economic relief, climate change, gun laws, electoral reforms, racial equity and immigration in order to gain support from Republicans and moderate Democrats like Manchin.

One senator, who has exploited this position to suit his narrow political agenda, is Sen. Manchin, who represents the less than 2 million people of West Virginia, against the well-being of the 330 million Americans.

For instance, Manchin's decision last week to move ahead with a reconciliation deal that doesn't involve climate change and raising taxes on the wealthy, risks consigning the entire world to a warmer future, said scientists and advocates for a safer world, said while reacting to the news. Democrats, activists and scientists reacting to the news worried that the inability of Congress to take meaningful reaction would consign the U.S. to more heatwaves, floods, droughts and intense storms.

Democratic senate leaders have been negotiating with Manchin for over a year to try to get him on board with investments that would dramatically reduce U.S. contribution to climate change. But on Friday last week, Manchin said he's not interested in immediately moving forward with a deal that includes those investments. Manchin, relaying a discussion he'd had telling Majority

Manchin's refusal to back any climate proposal could doom action for years to come, given the strong likelihood of Republicans flipping the House in November. Sens. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) independently used the same term to describe Manchin's stance this week: "Infuriating."



Senator Joseph Manchin III, representing the state of West Virginia in the US Senate since 2010 has repeatedly thwarted the Democratic agenda

Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) of his decision, suggested he might be able to agree to a deal at a later date.

But those comments rang hollow with climate activists, who noted he has made similar remarks in the past. "Joe Manchin is waving the fate of human survival over our heads like a bone to hungry dogs and it's really quite frightening," John Paul Mejia, a national spokesperson for Sunrise Movement, told the media.

Evergreen Action Executive Director Jamal Raad said in a statement that Manchin should not be considered a good-faith negotiator. "Senator Manchin has lost all credibility and can no longer be trusted to prioritize the well-being of Americans and the planet over his own profiteering and political grandstanding," Raad said.

"Every ton matters," said Dan Lashof, the U.S. director of the World Resources Institute, referring to tons of carbon emissions. "Whether or not this bill gets done has a material impact on total emissions from the U.S. and that affects the magnitude of climate change that we will face," he said. Those who have studied the climate-saving potential of the Democrats' climate bill agree that not passing it would likely lead to more emissions and a warmer planet.

Princeton professor Jesse Jenkins, who has modeled the potential emissions cuts of the legislation under consideration, told The Hill that based on what had been reported thus far, a climate deal would have probably cut emissions between 800 million and 1 billion metric tons in 2030. That's the equivalent of taking between 172 million and 215 million cars off the roads for a year. "We're losing two-thirds to three-quarters of the progress we were hoping to make by 2030," he said.

Some argued that the rest of the world may be less inclined to take bold action without the U.S. participating as well. "The U.S. is THE largest historical all-time emitter, and for that reason occupies a special role. We can't expect other countries to act meaningfully if we fail to," said climatologist Michael Mann.

President Biden pledged "strong executive action" on climate change in reaction to Manchin's move. But, with Trump appointed conservative Justices leading the US Supreme Court, Biden's actions could be blocked, and impact minimized.

Most activists reacted in fury to the latest setback, castigating the West Virginia Democrat as potentially signing a death warrant for meaningful climate action against the backdrop of a generationally conservative

court, the likely loss of a Democratic majority in Congress and the possible loss of the White House in 2025.

"Joe Manchin has pretended to be supportive of certain investments for over a year now, and it turns out that that was bulls-," Jamal Raad said. "That will now be his lasting legacy - a person that tried to put his own profits and sense of his political standing over the planet."

This is not the first time, Manchin ditched Democrats. The 2018 confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh were tumultuous even by the standards of the Trump era. Kavanaugh, a staunch conservative nominated to replace a more centrist figure, Justice Anthony Kennedy, faced sexual assault allegations dating back four decades from Christine Blasey Ford.

Republicans had held a 51-49 majority in the Senate, but Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) would ultimately refuse to back Kavanaugh. That left Manchin and moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) as the crucial votes. Manchin was the only Democrat confirming him to the highest court. Last month, after the Supreme Court struck down the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion decision, Manchin said he was "alarmed" by the actions of Kavanaugh and Justice Neil Gorsuch, the other Trump nominee for whom he voted.

Again, in December 2021, the West Virginia Senator's single most dramatic intervention may have been his announcement that he would sink President Biden's keystone legislation, the "Build Back Better" bill. The fact that he chose to announce his opposition on Fox News drove liberal Democrats to even more intense outrage.

Manchin said in a statement reiterating his opposition to the legislation, which would have extended an expanded child tax credit, helped with childcare costs, taxed high earners more and taken significant action on climate change, among other things.

In June 2021, Manchin destroyed the potential party unity on 'For the People' voting reform legislation, one of the major goals of Democrats when they won back the White House - and control of the Senate - in the 2020 election. Many in the party see American democracy as being in existential danger. Schumer declared the protection of voting rights, and of elections themselves, to be a "top priority." The legislation never had a clear path through the Senate, requiring 60 votes to pass in the absence of filibuster reform. But Manchin denied Democrats even the claim that they were unified behind the proposal. Manchin reiterated his opposition to filibuster reform, driving the final nail in the coffin of the "For the People" proposal.

Manchin has all along thwarted filibuster reform ever since he was elected to the Senate. Democrats often become enraged with Manchin because they believe he acts in bad faith. In one of many statements outlining his position, Manchin's office detailed his steady stance dating back to 2013, when he opposed such reform while Democrats held the Senate majority.

Manchin is the most conservative Democrat in the Senate - and perhaps the most controversial, at least with the rest of his party. He won reelection to a second full Senate term in 2018, just two years after President Trump carried his state by more than 40 points.

"Manchin is not particularly concerned about President Biden succeeding. He's not particularly concerned about the needs of working people," Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) told SiriusXM's "Dean Obeidallah Show" last week.

Manchin's refusal to back any climate proposal could doom action for years to come, given the strong likelihood of Republicans flipping the House in November. Sens. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) independently used the same term to describe Manchin's stance this week: "Infuriating."

(The author is Chief Editor of www.theunn.com and The Asian Era. He can be reached at ajghosh@gmail.com)

MSP: Farmers threaten to be back on streets in support of their demands

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



MSP Was There, Is There And It Will Remain In The Future: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on February 8, 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also said the nation was proud of every Sikh and indirectly slammed those calling the protesting farmers as 'Khalistani' terrorists.

File photo / PTI

“Our agitation is far from over. We will not sit quietly till our demand of getting legal sanctity to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farm produce is conceded,” is the unanimous voice coming from farmers organizations especially those owing their allegiance to Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). They are contemplating to revive their agitation as they feel that the NDA Government at the center was dilly dallying on their demand for guarantying MSP.

Upset over ignoring their demand for constituting an exclusive committee to suggest ways and means of making MSP mandatory, the SKM has outrightly rejected the proposed 29-member committee by the Union Government on minimum support price. The issue came up before the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament where the ruling BJP refused to budge.

AAP leader Raghav Chadha was on forefront in criticizing the 29-member Committee saying that by ignoring Punjab, the Government has played a cruel joke on the farming community in general and the food grain bowl of the country.

Other parties, including Congress, took the Government to task over the discrimination with Punjab and its farmers in setting up the Committee.

AAP and Congress leaders endorsed the stand of the SKM. The SKM leaders have been maintaining that this committee as proposed was nothing but a back door entry to corporates and yes men of the government to get the already repealed farm laws back in a new format. They held that they would not allow the government to serve "old wine in new bottles".

"We will force the BJP-led NDA Government to make a law that guarantees MSP for all farm produce," SKM Leader Darshan Pal said hoping that the MSP law would be in place before the 2024 general elections.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha leader also pointed that nowhere in the proposed committee notification was any mention of providing legal guarantee to MSP.

"Even the agenda of the committee does not include provisions for making laws on mandatory MSP for all crops," Darshan Lal said while rejecting the committee downright.

The SKM had considered the proposal at its general house meeting on July 3 where it was unanimously rejected. Instead, the SKM said it was surprised at the Union Government proposal of loading the committee with those who had earlier supported the three disputed Farm Bills or were supporters of corporatizing the agriculture sector.

Even major farm states like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh were completely ignored in the proposed committee.

The Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar,



One of the key demands of the year-long farmers' protest was for a legally recognized Minimum Support Price for crop procurement. File Photo / Reuters- Danish Siddiqui

"WE WILL FORCE THE BJP-LED NDA GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A LAW THAT GUARANTEES MSP FOR ALL FARM PRODUCE," SKM LEADER DARSHAN PAL SAID HOPING THAT THE MSP LAW WOULD BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

however, questioned the SKM claims. He held that the government never told the SKM that it would constitute a committee to provide legal guarantees of MSP.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on whether the Government had assured the SKM for the constitution of such a committee in December 2021, Tomar said: "The Government had assured the formation of a committee to make MSP more effective and transparent, to promote natural farming and to change crop pattern keeping in mind the changing needs of the country. Accordingly, a committee has been constituted consisting of representatives of farmers, Central government, state governments, agricultural economists and scientists, etc."

The government fixes MSP for 22 mandated agricultural crops and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering views of state governments and Central ministries and departments concerned and other relevant factors, Tomar said.

"The Government has increased MSPs for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other Commercial crops with a minimum return of 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from year 2018-19 onwards," he added.

The Government on Monday, the opening day of the Monsoon session of Parliament, set up a committee to look into issues related to agriculture, including making MSP more effective and transparent, crop diversification and natural farming, eight months after it promised to set up such a panel while withdrawing the three

contentious farm laws.

The umbrella body of farmers' organizations that organized an unprecedented more than a year-long peaceful agitation to demand withdrawal of three central farm laws, also made it clear that it had no plans to nominate three representatives to the panel as suggested by the Union Government.

According to the notification, the committee will hold discussions on making available MSP to farmers by making the system more effective and transparent. It will also make suggestions to give more autonomy to CACP. The committee will also suggest measures to make it more scientific; and strengthen the agricultural marketing system as per the changing requirements of the country to ensure higher value to the farmers through remunerative prices of their produce by taking advantage of the domestic and the export opportunities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19 last year had announced the repeal of the three controversial farm laws that triggered a massive farmer protest at Delhi borders. He also announced at that time that the government would set up a committee to make MSP more effective and transparent as well as suggest ways to promote zero budget natural farming.

The SKM leaders held that they agreed to suspend their agitation and return home after the government promised to fulfil their remaining demands.

The SKM wants those twenty-two crops that include 14 Kharif crops-paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur (arhar), moong urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed and cotton-six Rabi crops-wheat, barley, gram, masur (lentil), rapeseed, mustard and safflower-besides two commercial crops-jute and copra be brought under mandatory MSP control. In addition, MSP for toria and de-husked coconut be also fixed on the basis of MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

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

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as Sri Lanka's 8th President

WICKREMESINGHE IS THE FIRST SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED BY PARLIAMENT FOLLOWING A VOTE

COLOMBO (TIP): Veteran politician Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Thursday, July 21, sworn in as Sri Lanka's eighth president and will face the tough task of leading the country out of its economic crisis and restoring order after months of mass protests.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn in as the Executive President of Sri Lanka at the Parliament complex before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya.

Wickremesinghe, who took over as the Acting President after his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country and resigned last week, is the first Sri Lankan President to be elected by Parliament following a vote.

Late D B Wijetunga was elected uncontested in May 1993 after the demise of R Premadasa who was the then President.

Wickremesinghe, a six-time former prime minister, was elected as Sri Lanka's President by lawmakers on Wednesday, July 19, in a rare move that could provide continuity for crucial discussions with the IMF for a bailout deal for the cash-strapped nation.

He secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dullas Alahapperuma got 82. Leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake secured just three votes during the voting held in Parliament amidst tight security.

He faces the task of leading the country out of its economic collapse and restoring order after months of mass protests.



A Cabinet of 20-25 members will be appointed within the next few days to serve under President Wickremesinghe, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

Wickremesinghe's comfortable victory with the backing of the Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party showed the Rajapaksa family's firm grip on Sri Lankan politics despite the resignations of President Rajapaksa, former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa in recent weeks in the face of massive anti-government protests. Wickremesinghe's victory could inflame the situation once again as many anti-government protesters see him as inextricably tied to the erstwhile Rajapaksa regime, blamed for the country's worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

Wickremesinghe, who has been in Parliament for nearly five decades, was appointed as prime minister in May, nearly two years after his United National Party (UNP) was routed and failed to win a single seat in the general election held in 2020.

Widely accepted in political circles as a man who could manage the economy with far-sighted policies, Wickremesinghe is struggling to fix the economy which, he said, had collapsed at the time of his appointment in May.

Wickremesinghe, who is believed to be close to India and its leaders, has held many important posts during his career.

His immediate challenge, along with trying to ensure a steady supply of food and fuel, is to convince the protesters to give him a chance.

Imran Khan demands fresh general elections in Pakistan after impressive show in Punjab by-polls

LAHORE (TIP): Imran Khan has demanded fresh general elections in Pakistan after his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party routed the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party in the crucial Punjab assembly by-polls, dealing a major blow to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif whose son Hamza Shehbaz is all set to lose his post as chief minister.

The election for the chief minister will be held on July 22 on the Supreme Court's order and PTI-PMLQ joint candidate Chaudhary Parvez Elahi is likely to be the new chief minister of the politically crucial province Punjab.

According to unofficial results so far, the PTI has won 15 seats while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of Sharif has just four. An independent candidate also won.

PTI chairman Khan in a tweet on Sunday thanked party workers and voters of Punjab for defeating, what he



called, not just PML-N candidates, but the entire state machinery, especially harassment by police and a "totally biased" Election Commission of Pakistan.

"The only way forward from here is to hold fair and free elections under a

credible ECP. Any other path will only lead to greater political uncertainty and further economic chaos," Khan, who was ousted as prime minister in April after he lost a confidence vote in Parliament, said.

PTI party's senior leader Asad Umar said Khan would announce the party strategy after a meeting of the core committee on Monday.

He said now the PML-N is left with only one option and that is "immediately calling for fresh general elections."

The Punjab Assembly currently stands at 369 members: the PTI has 178 lawmakers and its ally PML-Q 10. The PML-N has 167 members while its coalition partners PPP seven, six independents and one Rah-i-Haq Party.

The ruling PML-N of the Sharifs has accepted its defeat and even congratulated PTI Chairman Khan for a 'landslide victory' in the by-polls. (PTI)

NEPALI SHERPA SETS CLIMBING RECORD ON PAKISTAN MOUNTAIN

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 47-year-old Nepali sherpa has set a climbing record by scaling all the world's 14 peaks that are higher than 8,000 metres (26,247 ft) for a second time, his agency said on July 21. Sanu Sherpa, from Sankhuwasabha district in east Nepal, reached the top of Pakistan's Gasherbrum II, which at 8,035 metres is the 13th highest, on Thursday morning, his Pioneer Adventure hiking company said in Kathmandu. "He is the only person in the world to scale each of the 14 highest mountains twice," Nibesh Karki, the company's executive director told Reuters. No further details were available. Eight of the 14 highest peaks, including Mount Everest, are in Nepal. The other six are in Pakistan and the Tibet region of China. Reuters

INDIAN ARRESTED WITH RS 41.55 LAKH CASH IN NEPAL

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 25-year-old Indian national has been arrested for carrying 41.55 lakhs of Indian currency in cash without any legal document to support its source, police said. He was arrested on July 20 by a special team of police while heading toward Nepal. "The police confiscated bank notes worth Rs 41,55,000. In Nepal it is illegal to carry more than Rs 25,000 cash without any supporting documents," a senior police official said. "The person was hiding the bank notes inside a petrol tank beneath the seat of the motorbike. The police have initiated legal action against the man under Bank and Financial Institution Act. (PTI)

INDIAN ARMY CHIEF MANOJ PANDE CALLS ON BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA IN DHAKA

DHAKA (TIP): Indian Army Chief Manoj Pande paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina at her official residence here on July 21 and held talks with top military commanders on his maiden visit. The Army Chief is on a three-day visit at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed. "General Manoj Pande visited Defence Service Command & Staff College, Mirpur, and delivered a lecture on India's security perspective," the Indian High Commission in Dhaka tweeted. The Army Chief also visited and interacted with the members of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support and Operation Training, a premier institute of training peacekeepers for UN operations. General Pande is being accompanied by his wife Archana Pande and a three-member delegation. He will pay tributes to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi.

AAPI's Cervical Cancer Vaccination Program Concludes in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD/ CHICAGO (TIP): "The HPV Vaccination Initiative to prevent HPV related cancers including Cervical cancer was started by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), in collaboration with Tanvir Foundation concluded successfully in Hyderabad with a virtual program attended by leadership of AAPI and local participation by leadership of IMA Telangana on July 17th," said Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI. "It was heartening to be part of this noble initiative's concluding ceremony virtually," he added.

The first of a kind program administered free HPV vaccines to the poor and underserved adolescent girls at the local Tanvir Hospital in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad in India with the objective of preventing HPV related cancers, including cervical cancer, which is a leading cause of cancer deaths among women in India. The initial launch of the program was held on January 9th, 2022, during the 15th annual Global Healthcare Summit in Hyderabad at Tanvir Hospital, Hyderabad, India under the leadership of Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Immediate past president of AAPI. "AAPI is happy to initiate the HPV Vaccine Program. We at AAPI, in keeping with our efforts and initiatives to educate, create awareness and provide support on disease prevention," Dr. Gotimukula, past president of AAPI said.

The HPV vaccination program requires two doses of the vaccine to prevent cancer. The 2nd phase of the free vaccination camp was conducted on July 17th, 2022 at Tanvir Hospital, Hyderabad, with the lighting of the traditional lamp by Dr. Sampath Rao, President of IMATelangana, Dr. Raghunandan, President of IMA North, Dr. Surendranath, Secretary of IMA Telangana, Dr. Meeta Singh, and Dr. Naunihal Singh of Tanvir Hospital who administered second dose of HPV vaccine to the 100 adolescent girls, completing the vaccination program

AAPI Advisor Dr. Dwarakanatha Reddy said, "If



vaccination programs are effectively implemented, approximately 90 percent of invasive cervical cancer cases worldwide could be prevented, in addition to the majority of precancerous lesions."

Usually, cervical cancer develops slowly over time, and another powerful preventive measure is Pap test screening, a procedure during which cells are collected from the surface of the cervix and examined. The Pap test can both detect cancer at an early stage, treatment outcomes tend to be better.

Dr. V. Ranga, Chair, Board of Trustees pointed out: "Once a leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States, today, screening and prevention have greatly reduced the impact of this form of cancer. Increasing screening and prevention are key components of the effort to eradicate cervical cancer." Since almost all cases of the disease are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, vaccines that protect against the virus could prevent the vast majority of cases.

Dr. Anjana Samaddar, President-Elect of AAPI said, "Cervical cancer could be the first cancer EVER in the world to be eliminated, if: 90 % of girls are vaccinated; 70% of women are screened; and 90% of women with cervical disease receive treatment. This is an important step towards reaching goal," she pointed out.

While elaborating the objectives of the Summit, Dr. Sathesh Kathula, Vice President of AAPI, said, "In

addition to Cervical cancer, GHS 2022 provided education on: Chronic diseases which can be prevented- notably diabetes, cardiovascular, hypertension, COPD, oncology, maternal and infant mortality, lifestyle changes, geriatrics, management of neurological emergencies, ENLS, a certification course".

"In coordination with the local organizers, AAPI donated the funds for the HPV Vaccination, a total of 200 doses for the vaccine for 100 children from the state of Telangana," said Dr. Meher Medavaram, an organizer of the program, and the Secretary of AAPI. "AAPI's this new initiative through education and awareness programs is aimed at helping save millions of lives in India," she added.

According to The American Cancer Society, Cervical Cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women. The cervical cancer death rate dropped significantly with the increased use of the Pap test for screening. Expressing confidence, Dr. Udaya Shivangi, Chair of AAPI's GHS in Hyderabad, said, "Together we can all bring awareness in the community to prevent Cervical Cancer in India which is 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in women!"

"Through Continuing Medical Education and non-CME seminars by experts in their fields, AAPI provides comprehensive and current reviews and guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of various disease states to reduce morbidity and mortality and achieve cost effective quality care outcomes," said Dr. Sumul Raval, Treasurer of AAPI.

Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI believes, "Cervical Cancer is preventable through HPV Vaccination and Early Pap smears and cervical examinations. Justifiably so, one of our preventive campaign goals has been to provide education and vaccination for prevention of Cervical Cancer in India." For more information, please visit www.aapiusa.org

2 Texas men are indicted in the migrant death-trailer case



Image for representation only
iStock image

SAN ANTONIO (TIP): Two men were indicted Wednesday, July 19, in the case of a hot, airless tractor-trailer rig found with 53 dead or dying migrants in San Antonio, officials said.

A federal grand jury in San Antonio indicted Homero Zamorano Jr., 46, and Christian Martinez, 28, both of Pasadena, Texas, on counts of transporting and conspiring to transport migrants illegally resulting in death; and transporting and conspiring to transport migrants illegally resulting in serious injury, an AP report

says. .

Both remain in federal custody without bond pending trial. Martinez's attorney, David Shearer, declined to comment on the indictments. A message to Zamorano's attorney was not immediately returned.

Conviction on the death counts could result in life sentences, but the Attorney General's Office could authorize prosecutors to seek death penalties. The serious bodily injury counts carry sentences of up to 20 years in prison.

The incident happened on a remote San Antonio back road on June 27. Arriving police officers detained Zamorano after spotting him hiding in some nearby brush, according to the U.S. Attorney's statement.

Surveillance video of the 18-wheeler passing through a Border Patrol checkpoint showed the driver matched Zamorano's description, according to the indictment. A search of Zamorano's cellphone revealed calls with Martinez concerning the smuggling run.

US President Joe Biden tests positive for Covid-19, has 'mild symptoms'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday, July 21, underscoring the persistence of the highly contagious virus as new variants challenge the nation's efforts to resume normalcy after two and a half years of pandemic disruptions, according to an AP report.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden was experiencing "mild symptoms" and has begun taking Paxlovid, an antiviral drug designed to reduce the severity of the disease.

She said Biden "will isolate at the White House and will continue to carry out all of his duties fully during that time. He has been in contact with members of the White House staff by phone this morning and will participate in his planned meetings at the White House this morning via phone and Zoom from the residence".

Biden, 79, is fully vaccinated, after



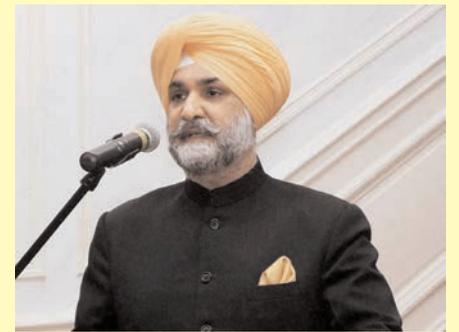
US President Joe Biden has tested positive for Covid-19 "with mild symptoms" File photo

getting two doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine shortly before taking office, a first booster shot in September and an additional dose March 30.

Up to this point, Biden's ability to avoid the virus seemed to defy the odds, even with the testing procedures in place for those expected to be in close contact with him. Prior waves of the virus swept through Washington's political class, infecting Vice President Kamala Harris, Cabinet members, White House staffers and lawmakers. Biden has increasingly stepped up his travel schedule and resumed holding large indoor events where not everyone is tested.

Top White House officials in recent months have been matter of fact about the likelihood of the president getting Covid, a measure of how engrained the virus has become in society - and of its diminished threat for those who are up to date on their vaccinations and with access to treatments.

GREEN FINANCE COULD BE BRIGHT AND ROBUST STRAND OF GROWING INDIA-U.S. TIES: INDIAN ENVOY SANDHU



India's Ambassador to the U.S. Taranjit Singh Sandhu said that green finance could become a bright and robust strand of the growing India-U.S. economic relations in the next 25 years. File photo / PTI

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The green economy is diverse globally, but concentrated in a few countries and is bound to find new and emerging markets like India, said Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the U.S.

Green finance could become a bright and robust strand of the growing India-U.S. economic relations in the next 25 years, India's envoy in Washington has said, asserting that the two countries have the intent and will to lead the global fight against climate change.

The green economy is diverse globally, but concentrated in a few countries and is bound to find new and emerging markets like India, said Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the U.S.

"This is the very reason, I see, green finance could become a bright and robust strand in the growing U.S.-India economic relations during the next 25 years," he said on July 19 in his address to a two-day conference on green finance cooperation between India and the United States.

The event was organized by the Indian Embassy in Washington DC in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and was attended by more than 300 participants from across the globe.

"India and U.S. are natural partners, who have demonstrated time and again, that they can work together, combine their strengths and tap into synergies whenever humanity faces a crisis [COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent example]," he said.

Today, the two countries have strong convergences and our leaderships have the intent and will to lead the global fight against climate change, he added. This was evident, during COP-26 in Glasgow last year, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden announced enhanced and ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Rupi Kaur First Ever Indian American is Mrs. Illinois American 2022



Rupi Kaur

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Rupri made us all proud by being the First ever Indian American to win this title and will be going for the Nationals in Las Vegas in August 2022 to compete for Mrs. American.

Rupi Kaur has been in the USA since 2002. Her homeplace is Punjab, India. She migrated to USA back in 2002. She is married with two kids and resides in Chicago. Rupri completed her MBA in 2013. She has had the opportunities to work with some of the top fortune 500 companies and is currently working in Corporate. She is also a Real Estate Agent affiliated with Coldwell Banker



Mrs. Illinois American 2022 Rupri Kaur

and was featured in the Chicago Agent Magazine in early 2021.

A mother of two with a full-time

corporate job and a Real Estate Agent, she still manages to get involved in the community and volunteers in many Organizations. Her hobbies are traveling, volunteer work, and spending time with her family. She enjoys Participating in Fashion Shows and Beauty Pageants. Her platform is Women Empowerment and throughout her reign as Mrs. Illinois American, she will continue her legacy to represent her community, her State, and the Country as a whole.

Rupi believes living in USA anything is possible. USA is the land of opportunities! She is always exploring and looking for the right opportunities. Never take anything for granted in life, God always has a plan for everyone, says Rupri.

Rupi would like to thank you her family & friends, her sponsors and the entire community for their support. She humbly requests you all to vote for her for the upcoming Nationals. The voting will begin soon, and the link will be shared on her social media handles. Follow Rupri Kaur and stay tuned for more details.

Her Instagram link is

<https://instagram.com/mrsillamerica>
n?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

The website is -

www.mrsillinoisamerica.com

Facebook - Mrs. Illinois America Pageants

Let's all support Rupri to make her win Mrs. American for the Nationals as she represents the State of Illinois.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER REPORTED IN KERALA'S WAYANAD

African swine fever has been reported from two farms at Mananthavady in Kerala's Wayanad district, officials said on Friday, July 21.

The disease was confirmed among pigs of two farms in the district after the samples were tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal.

An official from the Animal Husbandry Department told PTI that the samples were sent for testing after pigs at one of the farms died en masse.

"Now the test result has confirmed the infection. Directions have been issued to cull 300 pigs of the second farm," the official said.

The Department said steps are being taken to prevent the disease from being spread.

The state had earlier this month tightened bio-security measures following an alert from the Centre that African swine fever had been reported in Bihar and a few northeastern states. African swine fever is a highly contagious and fatal viral disease affecting domestic pigs.

'NOT CONSULTED': TMC TO ABSTAIN FROM V-P ELECTION

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) announced on Thursday, July 21, that it will abstain from voting in the vice-presidential election on August 6 as the party was "not consulted" before Margaret Alva of the Congress was selected as the Opposition nominee -- a development that once again highlighted the lack of unity among Opposition parties as they bid to take on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The TMC is the second-largest opposition party in Parliament, with 23 Lok Sabha and 13 Rajya Sabha members, after the Congress.

"The TMC will abstain in the upcoming vice-presidential election. The question of supporting the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate doesn't even arise, and the way the Opposition candidate was decided without proper consultation and deliberation with a party which has 35 MPs in both houses, we have decided unanimously to abstain from the voting process," said Abhishek Banerjee, TMC's all-India general secretary, who is the nephew of party supremo and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

The decision, taken during a meeting between Mamata Banerjee and party MPs after the TMC's flagship annual political rally on Thursday, also highlights recent fissures between the party and the Congress over who will take the lead in pitching a national alternative to the BJP. The closed-door meeting was attended by 32 TMC MPs. The party chief left it to the MPs to make a final decision, and 85% of them said that the party should abstain from voting, people aware of the developments said.

Murmu elected President: How Opposition missed the bus?

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India has got its first tribal President. In a much-expected result, National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu defeated Yashwant Sinha, who was backed by a section of the Opposition. While Murmu bagged 64% vote share, Sinha could muster only 36%. Murmu couldn't better outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind's performance of 65.65% vote share.

The result exposes the chinks in opposition unity as a few parties, such as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which backed Sinha's candidature, committed a U-turn and voted for Murmu instead. The spearheaders of Sinha, namely the Congress, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), were unable to garner support from fence-sitters such as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) to name a few.

On the other hand, the BJP, by announcing a woman and a tribal candidate, made it difficult for most fence-sitters to oppose its candidate. Strategically, the opposition could have waited out to see who the BJP announces as its candidate and could have then finalised its own move.

On the other hand, the BJP, by announcing a woman and a tribal candidate, made it difficult for most fence-sitters to oppose its candidate. Strategically, the opposition could have waited out to see who the BJP announces as its candidate and could have then finalised its own move.

This way, the opposition would have been able to contain damage amongst women and tribal voters, a section of whom may not like their attitude of contesting a candidate from their community. The opposition could have also gained the high moral ground that it supported Murmu despite the fact that the BJP didn't reach out to them for discussions and for ensuring a consensus candidate.

Massive Cross-Voting Benefited Murmu

The electoral college consisted of 4,809 MPs and MLAs. The total value of the votes was 10.86 lakh. However, there were 11 vacancies and 44 MPs/MLAs who abstained from voting. While the Presidential polls saw a high turnout of 99.1%, vacancies and a few electors' not turning up reduced the electoral college votes to 10.72 lakhs.

Based on the strength in the electoral college, Murmu enjoyed the support of 49.5% of electors. Together with parties like the BJD, the YSRCP, the Shiv Sena, the JMM, the TDP, the BSP, the SAD and others, she gained the support of another 11.5% of electors, taking the total to 61.1%. On the other hand, 38.9% of electors were expected to back Sinha. These included the UPA led by the Congress and anti-BJP/NDA parties such as the TMC, the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), etc.

In Presidential elections, parties are not allowed to issue whips and MPs/MLAs can vote on the basis of their conscience. This generally leads to cross-voting. Lacking the numbers to win, Sinha had openly exhorted MPs/MLAs to cast a conscience vote to save democracy. While no cross-voting was reported from the NDA camp, a few MLAs of the Congress (Odisha), the SP (Uttar Pradesh) and the NCP (Gujarat & Jharkhand) openly

CHINKS IN OPPOSITION UNITY

- While no cross-voting was reported from the NDA camp, a few MLAs of the Congress, the SP and the NCP openly declared that they had voted for Droupadi Murmu and not Yashwant Sinha.
- As per reports, 17 MPs and 104 MLAs cross-voted for Murmu till the third round of polling.
- While the BJP put up a new breed of leaders for President and Vice-President, the Opposition put up tried, tested and failed candidates.
- Cross-voting was expected since many women MPs/MLAs, especially those who won on ST-reserved seats on opposition tickets, were caught in a dilemma as to whom to support. This was also the case for many electors from states that have a high ST population.
- The result exposes the chinks in opposition unity. Regional considerations weigh high for regional satraps, which renders the victory of joint opposition candidates almost impossible.

declared that they had voted for Murmu, not Sinha.

As per reports, 17 MPs and 104 MLAs cross-voted for Murmu till the third round of polling. As many as 22 MLAs in Assam, six in Chhattisgarh, 10 in Jharkhand, 19 in Madhya Pradesh, 16 in Maharashtra, 10 in Gujarat, one in Arunachal, six in Bihar, four in Goa, one in Haryana, three in Himachal, and seven in Meghalaya cross voted for India's first tribal President. The choice of Murmu clearly frustrated the calculations of the opposition.

Social Considerations Matter

Cross-voting was expected since many women MPs/MLAs, especially those who won on ST-reserved seats on opposition tickets, were caught in a dilemma as to whom to support. Also, some elected representatives of the opposition from the Northeast and other states such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, which have a high ST population, were expected to back Murmu.

While the BJP put up a new breed of leaders for President and Vice-President, the Opposition put up tried, tested and failed candidates. It went with an 84-year-old Presidential candidate in a country where 60% of the population is below 35 years of age.

Murmu recorded 64% vote share (+2.9%), while Sinha recorded a 36% vote share (-2.9%). This indicates that electors worth 2.9% of votes in the electoral college cross-voted in Murmu's favour.

Opposition Unity a 'Myth'?

The BJP hopes to consolidate the ST community's votes by making Murmu the President of India. In 2017, it appointed Ram Nath Kovind as President, who belonged to the SC community. The BJP's support from the community increased by 10% in the 2019 general elections (34% as against 24% in 2014). The party received 38% support from the STs in the 2019 general election as per the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), and now, it hopes to reach the halfway mark by appointing Murmu as President.

Source: The Quint

2 shooters who killed Moosewala shot dead

An encounter broke out on Wednesday, July 20, morning in Amritsar between the Punjab Police and the gangsters involved in the killing of the singer Sidhu Moosewala. A total of four gangsters were shot dead during the exchange of fire in Hoshiar Nagar village near the Attari border.

Of these, two gangsters named - Manpreet Singh alias Mannu Kusa and Jagroop Singh Roopa - were the shooters who killed Moosewala and were at large since then, police said. A CCTV footage recently surfaced showing both of them riding a bike at Samalsar in Moga district

on June 21. Gunshots were heard from the site where the accused were hiding. A heavy police force was deployed in the village, the area was cordoned off and the locals were told to stay indoors. A video journalist named Sikander Mattu of a private media channel got injured by the bullet of gangsters.

Addressing the media after the shootout, ADGP Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Pramod Ban said the operation was concluded successfully as both Mannu and Roopa, who killed Moosewala, were gunned down in the encounter. "Two sharp shooters involved in

Moosewala murder killed in the encounter. Police also recovered an AK-47 and a pistol along with heavy ammunition from the spot. Three policemen have also received minor injuries," he said.

Moosewala was shot dead on May 29 in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. Moosewala's cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a Mahindra Thar jeep with him, were also injured in the attack. Moosewala, 28, had fought the assembly election on a Congress ticket from Mansa and was defeated by the AAP leader Vijay Singla.

Source: News18



PM URGES PEOPLE TO HOIST, DISPLAY TRICOLOUR AT HOME BETWEEN AUG 13 AND 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appealed to people to strengthen the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement by hoisting or displaying the national flag in their homes between August 13 and 15.

In a series of tweets, he said the movement would deepen our connect with the Tricolour and noted that it was on July 22 in 1947 that the national flag was adopted.

"Today, we recall the monumental courage and efforts of all those who dreamt of a flag for free India when we were fighting colonial rule. We reiterate our commitment to fulfil their vision and build the India of their dreams," he said.

He said, "This year, when we are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, let us strengthen the Har Ghar Tiranga movement. Hoist the Tricolour or display it in your homes between 13th and 15th August. This movement will deepen our connect with the national flag."

Modi also posted details of official communications leading to the adoption of the Tricolour as the national flag. He also posted a picture of the first Tricolour unfurled by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The government has envisioned the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (Tricolour at every home) exercise in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

National Herald case: Cong alleges govt conspiracy as ED grills Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress leaders and workers protested across the country on Thursday, July 21, against what they called the government's conspiracy to silence the Opposition as the Enforcement Directorate questioned Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Senior leaders said there was no need for the interrogation as all the relevant information had been in the public domain for several years.

They alleged that the government's real objective was to frighten the Congress leadership into giving up posing uncomfortable questions to Narendra Modi.

And the implied message to all critics and opponents of the government was that if Sonia and Rahul Gandhi could be treated in this manner, others could not hope to be spared, they said.

"There is no substance to the National Herald case. They grilled Rahul Gandhi for five days, till late in the night every day. We never saw such an interrogation in history despite so many big scams," Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot said. "Now the 75-year-old, ailing Congress president has been summoned. This is low-grade behaviour," the chief minister added.

"They could have sent a couple of officers to her residence to record her statement if it was that important to the investigation," Gehlot said.

He added: "We know that everybody is equal before the law. But it is not so under the Modi regime. Those who are with Modi are immune to the power of law. Ongoing cases are put in the cold storage when you join the BJP. Only opponents are to be harassed."

"They are setting a dangerous precedent. There is an atmosphere of fear and suffocation. Don't think that Hindutva will keep you in power



Sonia Gandhi on her way to the ED office. PTI picture

forever." Party spokesperson Pawan Khara, who addressed the media with Gehlot, said: "Everybody sees the political alliance of the Modi government with the central agencies. The conspiracy is to silence critics and opponents. They don't want us to show them the mirror; they get intolerant when we recall their false promises and expose their betrayal."

"But the perception of the Congress they have in mind is based on the cowards who defected. They don't know the Gandhi-Nehru family and the real Congress." If the government's intention is indeed to scare the Congress into silence with the case, the result has so far been unsatisfactory because it has caused the largely inactive Congress workers to erupt in anger.

While party workers protested across the country, the mobilisation in Delhi was far bigger than the protests seen during Rahul's interrogation. While all the office-bearers and senior leaders assembled at the Congress headquarters,

MPs protested in both Houses and then marched to the party office.

All of them courted arrest as the police refused to let them march to the ED office. Senior leaders and MPs were detained at various police stations and released only after Sonia's three-hour questioning ended. The Youth Congress, Mahila Congress and student arm NSUI held flash demonstrations at several spots. Youth Congress workers stopped trains and road traffic in Delhi defying the heavy police deployment.

The Congress sought a discussion in Parliament on the subject of the central agencies harassing Opposition leaders and the government's other critics. A statement by 13 parties accusing the government of vendetta politics too was released.

"The Modi sarkar has unleashed a relentless campaign of vendetta against its political opponents and critics through the mischievous misuse of investigative agencies," the statement said.

Source: Telegraphindia

Unmarried women have right to safe abortion: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a significant order, the Supreme Court Thursday, July 21, expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act to include unmarried women and allowed a 25-year-old woman to abort her 24-weeks pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship.

The top court said, "a woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution and she has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity".

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and AS Bopanna said, "Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom. Live-in relationships have been recognized by this Court".

It requested the Director of the AIIMS, Delhi to constitute a Medical Board in terms of the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, by Friday.

It said, "In the event that the Medical Board concludes that the fetus can be aborted without danger to the life of the petitioner, a team of



doctors at the AIIMS shall carry out the abortion in terms of the request which has been made before the High Court..."

The bench said that before doing so the wishes of the woman shall be ascertained again and her written consent obtained after due verification of identity and a report shall be furnished to this Court after compliance with this order within a period of one week thereafter.

It said, "In the meantime, we are of the view that

allowing the petitioner to suffer an unwanted pregnancy would be contrary to the intent of the law enacted by Parliament.

Moreover, allowing the petitioner to terminate her pregnancy, on a proper interpretation of the statute, prima facie, falls within the ambit of the statute and the petitioner should not be denied the benefit on the ground that she is an unmarried woman".

It added that the distinction between a married and unmarried woman does not bear a nexus to the basic purpose and object which is sought to be achieved by Parliament which is conveyed specifically by the provisions of Explanation 1 to Section 3 of the Act.

"The petitioner had moved the High Court before she had completed 24 weeks of pregnancy. The delay in the judicial process cannot work to her prejudice", it said.

The bench said that Parliament by amending the MTP Act through the Act of 2021 intended to include unmarried women and single women within the ambit of the Act which is evident from the replacement of the word 'husband' with 'partner' in the provisions.

Source: PTI

Draupadi Murmu- The first tribal woman President of India

Former Governor of Jharkhand Draupadi Murmu scripted history to become India's first tribal President. Ruling NDA's Draupadi Murmu and Opposition's Yashwant Sinha were pitted against each other in the contest, and in an expected outcome, Murmu grabbed the hot seat. Murmu has come a long way to reach where she is today. India's new President overcame several personal tragedies in her life. In just six years between 2009-2015, Murmu lost her husband, two sons, mother and brother. According to reports, it was then the tribal leader became a keen practitioner of the meditation techniques of the Brahma Kumaris, a movement she embraced after her personal losses.

At 64, Murmu will be the youngest occupant of Rashtrapati Bhavan. She is younger by a month to the sixth President Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy who was 64 years and two months when he took office.

Murmu will also become only the second woman to hold the First Citizen's office after Pratibha Patil.

However, Murmu is no stranger to being the first at something.

First to attend college

Murmu, 64, comes from a small village called Uperbeda, located some 20 kilometres away from Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

With her ascension, she becomes the first President to be born after independence; she was born on 20 June 1958.

She belongs to the Santhal tribe — the third largest scheduled tribe community in India after the Gonds and Bhils.

She spent her childhood in Uperbeda, which today boasts of a population of 6,623 people. She still has her ancestral home here. The house belonged to Draupadi's father and is now inhabited by her nephew, Dularam Tudu.

It was from Uperbeda that she went to state capital Bhubaneswar to college, making her the first from the village to attain higher education.

At the time, her parents could afford to give her only Rs 10 as a monthly allowance, reports NDTV.

Life of tragedy

What is very appealing about Droupadi Murmu is how she rose above the many challenges that were thrown at her and achieved success.

One can say her life is a story of resilience.

In 2009, her 25-year-old son Lakshman died unexpectedly after attending a gathering in Bhubaneswar. His death broke her and many believed that she would not be able to cope with the loss. Supriya Kumari, head of the Brahma Kumari ashram in Rairangpur told The Print, "She was completely shattered. She wasn't having any life within her to even talk."

However, she picked up the pieces of her life and started making changes, which included doing yoga and



meditation.

But, it was not meant to be and months later, she lost her younger son, Shipun, in a road accident. A year later, due to deep depression, her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu, died as well.

Today, Murmu has only her daughter, Itishree, with her.

She turned her personal tragedy into a positive by building a school in memory of her husband and sons — SLS Memorial School, named after her husband Shyam Charan and sons Lakshman and Shipun, in Pahadpur.

Born into a Santhal family, Murmu is an excellent orator

Born on June 20, 1958, Murmu was the first woman governor of Jharkhand. Murmu is also the first president to be born after Independence. "She has been through a lot of pain and struggle, but doesn't get rattled by adversity," former Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said. Born into a Santhal family, she is an excellent orator in Santhali and Odia languages, Samal said. He added that she had worked extensively to improve infrastructure such as roads and ports in the region.

The tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj has been the focus of the BJP, which is eyeing a strong foothold in the state. The BJD snapped ties with the BJP in 2009 and has consolidated its hold over Odisha since then.

First woman governor

Murmu rose through the political ranks and in 2000, she was the minister of state (independent charge) for Odisha's department of transport and



commerce.

She also assumed charge of the state's animal husbandry department from 2002 to 2004, and the fisheries department in 2002.

In 2015, she was given the position of Governor of Jharkhand and made history by becoming the first female governor of a state. She remained in the post until 2021.

Officials and politicians recounting her tenure, describe her as a "compassionate and balanced" administrator who remained "accessible and down to earth".

Officials add that she was "never a

rubber-stamp governor", and an ardent advocate of tribal welfare.

In fact, in 2017 she refused to give assent to a bill approved by the Assembly seeking amendments to the Chhotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949.

Some political insiders maintain that Murmu's decision to not sign the bill was the reason why she wasn't picked as the NDA's Presidential candidate in 2017 and Ram Nath Kovind was finally nominated by them.

Many believe that she will bring many fundamental changes in the running of the government in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

India in history this Week

JULY 22, 2022, TO JULY 28, 2022

22 JULY

1933 Nationalist leader Mohan Sen Gupta died.
 1918 Indralal Rai, India's first skilled pilot, was killed in a battle with Germany in London during the First World War.
 1947 The Constituent Assembly adopted the Tricolor as the national flag of the country.
 1981 Apple, India's first geostationary satellite, started functioning.

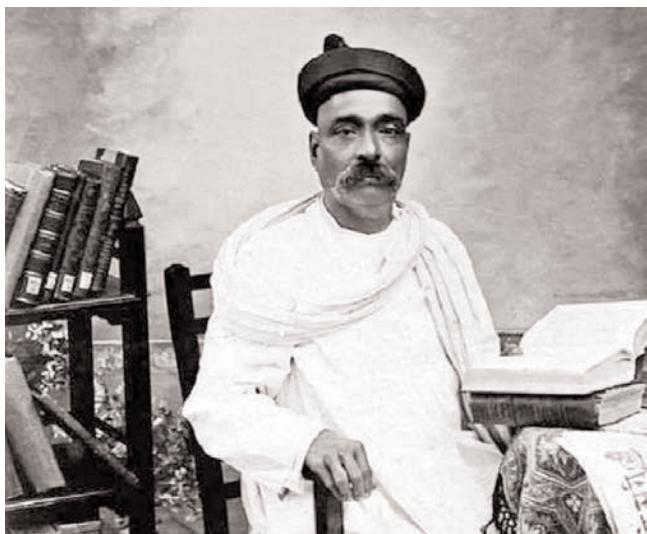


2012 Pranab Mukherjee elected the 13th President of India.
 1999 The Work Plan for Equal Remuneration for Equal Work by the International Labor Organization came into force in 1999.



2009 The longest total solar eclipse of the 29th century was the solar eclipse of 22 July 2009.
 1968 India's famous female physician, social worker and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Muttu Lakshmi Reddy died in 1968.

23 JULY



1856 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born.
 1906 The revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad was born.
 2004 The king of comedy, Mahmood Ali, died.
 2016 Famous Chitrakar S. born in India. H. Raza passed away

24 JULY



1937 Famous Indian actor Manoj Kumar was born.
 2004 Italy decided to start a seven visa call center for Indian tourists.
 1932 Ramakrishna Mission Service Establishment was established.
 1994 Bodo militants killed 37 Muslims in Assam's busbari.



2000 S. Vijayalakshmi became the first female grandmaster of chess.
 1969 The Apollo-11 spacecraft returned to Earth.
 1989 Almost all the members of the opposition in the Lok Sabha resigned, which was accepted.

25 JULY

1813 The first boat race was held in Calcutta (now Kolkata).



1977 Giani Zail Singh was sworn in as the seventh President of India.
 1987 Rangaswamy Venkataraman became the eighth President of India.
 1992 SD Sharma became the ninth President of India.
 1997 KR Narayanan became the tenth President of India.

1844 Birth of India's leading educationist Gurudas Banerjee.

26 JULY

2008 There were 21 blasts in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat. 56 people were killed and more than 200 injured in this accident.
 1876 Establishment of Indian Association in Calcutta.



2005 Unprecedented rain in Mumbai stalled life, killing more than a thousand people.
 2002 The first Chhattisgarh State Shooting Championship started.
 2009 India becomes the sixth country to launch nuclear submarine.

27 JULY

1897 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was arrested for the first time.
 1982 The first American visit of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in nearly 11 years.
 1994 Shooter Jaspal Rana won the gold medal in the World Shooting Championship.



1839 Central Reserve Police Force was established.
 2015 The 11th President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam died in Shillong.
 1889 The branch of the Indian National Congress was opened in London in 1889 under the leadership of Dadabhai Naoroji, William Wedderburn, WS Cann and William Digby in London.
 1935 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's wife Mata Ramabai died in 1935.
 1891 Eminent scholar Rajendralal Mitra died in 1891 in matters related to Bharat Vidya.

28 JULY

1914 Kamagata Maru was evacuated from Venkuvar and sent to India.
 1979 Charan Singh became the fifth Prime Minister of the country.



Kareena rubbishes pregnancy rumors

Rumour mills were rife that Kareena Kapoor Khan was pregnant with her third child with Saif Ali Khan. However, Kareena decided to shut them down. The actress took to her Instagram Stories and said that it was 'pasta and wine'.

Kareena wrote a hilarious post, "It's pasta and wine guys....Calm down... I am NOT pregnant... uff... Saif said he has already contributed way too much to the population of our country... Enjoy... KKK." Meanwhile, Kareena has been spending some quality time in London with Saif Ali Khan and their two sons, Taimur and Jeh. She has been keeping her fans updated by sharing glimpses from their vacation on social media. On the work front, she will next be seen in Laal Singh Chaddha.

Sushmita Sen has 'gentle happy reminder' for haters, check out what it is

After Lalit Modi announced dating Sushmita Sen, the actress has been a topic of discussion on social media and elsewhere.

The actress was trolled for being a "gold digger" and has been in news thereafter for hitting back at those putting such kinds of labels on her.

Amid all this, Sushmita shared a new photo of herself on Instagram and wrote a beautiful message for her fans. Sharing a selfie, Sushmita wrote, "#gentlehappyreminder I love you guys!! #duggadugga #yourstruly. In the photo, Sushmita is all smiles, wearing her trademark oversized sunglasses.

Although her fans showered the actress with love by sending compliments in the comment section, the sweetest one was from her daughter Renee, who wrote, "I love you mostestest...end of discussion" accompanied by a string of emojis.

Earlier, replying to the trolls, Sushmita had shared an Instagram post, replying to all the trolls' who labelled her a "gold digger". She put a photo of herself and captioned it, "Perfectly centred in my being & my conscience...I love how nature merges all its creation to experience oneness...and just how divided we are when we break that balance. It's heartbreaking to see just how miserable & unhappy the world around us is becoming... The so-called intellectuals with their idiosyncrasies...the ignorant with their cheap & at times funny gossip The friends I never had & the acquaintances I've never met...all sharing their grand opinions & deep knowledge of my life & character...monetising the 'Gold Digger' all the way!!! Ah these geniuses!!!" She added, "I dig deeper than Gold...and I've always (famously) preferred Diamonds!! And yes I still buy them myself!!! I love the all-heart support my well-wishers & loved ones continue to extend. Please know, your Sush is ABSOLUTELY fine...cause



I've never lived on the transient borrowed light of approval & applause. I am the Sun...perfectly Centred in my being & my conscience!! I love you guys!!!"

For the unversed, earlier this month, Lalit Modi shared pictures on social media talking about returning from a global tour with his "better-looking partner" Sushmita Sen, thus making their relationship social media official.

Source: ANI

When Aishwarya Rai shut down a journalist for question on nudity

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has always been one of the sassiest celebrities of Bollywood who makes it a point to put people in place if they cross a line. The actress is very confident when it comes to interviews and is always ready to shut down stereotypes no matter how controversial they get. A few years back, she was speaking to international media when she was asked if she is comfortable with n*udity in movies and the question did not go down well with the Josh star.

For the unversed, Aishwarya has lately been gearing up for the release of her next magnum opus, Ponnaiyan Selvan: Part 1. The movie is based on a historic epic about the Cholas and has been directed by the critically acclaimed Mani Ratnam. The movie stars actors like Vikram and Trisha amongst others and has already been creating some crazy hype amongst the audience.

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In a segment of the clip, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is asked about her opinion on going n*de on screen and the actress found the question quite distasteful. Making it clear that she has no plans of exploring it, she said, "I've never, ever, explored and am not interested in exploring n*dity on celluloid."

In the very next second, the journalist seems to have been taken aback by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's stern answer as he sort of fumbles on his next words. Aishwarya decided to address how uncomfortable the question was as she said, "I feel I'm talking to my gynac. I mean, who am I talking to? You're a journalist, brother, stick to that."





Eddie Murphy to star in 'Candy Cane Lane'

Academy Award-nominee and Emmy-winner Eddie Murphy will star in Prime Video's holiday comedy titled Candy Cane Lane. Reginald Hudlin will direct the project. Candy Cane Lane, which will premiere on Amazon Prime Video next year, is the first film falling under Murphy's three-picture and first-look film deal with Amazon Studios. Formalizing Murphy's relationship with the company, the deal came close on the heels of the huge success of Prime Video's Coming 2 America.

Director Reginald Hudlin says, "The holiday season is my favourite time of year—just ask my family about my nine-hour Christmas playlist. I'm excited to be working again with Eddie Murphy, Brian Grazer and Amazon." Meanwhile, plot details of the project are being kept under wraps as of now, and production will reportedly begin this winter in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck 'cried' at their wedding

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are officially a married couple, the singer-actor confirmed through her newsletter, On the JLo, on July 17. Jennifer and Ben tied the knot in a small ceremony in Las Vegas's Little White Wedding Chapel. Now, a witness from Jennifer and Ben's wedding ceremony said in a new interview that the couple was 'emotional', and cried as they read their wedding vows.

As per reports, an excerpt of Jennifer's newsletter said that the couple married with 'the best witnesses you could ever imagine, a dress from an old movie and a jacket from Ben's closet, we read our own vows in the little chapel and gave one another the rings we'll wear for the rest of our lives.' She also called it 'the best possible wedding we could have imagined. One we dreamed of long ago and one made real (in the eyes of the state, Las Vegas, a pink convertible and one another) at very, very long last'.

Now, Kenosha Portis, who watched Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's 10-minute ceremony, told Good Morning America the two were affectionate and 'very sweet'. "It was so exciting. We were getting ready to close and we had a special guest arrive as a walk-in... I'm like, 'Oh my god, this is Jennifer Lopez we're getting ready to marry'. As they were reading each other vows, they were very sweet. They both were emotional. They cried to each other. Their kids were right there behind them," Kenosha said.

Jennifer and Ben have five children between them – she shares 14-year-old twins Emme and Max with ex-husband, Marc Anthony, while Ben and ex-wife Jennifer Garner are parents to Violet, 16, Seraphina, 13, and Samuel, 10.

Kenosha also spoke about Jennifer's wedding dress, and called it 'beautiful'. "Everything was very sleek. She had a beautiful white bouquet and he had a boutonniere that matched that, as well," she said. In addition to her note following the wedding, Jennifer also shared some photos and videos from the big night, including selfies with the groom.

Jennifer and Ben met in 2001 on the set of their film Gigli, and got engaged the following year. However, just days before their 2003 wedding, the two called it quits. Since then, Ben married and divorced actor Jennifer Garner; while Jennifer married and divorced singer Marc Anthony and also dated Alex Rodriguez, former American baseball player. Jennifer and Ben officially rekindled their relationship in 2021.

Source: HT



Brad Pitt battles assassins in action thriller 'Bullet Train'

Hollywood star Brad Pitt fights off assassins on a high speed train travelling across Japan in action thriller "Bullet Train", reuniting with his former stuntman turned director David Leitch.

Pitt plays Ladybug, an unlucky assassin who wants to get a job done well before he finds himself battling a range of dangerous opponents, all with missions connected to his, on board the bullet train.

Based on Kotaro Isaka's 2010 novel, the film also stars Sandra Bullock, Zazie Beetz, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Joey King, Brian Tyree Henry, Michael Shannon and Hiroyuki Sanada.

"Dave actually was my stunt man in '98...We met on 'Fight Club' and he trained me for the fight and it worked so well," Pitt told a news conference in Berlin on Tuesday, about Leitch.

"We went on with that pairing till about '04 with a bunch of other films, and then he left me to do other things, and now it's come back full circle so it's really nice for me to have him as the boss now."

The film features plenty of stunts and fight scenes as the assassins all seek to get hold of a briefcase.

Leitch, who directed "Atomic Blonde", "Deadpool 2" and "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw", said he sought to balance the film's violence with comedy.

"It's always a balance of tone in a movie...I think creating a heightened world... allows us to get away with more things," he said. "So we're in this sort of comic book world, this escapist fantasy world and we can play with some of those darker ideas."



The film's cast and crew are promoting "Bullet Train" in Europe this week ahead of its global release in early August.

"I didn't even realise it's been like three years because we've been in lockdown and haven't brought anything to a table in a while," Pitt said of returning to the

promotional trail.

"It's just nice. We all put everything we had into telling the story. It's come together...and it's really nice to now let it go, hopefully people will be enjoying it together in the theatre, laughing."

Source: Reuters

NYC celebrates 30 years of summer restaurant week Launching 'Savor New York'

BY MABEL PAIS

- OVER 650 RESTAURANTS REPRESENT 60 DISTINCT CUISINES
- 85 NEIGHBORHOODS OFFER 30 DAYS OF DINING DEALS
- TWO- & THREE- COURSE LUNCH & DINNER PRIX-FIXE MENUS
- 15 PARTICIPANTS FROM INAUGURAL 1992 NYC RESTAURANT WEEK
- LAUNCH OF 'SAVOR NYC' CULINARY PROGRAMMING
- PRE-REGISTERED MC CARDHOLDERS GET SPECIAL STATEMENT CREDIT

New York's Restaurant Week®, 30th anniversary, was launched on July 18 by New York City Mayor Eric Adams and NYC & Company at Gage & Tollner, one of the original 1992 participants while announcing 'Savor NYC': a yearlong culinary celebration.

Gage & Tollner is one of the oldest restaurants in New York city having first opened in 1879 and an original 1992 Restaurant Week partner. Mayor Eric Adams and NYC & Company also announced an initiative to double down on supporting and promoting every culinary corner of the five boroughs with a program titled, 'Savor NYC.' The year-long campaign will highlight monthly content including cuisines across all cultures, street carts, established restaurants, accessible cuisine, sustainable cuisines, culinary events and more across the five boroughs that make New York City the most celebrated dining destination in the world.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

A full list of restaurants participating in NYC Restaurant Week is available at nycgo.com/restaurantweek.

PRE-REGISTRATION WITH MC

Mastercard cardholders can pre-register at priceless.com/shopping/product/176019/nyc-and-company-enrollment-page to receive an exclusive \$10 statement credit on each transaction of \$45 or more while dining on-site (for up to three (3) transactions, totaling a \$30 rebate), when dining out through July 31.*

"NYC Restaurant Week provides New Yorkers and visitors the ability to eat at hundreds of restaurants, in dozens of neighborhoods, across all five boroughs," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "This year's Restaurant Week is bringing diners an array of flavors with amazing deals. No matter where you dine, there is no better time to support our city's restaurants than NYC Restaurant Week."

"We are proud to celebrate 30 years of NYC Restaurant Week, marking three decades of exceptional deals to diners across the five boroughs," said Fred Dixon, President and CEO of NYC & Company. "To continue celebrating the City's world-class dining scene, we are pleased to announce the launch of 'Savor NYC,' a yearlong culinary initiative that will spotlight the culinary community across the City's multicultural neighborhoods encouraging visitors to go deeper and explore more."

The dining program, running 30 days from July 18 through August 21, highlights more than 650 restaurants across all five boroughs with more than 60 different styles of cuisines in 85 neighborhoods. The program encourages locals and visitors alike to explore the City's vast, diverse and accessible restaurant scene while helping to support small businesses, the industry and its workers.

Running Monday through Friday (with the option to participate on Sundays), NYC Restaurant Week offers a multitude of options for dining enthusiasts to enjoy.



Union Square Cafe

Photo / Peter Garritano



Atlantic Grill

Photo / Evan Sung.

Participating restaurants will be offering either a two-course lunch or three-course dinner prix-fixe menu of classic, favorite and new menu items. Check out www.nycgo.com/restaurantweek for inclusive price points for carefully crafted dishes depending on the restaurant. This pricing structure was created to ensure establishments from all five boroughs can participate, from neighborhood eateries to fine dining. More than 100 restaurants will also offer \$30 bottles of wine to commemorate the 30th anniversary, available on participating menus.

Diners can browse participating restaurants by filters including "location," "cuisine," "has menu," "\$10 Mastercard rebate," "accessibility," "ownership," "weeks participating," and "meals." Collections will also be available at nycgo.com/restaurantweek to help consumers choose restaurants by interest, including "Restaurant Week Classics," "Lunch Break," "Summer Vibes," "Impress Your Followers," "Dress for the Occasion," "James Beard

Honorees," "Wine Spectator Winners and lastly, "Make it a Stella," a collection from Stella Artois, the official beer sponsor of NYC RestaurantWeek Summer 2022.

"Bringing visitors and locals a meaningful way to experience world-class dining in New York City is truly Priceless," said Rustom Dastoor, executive vice president of North America Marketing Communications at Mastercard. "Together with NYC & Company, we are excited to provide cardholders exclusive discounts during NYC Restaurant Week Summer 2022 as they explore their passion for food and travel."

In this landmark anniversary year, 15 of the original 1992 NYC & Company NYC Restaurant Week participants have returned, including: Barbetta, Carmine's (Upper West Side), Dock's Oyster Bar, Fraunces Tavern, Gage & Tollner, Gallagher's Steak House, The Palm, Sardi's, Shun Lee West, Sylvia's, Tavern on the Green, Tribeca Grill, The Russian Tea Room, Union Square Café and Victor's Café.

NYC Restaurant Week is the original Restaurant Week created during the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in 1992, which has been replicated in cities nationally and globally.

A true testimony to a savory milestone-NYC Restaurant Week's 30th and Sylvia's Restaurant's 60th Anniversary. "As an inaugural participant and fan, I'm



Guantamamera Restaurant

Photo / Evan Angelastro, NYC & Company



Hangawi.

Photo / Jose Alvarado, NYC & Company

overjoyed to support the best restaurant city on the planet one plate at a Time," said Trenness Woods-Black, co-chair of the NYC & Company Culinary Committee.

"As an original participant in the 1992 program, I'm honored to be a part of the 30th anniversary of NYC Restaurant Week, a cherished tradition in New York City. NYC Restaurant Week has

always been a way for people to experience new restaurants, including some of the best in the world at an affordable price. This special anniversary is the perfect time for people to reconnect and celebrate over a memorable meal," said chef and restaurateur David Burke, co-chair of the NYC & Company Culinary Committee.

NYC & Company has long been committed to championing the local business community, with NYC Restaurant Week at the forefront of those efforts. The continued success of NYC Restaurant Week is a key indicator of New Yorkers' and visitors' desire to explore the five boroughs through food.

In honor of this milestone 30th anniversary and in support of local students' pursuit of careers in restaurants and hospitality, NYC & Company has made a donation to the Food Education Fund. *See full terms and conditions available at nycgo.com/restaurantweek.

NYC & Company

NYC & Company is the official destination marketing organization and convention and visitors bureau for the City of New York, dedicated to maximizing travel and tourism opportunities throughout the five boroughs, building economic prosperity and spreading the positive image of New York City worldwide. For all there is to do and see in New York City, visit nycgo.com.

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



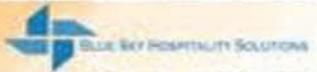
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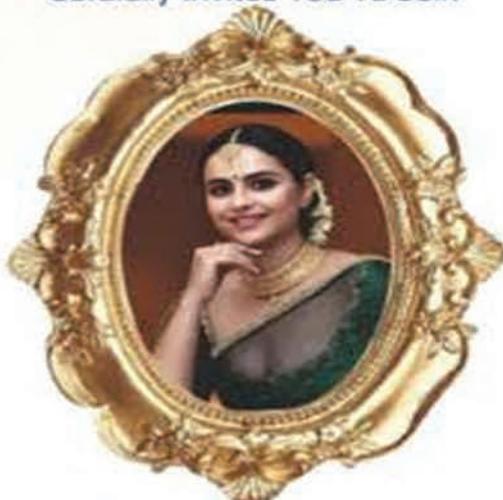
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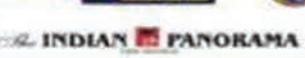












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RUSSIA RESUMES GAS SUPPLY TO EUROPE

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia is resuming supplies of gas via a major pipeline to Europe on July 21, the pipeline operator said, amid concerns Moscow would use its vast energy exports to push back against Western pressure over its invasion of Ukraine.

The resumption of gas flows via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany ended a nerve-jangling 10 days for Europe in which politicians expressed concern Russia might not restart them at a time when alternative energy supplies are tight and prices high. The pipeline has traditionally carried more than one third of Russia's gas exports to Europe but was operating at only 40% of its capacity after Kremlin-controlled Gazprom cut gas exports in a row over the repair of a turbine. "In view of the missing 60% (capacity) and the political instability, there is no reason yet to give the all-clear," Klaus Mueller, president of Germany's network regulator, wrote on Twitter.

The resumption of pipeline at reduced capacity comes after comments from Russia's Foreign Minister showed the Kremlin's goals had expanded during the five-month war.

Sergei Lavrov told a state news agency on Wednesday that Russia's "military tasks in Ukraine now go beyond the eastern Donbas region". "Russia is blackmailing us. It is using energy as a weapon," EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, describing a full cut-off of gas flows as "a likely scenario" for which "Europe needs to be ready". — Reuters

PUTIN IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS WITH LEADERS OF IRAN, TURKEY

TEHRAN (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived July 20 in Iran for a visit intended to deepen ties with regional heavyweights as part of Moscow's challenge to the United States and Europe amid its grinding campaign in Ukraine.

In only his second trip abroad since Russian tanks rolled into its neighbour in February, Putin is meeting Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on pressing issues facing the region, including the conflict in Syria and a UN-backed proposal to resume exports of Ukrainian grain to ease the global food crisis.

As the West heaps sanctions on Russia and the costly campaign drags on, Putin is seeking to bolster ties with Tehran, a fellow target of severe US sanctions and a potential military and trade partner. In recent weeks, Russian officials visited an airfield in central Iran at least twice to review Tehran's weapons-capable drones for possible use in Ukraine, the White House has alleged. (AP)

ITALIAN PM RESIGNS AS SUPPORT CRUMBLES

ROME (TIP): Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi on July 21 resigned after key coalition allies boycotted a confidence vote, signalling the likelihood of an early election and a renewed period of uncertainty for Italy and Europe at a critical time.

President Sergio Mattarella dissolved Parliament after Draghi's resignation, clearing the way for an early election. He said the election must be held within 70 days, leaving the government to fix the precise date which is likely to be in late September.

Draghi tendered his resignation to Mattarella during a morning meeting at Quirinale Palace. Mattarella, who rejected a similar resignation offer from the premier last week, "took note" of the new one and asked Draghi's government to remain on in a caretaker fashion, the President's office said.

Draghi's government of national unity imploded on Wednesday after members of his uneasy coalition of right, left and populists rebuffed his appeal to band back together to finish the Italian Parliament's natural term and ensure implementation of a



European Union-funded pandemic recovery programme.

Instead, the centre-right Forza Italia and League parties and the populist 5-Star Movement boycotted a confidence vote in the Senate, a clear sign they were done as partners in the former European Central Bank chief's 17-

month government. Italian newspapers on Thursday were united in their outrage at the surreal outcome, given Italy is dealing with soaring inflation and energy costs, Russia's war and outstanding reforms needed to clinch the remainder of the EU's 200 billion euros in recovery funds. — AP

China fines Didi Global \$1.2 billion for violating data security laws

HONG KONG/BEIJING (TIP): China's cybersecurity regulator on July 21 fined Didi Global Inc \$1.2 billion, concluding a probe that forced the ride-hailing leader to delist from New York within a year of its debut and made foreign investors wary about China's tech sector.

Didi ran afoul of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) when it pressed ahead with its US stock listing even though it was urged to wait while a cybersecurity review of its data practices was conducted, sources previously told Reuters.

The CAC said its investigation found Didi had illegally collected millions of pieces of user information over a seven-year period starting June 2015, and carried out data processing activities that seriously affected national security.

It fined Didi 8.026 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) and, in an unusual move, said founder and Chief Executive Cheng Wei and President Jean Liu were responsible for the violations, and imposed penalties of 1 million yuan each.

"Didi's violations of laws and regulations are serious ...

and should be severely punished," it said.

Didi, backed by investors including US peer Uber Technologies Inc and Japan's SoftBank Group Corp, in a statement on its Weibo account said it accepted the

CAC's decision and would conduct comprehensive self-examination and rectification.

The regulatory action against Didi was part of a wider and unprecedented crackdown by authorities for violation of antitrust and data security rules, among other issues, targeting some of China's best-known corporate names.

Authorities have in recent months changed their tone toward the crackdown as they seek to boost an economy hurt by COVID-19 containment measures. The shift has raised hope for companies and investors that the worst is over, though jitters remain.

Chinese technology stocks rose after the Didi announcement, with the Hang Seng Tech Index rising over 1% in afternoon trade.

"The fine should mark the end of Didi's regulatory troubles," said analyst Travis Lundy at Quiddity Advisors who publishes on research platform Smartkarma.

"If there were more, they'd have waited until those were understood and addressed to levy the fine," he said, adding the development should allow Didi to move toward listing in Hong Kong.

Didi, which delisted from New York last month, previously aimed to list in Hong Kong by June. It put such plans on hold indefinitely after failing to win

approval from Chinese regulators, Reuters has reported.

APP RELAUNCH

Didi's fine would be the largest regulatory penalty imposed on a Chinese technology company since Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and Meituan were fined \$2.75 billion and

\$527 million respectively last year by the antitrust regulator.

Alibaba's fine equated to about 4% of its 2019 domestic sales, while Meituan's was equivalent to 3% of its 2020 domestic sales. In comparison, Didi's fine would be equal to about 4.6% of the firm's \$25.7 billion revenue last year.

The CAC announced its inquiry into Didi shortly after its New York debut on June 30, 2021. It also ordered app stores to remove 25 apps operated by Didi and told the firm to stop registering new users, citing national security and the public interest.

The regulator did not say in its Thursday statement whether it would allow the apps to return to app stores or allow new user registration.

Didi previously said it would need to apply for the apps to be restored and three sources told Reuters that the company has updated the apps to ensure they were compliant once a relaunch was allowed.

(Reuters)

Australians urged to work from home as winter Omicron wave swamps hospitals

SYDNEY (TIP): Australians admitted to hospitals from COVID-19 neared record levels on July 20 as authorities urged businesses to let staff work from home and recommended people wear masks indoors and get booster shots urgently amid a major coronavirus outbreak.

Australia is in the grip of a third Omicron wave driven by the highly transmissible new subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, with more than 3,00,000 cases recorded over the past seven days.

Authorities say the actual numbers could be double that total, and Wednesday's 53,850 new cases was the highest daily tally in two months.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is resisting pressure to reinstate tough curbs to halt the spread of the virus, including making masks mandatory indoors, though he encouraged people to wear it.

"The truth is that if you have mandates, you've got to enforce them," Albanese told reporters on Wednesday. "Whilst there are mandates on public transport ... not everyone is wearing a mask."

Albanese said businesses and employees must decide together on any work-from-home arrangement, as unions called for employers to do more for their staff.

Employers must go beyond the government's pandemic leave payments and provide paid leave at full pay for workers who need to isolate, and offer free rapid antigen tests, Australian Council of



Trade Unions President Michele O'Neil said.

"No worker should have to decide between putting food on the table or isolating with COVID," O'Neil said.

Last week, Australia reinstated support payments for casual workers who have to quarantine.

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly predicted the number of people ending up in hospital will soon hit a record high, and urged businesses to let more staff work from home.

Australia could see "millions" of new cases over the coming weeks, authorities have warned.

About 5,350 Australians are currently in hospital with COVID-19, not far off the

record 5,390 recorded in January during the BA.1 outbreak, official data showed. Numbers in the states of Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia are already at their highest since the pandemic began.

Many frontline health workers are also sick or in isolation, further straining the health system.

Australian doctors said masks must be made mandatory in indoor venues.

"We don't have optional seat belts, we don't have optional speed limits. There's a lot of limits on our freedoms that we accept because it's the right thing to do," Australian Medical Association President Omar Khorshid told radio station 2GB. (Reuters)



World's oldest male giant panda dies at age 35 in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (TIP): The oldest-ever male giant panda in captivity has died at age 35 at a Hong Kong theme park after his health deteriorated.

'An An' lived most of his life at Ocean Park after he and a female panda were gifted to Hong Kong by China in 1999. The female panda, 'Jia Jia', died in 2016 at age 38, making her the oldest-ever female panda in captivity.

Ocean Park mourned An An as a family member who grew with the park and built bonds with locals and tourists.

"An An has brought us fond memories with numerous heart-warming moments. His cleverness and playfulness will be dearly missed," Paulo Pong, chairman of Ocean Park Corporation, said in a statement.

An An had high blood pressure, a common condition among geriatric pandas. Over the past three weeks, An An had been kept out of sight from visitors at the park as his health worsened. He stopped eating solid food and was significantly less active in recent days.

Last week, hundreds left comments on an Ocean Park post about An An's condition, wishing him a speedy recovery.

He was euthanized to prevent further suffering Thursday morning after veterinarians from Ocean Park and government authorities consulted the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, Ocean Park said.

"An An lived a full life that ended at the respectable age of 35 – the equivalent of 105 years in human age," the statement read.

Hong Kong was given another panda pair — Ying Ying, a female, and a male, Le Le — in 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the city's return to China.

China commonly engages in "panda diplomacy" where the mammals exclusively found in China are leased to other countries as a sign of goodwill. (AP)

UK boosts arms supply to Ukraine with more anti-tank weapons

LONDON (TIP): Britain will send scores of artillery guns and more than 1,600 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine in the latest supply of Western arms to help bolster the country's defence against Russia, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said on July 21.

The boost comes after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson last month promised another 1 billion pounds (\$1.2 billion) of military support, bringing total UK support to Ukraine since the start of the war, which Russia calls a "special operation", to 2.3 billion pounds.

"Together with our international partners, we will ensure Ukraine has the tools to defend their country from Putin's illegal invasion," Wallace said in a statement.

Wallace said Britain would also provide counter-battery radar systems, hundreds of drones and more than 50,000 rounds of ammunition.

The UK has already supplied Ukraine with a range of military equipment including almost 7,000 anti-tank



weapons, hundreds of missiles and armoured fighting vehicles, and has also been training Ukrainian soldiers. Reuters

Women experience higher rates of depression than men: Research

Despite the fact that there are treatments for depression, many people find these treatments to be ineffective at times. In addition, women are more likely than males to have depression, but the cause for this difference is unknown. This makes treating their disorders more challenging at times.

The findings of the study were published this month in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*.

University of California, Davis, researchers teamed up with scientists from Mt. Sinai Hospital, Princeton University, and Laval University, Quebec, to try to understand how a specific part of the brain, the nucleus accumbens, is affected during the depression. The nucleus accumbens is important for motivation, response to rewarding experiences and social interactions -- all of which are affected by depression.

Previous analyses within the nucleus accumbens showed that different genes were turned on or off in women, but not in men diagnosed with depression. These changes could have caused symptoms of depression, or alternatively, the experience of being depressed could have changed the brain. To differentiate between these possibilities, the researchers studied mice that had experienced negative social interactions, which induce stronger depression-related behavior in females than males.

"These high-throughput analyses are very informative for understanding long-lasting effects of stress on the brain. In our rodent model, negative social interactions changed gene expression patterns in female mice that mirrored patterns observed in women with depression," said Alexia Williams, a doctoral researcher and recent UC Davis graduate who designed and



led these studies. "This is exciting because women are understudied in this field, and this finding allowed me to focus my attention on the relevance of these data for women's health." The study "Comparative transcriptional analyses in the nucleus accumbens identifies RGS2 as a key mediator of depression-related behaviour." After identifying similar molecular changes in the brains of mice and humans, researchers chose one gene, regulator of G protein signaling-2, or Rgs2, to manipulate. This gene controls the expression of a protein that regulates neurotransmitter receptors that are targeted by antidepressant medications such as Prozac and Zoloft. "In humans, less stable versions of the Rgs2 protein are associated with increased risk of depression, so we were curious to see whether increasing Rgs2 in the nucleus accumbens could reduce depression-related behaviors," said Brian Trainor, UC Davis professor of psychology and senior author on the study. He is also an affiliated faculty member with the Center for Neuroscience and directs the Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Lab at UC Davis.

When the researchers experimentally increased Rgs2 protein in the nucleus accumbens of the mice, they effectively reversed the effects of stress on these female mice, noting that social approach and preferences for preferred foods increased to levels observed in females that did not experience any stress.

"These results highlight a molecular mechanism contributing to the lack of motivation often observed in depressed patients. Reduced function of proteins like Rgs2 may contribute to symptoms that are difficult to treat in those struggling with mental illnesses," Williams said. Findings from basic science studies such as this one may guide the development of pharmacotherapies to effectively treat individuals suffering from depression, the researchers said.

"Our hope is that by doing studies such as these, which focus on elucidating mechanisms of specific symptoms of complex mental illnesses, we will bring science one step closer to developing new treatments for those in need," said Williams.

Source: ANI

FOOD

Chikar Chole

Chikar Chole is a Punjabi chickpea curry. The word Chikar (pronounced chik-kar) is a Punjabi word that means soft and mushy chole or chickpeas.

Ingredients

- 1 Cup Chickpeas (Soaked overnight)
- 1 Boiled Potato, 1 Onion Paste, 1 tsp Ginger Paste, 1 tsp Garlic Paste
- 1 cup Curd
- 1 Stick Cinnamon
- 5-6 Black Peppercorns
- 1 Black Cardamom
- 1 tsp Red Chilli Powder
- 1 tsp Coriander Powder
- 1 tsp Cumin Powder, 1/2 tsp Turmeric
- 1 tsp Black Pepper Powder to taste
- 1 tsp Dry mango powder
- 1 tsp Kasoori methi
- 2-3 Green Chillies chopped
- 4 tbsp Oil

Method

In a pressure cooker, add water to the chickpeas and cook till it gets completely dissolved.

Now sieve the chickpeas, keep the water aside. Separate a little bit from the boiled chickpeas.

Take boiled potatoes and chickpeas and make a smooth paste by adding some water in a blender.

Heat four tablespoons of oil in a pan. Add ginger garlic paste and all the whole spices and fry for two minutes.

Add onion paste and fry it till it turns light golden in color. Simultaneously, add the prepared paste of potatoes and chickpeas and fry them.

Now add red pepper, coriander, turmeric, salt and cumin powder and fry it while mixing the spices.

Add curd and mix it well with spices. After a while, add boiled chickpeas to this mixture and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the remaining water of chickpeas to it and cover and cook for five minutes. Add amchur, black pepper and kasoori methi and mix.

Mix finely chopped green chilies and green coriander and take it out in a serving dish and serve it with naan or rice.

Source: NDTV



Use amla for dull, dandruff-prone scalp and weak hair

Amla is the gift that never stops giving to your hair. In easy-to-understand terms, it only knows how to treat your hair. Backing its charm for centuries now, ask your elders about its unmatched benefits. Famously called, Indian Gooseberry, it holds a surprise package. The green fruit although sour for your taste buds, it's what shiny and healthy hair dreams are made of. Let's take a look at a few miracles it can bring to life for us whether used in a powder, juice, or oil form.

Goodbye dandruff

Packed with all of the good things, vitamin C, anti-inflammatory, and anti-bacterial properties, it tackles dry scalp problems and lowers the intensity of your scalp's itchy behaviour. Heat both coconut and amla oils spread it evenly on your hair, and give it a good massage for an effective anti-dandruff treatment.



Hair fall? Worry no more

The mix of minerals, amino acids, phytonutrients,

and vitamins present in amla aid in enhancing hair growth and strengthening your roots. From promoting blood circulation to collagen, amla can easily give a good boost to volume. For better results, add onion juice to amla hair oil and apply it to your hair. Follow this once a week for healthy and lustrous locks.

Premature greying is the way of life and so is healthy black hair

With its powerhouse of nutrients, amla can help fight the appearance of premature greying. Whether you'd love to consume these or simply permit your hair to soak into goodness through hair masks, you're in for something stellar. Take one tablespoon of amla juice, and one tablespoon of shikakai powder and mix it well. You can add aloe vera as well. Adjust the quantity as per your preference, watery or thick in texture.

Source: Pinkvilla

Scientists reveal vitamin B6 supplements may reduce anxiety, depression

According to a recent study, using high-dose vitamin B6 supplements will lessen anxiety and depressive symptoms.

The findings of the research were published in the journal 'Human Psychopharmacology Clinical and Experimental'.

Scientists at the University of Reading measured the impact of high doses of Vitamin B6 on young adults and found that they reported feeling less anxious and depressed after taking the supplements every day for a month.

The study provides valuable evidence to support the use of supplements thought to modify levels of activity in the brain for preventing or treating mood disorders.

Dr David Field, the lead author from the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading, said: "The functioning of the brain relies on a delicate balance between the excitatory neurons that carry information around and inhibitory ones, which prevent runaway activity."

"Recent theories have connected mood disorders and some other neuropsychiatric conditions with a disturbance of this balance, often in the direction of raised levels of brain activity."

"Vitamin B6 helps the body produce a specific chemical messenger that inhibits impulses in the brain, and our study links this calming effect with reduced anxiety among the participants." While previous studies have produced evidence that multivitamins or marmite can reduce stress levels, few studies have been carried out into which particular vitamins contained within them drive this effect.

The new study focused on the potential role of Vitamins B6, which is known to increase the body's production of GABA (Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid), a chemical that blocks impulses between nerve cells in the brain.

In the current trial, more than 300 participants were randomly assigned either Vitamin B6 or B12 supplements far above the recommended daily intake (approximately 50 times the recommended daily allowance) or a placebo and took one a day with food for a month.

The study showed that Vitamin B12 had little effect compared to placebo over the trial period, but Vitamin



B6 made a statistically reliable difference.

Raised levels of GABA among participants who had taken Vitamin B6 supplements were confirmed by visual tests carried out at the end of the trial, supporting the hypothesis that B6 was responsible for the reduction in anxiety. Subtle but harmless changes in visual performance were detected, consistent with controlled levels of brain activity.

Dr Field said, "Many foods, including tuna, chickpeas and many fruits and vegetables, contain Vitamin B6. However, the high doses used in this trial suggest that supplements would be necessary to have a positive effect on mood."

"It is important to acknowledge that this research is at an early stage and the effect of Vitamin B6 on anxiety in our study was quite small compared to what you would expect from the medication. However, nutrition-based interventions produce far fewer unpleasant side effects than drugs, and so in the future people might prefer them as an intervention."

"To make this a realistic choice, further research is needed to identify other nutrition-based interventions that benefit mental wellbeing, allowing different dietary interventions to be combined in future to provide greater results."

"One potential option would be to combine Vitamin B6 supplements with talking therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to boost their effect."

Source: ANI



New study finds out why Omicron variant is highly transmissible

A study comparing four variants of SARS-CoV-2 shows how the Omicron variant is adept at entering cells and escaping neutralisation from existing vaccines or prior infection, potentially contributing to the variant's high transmissibility.

Published in journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' (PNAS) on July 19, the study suggests that Omicron mutations increase the infectivity of SARS-CoV-2 virus-like particles and decrease antibody neutralisation.

Researchers examined the virus using virus-like particles (VLPs) that imitate the SARS-CoV-2 proteins' structural characteristics. VLPs of the B.1, B.1.1, Delta, and Omicron variants were evaluated against antisera samples from 38 COVID-19 survivors, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, by Jennifer Doudna, Melanie Ott, and colleagues.

In contrast to the original B.1 strain, antisera from the same individual who had received two vaccinations were up to 15 times less effective at neutralising Omicron in vitro. Nevertheless, the in vitro neutralising activity against Omicron was significantly increased in sera from participants who had received a third mRNA vaccine within 16 to 21 days. The in vitro neutralising potency of four currently available monoclonal antibody therapies—casirivimab, imdevimab, sotrovimab, and bebtelovimab—was then assessed by the authors. They discovered that only bebtelovimab was significantly effective against Omicron.

According to the findings, the authors hypothesise that Omicron may be particularly contagious in part because it is a harder strain to neutralise. The researchers also found an existing monoclonal antibody that might in vitro neutralise the variation.

Effective vaccine and treatment development depends on an understanding of the molecular factors that influence severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) viral fitness. The advent of viral variations such as Delta and Omicron highlighted the need to evaluate infectivity and antibody neutralisation, although research on intact SARS-CoV-2 is being conducted slowly due to biosafety level 3 handling requirements.

Ghana confirms outbreak of deadly marburg virus

West African nation of Ghana has confirmed first cases of the deadly Marburg virus from two people in the southern Ashanti region.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), Marburg virus disease is a highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever, with a fatality ratio of up to 88 per cent.

The Marburg virus can spread from infected animals, including bats. The viral illness hits sufferers suddenly, and its symptoms include high fever, internal and external bleeding and severe headaches.

Human infection with Marburg virus disease initially results from prolonged exposure to mines or caves inhabited by Rousettus bat colonies, as per the WHO.

Once an individual is infected with the virus, Marburg can spread through human-to-human transmission via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids.

No treatment or vaccine exists for Marburg, which is almost as deadly as Ebola.

You should be looking out for symptoms like high



fever, severe headache, and severe malaise. Muscle aches and pains are said to be a common feature. You may experience severe watery diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and cramping. Nausea and vomiting are likely to begin on the third day.

In fatal cases, death may occur between 8 and 9 days after symptom onset, usually preceded by severe blood loss and shock.

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Apple agrees to pay \$50 million to settle flawed 'butterfly' keyboards lawsuit

Apple has agreed to pay \$50 million to settle the lawsuit over flawed "butterfly" keyboards in MacBooks in the US.

A group of MacBook users in 2018 had filed a class-action lawsuit against Apple for the controversial butterfly keyboards, alleging that the new design failed when even tiny particles of dust accumulated around the switches.

They alleged that the company concealed the fact that its butterfly keys were prone to failure.

The lawsuit covered those who purchased an Apple MacBook with a butterfly keyboard in seven states: California, New York, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Washington, and Michigan.

Apple later launched an improved keyboard design in late 2019.

Once the \$50 million agreement is approved, those who replaced multiple keyboards can expect maximum payouts of \$300 to \$395 and people who replaced one keyboard can get \$125 and those who replaced key 'caps mat' get \$50, reports CNBC.

Law firms Girard Sharp LLP and Chimicles Schwartz Kriner and Donaldson-Smith LLP can claim up to \$15 million from the \$50 million windfall to cover legal fees.

NASA's James telescope reveals stunning images of Jupiter, its moon

After releasing stunning coloured images of thousands of galaxies in our universe, NASA has now unveiled outstanding images of Jupiter and spectra of several asteroids taken by the James Webb Space Telescope.

The data demonstrates Webb's ability to track solar system targets and produce images and spectra with unprecedented detail, the US space agency said in a statement.

New images show distinct bands that encircle Jupiter as well as the Great Red Spot, a storm big enough to swallow the Earth.

"Combined with the deep field images released the other day, these images of Jupiter demonstrate the full grasp of what Webb can observe, from the faintest, most distant observable galaxies to planets in our own cosmic backyard that you can see with the naked eye from your actual backyard," said Bryan Holler, a scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

In one of the images, Jupiter's moon Europa with a probable ocean below its thick icy crust is seen which is the target of NASA's forthcoming Europa Clipper mission.

"What's more, Europa's shadow can be seen to the left of the Great Red Spot. Other visible moons in these images include Thebe and Metis," the space agency said.

Scientists were especially eager to see these images because they are proof that Webb can observe the satellites and rings near bright solar system objects such as Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars.

Scientists will use Webb to explore the question of whether we can see plumes of material spewing out of moons like Europa and Saturn's moon



Enceladus.

Additionally, Webb easily captured some of Jupiter's rings. That the rings showed up in one of Webb's first solar system images is "absolutely astonishing and amazing".

Webb was designed with the requirement to track objects that move as fast as Mars, which has a maximum speed of 30 milliarcseconds per second.

Source: IANS

Heatwave forced Google and Oracle to shut down computers

As record temperatures hit much of the UK on Tuesday, tech giants Google and Oracle suffered outages as cooling systems failed at London data centres.

Data centres are large highly secure buildings that hold banks of computers and are the powerhouses behind many online services.

But the concentrated computing power generates heat so powerful that cooling is essential.

Both companies say the problems have now been resolved.

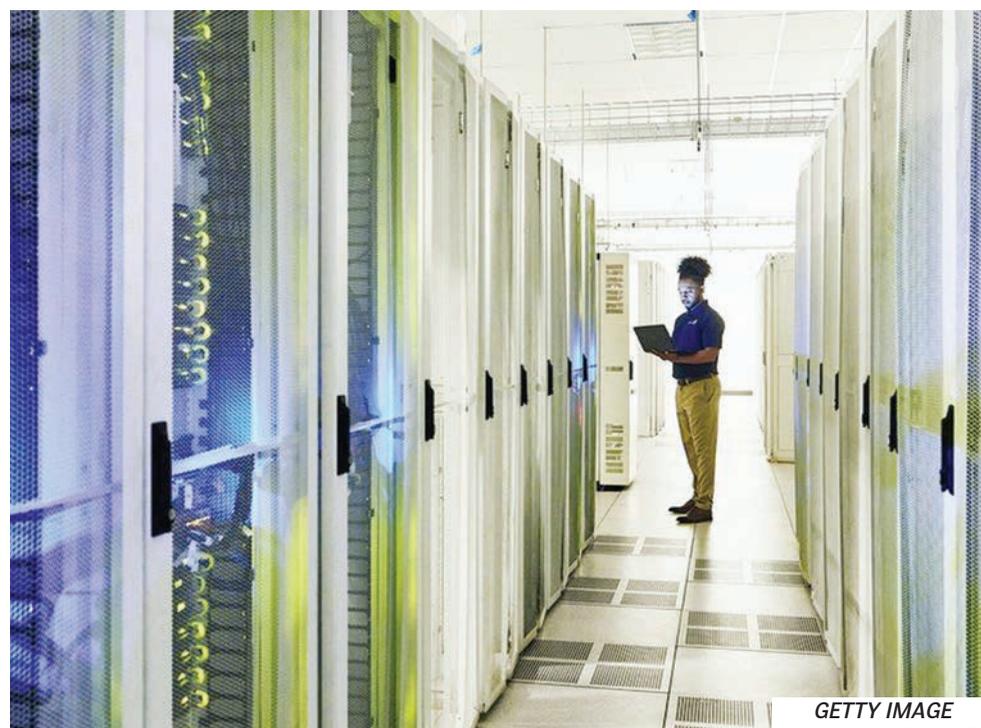
Oracle, a large American database software and technology business, reported overheating problems just before 16:00 BST.

"Following unseasonably high temperatures in the UK south (London) region, two cooler units in the data centre experienced a failure when they were required to operate above their design limits," the company wrote on a status page first spotted by The Register.

"As a result, temperatures in the data centre began to climb, which caused some systems to shut down as a protective measure."

The company said the issue was resolved, in an update posted shortly after 10:00 BST on Wednesday.

As Britain baked, overheating also hit a Google Cloud data centre location in London.



GETTY IMAGE

Google Cloud lets other businesses do work on the company's computers.

Just after 18:00 BST, the company reported that "there has been a cooling-related failure in one of our buildings".

In order to prevent damage to machines and an extended outage, the firm said it powered down some of them.

The problem was fixed by 07:00 BST on Wednesday and the company said that only a "small set of our customers" were affected.

Because the data processed can be highly valuable to their customers, data centres are built with many back-ups, including plenty of cooling capacity.

Experts the BBC spoke to on Monday doubted that modern data centres would experience difficulties, so the failures at big, well-resourced, companies like Google will have come as a surprise.

But operators were wary of the unprecedented temperatures.

Paul Hone, of Redcentric, which operates data centres in Harrogate, London, Reading and Cambridge, told the BBC that the firm had put its disaster recovery plan into action on Monday.

Mr Hone added that while data centres are designed to withstand hot weather, the heatwave's temperatures would be at the "upper end of design expectations for a lot of data centre operators".

In the end, for Hone, Tuesday passed without incident.

But additional cooling means additional electricity consumption, which in turn can mean increased carbon emissions.

With climate scientists warning that very hot days will become more frequent, tech firms are exploring greener cooling solutions and computer systems that consume less power and generate less heat.

Microsoft carried out an experiment with an underwater data centre off Orkney in 2020. Part of the attraction was the natural cooling provided by the surrounding seawater. Source: BBC

BITCOIN RECOVERS AFTER FALLING ON NEWS TESLA SOLD 75% OF ITS HOLDINGS

Bitcoin rebounded after a brief sell-off late on Wednesday sparked by news that electric carmaker Tesla Inc had sold about 75% of its holdings of the virtual token.

Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk cited concerns about his company's "overall liquidity" as the reason for the sale.

The world's largest cryptocurrency was last up 1.04% at \$23,494.57, after sliding as much as 0.5% to \$23,268.92 on the news.

Tesla sold \$936 million worth of bitcoin in the second quarter, more than a year after the company bought \$1.5 billion of the cryptocurrency at the peak of its massive growth and popularity.

Musk has been an outspoken supporter of cryptocurrencies. His statements on the future of crypto and disclosures about his ownership of digital assets often boost the price of dogecoin and bitcoin.

On Tesla's earnings call, Musk said the primary reason for the sale was uncertainty about lockdowns due to Covid-19 in China, which have created production challenges for the company.

"It was important for us to maximize our cash position," Musk said. "We are certainly open to increasing our bitcoin holdings in future, so this should not be taken as some verdict on bitcoin. It's just that we were concerned about overall liquidity for the company."

Musk added that Tesla did not sell any of its dogecoin, a meme-based cryptocurrency that he has touted.

RUPEE GAINS GROUND, A DAY AFTER HITTING AN ALL-TIME LOW OF 80.06 PER DOLLAR

The rupee gained a touch further early on Friday, July 22, a day after hitting its lowest ever of 80.06 against the dollar but closing out below the key psychological rate of 80.

Bloomberg quoted the rupee at 79.8963 against the dollar early on Friday, with a trading range of 79.8750 to 79.9088, after opening at 79.8875.

But PTI reported that the Indian currency fell 5 paise to 79.90 against the US dollar in early trade.

In the previous session, the rupee had hit an all-time low of 80.0638, but closed out the day at 79.9538 against the greenback, according to Bloomberg.

That was driven largely because of the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the spot and futures markets to limit the sharp decline in the Indian currency.

What has helped the domestic currency is the impetus in Asian stocks and foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) in Indian capital markets rising to the highest since November 17 on Thursday. The net foreign fund inflows on Thursday jumped to over \$1 billion.

Fading recession fears on taming of expectations for a very aggressive rate hikes on slowing global economic growth, the dollar well of its recent multi-year highs and a fall in crude oil prices have helped that turnaround in foreign funds flow into Indian markets.

Microsoft, Google are latest tech giants to hit brakes on hiring

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP)

With recession fears mounting - as well as inflation, the war in Ukraine and the lingering pandemic taking a toll - many technology companies are rethinking their staffing needs, with some of them instituting hiring freezes, rescinding offers and even starting layoffs.

TechCrunch reported earlier in July that more than 30,000 tech workers have been laid off in the last two months.

Microsoft, Google and Lyft are some of the latest companies to pull back. Microsoft said on Wednesday (July 20) it was eliminating many job openings. Google is pausing hiring for the next two weeks, while Lyft is shutting down a division and trimming jobs.

Here's a look at the companies that are tapping the brakes:

Alphabet

Google's parent company has been decelerating its recruiting efforts. Chief executive officer Sundar Pichai told staff this month that although the business added 10,000 employees in the second quarter, it will be slowing the pace of hiring for the rest of the year and prioritising engineering and technical talent. Alphabet had nearly 164,000 employees at end-March.

Amazon.com

The e-commerce giant said in April that it was overstaffed after ramping up during the pandemic and needed to cut back. Amazon is subleasing some warehouse space and has paused development of facilities meant for office workers, saying it needs more time to figure out how much space employees will require for hybrid work. The company had 1.6 million workers as at March, making it the biggest employer in the tech world.

Apple

The company is planning to slow hiring and spending at some divisions next year to cope with a potential economic slump, according to sources. But this is not a companywide policy, and the iPhone maker is still moving forward with an aggressive product release schedule. Apple had 154,000 employees in September last year.

Lyft

The ride-hailing firm told employees it was reining in hiring in May after its stock dropped precipitously. The company went further this week, announcing plans to shutter its car rental



business and cut about 60 jobs. Lyft had about 4,500 employees in 2021.

Meta Platforms

The parent of Facebook has slashed plans to hire engineers by at least 30 per cent. CEO Mark Zuckerberg told employees that he was anticipating one of the worst downturns in recent history. The company had more than 77,800 employees at the end of March.

Microsoft

The company told workers in May that it was slowing down hiring in the Windows, Office and Teams groups as it braces for economic volatility. It had 181,000 employees in 2021. More recently, the software maker cut some jobs - less than 1 per cent of its total - as part of a reorganisation. This week, the company said it began eliminating many job openings - a freeze that will last indefinitely.

Netflix

The streaming giant has had several rounds of highly publicised layoffs since it reported the loss of 200,000 subscribers in the first quarter. It cut 150 employees in May and 300 in June. Last quarter, it reported US\$70 million (\$97.5 million) in expenses from severance and shed an additional 970,000 subscribers. Netflix had 11,300 employees in 2021.

Source: BLOOMBERG

ADB lowers India's GDP forecast for FY23 to 7.2%

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered the economic growth forecast for India in the current to 7.2% from its earlier estimate of 7.5% due to the impact of Covid and the Russia-Ukraine war. The ADB also lowered the economic growth estimates for the 2021-22 fiscal to 8.7% from the earlier 8.9%.

India's GDP growth moderated to 4.1% in Q4 of the fiscal year ended March 2022 on disappointing growth in private consumption and a contraction in manufacturing, said the ADB in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for 2022.

"India has been hit by the omicron Covid variant and the economic impact of the war in Ukraine. Consequently, the GDP growth for 2021-22 is revised down from 8.9% to 8.7% and from 7.5% to 7.2% for 2022-23.

"Although consumer confidence continues to improve, higher-than-expected inflation will erode consumer purchasing power," the ADB Supplement released on Thursday, July 21, said.

Some of the impacts of this may be offset by a cut in excise duties, the provision of fertiliser and gas subsidies, and the extension of a free food distribution programme, it said.

Private investment will soften due to the higher cost of



borrowing for firms as the RBI continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation. For the South Asian region, it has lowered the growth forecast from 7% to 6.5% for 2022 and from 7.4% to 7.1% for 2023 mainly due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka and high inflation and associated monetary tightening in India.

Source: TNS

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 25 TO JULY 31, 2022



Aries

This week, you'll put your problems aside and start tackling them one at a time. Your conviction in people and in oneself will rise as a result of conquering your concerns. Begin believing optimistically since fear results from unfavorable thoughts. You can conquer your anxiety if you can manage your emotions. Believe that Lord will provide a remedy because he does. Keep in mind that your friends reflect your character back to you in a favorable way. Your financial situation makes it possible for you to grow your business. Everything is going well in your love life. To help someone seem special, all you need to do is spend some time with them sometimes. You will become dehydrated if you don't consume sufficient liquid.



Taurus

You will have a long week this week and discover a lot of different things. Take benefit of the possibilities that present themselves since it is always too late to acquire new things and broaden your mind. Your capacity to reason coherently as well as to understand and value items will increase. You're sociable enough to get on with others. You naturally have the capacity to put others at comfortable, which will help you in commerce. There may be difficulties in company, but if you approach your task rationally, fantastic results will result. Your relationship with your lover is stronger, which makes you seem more enticing.



Gemini

This week, you'll show off your inventiveness. You have original concepts. You are devoted to knowledge for both oneself and other people, and your methods are original and precise. You would prefer to engage with others to gain than just indulging in self. If you don't get your point, your steadfastness could turn into a dispute. The atmosphere outdoors affects your emotions. Given that you need a lot of personal space to consider matters out, you might be a little introverted. To be successful in your company, you must understand how to organize your time and finances. Your compassion for your loved one is one of your greatest attributes.

Cancer



You will be enjoying your beautiful week. You are considerate and would never intentionally hurt someone. You like interacting with others and

are open-minded when encountering new individuals. You frequently express approval for how other individuals behave. If you're in a situation of responsibility, you'll learn how to subtly guide others in the correct direction. When you share your ideas and artistic flair, it has a positive effect. Although you get along well with the other team participants, this does not mean that you are obedient. Cognitively, you are strong enough to stand on your own tip toes. Your professional life will benefit from your aptitude to express yourself obviously. Venus will stick by you until your thoughts are solidified.



Leo

This week is likely to be an extremely fortunate one for you. Earlier hours risers may benefit from favorable character development this week. Commit to your normal programs with careful commitment. You'll gain from timeliness in many different methods. People like you operate very quickly in this week's aggressive atmosphere in order to turn a revenue. At no conditions let your cognitive focus slip. The prevalence of mind and effectiveness are intricately related. Your ability to complete things quickly and logically will help you produce high-quality output. Be alert to everything that may come your approach at all times. You must always keep your attention focused whether functioning or conversing with people.



Virgo

This week, you're going to do anything to make your household happy. You've been a compassionate person who goes above and beyond to help people who are important to them. You have such a generous nature that you frequently serve for charitable causes upfront. You want to keep making people happy since you have already made a million of individuals happy. Your generosity is always admired, and it will help you develop professionally this week. Your generosity has given your business economic rewards. You need to take care of oneself since you don't practice patience. You and your lover have a great bond, but you want to maintain your companion content. You will have some digestive issues; thus, it is better if you visit doctor this week.



Libra

This week will be one of epiphanies and advancement. This week, you will be made conscious of your shortcomings and offered the chance to make amends. Take an attempt to decipher the indications of the cosmos. You'll start

to worry more and more about things, which will lead you astray. The incorrect individual, who will cause you protracted ruin, will lure you in. Venus is on your favor this week. You'll be equipped to accomplish your objectives while gaining an advantage over the remainder of your squad. Any misunderstandings between you and your business partner or supervisor must be cleared up in the latter half of the week. If your wellness isn't a major concern this week, you may think about making a brief trip.



Scorpio

This week you'll undergo intellectual growth and be able to let go of the former negative things Dear Scorpio. The main obstacles will be cleared this week, enabling you to accomplish all of your goals. A close friend or family member will try to deceive you. This week, long-resolved concerns will return, but your tenacious fortitude will help you fight them off. People who are married will likely fight briefly this week about a pointless issue. Your persistence will be appreciated by your colleagues. In a pinch, you may also use your presentation skills to salvage important deals. Your careless actions will cause a variety of health issues.



Sagittarius

Dear Sagittarius, this week, you're probably going to receive a sophisticated reward as compensation for anything you invested funds in a long time back. You'll think of creative solutions to the issues affecting your kids. Your aggressive actions may culminate in someone suffering significant damage. Exercise care since losing anything pricey and significant might be disastrous. Husbands and wives tend to get preoccupied with themselves. People who are in love will seize any chance to communicate their emotions and further their connection. You must embrace the proposal for a partnership that you most likely get. Your determination to exceed your rivals will ultimately reward dividends this week!



Capricorn

You will have an outstanding adventure this week, capping off a wonderful week. You're about to go on an unusual trip. You should take full use of this week if you want to embrace yourself in an entire new way. This occurrence will positively affect your life and help you across all aspects. You must preserve your vitality and use it to complete the full journey. You are connected to

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 25 TO JULY 31, 2022

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 25 : Ganesha says the treasure in your possession is your luck line, which you must properly invest. Avoid engaging in negative office politics and gossip as it could damage your reputation at any time. Profits from joint ventures and corporate partnerships are expected to increase in the following year. It seems like lady luck will be on your side. Your spouse or partner would shower you with love, attention, and money. Even if you would do your best to meet all of your family's standards, eventually they would make you feel unsatisfied with their growing expectations and goals.

JULY 26 : Ganesha says you approach life with good vigor and optimism. Your current relationship might develop into a lasting affinity. The book should not be judged solely by its cover for those looking for arranged weddings. You make an effort to connect with those in your contact list, yet you can come up empty-handed. Your bad habits, such as drinking alcohol and other vices, won't cause you any additional trouble if you practice meditation in addition to medical treatments. You might have to keep going back to see your health counselor. Maintain financial discipline because you could require it soon to do a task you've had on your bucket list.

JULY 27 : Ganesha says because of your always expanding ideas, people will like your business. You always yearn for a respectable, prosperous existence and want to carve out a special place for yourself in both the job and society. Just as Rome was not built in a

day, you must labor nonstop to achieve all of your life's goals and aspirations. In terms of monetary and real estate matters, the upcoming year will be fortunate. Your possessions would rise as you added a second source of income or a family member to help you out. You will receive a respectable wage package in addition to being given a higher classification. Long-standing legal challenges will be resolved with the aid of strong networking.

JULY 28 : Ganesha says you benefit when you combine prodigious luck with diligent work. People from all spheres like you because of your impeccable character and humble demeanor. Your brilliance is unimaginable to anyone. You are a maverick because of your propensity for coming up with original ideas, your analytical abilities, and your passionate nature. Prosperity won't follow you, but the situation will be reversed. You will experience much-anticipated career advancement at work. You carefully considered the information before starting any activity, demonstrating your versatility. It's time to start seeing a return on your long-term investment.

JULY 29 : Ganesha says if you're going to sign a contract, things will move along for you. Without a doubt, you succeed in anything you set out to do, by any means necessary. You will be about to embark on an adventure that has long been a dream of yours, one that will take you to new heights. For your business, you are a useful and profitable resource. No matter where you go, your employees will always be pleased with you. In

dealing with your blood family, you must be open and expressive. All family resentments will be avoided by this action. Your practical and realistic outlook will serve as an example for others. You have a soft spot in your heart for destitute and underprivileged folks. a good moment for kids to succeed in their careers.

JULY 30 : Ganesha says opportunities are created by your magical thinking for both you and other people. You must put your best foot forward in your profession. Energy prices are trending lower at the start of the year before abruptly rising. Your business plan's ideas and opinions will probably make your pocket bigger. Be mindful of any additional costs you may incur. You'll advance if you maintain a conversation about your company. There may be pressure on you to maintain your personal relationships. You've consistently believed in using your freedom to uplift and bless others.

JULY 31 : Ganesha says your soul is filled with creativity, which causes you to flourish everywhere. Everyone will be charmed by your captivating personality. You should embrace any change that occurs in your life since it demonstrates your adaptability. Simply follow your doctor's advice, and you'll be able to recover quickly from all of your ongoing illnesses. Everyone wants to be healthy, so if you are obese, you need to take additional care of yourself. Your path will be found via love. Conflicts involving ego, love, and deception could all come from your family, so take caution.

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your relatives, and this week you will discover more of their secret characteristics. Because you only have one lifetime to share with the people you care about, capture the experiences you're going to have in photos. Riches-wise, you'll prosper in a significant manner this week.

is essential for creating a positive outlook on life. Making advantage of your smart beings can help you understand more and more quickly. You won't be able to make any wise

choices because of how severe your fiscal situation is. You and your partner are getting along well romantically, so you might choose to take extra time together to develop

new bonds. Your tendency of eating junk food will be detrimental to your wellbeing in the long run hence take this week to form good habits.



Aquarius

There will be a chance for you to encounter somebody special this week. Your life will be dramatically changed by this person, who will also work wonders for you. Your desires have been answered; you've always wanted someone to lift your spirits. Your ability to adjust well to uncertainty will be to your advantage. Because you'll make a terrific team when you're united, the qualities you possess will be addressed. a pair that gets along well and has a lot of common communication. Avoid being too self-confident and losing this person over a pointless issue. You might not have the best of chances when it comes to wealth, but perseverance and tough work will surely make up for it.



Pisces

Your employment life will be challenging. You've always wanted the finest and the biggest achievements, but you'll have to work harder to organize your future. Spend the time working because success has a price. Honesty

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Mangala Gauri fast

All the Tuesdays in the month of Shravan, all fasts are called Mangla Gauri fast. This fast is called Mangla Gauri Vrat due to fasting on Tuesday. In the Hindu calendar, the month of Shravan is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Mata Gauri. The woman doing this fast during the month of Shravan or, from the beginning of the month of Shravan, decides to fast for the next sixteen weeks. Mangal Gauri fast is observed only by women. Women, mainly newly married women, perform this fast to obtain the blessings of Mother Gauri for a happy married life.

Puja Vidhan of Fast

In the morning, a white wash cloth should be spread on a checkpoint after taking a bath. Nine planets are made out of rice on white cloth and on red cloth, wheat is made of hexade mata. Put rice and flowers on one side of the chaki and establish the urn. Keep water in the urn. Four lamps of 16-16 wire are burnt by making a chamukhi lamp of flour. First of all, we worship Ganesh. After worshipping, offer water, roli, molly, sandalwood, vermilion, betel nut, cloves, betel leaf, rice, flowers, cardamom, bell-leaf, fruit, nuts and dakshina. After this, the Kalash is worshiped like Ganesh worship. Then by worshipping the nine planets and the Shodash Mata, they give the whole offering to the Brahmin. After this, making Mangala Gauri of the soil, bathing them with water, milk, curd etc., and wearing clothes, applying Roli, Chandan, Sindoor, rosemary and kajal. Sixteen types of flower leaves are garlanded. Five types of sixteen-sixteen nuts, betel nuts, cloves, rosemary, glass, comb and bangles are offered. Hearing the story, touching Sasuji's feet is a law to eat one grain at a time. The next day Mangla dines after immersing Gauri.

The story

A story related to Mangala Gauri fast is also told, according to which a seth named Dharmapala is living happily with his wife in a city in the Oriental period. There was no lack of wealth in his life. But the only thing that bothered him was that he had no children. For which he used to do a lot of pooja recitation and charity. Pleased with his good deeds, by the grace of God, he received a son, but the son did not have much age, according to astrologers, his son will become a eraser of death due to snake bite in the sixteenth year.

Knowing the young age of his son, his father was very hurt but who can change the fate, Atru, Seth left everything to God and after some time married his son to a worthy cult girl. Mother's mother always worshiped the fast of Mangla Gauri. Atari, the girl born due to the effect of this fast was blessed with unbroken good luck, which resulted in the length of Seth's son.

Udyaapan Vidhi

It should be used after fasting on Tuesdays of Shravan month. Food is prohibited in industry. Worshipping with henna should be done. Worship should be done with four Brahmins. On the four corners of a checki, four clams of bananas should be tied on the pavilion with an odor. Mangalagauri should be set in the bowl by placing a bowl on the urn. All the items of saree, nath and suhag should be kept. Aarti should be done after listening to the story after the Havan. Sixteen laddus of flour, rupees and sari in silverware should be given to Sasu ji to touch his feet. The pandits who perform the puja should also be given food and washed and washed.

The next day, Sohal Brahmins should be given food including pairs, dhoti, angocha and Brahminis, suhag-pittari. In the Suhag plate, there are accessories and sarees of Suhag. After doing all this, you should eat yourself.

Celebrations/ Rituals

The idol of the Devi Mangala Gauri is placed on a wooden platform wrapped in a red cloth. A lamp consisting of 16 thick cotton wicks made of wheat flour is lit. Devi Mangala Gauri is worshipped by performing a pooja with Shodoroshopochar rituals.



Important information

Shravana Begins - July 14, 2022, Thursday

Pratham Mangala Gauri Vrat - July 19, 2022, Tuesday

Second mangala gauri fast - July 26, 2022, Tuesday

Third mangala gauri fast - August 2, 2022, Tuesday

Chaturthi Mangala Gauri Vrat - August 9, 2022, Tuesday

Shravana ends - August 12, 2022, Friday

Take a holy bath on the auspicious day of Mangala Gauri Vrat. Make Navagrahas using rice and Shodash Goddess using wheat. The idol of Lord Ganesh is placed next to the Goddesses. Kalash Sthapana is performed. Haldi, kumkum, Akshata, water, sandalwood, vermilion, betel nuts, rice flowers, cardamom, Bael leaves, fruits, nuts, and alms are offered during Lord Ganesh Puja. After Ganesh Pujan, Navagraha Puja and Shodasha Goddesses Puja (puja to 16 Goddesses) are performed. Shodashopachar Puja is offered to Goddess Mangala Gauri. 16 types of flowers and fruits; mirror, comb, and bangles are offered to the Goddess. Mangala Gauri Vrat Katha is chanted during the end of the Vrat. On the last Tuesday of Shravan month, the next day, Wednesday, the idol of Mangala Gauri is immersed in the pond (Mangala Gauri Visarjan / Udyapana). Distribute prasada, Turmeric, Vermillion to other married women.

Hariyali Amavasya

Amavasya falling in the month of Sawan and Shravan is called Hariyali Amavasya. Hariyali Amavasya is considered a very auspicious day. The day of Hariyali Amavasya is important for Shiva devotees, hence Lord Shiva is worshipped on this day. Generally, Hariyali Amavasya falls three days before the famous Hariyali Teej.

This day is called Hariyali Amavasya because there is greenery all around in the month of Sawan. That's why this festival is called the festival of greenery. Apart from this, plants are also planted on this day for the fulfillment of various wishes. On this date, prosperity and prosperity can be obtained through plants.

Donation, meditation and bathing have special

significance on the day of Hariyali Amavasya.

The festival of Hariyali Amavasya is famous by different names in India. It is very famous in the northern states of India like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

In Maharashtra it is called 'Gatari Amavasya', in Andhra Pradesh it is 'Chukkala Amavasya' and in Orissa it is celebrated as 'Chitlagi Amavasya'. As with the name, the customs and traditions differ in different parts of the country, but the spirit of the celebration remains the same.

How to do Puja on Hariyali Amavasya

- Wake up on this day in Brahma Muhurta and retire from bathing.
- Sprinkle Ganga Jal or holy water all over the house.
- Shiva Linga should be consecrated with water etc.
- After Abhishek, Lord Shiva is pleased with Belpatra, Samitra, Doob, Kusha, Lotus, Neelkamal, Jawaphool Kaner, Rye flower etc.
- One should meditate on Lord Shiva.
- After meditation, worship Lord Shiva with 'Om Namah Shivaya'. Do aarti and distribute prasada.

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

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



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Monsoon destinations

Rains are magical in India. Though most travelers do not count this as a good time to travel, but there is a certain charm in vacations during downpour. With our list of spectacular monsoon destinations in India, you will certainly change your opinion about the glorious rainy season.

These are the places where you can enjoy vacations for relaxing, sightseeing and adventure accompanied with gentle winds, light raindrops and that delicious smell of Earth. The season of bliss, beauty and relief, savor one vacation in India of such pleasures.

Coorg, Karnataka

One of the most beautiful monsoon destinations in India, Coorg is not just one of the most beautiful hill stations of Karnataka but also India. Blessed with gorgeous scenery dotted with vast coffee plantations, it is the perfect getaway in the monsoon.

During the rains, the Abbey and Jog waterfalls flow in their full might, creating an impressive picture. Also, if you are into adventure sports, then embark on a trek to the highest peak of Tadiandamol, which is known for its wonderful scenery. Bylekuppe, Madikeri Fort, and other sights are equally pleasant. If you are lucky, you will get a glimpse of a rainbow.

- Famous for- Hill Stations, Waterfalls and Coffee Plantation
- Major Tourist Attractions – Raja's Seat, Abbey Falls, Kaveri River, Madikeri Fort, Golden Temple, Nagarhole national park
- Temperature – Minimum 23°C and Maximum 26°C Maximum

Shillong, Meghalaya

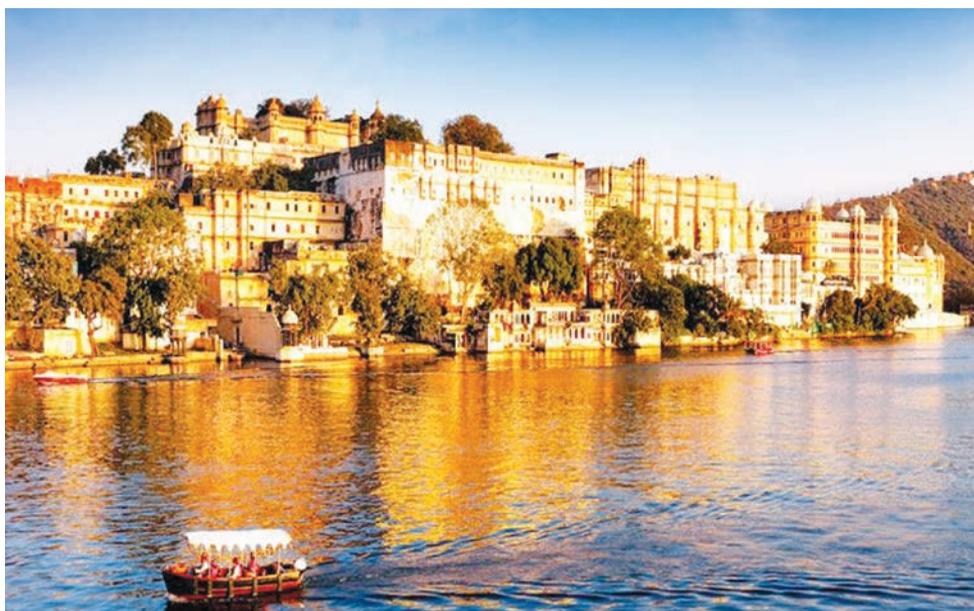
Nestled in the abode of clouds, Shillong in Meghalaya is listed top among the best places to visit in India during monsoon. Known for its captivating beauty, the hill town looks all the more amazing during the monsoons. If you do not mind getting drenched, this place is a perfect getaway. Misty clouds, lush green everywhere and roaring waterfalls are the reasons for visiting.

During the rainy season, you must visit Elephant Falls and the spread Eagle Falls. Both of these waterfalls fed by rains make for a remarkable sight. The blissful feel of the town relaxes your senses. Food, especially the local delicacies and the cheap drinks sets the pace for a pleasant holiday.

- Major Tourist Attractions – Mawlynnong, Umiam Lake, Elephant Falls, Shillong Peak, Don Bosco Museum, Mawsynram.
- Temperature – Minimum 12°C and Maximum 13°C

Munnar, Kerala

Munnar is truly a paradise in Kerala. This hill station is one of the must-visit monsoon destinations in India. Rains add magic and romance to the already beautiful hills of the Western Ghats, a prime tea-growing region carpeted in emerald-green tea plantations. Mist envelopes the mountain tops, seasonal waterfalls present amazing sights and the ambiance is soothing. The best thing about a monsoon vacation is, Munnar is



crowd-free, hotels and resorts offer great discounts. Embark on trekking trails, marvel at natural bliss, walk through tea gardens, and gorge on delicious Kerala cuisine. Your monsoon holiday in Munnar will be undoubtedly memorable.

- Famous for- Hill Stations, Tea Gardens and Treehouse stay
- Major Tourist Attractions – Echo Point, Attukad Waterfalls, Tea Museum, Tea Gardens, Eravikulam National Park, Wonder Valley Adventure and Amusement Park, and Kundala Lake
- Temperature – Minimum 23°C and Maximum 29°C

Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand

The Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand is one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Monsoon is the best time to enjoy a visit, as the mountain flowers of every possible shade, bloom after the rain. Where else can you enjoy the beauty of more than 400 varieties of flowers in their full bloom? This valley is a part of the national park where you can reach only after a scenic easy trek. For a wonderful trekking adventure, the Valley of Flowers is an ideal destination. For the bliss of mountains, spectacular view of unique flowers in multiple shades, it is an amazing destination for a monsoon vacation.

- Famous for- Natural Beauty, Hill

Stations, and Trekking

- Temperature – Minimum 13°C and Maximum 20°C

Udaipur, Rajasthan

Udaipur in Rajasthan is next on the list of best places to visit in India during monsoon. It receives one of the lowest rainfalls in the country, just enough rains for a pleasant climate. The city is snuggled in the lap of the Aravalis and is dotted with a number of lakes. Titled as one of the 'most romantic destinations in India', imagine the romance that is possible during the rains. Udaipur is also one of the top places for a destination wedding in India. Visit the famous Monsoon Palace, and Sajjan Garh, which offers a panoramic view of the city. Visit the scenic Lake Pichola and go for boat rides, and enjoy the popular sights and the royal hospitality.

- Famous for- Lake, Palaces, Temples, and Shopping.
- Major Tourist Attractions – Lake Pichola, City Palace, Fateh Sagar Lake, Sajjangarh Monsoon Palace, Bagore Ki Haveli Museum, and Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Temperature – Minimum 25°C and Maximum 35°C

Alleppey, Kerala

Alleppey is divine during the monsoon. 'Gods' Own Country' Kerala is blessed during rains and Alleppey shares its bliss. The rain makes the backwaters all the more beautiful. To explore this spectacular place, you must embark on a backwater cruise through its lakes, river, and canals. Monsoon also enhances the benefits of Ayurveda. According to the ancient traditions of Ayurveda, the best time to undergo these treatments is during the monsoons. The weather is perfect, moist, cool, and dust-free, opening up the pores of our skin, making the therapy more effective. The cool salubrious monsoon weather also allows the body to recuperate in bliss.

- Famous for – Houseboats and Alleppey Beach
- Temperature – Minimum 23°C and Maximum 29°C

Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

Kodaikanal, 'The Gift of the Forest' is a scenic beauty that further magnifies its charm during monsoon. The small hill town in Tamil Nadu creates a refreshing vacation. During the rains, Coaker's Walk and Brynt Park offer picturesque trails while there are also serious treks to Dolphin Nose, Kurunji Andavar Temple, Pambhar Falls, Pillar Rocks, etc. Also, after the rains, the waterfalls are a sight worth seeing. You can also have a very lucky experience, a rare phenomenon called 'Brachem Spectre' where you actually see yourself in the clouds. Feel fresh as the rains in this picturesque hill station.

- Major Tourist Attractions – Kodaikanal Lake, Bear Shola Falls, Pillar Rocks, Thalaiyar Falls, Coakers Walk
- Things to do: Boating, sightseeing, trekking
- Temperature – Minimum 20°C and Maximum 28°C

Source: Inbdiandholiday.com

contd from page 1

Droupadi Murmu Elected 15th...

winner and said that she got 6,76,803 votes against Sinha's 3,80,177 votes.

She will be the first President to be born after independence and is the youngest to occupy the top post. She is also the first Tribal woman, and the second woman to become the President.

Her victory was sealed after the third round itself when the Returning officer announced that Murmu had already received over 53 per cent of the total valid votes even as Ballots from 10 states and Union territories are still being counted.

Conceding defeat after the third round of counting, Sinha congratulated Murmu and said every Indian hopes that as the 15th President she functions as the "custodian of the Constitution" without fear or favor.

In a statement, Sinha thanked the leaders of the Opposition parties for choosing him as their consensus candidate in this election.

"I also thank all members of the Electoral College who voted for me. I accepted the offer of Opposition parties solely guided by the philosophy of Karma Yoga preached by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita-Do your duty without expectation of the fruits thereof," Sinha said.

"I have performed my duty conscientiously out of my love for my country. The issues I had raised during my campaign remain pertinent," he said.

Immediately after the announcement of the NDA presidential nominee crossing the halfway mark, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda visited Murmu at her residence here to congratulate her.

"India scripts history. At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!," Modi tweeted. He congratulated Murmu on being elected to the top Constitutional post.

"Droupadi Murmu Ji's life, her early struggles, her rich service and her exemplary success motivates each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens, especially the poor, marginalized and the downtrodden," he said in a series of tweets.

The Prime Minister also thanked all MPs and MLAs across party lines who supported her candidature and said her "record victory" augurs well for our democracy.

"Droupadi Murmu Ji has been an outstanding MLA and Minister. She had an excellent tenure as Jharkhand governor. I am certain she will be an outstanding President who will lead from the front and strengthen India's development journey," he said.

Soon after counting began and she inched towards the halfway mark, celebrations began in her native town of Rairangpur congratulating "Odisha's daughter", with folk artists and tribal dancers performing on the streets. Murmu belongs to one of the largest tribal groups in the country, the Santhals.

Traditional dancers celebrate Droupadi Murmu's victory in the Presidential election at her New Delhi residence on Thursday. Mukesh Aggarwal

Murmu's tribal background not only helped catapult her to the top post, but the BJP by fielding her is also eyeing crucial votes of the ST community in upcoming assembly elections in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which have a significant tribal population, besides the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

This also helped her get the support of a number of independent parties including BJD, YSRCP, AIADMK, TDP, BSP, JDS and SAD, besides opposition's JMM, Shiv Sena and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party in her victory run.

By nominating her, the BJP is also seeking to get its foothold in Odisha's tribal-dominated belt, which it has been eyeing ever since it snapped ties with BJD in 2009. Odisha goes to the polls along with the 2024 general elections and so does Andhra Pradesh, where there is a significant tribal population.

Murmu had contested the 2014 assembly election from Rairangpur but lost to the BJD candidate.

Born on June 20, 1958, in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district,

she catapulted into the national spotlight after being picked as the ruling NDA's presidential nominee in the July 18 polls.

It is from Rairangpur that she took her first step up the BJP ladder. She was a councilor in the local Notified Area Council in 1997 and rose to be a minister in Odisha's BJD-BJP coalition government from 2000 to 2004. In 2015, she was appointed governor of Jharkhand and stayed in the post till 2021.

She is an excellent orator in Santhali and Odia languages and has worked extensively to improve infrastructure such as roads and ports in Odisha.

The low-profile Murmu, believed to be deeply spiritual, is a keen practitioner of the meditation techniques of the Brahma Kumaris, a movement she embraced after she lost her husband, two sons, mother and brother in just six years between 2009-2015.

Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba has congratulated newly elected President Droupadi Murmu on Twitter.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Droupadi Murmu on Thursday for emerging victorious in the presidential poll, saying it was a very proud moment for everyone in Odisha. Patnaik said Murmu's journey from a humble beginning to becoming the first citizen of the country was an inspiring and a shining example of women's empowerment.

Rajnath Singh has congratulated Droupadi Murmu on impressive win in presidential poll, says it's proof of Indian democracy's strength. (Source: Agencies)

Biden plans talks with China's Xi...

The long-discussed call between the two leaders, their first in four months, would come at a crucial moment given tensions over the status of Taiwan, and as the Biden administration weighs cutting import duties on goods from China to help reduce inflation pressures on American consumers.

The United States calls China its main strategic rival and says high-level engagement is important to keeping the difficult relationship stable and preventing it from veering inadvertently into conflict. Last month, Washington pushed NATO to adopt a strategic document calling China a security challenge.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, July 20, Biden appeared to cast doubt on a trip reportedly planned by House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to visit Taiwan next month.

"I think that the military thinks it's not a good idea right now, but I don't know what the status of it is," Biden said.

Beijing said on Tuesday, July 19, that it would respond with "forceful measures" should Pelosi visit the Chinese-claimed island, and that such a visit would "seriously undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Pelosi's office declined to comment on whether the visit is moving forward, citing security concerns. The State Department has called the trip "hypothetical." Plans for the trip were reported by the Financial Times, which also said the White House had expressed concerns.

China considers the democratically governed island its own territory, and the issue is a constant irritant in ties between Beijing and Washington.

Biden's administration has repeatedly spoken of its "rock-solid" commitment to the island's security.

US military vessels were conducting transits through the Taiwan Strait as recently as Tuesday, angering Beijing, which sent fighters across the strait's median line this month following a visit to Taipei by US Senator Rick Scott.

On trade, the Biden administration has been at odds with China over fulfilling its commitments to existing agreements.

But rising inflation has prompted a look at possible tariff relief, including on the 'Section 301' tariffs imposed by former President Donald Trump, covering some \$370 billion in Chinese imports.

People familiar with the tariff deliberations have told Reuters that Biden also is weighing whether to pair a removal of some tariffs with a new investigation into China's industrial subsidies and efforts to dominate key sectors, such as semiconductors. Such a probe could lead

to more tariffs.

Rishi Sunak clinches spot for final leg...

Alleging rigging, a Tory MP says, "There is no way Truss picked up 15 votes from Tom Tugendhat. Someone is moving votes around."

David Davis claims the Sunak camp has reallocated votes from Tugendhat to Truss to stop the trade minister reaching the final.

The 42-year-old British Indian former Chancellor, who has topped every voting round so far, added 19 votes to his Tuesday tally of 118 and comfortably crossed the 120 MPs mark seen as the threshold to confirm a place in the final showdown. Sunak and Truss are now set for their first head-on clash in a live televised debate scheduled on the BBC for Monday.

Earlier, outgoing PM Johnson used his last Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons to bid farewell to the top job with the Spanish phrase "hasta la vista, baby". In his final speech, he had words of advice for his successor: "Stay close to the Americans, stick up for the Ukrainians, stick up for freedom and democracy everywhere," he said. Sunak's popularity within the Conservative parliamentary party does not seem to chime with the views of the wider membership base, which has shown favor towards his leading opponents. The most recent YouGov survey of 725 Conservative Party members over Monday and Tuesday showed Truss would beat Sunak by 54 per cent to 35 per cent, and Mordaunt would also beat him 51 per cent to 37 per cent.

There is also some concern that Sunak's prospect to replace Johnson could be hit by Conservative Campaign Headquarters' decision to send out those ballot papers early next month before the bulk of the campaign hustings have been held. The focus will now shift towards those hustings as both candidates campaign to woo the Tory voters to cast those ballots in their favor.(Agencies)

Manganos cannot remain free on bail...

Mangano was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and Linda received a sentence of 15 months.

The Manganos were supposed to begin their sentences on July 27. Edward Mangano's sentence was pushed back to that date from July 13 after he filed a motion seeking that he and his wife remain free on bail while appealing their conviction.

Judge Joan Azarack denied their appeal today, July 21, but pushed back the start of their sentence to Aug. 27. "The Court has determined that Defendants are not entitled to bail pending appeal because they have not raised substantial questions that are likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial on all of their convictions," Azarack wrote in her opinion.

Green card wait time likely to remain..

Almost all of these are applicants under the EB2 and EB3 (for professionals and skilled workers) categories, used by technology companies to sponsor visas for immigrant workers. The green card, or permanent residence, option is available on these visas.

"This only tells you how many people are waiting for their visa numbers to get a green card. They have not provided the number of family members that are attached to these principal applicants, and this is important because visas granted to family members are also counted towards the per-country maximum allowed each year. So, we are looking at several decades of wait time," said Poorvi Chothani, managing partner at LawQuest, a global immigration law firm.

These applicants have an approved Form I-140 which is the first step towards an employment-based green card. "After an I-140 is approved, employment-based applicants who are Indian-born usually have to wait several years for their priority dates to become current. After the dates become current, the final step of the green card, the issuance of the immigrant visa, can further take several years because of the USCIS processing delays," said Rajiv S Khanna, managing partner at immigration.com.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

NEERAJ CHOPRA QUALIFIES FOR MAIDEN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL WITH 88.39M THROW

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra qualified for his maiden World Championships final with a stunning first attempt throw of 88.39m at Eugene. The 24-year-old Indian, hot favourite for a medal, opened the men's javelin throw Group A qualification round and sent his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw, on Thursday, July 21. The medal round will be held on Sunday (7:05am IST).

Those who clear 83.50m or 12 best performers across two qualification round groups qualify for the final.

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and another Indian, Rohit Yadav will compete in Group B. Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, had competed in the 2017 London World Championships with the hope of at least making it to the finals but managed only 82.26m to fall short of the automatic qualification mark of 83m.

He had also missed the 2019 World Championships in Doha as he was recovering from an elbow surgery.

Triple jumper Eldhose Paul qualifies for World C'ships final

Eldhose Paul became the first Indian to qualify for the triple jump final at the World Championships with an effort of 16.68m here. He finished sixth in Group A qualification round and 12th overall to make the cut for Sunday's final (6:50am IST). The 25-year-old Paul, who reached here just a few days ago due to visa issues, has a season's and personal best of 16.99m which he had recorded while winning gold in the Federation Cup in April. The two other Indians, Praveen Chithravel and Abdulla Aboobacker failed to make it to the finals after best jumps of 16.49m and 16.45m respectively. Chithravel finished eighth in Group A and 17th overall while Aboobacker ended at 10th in Group B and 19th overall. Those who cleared 17.05m or the 12 best performers across two qualification round groups qualify for the finals.

India start ODI series against West Indies with two world records in sight

PORT OF SPAIN (TIP)

Shikhar Dhawan-led Team India is pitted as the favourites in the three-match ODI series against West Indies despite the absence of a number of their first-XI players including regular captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Apart from India's recent performance in white-ball cricket - they beat England in both T20Is and ODIs in their own backyard - it has a lot to do with India's dominance over West Indies across formats but in ODIs in particular:

Take these numbers into account: India have won 11 consecutive bilateral ODI series against West Indies between 2007 and 2022.

This is the joint most consecutive series wins against a team. Pakistan is the only other team to have won 11 consecutive bilaterals. They have done that against Zimbabwe. The last time India lost to West Indies in a bilateral ODI series was in 2006. If India manage to win the upcoming ODI series then they will be the sole record holder for the most back-to-back series wins against an opposition.

India's domination against the West Indies

Touring West Indies was one of the difficult most tasks for India back in the 80s and 90s but in this century, India have dominated the contest winning 14 out of 27 matches in the Caribbean islands. Overall, India has registered 67 wins in 136 ODI games against West Indies and maintained an upper hand in the past two decades.

India at Port of Spain

India won't have to wait for the series to end to create another record. All they need to do is beat West Indies in the



series opener at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Friday. If they do the same, they will become the team with best win/loss ration in an away venue since 2007. Currently India are tied with Afghanistan with a win/loss ratio of 4.5. Notably, India have a win/loss ratio of 4.5 in two different away venues - Harare in Zimbabwe and Port of Spain in the West Indies. If India manage to win on Friday, their win-loss ration will be 5 at Port of Spain, which will be the most by any team in an away venue since 2007. India's 2 defeats at the venue since 2007 came against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the 2007 World Cup. Since then, they have won all of their matches at the Queen's Park Oval.

West Indies in Port of Spain

West Indies, on the other hand, have an entirely opposite record at the venue. West Indies have been going through a patch with a winless streak at the venue for the last 14 years as their last ODI win at this ground came in 2008 which came against Sri Lanka.

The first time West Indies encountered the Indian cricket team in an ODI was in the 1979 World Cup. Outside the world cup, the first time these two teams encountered was at the Port of Spain in 1983, which was won by the home team by 52 runs while defending 215. The last time this venue hosted an ODI was also between West Indies and India in 2019. *Source: HT*

Ronaldo's future uncertain at Manchester United

The weekly social media posts published by Cristiano Ronaldo this offseason typically have shown the soccer superstar half-dressed, muscles bulging, either working out or promoting one of his many brands.

Remaining relevant and highly visible is clearly so important to the player who, along with Lionel Messi, is the greatest of his generation. That also extends to the final years of his career on the field, too.

It's why, for the 37-year-old Ronaldo, playing for Manchester United — still one of the world's most famous sports teams, despite their recent trophy drought — just isn't enough. He wants to be competing on the biggest stage, winning the biggest trophies while he can.

Hence the current standoff with United, which is becoming more damaging and disruptive as the days go by and the new season looms.

Publicly, Ronaldo has not yet returned to preseason training with the English club because of what has been described as "personal reasons." The expectation, recently hired United manager Erik ten Hag repeats on an almost-daily basis, is that Ronaldo

will be back before the Premier League begins and be a key member of the squad.

The reality, it seems, is different. Ronaldo reportedly wants out after just one season back at Old Trafford, with United no longer in the Champions League or in shape to compete with the best teams in England like Manchester City and Liverpool. United finished sixth last season, 35 points behind first-place City.

So, while the rest of the United squad has been on tour in Thailand and Australia, getting match-sharp and acquainted with ten Hag and his methods, Ronaldo has been back home in Portugal with his family while his agent, Jorge Mendes, shops around seeking a new club for his most famous client.

Currently, there is no buyer.

And the Premier League season starts in about two weeks.

"I don't know what Cristiano said to the club and to the manager," said United midfielder Bruno Fernandes, who also plays alongside Ronaldo for Portugal. "I don't know what's going on in his head, if he wants to leave. I didn't ask them that. *Source: AP*



HISTORY THIS WEEK

July 22 to July 28

"ONE OF THE LESSONS OF HISTORY IS THAT NOTHING IS OFTEN A GOOD THING TO DO AND ALWAYS A CLEVER THING TO SAY." -- WILL DURANT

JULY 22

July 22, 1934 - Bank robber John Dillinger (1902-1934) was shot and killed by FBI agents as he left Chicago's Biograph Movie Theater after watching the film Manhattan Melodrama starring Clark Gable and Myrna Loy. Dillinger was the first criminal labeled by the FBI as "Public Enemy No. 1." After spending nine years (1924-1933) in prison, Dillinger went on a deadly crime spree, traveling through the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He was reportedly betrayed by the "Lady in Red."

JULY 23

July 23, 1952 - Egyptian army officers launched a revolution changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.

JULY 24

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.



Simon Bolivar

Birthday - "The Liberator" Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was

born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is known as the George Washington of South America for his efforts to liberate six nations: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from the rule of Spain.



Alexandre Dumas

Birthday - French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in Villers-Cotterets, France. His works included The Count of Monte Cristo and The Three Musketeers.



Amelia Earhart

Birthday - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

JULY 25

July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became



Mussolini

American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.

July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.

July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.



Andrea Doria

July 25, 1956 - The Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria sank after colliding with the Swedish

liner Stockholm on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.

JULY 26

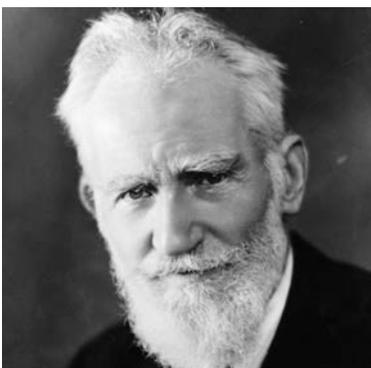
July 26, 1944 - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.

July 26, 1945 - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.



Fidel Castro

July 26, 1953 - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.



George Bernard Shaw

Birthday - Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

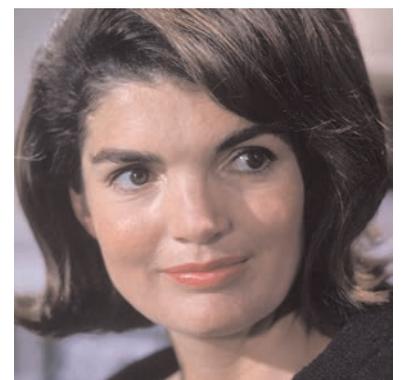
JULY 27

July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

JULY 28

July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, D.C., occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised. After two months' encampment in Washington's Anacostia Flats, forced eviction of the bonus marchers by the U.S. Army was ordered by President Herbert Hoover.

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.



Jackie Kennedy

Birthday - Jackie Kennedy (1929-1994) was born in Southampton, New York (as Jacqueline Lee Bouvier). She was married to John Fitzgerald Kennedy and after his death later married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

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