



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 salujindra@gmail.com by August 2, 2022.

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES BEGIN IN BIRMINGHAM

THE BIGGEST AND THE MOST EXPENSIVE SPORTING EVENT IN THE U.K. SINCE THE 2012 LONDON OLYMPICS

P.V. SINDHU, MANPREET SINGH LEAD INDIAN CONTINGENT AT BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES OPENING CEREMONY



Joint- flagbearers PV Sindhu and Manpreet Singh lead the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of Commonwealth Games 2022 (CWG), at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, U.K., on July 28, 2022. Photo / PTI

JULY 29, 2022

BIRMINGHAM (TIP): The opening ceremony of the 22nd Commonwealth Games began here on Thursday, July 28, amid much fanfare and in front of an estimated 30,000 spectators, showcasing the very best of Birmingham and the whole of the U.K.

The Games is set to be the biggest and most expensive sporting event in the U.K. since the 2012 London Olympics

Drummer-percussionist Abraham Paddy Tetteh started things off at the Alexander Stadium, and then, Indian classical vocalist and composer Ranjana Ghatak took the lead, the section intended to showcase the diversity of the city.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Rishi Sunak pledges major crackdown on sex offenders



Rishi Sunak pledges major crackdown on sex offenders - File photo

JULY 28, 2022

LONDON (TIP) : The Indian origin contender for UK Prime Minister's post Rishi Sunak has vowed to hunt down and stamp out grooming gangs who prey on children and young women, and make their ringleaders subject to maximum life sentences as

part of his campaign pledge.

Under a government headed by him, the Ready4Rishi campaign team said on Wednesday, July 27 evening that members of grooming rings will automatically face criminal charges for belonging to or facilitating the activity of the gang, with those at its heart facing life sentences.

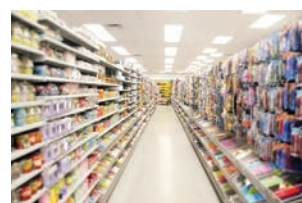
In a further crackdown on sex offenders, the former chancellor will ban so-called "down-blousing", where perpetrators take photos down a woman's top without their consent to curb abuse targeted at women and bring more offenders to justice.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

US economy shrinks again sparking recession fears

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): The US economy has shrunk for the second quarter in a row, a milestone that in many countries would be considered an economic recession. That is not the case in the US, which uses additional data to make that call. But the contraction, at an annual rate of 0.9% in the three months to July, has drawn widespread attention as worries about the economy grow.



The contraction, at an annual rate of 0.9% in the three months to July, has drawn widespread attention as worries about the economy grow. - iStock image

Prices for groceries, petrol and other basics are rising at the fastest pace since 1981. As the US central bank raises borrowing costs quickly to try to cool the economy and ease price pressures, fears are rising that a recession is coming - if it has not officially started already. Faced with sinking public confidence, US President Joe Biden has tried to make the case that the

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Former Republicans and Democrats to form new third US political party

JULY 28, 2022

LOS ANGELES

(TIP) : Dozens of former Republican and Democratic officials will announce on Wednesday a new national political third party to appeal to millions of voters they say are dismayed with what they see as America's dysfunctional two-party system.



The new party, called Forward, will initially be co-chaired by Christine Todd Whitman and former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang

The new party, called Forward, will initially be co-chaired by former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang and Christine Todd Whitman, the former Republican governor of New Jersey. They hope the party will become a viable alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties that dominate US politics, founding members told Reuters.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

2 PILOTS KILLED IN MIG-21 AIRCRAFT CRASH NEAR BARMER IN RAJASTHAN



An Indian Air Force's fighter aircraft crashed in Rajasthan's Barmer district, on July 28, 2022. - Photo / PTI

JULY 29, 2022

BARMER (TIP): Two Indian Air Force pilots were killed when their twin-seater Mig-21 trainer aircraft met with an accident near Barmer in Rajasthan on July 28 night. The IAF said the accident took place around 9:10 pm. "A twin seater Mig-21 trainer aircraft of the IAF was airborne for a training sortie from Utarlai air base in Rajasthan this evening," it said. "Around 9:10 pm, the aircraft met with an accident near Barmer. Both pilots sustained fatal injuries. *contd on page 36*



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Surge in ED raids

FINANCIAL PROBE AGENCY'S CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE

Amid the Opposition's allegation that government agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are being misused, the Centre has told the Rajya Sabha that raids carried out by the ED during 2014-2022 saw a nearly 27-fold increase as compared to the searches conducted between 2004 and 2014, when the Congress-led UPA was in power. The ruling NDA has attributed the surge to its 'commitment to prevent money laundering' and 'improved systems for gathering financial intelligence as well as better inter-agency cooperation.' It is commendable that the Centre's twin purposes - disposing of pending investigation in old cases and completing the probe in new cases in a time-bound manner under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

(PMLA) - have led to 3,010 searches in the past eight years, resulting in the attachment of proceeds of crime to the tune of about Rs 99,356 crore and the filing of prosecution complaints in 888 cases.

What's worrying is the poor rate of conviction. Only 23 accused persons/entities have been convicted during this period, clearly pointing to investigative lapses and legal loopholes. The ED's failure to build airtight cases in most instances gives room to allegations of ulterior motive and settling of political scores. It can't be mere coincidence that these searches are largely confined to non-BJP-ruled states. The ED also owes an explanation for going slow in the Kerala gold smuggling case, which came to light in July 2020. It's

only now that the agency has approached the Supreme Court to seek transfer of the case to Karnataka; the long delay gave rise to speculation that political convenience prompted the Centre to spare the Congress' arch-rival in Kerala.

With the apex court backing the ED's powers under the PMLA and upholding the constitutional validity of provisions dealing with the arrest and attachment of property of persons involved in money laundering, it has become even more important for the premier financial probe agency to ensure that its credibility is not undermined. The directorate's functioning must be above board and the notion that it adopts a pick-and-choose approach should be firmly dispelled by letting it act freely and fairly. (Tribune, India)

Rajya Sabha ticket racket

AUDACITY REFLECTS THE SOCIAL SANCTION TO CORRUPTION

How else to describe it but as the audacity of the corrupt when a racket promising a Rajya Sabha seat or a governorship for up to Rs 100 crore is busted by the Central Bureau of Investigation? The four accused were arrested over phone intercepts offering appointments as chairpersons of government organizations, ministries and departments. One of the accused posed as a CBI officer and flaunted his connections with senior officials. While it is for the investigative agencies to unravel the intricacies of the scam and prove whether any one did end up falling for the con job, the worrying part of the episode is what it says about the political culture, and the social sanction to corruption. Moneybags who really do believe that positions of high office are available for a price, find nothing unusual about it and are willing to fork out any amount.

The revelation about the racket came just two days after West Bengal's Industry Minister was taken into

custody following the recovery of over Rs 21 crore in cash from his aide's house. The Enforcement Directorate has not exactly covered itself with glory in the recent past, but the allegations of targeting the Opposition fly in the face of a seizure of such magnitude. In Punjab, the anti-graft helpline has logged nearly three lakh complaints since its launch by the AAP government in March-end. As many as 3,750 of them are buttressed with video or audio recordings. A minister was sacked and he figured among the over 50 persons, including government and police officials, arrested on charges of corruption.

Corruption has deep roots, but the undeniable takeaway over the past four months in Punjab has been the rise in the risk involved and the chances of being caught. Time will tell whether it is a temporary lull before new facets of cheating emerge, or, at last, corruption is being denied the social acceptability that allows its sustenance.

(Tribune, India)



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Meet the 2022 Class of Asia 21 Young Leaders

FORTY YOUNG LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD TO JOIN THE VENERABLE ASIA SOCIETY NETWORK

JULY 28, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Asia Society announced on July 13 that 40 young leaders from across the world will form the newest class of the Asia 21 Young Leaders Network, joining an unparalleled network of over 1,000 individuals in politics, business, arts, education, sustainability, and technology.

The Class of 2022 features a diverse mix of leaders representing 26 different countries and includes journalists, human rights advocates, entrepreneurs, fiction writers, politicians, and more. Together, they will form an integral part of the Asia Society family as the newest cohort of its signature young leaders initiative, embodying the organization's mission to navigate shared futures, and actively contributing to taking the network to new heights.

"Drawing on their personal expertise and leveraging the collective power of the Asia 21 network, the class of 2022 will actively contribute to shaping a more peaceful, prosperous, and secure future for all," said Asia Society President and CEO Kevin Rudd. "We are delighted to play our part in connecting individuals who share common values and desire to make this world a better place."

About Asia 21

Established in 2006, the Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative is the Asia-Pacific's foremost young leaders' network of diverse change-makers under the age of 40, united by a shared commitment to making their communities and the world a better place. Created to promote mutual understanding and effective collaboration among the next generation of leaders, the Asia 21 network comprises nearly 1,000 influential individuals from a wide variety of professions including politics, business, arts, media, and the



The 40 young leaders from across the world

nonprofit sector, representing over 40 countries and regions.

Asia 21 provides a catalytic platform where young leaders form lasting relationships and enrich each other's endeavors through mutual learning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to values-based leadership and public service. The annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit brings together these dynamic young professionals to generate creative, multidisciplinary approaches to problem-solving. Through workshops, special Asia 21 "Action Labs," and leadership masterclasses, they develop imaginative ways to address Asia's most pressing issues and innovative approaches to solving global challenges.

For more information, follow @Asia21Leaders on Twitter and Asia 21 Young Leaders on Facebook, or contact asia21@asiasociety.org.

Asia Society Communications | 725 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021 | Tel 212-

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Members of the incoming class include Hajra Khan, captain of Pakistan's national football team and founder of the Fortis Sports Academy; Fumino Sugiyama, a restaurateur and LGBTQ activist and co-representative of Tokyo Rainbow Pride; Si Thura, executive director of Myanmar's Community Partners International; Mandovi Menon, a creative director, writer, and media entrepreneur from India; Sopheak Chak, executive director of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights; Alexandre Chenesseau, managing director at Evercore; Guo Dong, associate director of the Research Program on Sustainability and Management at Columbia University; and James Griffin, minister of the environment, New South Wales, Australia. You can access biographies of all 40 members of the Class of 2022 at AsiaSociety.org/Asia21.

After a two-year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit will resume this year with an in-person convening hosted by Asia Society Japan from December 2 to December 4, 2022. The conference, centered around the theme of "leading in a world of competing values," will include panel discussions, lectures, and special events in Tokyo, and will feature members of the new class as well as Asia 21 alumni. They will share best practices in leadership and explore opportunities to work collaboratively across borders and sectors to create positive impact. The sessions will also address diversity, equity, and inclusion through art, education, policy, leadership opportunities, and entrepreneurship.

For more information about the Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit, please reach out to Matt Schiavenza at pr@asiasociety.org

(Based on a press release)

Community mourns the death of 3 young men killed in a fiery car crash on Northern State Parkway, Sunday, July 24



The 3 who were killed in the car crash

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian - American community is shocked at the death of three young men in a fiery car crash on Sunday, July 24.

According to the Nassau Police, the three were killed in a fiery crash on Northern State Parkway in Long Island.

Police said the driver veered off the road and hit several trees before the car burst into flames.

The driver and two passengers died.

State police say a vehicle veered off Northern State Parkway, hit several trees, and burst into flames.

It happened around 5 a.m. on Sunday, July 24 near Exit 30 in North Hempstead.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Indo- Canadian Ripudaman Singh Malik Killing: 2 men arrested

TANNER FOX, 21, AND JOSE LOPEZ, 23, ARE BOTH CHARGED WITH FIRST-DEGREE MURDER

TORONTO (TIP): Canadian police have arrested two men and charged them with first-degree murder in the targeted shooting of Ripudaman Singh Malik, the Sikh man acquitted in the tragic 1985 Air India Kanishka terrorist bombing case that killed 331 people.

On July 15, Malik was shot dead in Surrey, British Columbia. Malik and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted in 2005 of mass murder and conspiracy charges related to the two bombings in 1985.

The 1985 Air India bombing is among the worst terrorist attacks in Canadian history and in the history of the airline.

Tanner Fox, a 21-year-old from Abbotsford, British Columbia, a city about 75 kilometers east of Vancouver and 23-year-old Jose Lopez, from the Vancouver suburb of New Westminster, were both arrested on Tuesday, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at a news conference in Surrey on Wednesday.

Police were tight-lipped, only saying the two were arrested peacefully in their respective cities and that collaboration between police helped lead to the arrests, the Toronto Star newspaper reported.

"Through conventional investigative techniques and amazing police work, we were able to identify and arrest two suspects in relation to this homicide. Both of these individuals are known to police," said superintendent Mandeep Mooker, a spokesperson for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT).



2 men arrested and charged in targeted killing of Ripudaman Singh Malik in Canada. File photo / PTI

Malik's son Jaspreet Singh Malik said his family took the news with mixed emotions.

"No matter where the investigation goes and no matter how these charges turn out, we have lost a great man," said Jaspreet.

"We are glad the IHIT team has made progress and we support the work they're doing. At the same time, we are saddened that these two young men made such poor life choices. We trust the justice system to deal with them properly and fairly," he said.

Jaspreet said police have not told the family any more than it has divulged publicly and did not want to speculate on why his father was targeted.

The IHIT says the probe into the slaying of controversial Surrey businessman Malik continues despite first-degree murder charges being laid on Wednesday, the Vancouver Sun newspaper reported.

Fox, who grew up in Abbotsford, and Lopez, of New Westminster, both appeared in Surrey provincial court on Wednesday and have been remanded in custody until their next court date on August 10.

Lopez was charged in Kelowna last summer with nine criminal counts, including possession of a firearm with ammunition, pointing a gun, violating a court order to possess firearms and resisting arrest.

Fox was convicted this past April of resisting or obstructing a peace officer and sentenced to four days in jail. Last fall, he was charged with aggravated assault related to a New Westminster incident. He was released on bail. He was earlier convicted of assault causing bodily harm related to a November 2019 stabbing in Abbotsford and sentenced to 119 days in jail, as well as a 10-year firearms prohibition.

Malik was shot while sitting in his car at a Surrey business complex, of which he was the strata president, on July 14. A suspect vehicle was found on fire nearby, according to RCMP, who at the time said the shooting appeared targeted.

INDIAN AMERICANS CHARGED WITH INSIDER TRADING



The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed insider trading charges against several Indian Americans in connection with three separate schemes that together yielded more than \$6.8 million in illicit gains.

JULY 26, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed insider trading charges against several Indian Americans in connection with three separate schemes that together yielded more than \$6.8 million in illicit gains. The SEC alleged that Amit Bhardwaj, the former chief information security officer (CISO) of Lumentum Holdings, along with his friends, Dhirenkumar Patel, Srinivasa Kakkerla, Abbas Saeedi, and Ramesh Chitor, traded ahead of two corporate acquisition announcements by Lumentum, thereby generating more than \$5.2 million in illicit profits.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indo- Canadian Gangster Maninder Dhaliwal, friend killed in shootout in Vancouver

JULY 25, 2022

VANCOUVER (TIP) : A shootout as a result of a gang war in Canada's Vancouver left gangster Maninder Dhaliwal and friend Satinder Gill dead, according to a report in Vancouver Sun.

According to the report, the deceased belonged to the "Brothers Keepers" gang.

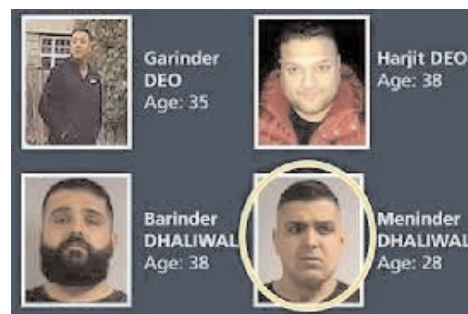
The report said, "At the time of shooting near Sundial Hotel in the heart of Whistler village in Vancouver, gangster Maninder Dhaliwal, 29, was accompanied by friend Satinder Gill, who was not involved in the gang."

Dhaliwal died on the spot, while Gill succumbed to his injuries at a health center. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team confirmed late on Sunday that the shooting was linked to the ongoing Lower Mainland gang conflict.

"Sea-to-Sky Royal Canadian Mounted Police were able to locate and apprehend multiple individuals," Sergeant Timothy Pierotti said, adding that a burning vehicle found afterwards in the 3300-block of Ptarmigan Place was linked to the murders.

The incident comes 10 days after an eerily similar killing of Ripudaman Singh Malik, who had been acquitted of charges of bombing an Air India plane.

The two latest victims were shot in broad daylight while sitting in a car in a



Gangster Maninder Dhaliwal and friend Satinder Gill were killed in a shootout as a result of gang war in Vancouver

public place like Ripudaman Malik and as in that incident, a car was also found burning nearby, according to media reports. The two incidents, however, have not been linked by officials.

Two persons who have not been publicly identified have been arrested in connection with the latest killings, CTV reported quoting officials.

But there have been no arrests as yet in the killing of Malik.

Dhaliwal, along with his brother Barinder, was on a list of six men, four of them of Indian descent, released last year by the Vancouver Police Department which called them "gangsters" who "pose a significant risk to the safety of the public".

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN AMERICAN AMIT KUMAR KANUBHAI PATEL CONVICTED OF INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL KIDNAPPING



Amit Kumar Kanubhai Patel from Vadodara, who formerly lived in Edison, New Jersey, was convicted last week of one count of international parental kidnapping following a five-day trial before US District Judge Renee Marie Bumb in Camden federal court in New Jersey.

Photo for representational purpose only (iStock)

JULY 26, 2022

CAMDEN, NJ (TIP) : A 38-year-old Indian American has been convicted of international parental kidnapping after he took his US-born child to India and later failed to bring the kid back to the mother in the United States.

Amit Kumar Kanubhai Patel from Vadodara, who formerly lived in Edison, New Jersey, was convicted last week of one count of international parental kidnapping following a five-day trial before US District Judge Renee Marie Bumb in Camden federal court in New Jersey.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian - origin Rishi Sunak trailed Liz Truss in TV debate in poll of electoral college-Survey Report

JULY 26, 2022

LONDON (TIP): Liz Truss, the incumbent caretaker Foreign Secretary in deposed UK Prime Minister Boris Johnsons government, beat her rival Rishi Sunak, the Indian-origin former Chancellor, according to a survey of ruling Conservative party members, the electoral college to choose the winner.

Forty-seven per cent of respondents to pollster Opinium sounding them out felt Truss performed better versus 38 per cent who thought likewise about Sunak.

However, Sunak marginally defeated Truss, again according to Opinium, in a poll of regular voters who watched the debate. Thirty-nine per cent said Sunak won, while 38 per cent stated Truss did.

The debate held at Stoke-on-Trent, a town in the west midlands of England, was hot-tempered and combative in which Sunak was noticeably aggressive, often talking over his opponent.

Sunak was trailing 62 per cent to 38 per cent in YouGov's poll of Conservative members, who will begin voting next week and will have time up to September 2 next to do so. It would appear he did not make up sufficient ground with this constituency as yet to



Forty-seven per cent of respondents to pollster Opinium sounding them out felt Truss performed better versus 38 per cent who thought likewise about Sunak. File photo

turn the tables on Truss.

Clearly, Sunak's strategy was to attack. Several viewers interviewed after the debate thought his constant interruptions were 'rude' and they sounded as if they were displeased by such behavior. It was certainly un-British tactics.

The two contenders clashed on tax cuts -- Sunak sticking to doing so later, Truss promising it will be as soon as she

comes prime minister.

On British policy towards China, both agreed this should be tough. Sunak said Truss was on a 'journey' when it came to China, alleging she had previously argued in favor of a 'golden age' in the UK's relations with the country. Ultimately, they concurred on a clampdown on companies like TikTok.

Regarding loyalty to Johnson, Sunak resigned as chancellor of the exchequer

thereby precipitating Johnson's end, while Truss remained as a caretaker foreign secretary. Both attempted to justify their opposite stances.

The debate took place against the background of the London Metropolitan Police, which fined Johnson for partying during the Covid pandemic in violation of prevalent laws, not apparently sending a questionnaire on the matter to the Prime Minister.

In effect, it did not investigate him as thoroughly as it ought to have.

On Monday, the Met, popularly known as Scotland Yard, effectively admitted in court that it had not fully probed Johnson.

The Good Law Project, a non-profit campaign group which petitioned a judicial review of the case, said: "We don't think the Met's response is consistent with their legal duty of candor." Johnson's troubles escalated with media scoops making public last December that socializing had taken place rampantly at his office-cum-residence during the Covid lockdown.

He seems to be backing Truss rather than Sunak in the race to replace him.

INDIAN AMERICAN ARUNA MILLER LIKELY TO BE MARYLAND'S NEXT LT. GOVERNOR



Indian American Aruna Miller is likely to be elected as the next Lieutenant Governor of Maryland in November

JULY 26, 2022

MARYLAND (TIP) : With opinion polls heavily favoring Democrats, Indian American Aruna Miller is likely to be elected as the next Lieutenant Governor of Maryland in November as best-selling author Wes Moore's running mate. In a competitive race for the nomination, army veteran Moore bested former Labor Secretary and DNC Chairman Tom Perez in addition to the Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot in the Democratic gubernatorial primary on Saturday, July 23. Moore and Miller will face Republican candidate Dan Cox - who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump - and his running mate Gordana Schifanelli in the November election. If the pair wins, Moore will become the first African-American governor of Maryland and Miller the first Indian American to be elected lieutenant governor of any state.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American physicist announces \$11.4 million gift for world science prize

JULY 27, 2022

LOS ANGELES (TIP): With a \$11.4 million gift from Mani L. Bhaumik, a Bengal-born Indian American physicist and pioneer in lasers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has announced a new international science prize.

The "largest transformational gift" in AAAS's history, will support a \$250,000 annual cash prize called the Mani L. Bhaumik Breakthrough of the Year Award for up to three scientists.

The award is intended for scientists whose foundational research and activities best exemplify the Science Breakthrough of the Year, published in Science each December; the world's largest scientific society announced July 21.

"The international award will help the science most poised to change the world have its maximum impact," said Sudip S. Parikh, chief executive officer at AAAS and executive publisher of the Science family of journals. "It has the power to propel discovery and advance innovation society needs."



Mani L. Bhaumik, a Bengal-born Indian American physicist and pioneer in lasers has given a \$11.4 million gift to the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Recognizing the most significant developments in scientific research is a central philosophy for donor Mani L. Bhaumik, PhD - a physicist with myriad contributions to the development of high-powered lasers - as well as for AAAS and the Science family of journals, AAAS said in a media release.

Science's 2021 Breakthrough of the Year, for example, honored a solution to a challenge that had perplexed scientists for 50 years: how to predict the shape a string of amino acids will fold into as it becomes a working protein.

In two papers published simultaneously in Nature and Science in 2021, researchers showed how this could be done using artificial intelligence-driven software.

Moving forward, groundbreaking achievements like this will receive further recognition at the individual level through the Mani L. Bhaumik Breakthrough of the Year Award - the largest of any scientific society, the release said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN AMERICAN APOORVA MEHTA, INSTACART CO-FOUNDER, CALLS IT QUILTS



Apoorva Mehta says he will be stepping down as executive chairman and transitioning off the board of directors once the company goes public.

JULY 25, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP) : As Instacart prepares to IPO, its Indian American co-founder Apoorva Mehta says he will be stepping down as executive chairman and transitioning off the board of directors once the company goes public.

A year ago, Mehta left his role as chief executive of the grocery delivery unicorn he started nearly a decade ago and took on an executive chairman position. "Today I'm announcing that once @instacart becomes a public company, I'll be stepping down as Executive Chairman and transitioning off the board of directors," Mehta tweeted Friday, July 22.

"Since I transitioned from CEO to Executive Chairman a year ago, I realized that I want to pursue a new mission and I want to do it with the same singular focus that I had while building Instacart," he wrote. "Stepping off the board will allow me to do just that."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



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IDP USA confirms DCG Varun Jeph and film star Prachi Tehlan as Grand Marshals



Dr Varun Jeph - Grand Marshal



Prachi Tehlan - Grand Marshal



Shibani Kashyap - Guest of Honor



Prashantt Gupta - Guest of Honor



Naveen Shah - Guest of Honor

GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP): Deputy Consul General of India at the New York Consulate Dr Varun Jeph has consented to join the India Day Parade in Hicksville on August 7 as Grand Marshal, according to a press release issued by the Media Coordinator for IDP USA Parveen Chopra.

IDP USA President Vimal Goyal and Adviser Mukesh Modi told the media that the EQ (entertainment quotient) of their 11th India Day is soaring as famous Bollywood actress and sportsperson Prachi Tehlan will be the Celebrity Grand Marshal, and Guests of Honor are the singing sensation Shibani Kashyap and Hollywood/Bollywood actor Prashantt Gupta. Shibani will perform for an hour at the entertainment stage where the parade will culminate. New York born Prashantt will also do a surprise act.

Highlighting the Unity in Diversity theme of the parade, President Vimal Goyal said that there will be banners of all 28 states of India, and India lovers have

been requested to walk behind the banners of their respective states and come dressed up in their state's traditional attire.

Past President Mukesh Modi announced that Padma Shri Sudhir Parikh, Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media, will join the parade with his wife. Modi wanted the public to note the parade route change. Starting at 2 pm from Hicksville Community Center at Carl Street West, the parade will go along Broadway North before turning left on John Street to culminate at 125 West John Street, where the food and other stalls will be set up as well as a children's carnival area. There is ample LIRR parking nearby.

Parade organizers thanked the officials of Nassau County and Town of Oyster Bay for their cooperation in holding a safe and successful parade. Harry Malhotra, Director South Asian Business & Development - Town of Oyster Bay, who shared the stage at the event, promised all help.

Other speakers shared the enthusiasm in the community about the parade being held this time in the landmark 75th anniversary year of India's independence and exhorted people to throng the parade route and help monetarily by buying raffle tickets for which attractive prizes include laptops and large TV sets. The ladies sang patriotic songs. Bharat Mata Ki Jai rang in the air.

Speakers at the well-attended dinner event included IDP Chair Indu Jaiswal, Past President Beena Kothari, Sr Vice President Bina Sabapathy and Vice President Roopam Maini. Sunil Hali,

whose media properties include Radio Zindagi and The Indian Eye, reiterated his ongoing pro bono support for publicizing the parade. Realtor Raj Jaggi promised a truck vending free ice-cream to children.

Tabla performance was given by Aryan Rishi. Indian and American national anthems were sung by Anoushka Rishi, accompanied by Aryan Shah on saxophone.

The press conference was attended by prominent media houses including ITV Gold, Jus Punjabi and Preetnama TV.

(Based on a press release)

THE INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS "ERASING BORDERS" and "INDIA @ 75" DANCE FESTIVAL



Citigroup Theatre, and a virtual August 8th streaming with artists from India, Canada, and the U.S.

Since its founding 15 years ago, the Indo-American Arts Council has distinguished itself with its presentations dedicated to

furthering the knowledge and living practices of the arts of the Indian sub-continent.

Also read: CELEBRATE INDIA@75 AT ERASING BORDERS DANCE FEST (Page 21)

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indo-American Arts Council has announced the always eagerly anticipated dance performances this year, including special events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day, August 15.

The celebration will feature two live performances, August 6 & 7 at the Ailey

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Black Sea deal to ease global food challenge

BY BHARAT H
DESAI



"THERE HAS BEEN RISE IN FOOD AND FUEL PRICES, AS WELL AS SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES, AS THE MOUNTAINS OF GRAIN STOCKS REMAINED STUCK IN SILOS. IT SHOWS THE ENORMOUS COST OF ALLOWING THE CONFLICT TO RAGE ON, SUPPLYING ARMS TO UKRAINE AS WELL AS USING THE SANCTIONS TO ISOLATE RUSSIA, A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. AS RIVAL EGOS TOOK CENTER STAGE AND CRIPPLING SANCTIONS AND GEOPOLITICS TOOK PRIORITY IN PLACE OF PEACE, THE WORLD HAS PAID A HEAVY PRICE."

On July 22, in an unprecedented thaw, the Black Sea Grain Deal was signed in Istanbul (Turkey) by the Russian and Ukrainian ministers in the presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It shows that if negotiations are given a chance, any contentious issue can be resolved. The seed was sown by Guterres' visit to Russia and Ukraine in late April. It underscores the role of the 'good offices' of the UNSG for the peaceful settlement of international disputes among the UN member-states. It also provides a pathway for finding an amicable compromise on the Russia-Ukraine stand-off after the "special military operation". The Russian action in Ukraine has entered the sixth month.

The UNSG has aptly described the Black Sea deal as the "agreement for the world" since it paves the way for food exports from the three key Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea - Odessa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny.



The UN brokered a pact for shipment of food from key Ukrainian ports.

-Photo/ Reuters

The deal offers prospects for a new window of peace monitored through the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul comprising representatives of Ukraine, Russia and Turkey.

The Black Sea agreement will immediately lead to easing of the global food prices and help in reducing global hunger. The shipments of food and fertilizers reaching the markets will control spiraling food prices and stave off global famine affecting millions of people. "Today, there is a beacon on the Black Sea...a beacon of hope, a beacon of possibility - a beacon of relief - in a world that needs it more than ever," the UN Secretary-General optimistically said.

There has been unprecedented rise in food and fuel prices, as well as supply chain issues as the mountains of grain stocks remained stuck in silos. It shows the enormous cost of allowing the conflict to rage on, supplying arms to Ukraine as well as using the sanctions stick to beat and isolate Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council. As rival egos took center stage and crippling sanctions and geopolitics took priority in place of peace, the world has paid a heavy price. Russia has remained central in the last four centuries for the European peace and stability. "Failure to restart negotiations with Russia and the further alienation of the Kremlin would have dire long-term consequences for stability in Europe," Henry Kissinger (98), former US Secretary of State, warned in his May 23 iconoclastic video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Russia, a Eurasian nuclear and space power, has a 20% share (2020) in the global wheat exports. Ukraine also accounts for 8% of the wheat supply. It

annually supplies 45 million tons of wheat and some 20 million tons are already stuck in Ukrainian warehouses and containers. It is no less significant that some 50 countries around the world import 30% of their wheat requirements from Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine also exports 16% corn (fourth largest) and grows 46% of sunflower seed and sunflower oil (world's largest).

In was no coincidence that early in July 2022, a report on the state of world hunger and nutrition was released at an online event. It has been a multi-agency laborious task coordinated by five UN agencies: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Children Emergency Relief Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organisation (WHO). Similarly, the UN Security Council (UNSC) held an unprecedented ministerial-level open debate on May 19, 2022, on conflict and food security. It took place amidst reports that conflicts have been the primary driver of hunger for 139 million people in 24 countries and territories. It grew from 99 million in 2020. The situation is expected to worsen in 2022 due the conflict in Ukraine. "A sharp increase in global food insecurity threatens to destabilize fragile societies and exacerbate armed conflicts and regional instability," the concept note by the US Presidency of the UNSC (May) ominously stated.

On April 12, 2021, the UNSG reported to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 'Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)'. The report highlighted the underlying drivers of all forms of malnutrition. It called upon the states to

act with urgency for elimination of "all forms of malnutrition and achieving the SDGs by 2030". In the 2021 report, the five UN agencies graphically noted that in 2020, "between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger" and nearly "2.37 billion people did not have access to adequate food".

The large part of the problematic on hunger, inadequacy of food and nutrition has been contributed by various kinds of armed conflicts that rage across the world. They place a large part of the 7.9 billion (2022) global population to live in misery. According to FAO, the vicious cycle of hunger is largely fueled by extreme climatic events, economic slowdowns and the Covid-19 pandemic. With the world population expected to reach the staggering figure of 10 billion in 2050, it presents a monumental challenge to sustainably feed the growing population on earth. The 2021 Global Hunger Index forecast shows 47 countries with alarming levels of hunger and 47 others will fail to reach 'zero hunger' by 2030.

The use of food as a weapon to starve people presents a global challenge. It is used by the armed groups as 'scorched earth' strategy. Such aggressive methods of warfare have been prohibited under the four 1949 Geneva Conventions as well as the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto. Still, there is a beacon of hope. "These destructive forces are not invincible," International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) president Peter Maurer said in a conversation with this writer. We need to stamp out the use of food as a weapon of war. It presents a global ideational challenge to all.

(The author is Jawaharlal Nehru Chair and Professor of International Law, JNU)

How to celebrate President Droupadi's election

By Vappala
Balachandran



"THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT THE 'DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM' HAS AGGRAVATED THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE 'MARGINALIZED' AS THE BENEFITS HAVE BEEN 'DISPROPORTIONATELY CORNERED BY THE DOMINANT SECTIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POOR, WHO HAVE BORNE MOST OF THE COSTS.' IN THE CASE OF THE 'TRIBES', IT RESULTED IN THEIR LOSS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY, DESTRUCTION OF THEIR RESOURCE BASE AND MADE THEM INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION AND DAILY VIOLENCE."

It is very unfair to link the election of President Droupadi Murmu with the anticipated future electoral gains of the BJP, as some commentators have done. They had cried hosanna to the BJP leadership for flummoxing the Opposition by selecting the 'first tribal' and 'second woman' as the presidential candidate.

This is not the way to hail the election of such a remarkable lady from a backward region who has braved personal and social difficulties to reach this high office. And, that too, at a time when India has slipped from 112 to 140 among 156 countries on the 2021 Global Gender Gap index compiled by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which conducts the annual Davos Conference. In Asia, only Pakistan and Afghanistan are behind India. The WEF attributed this slippage to inadequate political and economic woman empowerment in India.

Those opposed to the linking of electoral factors with her selection say that the new President would not be able to make much personal contribution for solving the deep-rooted problems faced by tribals or undo the wrongs done to them over centuries. This is because of the limitations built into her high constitutional position. Also, hyperbole or symbolic steps do not result in solving such underlying problems.

This is true if history is any indication. An important milestone in their journey to correct these wrongs came in 1946 when attempts were made while drafting our Constitution on the eve of Independence. On December 11, 1946, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, introduced Jaipal Singh Munda as the "representative of the aboriginal tribes of Chhota Nagpur".

In the Assembly records, Munda mentioned his religion as 'Adibasi' and caste as 'nil' as opposed to the others, including Jawaharlal Nehru, who wrote religion 'Hindu' and caste 'Brahmin'. The only other representative who recorded as 'Adibasi' was L Sahu from Orissa. Their presence gave voice to that underprivileged section of our society in the Constitution-making body which gave special protection to them.

Munda said that the dispossession of Adivasis did not begin with the arrival of the British, nor would it end with their departure. He said that "for the real rehabilitation and resettlement of the original people of India", it was necessary that not only the British should



The Centre and states must implement the recommendations made to uplift tribals. -File photo

quit, but also the others who had been exploiting and dispossessing Adivasis for thousands of years.

However, subsequent events would prove that independent India was not able to achieve even a modicum of reforms in this direction. Whatever we had attempted was diluted by political crosscurrents generated by upper classes, leading to frustration among this section, numbering 10.43 crore (8.6 per cent of our population) and divided among 705 notified tribes.

On the other hand, there is an increasing tendency by the government to treat such frustrations as 'law and order' problems during which the 'dispossessed' become the 'accused'.

The second milestone in their quest for justice came on January 5, 2011 when the Supreme Court (SC) sharply criticized the 'historical injustice' done to the tribals by the governance system and how these protections were not implemented even by a high court. This was during the SC verdict overturning an Aurangabad (Maharashtra) High Court's acquittal of accused persons on technical grounds in which a young Bhil woman was stripped naked and beaten publicly. The SC also said: "Despite this horrible oppression on them, the tribals of India have generally (though not invariably) retained a higher level of ethics than the non-tribals in our country."

We have produced thousands of official pages on what needs to be done to improve the situation. However, no government has sincerely implemented the reforms suggested. One such good report is that of 2008, titled 'Development Challenges in Extremist Affected Areas'. It is the result of the deliberations by a 16-member 'expert group' convened by D Bandopadhyay, which was constituted by the now defunct Planning Commission.

The report covered not only the problems of Adivasis but also of Dalits and women in the vast landscape of land reforms, access to basic resources, forests, common property resources, harm done to them by the Special Economic Zones, mining and displacement of the poor due to big projects and how they could be rehabilitated. Development, which is insensitive to the needs of these communities, has invariably caused displacement and

reduced them to a sub-human existence: "The poor have depended upon common property resources such as forests, pastures, and water sources for the satisfaction of their basic survival needs. With the increasing tendency to see all such resources as sources of profit, the poor are being deprived of whatever access they had to such resources."

The report found that no government had seriously studied the underlying and foundational causes leading to unrest, discontent and extremism among the tribals nor had these subjects been "the subject matter of administrative or academic discourses in India."

An important chapter of the report is on the 'Political marginalization of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'. It lists several ways in which SCs and STs are marginalized by the dominant classes, resulting in 'tokenism' of their political presence and leading to the suppression of their voice or empowerment.

The report makes an important observation that the 'development paradigm' since Independence has aggravated the difficulties of the 'marginalized' as the benefits have been "disproportionately cornered by the dominant sections at the expense of the poor, who have borne most of the costs." In the case of the 'tribes', it had resulted in their loss of cultural identity, destruction of their resource base and made them increasingly vulnerable to exploitation and daily violence.

Chapter 5 lists several important recommendations. Among them are an effective implementation of protective legislation, land-related measures, land acquisition for development and rehabilitation of those affected, livelihood security, standardization of social services and extension of the Panchayati Raj to Scheduled Areas Act and other administrative measures. No government since 2008 has done an open audit on how far these recommendations have been implemented.

Thus, the best way to celebrate the election of President Murmu is that the Centre and the states should sincerely implement these recommendations as well as those made in other such reports.

(The author is Ex-Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India)

CANADIAN POLITICS

Andrea Horwath, Sukh Dhaliwal to run for Mayor; Ravi Kahlon is not in run for BC Premier

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



Politics is a game of beautiful uncertainties. Essentially mandated to serve people at large, politicians are known for sudden shifts in their roles. The shifts are mostly induced by denial of roles they wanted to perform. Being a Federal or a Provincial Minister once, some find it little hard to subsequently adjust as an elected representative alone. There may be other reasons for changing priorities or offices they want to hold in a system full of opportunities for those who have enjoyed electoral success at some level. It keeps them moving ahead, eyeing new opportunities.

It is perhaps the dynamics of politics that has seen many senior parliamentarians opting to serve their local communities as Mayors. Most recent example has been Andrea Horwath, who until last month was in the running for Premiership of Ontario as the leader of the NDP, is now running for mayor in Hamilton to help the city "realize its potential."

In British Columbia, long time MP from Surrey Newton, Sukh Dhaliwal, has also announced his candidature for Mayor of Surrey. Another former MP and MPP, Jinny Sims, too, is in the running for Mayor of Surrey, the second biggest city of British Columbia.

Mayoral elections are due in October.

Andrea Horwath, the former leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) has announced to quit her post as Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Hamilton Centre to enter the mayoral race.

She says the work she has done all her political life is for her city of Hamilton. It would be a really exciting time to be part of the realization of the great opportunities that are ahead, she told select media ahead of her public announcement.

Horwath joins three others in the race for the job: former mayor Bob Bratina, newcomer to politics Keanin Loomis and labor advocate Ejaz Butt. Current Mayor Fred Eisenberger announced last month he would not be seeking re-election.

Horwath, born and raised in the city, was Ward 2 city councilor from 1997 to 2004 before becoming Hamilton East MPP for the NDP. In 2007, she became Hamilton Centre MPP and eventually leader of the Ontario NDP.

During her time as leader, she helped the NDP go from not having official party status to being official opposition twice. The party won 40 seats in 2018 but the recent election in June saw that number decrease to 31.

She announced her resignation as party leader the evening of June 2 within



Former Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath announces bid for Hamilton mayor while Sukh Dhaliwal is to run for mayor of Surrey

hours of the declaration of the results.

If she wins the Mayoral election, she will be the first woman in 175 years to do so.

Many believe that change of course followed Horwath's unsuccessful attempt to become Ontario premier.

Coming to British Columbia, where the leadership race has been thrown open by Premier Horgan deciding to quit before next leadership election for which eight of Ministers have said no to join the race, decks are almost clear for the Attorney General David Eby to be the next Premier.

Olympian-turned politician and Job Minister Ravi Kahlon who was considered a possible choice for Premiership has already said he would not run. He has, instead, supported his cabinet colleague David Eby for the top spot.

After Ravi Kahlon made clear his position, several other Ministers including Finance Minister Selina Robinson, Health Minister Adrian Dix, Lands Minister Josie Osborne, Municipal Affairs Minister Nathan Cullen, Tourism Minister Melanie Mark, Minister of State for Infrastructure Bowinn Ma and Minister of State for Childcare Katrina Chen, have said they will not run for leadership.

This leaves the field open for David Eby. His election may be unanimous as of today there appears to be no other candidate willing to join the leadership race.

Since no one was coming forward, the announcement made by David Eby about his candidature for the Premiership ended weeks of speculation over who might replace John Horgan as party leader and premier of British Columbia. Interestingly all other high-profile New Democrats have bowed out of this fall's leadership election.

As of now, David Eby looks the



frontrunner and perhaps the only candidate for the leadership to be decided on December 3. Born in Kitchener, David Eby will turn 46 on Thursday (today).

Yet another Member of Parliament has decided to run for Mayoral post. This time, it is none other than Sukh Dhaliwal, the sitting MP from Surrey Newton.

He made his decision known on Monday that he will be joining the race for the position of Mayor of Surrey, the second largest city of British Columbia.

Before him, three MPs, including ex-MPs, have moved from federal to local politics. One of them, who was a cabinet minister in the previous Justin Trudeau Government, Amarjit Sohi, is Mayor of Edmonton.

Another ex-MP, Jinny Sims, who after a stint in the House of Commons, moved to provincial politics, has now decided to opt for local politics. She had announced her candidature for the post of Mayor of Surrey last month.

Bal Gosal, who incidentally was one of the first MPs, to try his luck in Mayoral politics, was unsuccessful in the Indian-immigrant rich city of Brampton from where Patrick Brown was elected Mayor in the last elections.

Incidentally, Patrick Brown, who was in the run for the Conservative Party leadership but faced "disqualification" on grounds of violating the election laws, has announced his decision to re-run for the Mayoral post in October.

The race for Surrey mayor, however, has assumed special importance as it is set to witness a quadrangular contest involving a former NDP MP, Jinny Sims, current sitting MP Sukh Dhaliwal, Councilor Brenda Locke and incumbent Mayor Doug McCallum.

Sukh Dhaliwal's decision to move back from Ottawa to Surrey came after months of deliberations and speculation.

"Over the last four years, we have seen

divisive politics, unprecedented division, partisanship, no focus on the citizens of Surrey," he said.

Calling Surrey's current council "secretive" and "biased," Dhaliwal added that he plans to "repair a divided city," media reports quoting him from his Monday's Press Conference said.

Dhaliwal has run against Sims in three federal elections and was a key organizer for McCallum when he was first mayor in the 1990s.

Dhaliwal announced his action plan while setting his election campaign in motion.

If elected, he says, there will be a roll back of a \$200 increase to the yearly parcel tax that Surrey council enacted in 2020, besides "an immediate one-year tax freeze." This will help the people that need the help now, because we are going through unprecedented uncertainty, he said.

To meet the loss on account of tax cut, Dhaliwal hopes to meet it through Surrey's accumulated surplus that would facilitate the changes.

"We have accumulated wealth, almost \$300 million and we can use that money that we have accumulated to make sure that we are able to help the ones that need the most by freezing those taxes," he told a section of media.

Dhaliwal said he has no intention of reversing the biggest development of McCallum's tenure - the transition to an independent municipal police force from the Surrey RCMP.

While Locke is promising to overturn the transition and Sims has promised to study the details before making a decision, Dhaliwal says the move is too far underway to reverse now.

"It is my understanding that almost 300 people are already hired in the city police. We have come a long way."

With Sukh Dhaliwal joining the race, it could split the strong Indo-Canadian community in the second largest city of British Columbia. If it happens, the chances of incumbent McCallum winning another term in office may brighten up. Academicians and other experts also hold that Surrey residents may also want a clean slate after McCallum dominated news headlines for many years in controversial ways, including a criminal charge for mischief that won't be fought in court until after the election.

The field is still open for more candidates to join the Mayoral race as a former White Rock mayor, MLA and MP Gordie Hogg, may also throw his hat in the ring.

(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)



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JOE BIDEN, XI JINPING HOLD TALKS FOR OVER TWO HOURS

July 28, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday, July 28, warned US President Joe Biden against "playing with fire" over Taiwan, as Beijing's concerns mounted over a possible visit to the Chinese-claimed island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Quoting Chinese state media, Reuter said Xi told Biden in their fifth call as leaders that the United States should abide by the "one-China principle" and stressed that China firmly opposed Taiwanese independence and interference of external forces.

Beijing has issued escalating warnings about repercussions should Pelosi - a Democrat like Biden - visit Taiwan, which says it is facing increasing Chinese military and economic threats. A visit by the House Speaker would be a dramatic, though not unprecedented,



US President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping - File photo

show of US support for the island.

"Those who play with fire will only get burnt," Chinese state media quoted Xi as

telling Biden. "(We) hope the US side can see this clearly." China has given few clues to specific responses it might make

if Pelosi, a longtime critic of Beijing, particularly on human rights issues, makes the trip.

The Presidents' call lasted over two hours. US officials had said it would have a broad agenda, including discussion of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which China has yet to condemn.

At its core though, US officials said they saw the exchange as another chance to manage competition between the world's two largest economies, whose ties have been increasingly clouded by tensions over democratically governed Taiwan, which Xi has vowed to reunite with the mainland, by force if necessary. Washington does not have official relations with Taiwan and follows a "one-China policy" that recognizes Beijing, not Taipei, diplomatically. But it is obliged by US law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

(With inputs from agencies)

UNSC CALLS FOR ACTION ON KILLING OF UN PEACEKEEPERS IN CONGO

Mortal remains of two Indian and one Moroccan peacekeeper transferred to Beni city

JULY 28, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) called on the Congolese authorities to swiftly investigate the killing of three UN Peacekeepers, including two BSF troopers, by a mob in Congo on Monday, July 25.



UNSC calls for action on killing of UN peacekeepers in Congo

Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

A UNSC statement, piloted by India and France, also asked the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for an update on Monday's attack on a UN Peacekeepers' base in Goma. The violent attackers had snatched weapons from Congolese police and "fired upon" the UN personnel.

The two BSF personnel killed in the attack have been identified as Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi.

Two days back, while condoling the deaths of the peacekeepers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had demanded that the perpetrators of the "outrageous attacks" must be held accountable and brought to justice.

The UNSC statement requested the Secretary-General for an update consistent with paragraph 4(a) of Security Council resolution 2589 (2021) on measures undertaken to promote accountability for such acts.

The relevant paragraph asks the Secretary-General to update on measures undertaken to promote accountability within a country's domestic justice systems, consistent with applicable international obligations.

The UN mission in Congo (MONUSCO) Acting Head Khassim Diagne also said, "we will not leave any stone unturned to get to the bottom of it, to the investigation. This was clearly a hostile act against our troops. This may be a war crime."

India is a non-permanent member of the UNSC and also among three troop contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping missions.

FIA CHICAGO IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA UNDER THE BANNER OF "THE AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV"

July 25, 2022

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): : Federation of Indian Association, Chicago is celebrating 75 years of Independent India under the banner of "The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". Independence Day is always memorable - the day to rejoice in the glory of what India has been able to achieve and to remember the contributions, battles, and sacrifices of all the people who helped achieve it. During the past 75 years, India has emerged as a mature democracy. This is very special for all of us as INDIA completes 75 years of independence. FIA celebrations include the grand India Day Parade at the Devon Ave, Chicago on Saturday, 6th August at 11 pm. The Indian National flag rising will be on 15th August at the prestigious Daley Center in Chicago Downtown, and there will be a patriotic Gala Banquet on Friday, 12th August to commemorate and recognize the people who have been serving the community selflessly. "The entire Indian diaspora living the United States is very excited and looking forward to FIA annual India day Parade and celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", said Rakesh Malhotra, President of the Federation of Indian Associations, Chicago

Celebrating Indian Independence Day 2022

FIA has been organizing these events for the past forty years here in Chicago, in which the spirit of the freedom movement, honor to the martyrs, and their vow to develop India can be experienced. "It is important to make the new generation aware of India's freedom struggle and the contributions made by the freedom fighters to get India its independence. Our goal is to inspire the young generation to connect with their roots, values, and rich heritage and work hard to make India Vishwa Guru Again", said Rakesh Malhotra, President of the Federation. Miss India Worldwide Khushi Patel has been invited to India Day Parade. Indian diaspora living from Chicago land are excited about participation in the Grand Parade. Multiple community-based organizations representing various Indian states like Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra



Pradesh, and Kerala will be showcasing their decorative floats during the grand parade to commemorate 75 years of Independence. Consul General of Chicago Amit Kumar, US Congressman Danny Davis, Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Congressman Brad Schneider, Alderman Debra Silverstein, Alderman Shweta Baid, Prominent Community leaders including Dr Bharat Barai, Dr Darshan Sigh Dhaliwal, Mr Santosh Kumar, Executive Director MAFS, Dr. Ram Chakraborty, founder of Chicago Kali Bari and Mrs. Smita Shah President & CEO of Spaan Tech. are likely to attend the FIA India@75-day events. Aparna Chakravarty, Mrs India Worldwide 2ndRU will be joining the Chicago Kali Bari colorful float to reflect the spirit of community and festivity

Connecting with the roots

To engage the young students, a poster and painting contest on the theme of "My Idea of India" is being organized so that the younger generation can express their impression and vision of India. Likewise, a "Rangoli Making" competition for all age groups has also been organized. Participation in these contests is free and entries can be submitted digitally

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Rahul Gandhi during a protest in Delhi.

ED GRILLS SONIA GANDHI FOR 6 HOURS; CONGRESS MPs DETAINED FOR STIR

As the ED questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for the third time, Congress MPs protested at Vijay Chowk over the government's alleged misuse of investigative agencies and called it "murder of democracy", claiming the Centre was trying to usher in an "Opposition-mukt Bharat".

She was given no fresh summons amid indications that her questioning might be over for now. Gandhi reached the ED's office at 11 am on July 28 accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son Rahul Gandhi.

The session began at around 11.15 am. She left the ED office at around 2 pm along with Ms Vadra, who stayed with her all through at the ED's headquarters to provide any assistance or medical care, if needed, to her mother.

The sleuths' questioning pertains to the charge of alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Pvt Ltd, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The protesting MPs were detained by the police. Congress MP Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "For the third day, Congress MPs staging legitimate and peaceful protests at Vijay Chowk have been taken away to God (and PM and HM know) alone knows where. This is Muzzling Of Democracy in India in action!" Mahila Congress and Youth Congress workers protesting against the alleged misuse of investigative agencies outside the AICC headquarters were also put in police buses and detained. On Tuesday, several MPs trying to march to Rashtrapati Bhavan were detained by the police. Several Opposition parties had written a memorandum to the President of India underscoring the "misuse of agencies" by the Central government against political opponents.

Earlier, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal had been questioned by the ED in the National Herald case. The Congress insists that there has been no wrongdoing on the part of their leaders in the matter. The Congress claims that Young Indian Pvt Ltd is a "Section 25" company, meaning no money can be taken out to benefit its shareholders.

I&B minister Anurag Thakur hit out at the Congress, accusing it of trying to "mislead and pressure" Central probe agencies through street protests.

Source: The Asian Age

Uproar in Parliament over Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's 'Rashtrapatni' remark

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's "Rashtrapatni" remark against President Droupadi Murmu on July 28 snowballed into a major political row with the BJP accusing Congress president Sonia Gandhi of "sanctioning the humiliation of a self-made tribal woman".

The all-out attack by Union Minister Smriti Irani against Sonia in the Lok Sabha resulted in angry exchanges between the ruling and Opposition leaders inside and outside Parliament. There was also some unprecedented fracas in the House after the adjournment was announced.

As different versions emerged, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said the "brutal heckling, verbal assault and physical intimidation of one of the most dignified ladies of Indian politics, Sonia Gandhi, by the BJP" was "traumatic and sickening". "That this assault by the BJP MPs took place inside Parliament reflected mob mentality," he alleged.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who led the charge in the Rajya Sabha, accused the Congress chief of "aggression". "Some of our Lok Sabha MPs felt threatened when Sonia Gandhi came up to our senior leader Rama Devi to find out what was happening. When one of our members (Smriti Irani) approached her, she (Sonia Gandhi) said 'you don't talk to me'," the FM said.

"Instead of remorse from the Congress leader, we find greater and greater aggression," she later said.

Sitharaman also alleged that the remark was not a "slip of the tongue" as Chowdhury professed, but "a deliberate act to insult the President".

In the Lok Sabha, Irani said: "The Congress is not able to digest that a girl of a poor family has become the President. A journalist even told the Congress leader that he was insulting the President. Then too, the latter did not express regret. The Congress is anti-tribal, anti-woman, anti-poor and now insults the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces."

Pointing towards Sonia, who was present in the House, Irani said: "Sonia Gandhi, apologise. You sanctioned the humiliation of Droupadi Murmu."

As the protests led to an adjournment, Sonia approached the treasury benches to talk to Rama Devi to "discuss" why her name was being taken.

When Irani approached her, saying: "Ma'am, may I help you? I



BJP MPs during a protest against Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks on President Droupadi Murmu, at Parliament House, in New Delhi. (Photo source: EPS)

have taken your name in Parliament," Sonia replied, "Don't talk to me," claimed eyewitnesses as MPs on both sides engaged in a war of words.

Blaming Sonia for what happened, Rama Devi claimed she spoke to Irani angrily, "wagging her finger". "Sonia Gandhi's angry tone started it all," she said outside Parliament.

Congress MPs, however, said Sonia was only trying to reach out to ruling party leaders over the issue that they were raising.

Congress MP Jyotsna Mahant said while Sonia was trying to talk to Rama Devi, "other BJP MPs started creating a ruckus". Mahant along with NCP's Supriya Sule and some other women MPs escorted Sonia out. "Prime Minister Modi should apologise on behalf of the MPs," the Congress said.

Accusing the BJP of making a mountain out of a molehill, Chowdhury claimed he used the remark once "inadvertently". "I said it once by mistake... hang me if you want," he said in a video message.

Dismissing the demand of apology, Chowdhury said he had sought time from President Murmu and would apologise to her, if need be, but not to "these pakhandis".

Source: TNS

139 & counting — 170% increase in suspension of MPs under Modi govt compared to UPA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The number of MPs suspended from both Houses of Parliament in the eight years since 2014 — when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance rose to power — has gone up almost threefold compared to the previous eight years, data accessed by ThePrint from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats shows.

While at least 51 MPs were suspended from the two Houses between the monsoon session in 2006 and February 2014 (the Lok Sabha elections were held in April 2014), at least 139 MPs have been suspended for misconduct and unruly behaviour between the monsoon session in August 2015 and now.

On Monday, July 25, 4 opposition MPs were suspended from the Lok Sabha, and this was followed by 20 MPs being suspended from the Rajya Sabha Tuesday and Wednesday for disrupting proceedings.

Parliamentary experts as well as opposition MPs agree that there has been a



huge spike in suspension cases in the past few years, unlike earlier, when such instances were few and far between.

PD.T. Achary, former secretary general of the Lok Sabha, told ThePrint: "Of late, cases of MPs getting suspended have more than doubled. It indicates that there is great hostility between the treasury and opposition benches, where both treat each other as enemy instead of political adversary."

Not only does this impede the smooth functioning of Parliament, where bills are being passed without any discussion, the growing animosity also does not augur well for a parliamentary democracy, Achary said. "It's a sign of a serious crisis..."

Parliament cannot function like this. Earlier, there used to be healthy interactions among members of both sides. There was a lot of bonhomie. It was a sign of a mature democracy. That tradition of interactions is breaking down now," he added.

Rajya Sabha MP and former finance minister P Chidambaram told ThePrint that the Narendra Modi government is "strangling democracy" by not allowing any discussion or debate in Parliament.

"If debate is not allowed and if protest is not allowed, why have democracy, elections, and a Parliament? The government is strangling democracy. It is dying a slow death. Let all citizens be aware of the danger," he said.

Chidambaram cited the suspension of 19 opposition MPs from the Rajya Sabha Tuesday as an example, saying, "The deputy chairman said the 19 MPs were suspended because of their 'misconduct' in the House. He should have asked what 'conduct' of the government caused the alleged 'misconduct'."

Source: The Print



ACTIVE COVID CASES DECLINE IN COUNTRY

India logged 20,409 new coronavirus infections pushing the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,39,79,730, while the active cases declined to 1,43,988, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,26,258 with 32 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.33 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.48 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 2,335 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four-crore mark on January 25 this year. *Source: PTI*

SC upholds ED's power to arrest, attach property, search & seizure under PMLA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a crucial judgment endorsing the powers of the Enforcement Directorate, the Supreme Court rejected almost all objections to its powers to probe, arrest and seize properties as proceeds of money laundering.

A 3-judge Bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, two days ahead of his retirement, upheld all the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The Bench, which also comprised Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, held that Section 19 on ED's power to arrest under challenge, does not suffer from the "vice of arbitrariness" and attachment of properties of those involved in the money laundering under Section 5 is also constitutionally valid.

The Bench said money laundering affects social and economic fabric of the nation and also tends to promote other heinous offences such as terrorism, offences related to the NDPS Act (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act).

Petitioners had argued that unchecked power to arrest the accused without informing them of grounds of arrest or evidence is unconstitutional. They further said that the recording of incriminating statements of an accused during questioning under the threat of being fined for withholding information amounts to compulsion.

Petitioners had argued that unchecked power to arrest the accused without informing them of grounds of arrest or evidence is unconstitutional.

The supply of ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) copy in every case is not mandatory as it is an internal document, the top court said, rejecting the petitioners' challenge that it is similar to an FIR and the accused is entitled to a copy of the ECIR. It is enough if Enforcement Directorate, at



the time of arrest, discloses grounds for such arrest, it said.

Another major challenge, that filing PMLA charges in cases that occurred before 2002 (when PMLA came into existence) is unconstitutional, was also turned down. The Centre justified it saying that money laundering is a continuing offence, and not a single act but a chain. Proceeds of crime could have been generated before 2002 but could have still been in possession or in use by the accused post-2002.

The petitioners included politician Karti Chidambaram and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, among others.

The centre justified the constitutional validity of the provisions of PMLA. It defended the amendments to PMLA, saying money laundering poses threat not only to financial systems but to the integrity and sovereignty of nations, since money laundering is conducted not just by corrupt businessmen like Vijay Mallya or Nirav Modi but also by terror groups. The top court agreed with the Centre's contention.

ED powers will have 'far-reaching implications' for our democracy: Congress

The Congress on July 27 said that the Supreme Court's judgement on the Enforcement Directorate's powers will

have "far-reaching implications" for the country's democracy.

On Wednesday, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement that the Supreme Court ruling will have consequences, especially when "governments are anchored in political vendetta".

"However, there is one specific aspect of the judgement I would like to address immediately," the statement added. "I had moved the Supreme Court on the blatant misuse of the Money Bill route by the Modi Government, on the amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The Supreme Court had issued notice on my petition on July 2, 2019. This question remains unresolved in today's judgement."

Ramesh was referring to a 2019 amendment in which provisions of the Act were changed to include possession of crime proceeds within the definition of money laundering.

On Wednesday, the petitioners argued that concealing the "proceeds of crime" by itself should not qualify as money laundering. They submitted that the amendments were brought through Money Bills that need to be passed only in the Lok Sabha and not the Rajya Sabha.

Money Bills concern with subjects dealing with government revenue and expenditure. But, the Supreme Court said the method of introduction of the amendments through a Money Bill would be separately examined by a larger bench.

Ramesh, however, noted that the Supreme Court has agreed that it is "conscious of the fact that if that ground of challenge is to be accepted, it may go to the root of the matter and amendments effected vide Finance Act would become unconstitutional or ineffective".

Job scam accused Partha Chatterjee sacked from Bengal Cabinet

KOLKATA (TIP)

Partha Chatterjee, arrested in the West Bengal SSC recruitment scam, has been removed as a state cabinet minister with immediate effect, stated an official order issued by the Mamata Banerjee government on Thursday, July 27. The decision was reportedly taken in a cabinet meeting amid demands for the expulsion of Chatterjee. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee took over the departments till a new council of ministers is announced.

"I have removed Partha Chatterjee as a minister. My party takes strict action. There are many plannings behind it but I don't want to go into details," Banerjee said.

A TMC disciplinary committee meeting, to be held at the party's headquarters in Kolkata at 5 pm, has been convened by the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of Mamata Banerjee.

Chatterjee, secretary-general of the TMC, held the portfolios of commerce & industry, parliamentary affairs, information technology and electronics, and public enterprises & industrial reconstruction in the state cabinet.

The meeting was convened hours after TMC



Heaps of money with denominations of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 and bundles of cash in sealed envelopes were recovered from the flat of Partha Chatterjee's aide Arpita Mukherjee during the ED raids.

state general secretary Kunal Ghosh demanded Chatterjee be sacked from the cabinet and expelled from the party after nearly Rs50 crore in cash was recovered from properties linked to him.

"Partha Chatterjee should be removed from ministry and all party posts immediately. He

should be expelled. If this statement is considered wrong, party has every right to remove me from all posts. I shall continue as a soldier of @AITCofficial (TMC)," Ghosh tweeted at 9.52 am.

Following this, he told reporters that he has full faith in Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee who, he thinks, will take an appropriate decision.

The chief minister recently said that if someone is found guilty, she would not spare that person, even if he is a minister.

Nearly Rs 50 crore in cash, and gold, believed to be in kilograms, were recovered from apartments linked to Chatterjee's close associate Arpita Mukherjee, besides documents of properties and foreign exchange, as per officials of the Enforcement Directorate, which arrested them.

The CBI, as directed by the Calcutta High Court, is probing the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Group-C and D staff as well as teachers in government-sponsored and aided schools on recommendations of the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC). The ED is tracking the money trail in the scam.

Chatterjee was the education minister when the alleged irregularities took place.

India in history this Week

JULY 29, 2022, TO AUGUST 4, 2022

29 JULY

1876 Science organization was established in India.
 1891 Famous social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar died.
 1996 Aruna Asaf Ali, one of the prominent women who contributed to the Indian freedom struggle, died in Kolkata.
 1748 The first army of the British Army arrived in India in 1748 to assist the East India Company.
 1911 Mohun Bagan won the IF Shield for the first time in 1911.
 2000 Seema Bhadauria pulled a 3390 kg aircraft with her teeth on 29 July 2000.



1904 Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata, one of the industrial personalities who laid the foundation of modern India, was born.

30 JULY

1886 India's first female legislator, S. Muthulakshmi, was born.
 2012 In India, 300 million people had to live without electricity due to major power grid failure.
 2012 In 2012, 32 people died and 27 were injured when a train caught fire in Andhra Pradesh.

31 JULY



1880 Famous Hindi storyteller and novelist Premchand was born.

1940 Freedom fighter Amar Shaheed Udham Singh died on the day.
 1924 The Madras Presidency Club pioneered the conduct of radio broadcasts.
 1933 Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi left the Sabarmati Ashram.
 1948 Establishment of the first state transport service in Calcutta in India.
 1980 The great playback singer of Hindi films, Mohammed Rafi passed away.
 1993 Inauguration of India's first floating maritime museum in Calcutta (now Kolkata).
 2007 Indian-American doctor Sudhir Parikh was awarded the Pal Harris Award.

1861 Cherrapunji in Assam received 9,300 milliliters of rain, which became a world record.
 1950 India and Nepal signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950.
 2000 The Lok Sabha passed the Chhattisgarh State Construction Bill in 2000 by voice.
 2012 Ashok Sen was declared one of the nine winners of the first Yuri Milner Fundamental Physics Prize (Fundamental Physics Award).

01 AUGUST

1920 Mahatma Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement.
 1957 National Book Trust was established.
 1999 Bengali and English writer Nird.C. Chaudhary died in Britain.
 1920 Mahatma Gandhi returned the Kesar-e-Hind Award given by the British Government in 1920.
 1947 The partition of powers between India and Pakistan in 1947.
 1985 In 1952, the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated Nationalized Airways at Safdarjung.
 1953 All airlines in the country were nationalized on 1953.
 1992 The then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao dedicated the Vizag Steel Plant to the nation in 1992.
 2008 In 2008, the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved India's Special Monitoring Agreement.
 1899 Kamala Nehru, the wife of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was born.



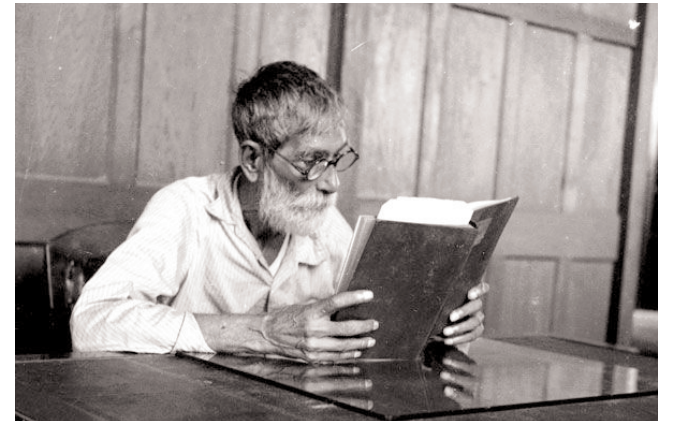
1932 Famous Hindi film actress Meena Kumari was born.
 1916 Annie Besant, former president of the Indian National Congress, launched the Home Rule League.
 2004 Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup of Cricket by defeating India.

02 AUGUST

1763 After the capture of Murshidabad, the British army defeated Mir Qasim in the Battle of Giriya.
 1876 Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the Indian flag, was born.
 1858 The Government of India Act was passed by the British Government.
 1858 The Government of India transferred the East India Company to the British Crown.
 1987 Vishwanath Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship.
 1999 The Brahmaputra Mail collided face-to-face with the Awadh-Assam Express at Ghasal. Both trains were running on the same track from the opposite

direction.

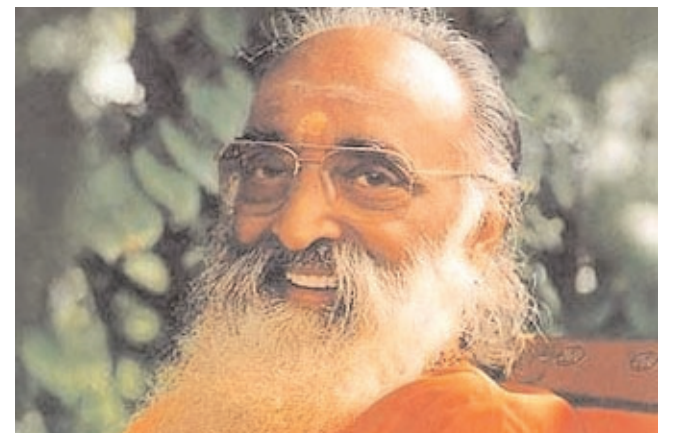
2001 Pakistan approved Chinese imports from India.



1861 Famous scientist Prafulla Chandra Rai, who was considered the 'father of chemistry', was born.

03 AUGUST

1886 Famous Hindi poet Maithilisharan Gupta was born in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
 1985 Baba Amte was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service.
 2012 The Workplace Safety Bill, 2010 passed against sexual harassment of women in 2012.



1993 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy, died in 1993.

04 AUGUST

1956 Apsara, the country's first nuclear research reactor, started.
 1967 Construction of Nagarjunasagar, the world's longest masonry dam.
 2008 The government gave Navratna status to the Shipping Corporation of India.
 1929 Actor, singer, director Kishore Kumar was born on 1929.



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Sonakshi to feature in brother Kussh Sinha's directorial debut

Sonakshi Sinha is all set to play leading lady in yet another venture - this time in her brother Kussh Sinha's upcoming project. Kussh Sinha will be making his directorial debut with the film Nikita Roy And The Book of Darkness and it is expected to feature Sonakshi in the lead role. Sonakshi Sinha took to Instagram to share the first look poster of the film which features amidst a mysterious backdrop. While details of the film are kept under wraps, the actress also revealed that actors Paresh Rawal and Suhail Nayyar will be playing prominent roles in the film. The actress posted it saying, "# NikitaRoyAndTheBookOfDarkness Filming begins soon ??? Making his directorial debut is @kusshsinha and im looking forward to sharing screen space with the dynamic @pareshrawalofficial sir and @suhailnayyar!"

Dobaaraa trailer out, Taapsee Pannu promises an engaging murder mystery

The trailer of Taapsee Pannu's much-awaited film, Dobaaraa, was released today [July 27]. The film marks the reunion of Taapsee and director Anurag Kashyap after their 2018 hit film Manmarziyaan. By the looks of the trailer, Taapsee Pannu-starrer promises an engaging murder mystery. The trailer of Dobaaraa generates curiosity amongst the audience to know what unfolds next.

The story of Dobaaraa revolves around how a woman gets an opportunity to save the life of a 12-year-old boy who witnessed death during a thunderstorm that happened 26 years ago. The film's trailer sheds light on the same.

Director Anurag Kashyap shared the official trailer of Dobaaraa on his Instagram handle. While sharing the trailer, Anurag wrote, "The portals have opened up. The mystery has been revealed. Antara is determined to make sense of it all, are you? Watch Dobaaraa in cinemas on Aug 19. (sic)."

Much before Dobaaraa's theatrical release, the film will premiere at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 12, 2022. Expressing happiness over the same, Anurag said in a statement, "Excited to be showcasing our film and being elected as the opening night film for the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. I have previously been to IFFM and have first hand seen the unison with which Indian films and film from the subcontinent are celebrated and showcased with much vigour. Dobaaraa is a special film for me as a filmmaker and I'm looking forward to showcasing it at this platform."

Source: India Today



Sunny Deol in US for medical treatment

Actor-politician Sunny Deol is not in pink of health. He is getting medical treatment in the United States. According to Sunny's spokesperson, the 'Border' star sustained a back injury a few weeks ago during the shoot of one of his projects.

He underwent treatment in Mumbai for a week and then flew to the US for the treatment. Due to his injury, Sunny, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Gurdaspur, Punjab, had to miss the voting of President Droupadi Murmu.

"Sunny Deol sustained a back injury a few weeks ago at a shoot, he was undergoing back treatment first in Mumbai and then he flew to the USA for his back treatment two weeks back. The presidential elections happened during this time and he was not in the country as his treatment is still not over. He should be returning to India post his recovery," the spokesperson informed.

Sunny will be seen sharing screen space with Pooja Bhatt and Dulquer Salmaan in R Balki's 'Chup'. He is also coming up with 'Gadar 2' and 'Apne 2'.

Sunny also has Soorya in his kitty. Reportedly, the film is a Hindi remake of the Malayalam crime thriller 'Joseph'. In April, he unveiled his look from the film in which he was seen sitting on a staircase, looking lost in some deep thoughts.

"Describing his character, Sunny wrote, "He had all the happiness, but then the journey of life took away his happiness and he was left with hate, anger and vengeance. But Soorya found a purpose....#Soorya," Sunny had posted.

Source: ANI



Alia reacts to trolls who mocked actor for her pregnancy

"You don't plan great things, they just happen," says soon-to-be-mother Alia Bhatt, who believes in trusting her instincts in most of her professional and personal life decisions.

Bhatt, 29, announced her pregnancy in June on Instagram, two months after she tied the knot with fellow Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor, 39.

While the couple was flooded with best wishes, Bhatt was subjected to online trolling for embracing motherhood early in her life.

"Everything a woman does is put in headlines. Whether she has decided to become a mother, she is dating somebody new, she is going for a cricket match or on a holiday. For some reason, the eyeballs are always on women's choices," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Bhatt, who had shared the news of her pregnancy while shooting for her Hollywood debut "Heart of Stone" in London, was soon targeted for making a life-altering decision at the peak of her career. Source: PTI





Angelina Jolie wins case against Brad Pitt over French winery

Brad Pitt had earlier accused his ex-wife Angelina Jolie of damaging the reputation of the wine business they bought together in 2008. He accused her of selling her half to a stranger. The former couple had an agreement to not sell their interests in Chateau Miraval without the other's consent. However, by selling her stake to a unit of Stoli Group, a spirits maker controlled by oligarch Yuri Shefler, the actress broke the agreement. Soon, they got into a legal battle over this. As per a new report, Angelina Jolie has won the legal battle. The actress's legal team has subpoenaed documents from Brad as well as his company and his business manager on July 22, as per the report.

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt had bought the Chateau Miraval winery in 2008 for an estimated \$28.3 million. They had agreed not to sell their interests in the company. However, Brad sued Angelina, accusing her of selling her part of their French vineyard. The couple also got married and spent several family holidays in the South of France vineyard and home Château Miraval.

Kate Winslet, HBO reteam for 'The Palace' Limited Series

Hollywood star Kate Winslet is all set to star in authoritarian limited series The Palace for HBO from critically acclaimed film and television director Stephen Frears, who is well-known for his classics Dangerous Liaisons and High Fidelity.

According to Variety, Kate Winslet will star in the series, which tells the story of one year within the walls of the palace of an authoritarian regime as it begins to unravel. The actress will also executive produce the series. Will Tracy created the show and will serve as executive producer and showrunner. Stephen Frears is attached to direct and executive produce, with Frank Rich also executive producing. Seth Reiss, Juli Weiner, Jen Spyra, Gary Shteyngart, and Sarah DeLappe will also write for the show.

"We are honored to be working with this incredibly talented group of filmmakers on 'The Palace,'" said Francesca Orsi, executive vice president of HBO Programming. "The notion that Kate Winslet and Stephen Frears, two of our industry's leading lights (who - remarkably - have never collaborated before now), are joining forces to bring Will Tracy's wildly original, prescient, and dazzling scripts to life at HBO is a dream come true for us." Kate Winslet previously starred in the HBO limited series Mildred Pierce in 2011 and Mare of Easttown in 2021, both of which earned her Emmys. HBO is also currently developing the limited series, Trust, based on Hernan Diaz's novel, with Winslet set to star and executive produce. In Trust, a wealthy financier is upset about how he and his wife are portrayed in a book based on his life.



Demi Moore regrets shaving her head for 'G.I. Jane'

Hollywood star Demi Moore famously shaved her head to play the lead role in 1997's G.I. Jane but she'd now be "hard-pressed" to alter her trademark waist-length tresses again because she has nothing to "prove".

"I think now that I'm older, I also know I don't have anything to prove. So if they really need my hair different, they can give me a wig," she said. She added: "It's also not as clear how it would grow back!"

While the Indecent Proposal actress has tried a variety of styles over the years, these days she does "as little as possible" with her locks and finds it "stressful" when people even touch her hair.

She said: "I've done everything to my hair. I've shaved it. I've dyed it. I've had a bob. When I'm not working, I try to do as little to it as possible. It's stressful even having someone touch it. If I don't have anywhere to go, I don't put heat on it; I just try to let it do its own thing. And I don't wash them too often. I get regular tiny trims. The rest comes from the inside out. You have to eat well, all those things."

The actress vowed to keep her hair long to defy stereotypes. She said, "I remember hearing someone say that when women get older, they shouldn't have long hair. And something about that stuck with me. Like who says? It made me feel like, well, if it can grow and it's not unhealthy, then why shouldn't I?" "I'm not



comfortable with rules that don't seem to have any real meaning or justification," she said. Source: IANS

Marvel announces 2 New Avengers movies

Disney announced a slew of Marvel superhero movies including two new "Avengers" films Saturday at Comic-Con, as it offered screaming fans an emotional first glimpse at its upcoming "Black Panther" sequel. The record-breaking Marvel movies have dominated Hollywood and global box offices in recent years, with 2019's "Avengers: Endgame" briefly becoming the highest-grossing film of all time at more than \$2.79 billion. "I wonder if you guys wouldn't mind looking ahead a little bit?" studio president Kevin Feige asked the wildly cheering hall of die-hard superhero fans toward the end of a raucous hour-plus presentation at a San Diego convention center.

"Avengers: The Kang Dynasty" and "Avengers: Secret Wars" will hit theaters in 2025, he then announced.

The films will aim to follow in the footsteps of "Avengers: Endgame," which built unprecedented hype by rounding off storylines presented in all the preceding Marvel films.

The two new "Avengers" titles will conclude the next "saga" of more than a dozen inter-connected films and television shows in the "Marvel Cinematic Universe," said Kevin Feige. "That will complete the second saga of the MCU, which of course is 'The Multiverse Saga,'" he said. The Marvel franchise in recent films and shows has explored the "multiverse" concept popularized by superhero comic books, in which infinite universes -- and infinite versions of each hero and villain -- exist in parallel realities.

NYC CELEBRATES FESTIVAL OF CINEMA

BY MABEL PAIS



'Black, White and the Greys,' Opening Night film.
Photo / festivalofcinemany.com



'Relative,' Closing Night film.
Photo / festivalofcinemany.com

FESTIVAL OF CINEMA (FOC NYC) returns to New York city for its 6th annual edition as a live in-person 10-day event, August 5-14, 2022. It takes place at the Regal UA Midway theater in Forest Hills, Queens. FOC NYC will showcase 124 independent films from more than 25 countries, with over 90 anticipated filmmakers to be in attendance. The premiere rich film festival includes 12 world premieres, 7 North American premieres, and 13 East Coast premieres.

This year the festival will return to the Queens Library at Forest Hills as a second screening location for the first time since 2019 as FOC NYC continues to expand its footprint back to its pre-pandemic glory. Programming at the library includes short film screenings, seminars and special guest speakers - all of which will be offered free to the public. Seminars include a discussion and film presentation with Face To Face Films founder and director Anthony Laura.

Festival of Cinema NYC Founder and Executive Director Jayson Simba, said, "This year's edition of the film festival continues to build on the success and growth we experienced last year highlighted by our return to the Queens Library for free films, panels and talks. This year, we have also worked hard to find amazing films from all over the world to present to our FOC NYC film fans, while also celebrating our local filmmakers and the community we call home."

Festival of Cinema NYC will culminate with an award dinner celebration on Sunday August 14, at the JCAL Jamaica Performing Arts Center in Jamaica, Queens, where films in competition will vie for awards in 17 Categories.

Seminars include a discussion and film presentation with Face To Face Films founder and director Anthony Laura. Guest speaker Pamala Buzick Kim, Executive Director of the non-profit organization Free The Work, will lead a discussion on the challenges of increasing diversity behind the camera during a time when the rights of women and LGBTQ individuals are actively under assault. Other seminars will cover film industry topics such as film distribution and new approaches to doing press and PR to promote independent films today.

Among the additions to FOC NYC, will be a pre-launch party inside Resorts World NYC's famous 360° Bar and Lounge (110-0 Rockaway Blvd) on Thursday, August 4. On Sunday August 7, the festival will hold its first ever family day, highlighted by the screening of Marcus Ovnell's children's fantasy film, Emily and the Magic Journey.

FESTIVAL OF CINEMA NYC 2022 LINEUP OPENING NIGHT - BLACK WHITE AND THE GREYS, AUGUST 5

Dir: Casey Nelson & Marchelle Thurman | USA | 1h 39m

Jordie and Caleb Grey have a seemingly perfect life. They've been married for seven years and have an adorable, precocious five-year-old daughter named Millie. For the most part they're happy. That all changes when a nationwide pandemic hits, and the couple are forced to quarantine together. The couple gradually discovers that their beliefs simply don't align on many important issues.

Preceded by Song of the Same Night
Dir: Kary Sarrey | USA | 12m

CLOSING NIGHT - RELATIVE

Dir: Michael Glover Smith | USA | 1h 37m

This Chicago-made dramedy stars Wendy Robie (Twin Peaks) and Steppenwolf Theater legend Francis Guinan as the parents of a family at a crossroads. How will the Frank family handle separations, new romances, and empty-nesting following the college graduation of Benji (played by The Walking Dead's Cameron Scott Roberts), the youngest member of their clan? Time, love, family reunions and online proclivities test all of the characters in this ensemble film.

Preceded by A Feast That Never Comes

Dir: Maria Juranic | USA | 17m

ADDITIONAL SLATE OF FILMS

There are 22 additional NARRATIVE FEATURES, 6 DOCUMENTARY FEATURES, 8 WEBISODES, and a total of 80 SHORTS: 62 NARRATIVE SHORTS: 3 DOCUMENTARY SHORTS, 3 ANIMATION SHORTS, 6 EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS, 6 MUSIC VIDEO SHORTS.

To get a full slate of each category, visit festivalofcinemany.com

TICKETS

Individual Tickets, Ticket Bundles & All-Access VIP Passes are available. For prices and to purchase tickets and learn more information about the festival, visit Festivalofcinemany.com.

DISCOUNTS

Discounts to individual tickets purchases will be offered at the door for Senior Citizens, SAG-AFTRA members, Resorts World NYC Genting Rewards members, members of the Queens Economic Development Corporation, the Forest Hills Asian Association, the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, and members of Community Board 6.

Festival of Cinema NYC

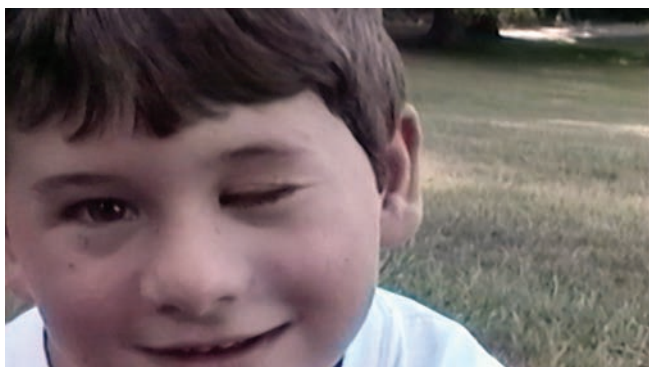
Festival of Cinema, Inc. was founded by local independent filmmakers with a passion to get movies made and to expand the reach of artists' work. Recognizing the challenges filmmakers face in the film industry, the festival's aim is to establish a presence, and spread awareness, of cinematic creativity.

DISABILITY IN FILM

BY MABEL PAIS

Honoring July as Disability Pride Month, we have 'Let Me Be Me.'

"This movie is heartbreaking and hopeful, it really resonated with our family." - Amy Schumer



Kyle Westphal, child. Photo / Wavelength Productions, Inc.



Kyle Westphal, fashion designer.
Photo / Wavelength Productions, Inc

LET ME BE ME

DIRS: Dan Crane & Katie Taber | USA | 2022 | DOC | 1h 16m

When the Westphal family learned that their 6-year-old Kyle was on the Autism spectrum, they feared they might never develop a real connection to their child. Withdrawn and constantly wrapping himself in fabric and blankets, Kyle was retreating from the world around him. Determined to find a way to connect, his parents embarked on an intense and radical journey which involved compassionately joining Kyle in his unique behaviors.

Twenty years later, the entire family looks back at Kyle's journey with candor and humor. "Let Me Be Me" reveals what happens when a boy who used fabric as his shield to hide himself grows up to become a fashion designer, forging connections with friends and family along the way.

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

CELEBRATE INDIA@75 AT ERASING BORDERS DANCE FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

"Erasing Borders" dance performances are part of the Indo-American Arts Council's (iaac.us) ongoing celebrations of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, August 15.

The celebration will feature two live performances, August 6 & 7 at the Ailey Citigroup Theatre, and a virtual August 8th streaming with artists from India, Canada, Singapore and the U.S.

PROGRAM

Program A: live, Saturday August 6, 7 pm

Program B: live, Sunday August 7, 7 pm
Venue: Ailey Citigroup Theater, 405 West 55 Street, NYC

Program C: virtual, Monday August 8

India@75

Program A: Saturday August 6, 7 pm Featuring

Sanjib Bhattacharya and Lagannath Lairenjam in Manipuri-Pung Cholom (Drum Dance)
Kavya Ganesh in contemporary Bharatanatyam
Bhavana Reddy in Kuchipudi with introductions by the legendary Raja Reddy.

India@75

Program B: Sunday August 7, 7 pm Featuring

Jin Won in Kathak with live music
Ailey II in "Saa Magni"
Mythili Prakash in contemporary Bharatanatyam
Erasing Borders Dance Festival-virtual

Program C: Monday August 8, premiers at 7 pm.

Streaming is available until August 22 featuring choreography by Tanya Saxena
Tanveer Alam

Liz Lea and danced by Subastian Tan and Shahrin Johry

Mythili Maratt Anoop
Deepali Salil with Nilava Sen, Shubhamani Chandrashekar, Athul Balu

India@75

Saturday Aug 6, 2022, 7-9PM

1. Sapta, Manipuri-Pung Cholom (drum dance)

Performed by Sanjib Bhattacharya and Jagannath Lairenjam

Sapta, meaning seven, is an attempt to paint the canvas of time, using 3 sets of 7 beats.

12 minutes of time is celebrated through three ornate sets of 7 matras (beats), each set depicting a significant tradition of Manipuri Classical Dance.

2. "Time the Elusive Friend," contemporary Bharatanatyam

Choreographed and performed by Kavya Ganesh

Music courtesy- Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan

Music composition- GS Rajan

Mentored by Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan
External time is a linear dimension-ticking along in a constant, singular rhythm. What about the internality of time? In this work, time has been conceptualized as sakhi (friend).

3. 'Solo Kuchipudi' by Bhavana Reddy with introductions by Raja Reddy

Narasimhavataram

This is a story of one of Vishnu's avatars that of Narasimha. Hiranyakashyapu, a demon king

celebrate the 75 years of Indian independence. They will be performing Saa Magni in the spirit of hope, celebration and dance.

Saa Magni is choreographed by Yannick Lebrun and performed by Meagan King and Christopher Taylor to music by Oumou Sangaré from the album Ko Sira, published by World Circuit Records.

3. 'Poo | Poo' (Contemporary Bharatanatyam) Performed and choreographed by Mythili Prakash

Gupta

Music: Rajat Prasanna

'Bindu' (the originary dot) is a movement film inspired by artist S.H. Raza, made in collaboration with the Raza Foundation.

2. Leher (Wave) choreographed and performed by Tanveer Alam (kathak)

'Leher' emerged as a quiet response to this time and context of massive change that we have all experienced since the pandemic. The work, in vilambit taal (slow tempo) is patient, intimate, and looks at the effects of decelerating in time.

Music: Gurumurthy Vaidya
Dramaturgy: Harikishan S. Nair
Mixing and mastering: Roshin Shabu
Videography and editing: Aman Chandak

Supported by: Sadhana Project Residency (Anandam Dancetheatre), The Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council.

3. 'Terra'

Choreographed by Liz Lea

Danced by Subastian Tan and Shahrin Johry.

Music by TaikOz

A contemporary dance with influences from movement techniques of Singapore and India.

4. 'Bird of Time'

Inspired by Sarojini Naidu's poem, 'The Bird of Time' this work presents an assortment of life's dramatic moments which ultimately ends in silence.

5. 'Animals'

(excerpted from Looking Within Looking Around) The excerpt "ANIMALS" is choreographed and performed by Bharatanatyam dancers from all over India. It is conceptualized by Deepali Salil. Choreographed and performed by Bharatanatyam dancers Nilava Sen as Gazelle; Shubhamani Chandrashekar as Orca; Athul Balu as Hyena; Deepali Salil as Sarus Crane.

Original music composition - Sanchit Choudhary

In our excerpt film "Animals" we seek to renew the connection with our animal kingdom. The only way forward is together. Conserving and living sustainably needs to become a lifestyle.

To learn more about each performer/artist, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2022

TICKETS

For Tickets, visit [eventbrite.com/cc/festival-of-india75-605699](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/festival-of-india75-605699)

For reservations, contact Audrey Ross at audreyrosspub@aol.com or 929 222 3973.

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



worshipper of Shiva, sought a boon from Brahma, to be unvanquishable by any weapon, by any man or animal, inside or outside, by day or by night.

Nijagadha sa yadu Nandane (Jayadeva's ashtapadi)

'Jathiswaram' is a tapestry of rhythm and melody which are given visual form with dance on the brass plate.

India@75

Sunday Aug 7, 2022

Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theatre, 7-9PM

1. 'Andaaz' - an immersive exploration of Rhythm and dance, by Jin Won, kathak, with tabla by Mike Lukshis and Electric Viola by Martha Mooke.

A sonic and visual endeavor alternating between two different Rhythm cycles, 5 and half beats / 16 beats, "Andaaz" explores the subtle movements through contemporary and traditional dance forms of Kathak to portray a beautiful visual canvas.

2. Alvin Ailey II, Saa Magni Alvin Ailey II will be joining Indian dancers to

Polarity. Co-existence. Singularity.

Lingering between past and present, global and local, sacred and worldly, stylized and pedestrian, structure and fluidity, Poo | Poo (flower in Tamil |shit in America) negotiates the weight of past and tradition through the freedom of our bodies and voices today in the re-imagining of a traditional myth-the dance-off between Shiva and Kali.

India@75

Erasing Borders Dance Festival

Monday August 8, 2022, premiers at 7 pm.

Streaming is available until August 22 on Indo American Arts Council Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/iaac.us> and Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/IAACEvent>

Introduction by Subhalakshmi Amjad Ali Khan

1. Bindu

Choreographed and performed by Tanya Saxena (Bharatanatyam)

Sound Design and Mixing: Ananda

RUSSIA LAUNCHES MISSILE ATTACK ON KYIV AREA

JULY 28, 2022

KYIV (TIP): Russian forces launched a missile attack on the Kyiv area for the first time in weeks on July 28 and pounded the northern Chernihiv region as well, in what Ukraine said was revenge for standing up to the Kremlin. Ukrainian officials, meanwhile, announced a counter-offensive to take back the occupied Kherson region in the country's south, territory seized by Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces early in the war. Russia attacked the Kyiv region with six missiles launched from the Black Sea, hitting a military unit in the village of Liutizh on the outskirts of the capital. — AP

94 MIGRANTS ESCAPE SUFFOCATION IN TRUCK IN MEXICO



JULY 29, 2022

MEXICO CITY (TIP): Authorities in Mexico said July 28 that at least 94 migrants had to bash their way out of a suffocating freight trailer abandoned on a highway in the steamy Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

Carlos Enrique Escalante, the head of the state migrant attention office, said migrants had to break holes in the freight container to get out, some apparently through the roof.

Some were injured when they leapt from the roof of the trailer, but their injuries did not include any broken bones and were not considered life-threatening.

Escalante said local residents near the town of Acayucan heard the noise, and helped open the freight container. A much larger number of migrants were believed to have been aboard and fled after escaping.

But the 94 migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were turned over to immigration authorities.

The discovery of the trailer Wednesday recalled the tragedy in San Antonio, Texas on June 27, when 53 migrants died because they had been left in a sweltering freight truck.

In the southern Mexico state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala, yet another group of migrants continued demanding temporary visas they would permit them to travel across Mexico. They were still in the town of Huixtla on Thursday after leaving Tapachula earlier this week, saying they can't wait months for slow immigration paperwork in Tapachula. AP

Fear and suspicion as Ukraine hunts for traitors in the east

JULY 28, 2022

KUTUZIVKA, UKRAINE (TIP): As Ukraine hunts for traitors, the fear of Russian infiltration extends east, far from the capital.

The sense of paranoia runs deepest here, in eastern Ukraine, where suspicions of treason committed by locals divide formerly occupied villages like Kutuzivka, a once-sleepy hamlet east of Kharkiv, where signs of a recent Russian presence are everywhere.

Stray dogs roam over broken glass as the sound of shelling echoes overhead, with Ukrainian troops still fighting off a near-constant barrage of artillery fire by Russian troops north of the village when Reuters visited at the end of May.

When Russian troops arrived in Kutuzivka in early March, they quickly set up a local puppet administration.

Nataliia Kyrychenko, a 55-year-old farm owner in the village, was hiding in her house with several neighbours when Russian soldiers came to her door. Villagers said a Russian commander brought Kyrychenko and her neighbours out onto the street and informed them that a local woman named Nadiia Antonova would now head the village.

Kyrychenko said she was interrogated for two days by Russian forces about her son-in-law, who is in Ukrainian law enforcement. The soldiers told her, Kyrychenko recounted to Reuters, that Antonova had informed them about her son-in-law and accused her of working as a spotter for Ukrainian troops, tasked with tracking movements of Russian soldiers.

"When the Russian soldiers took me away I honestly didn't think I would come back," she said. "I couldn't believe that someone in our community would turn me in." Kyrychenko was eventually



released. Russian officials at the Kremlin did not respond to Reuters' questions about the case.

In late April, Ukraine successfully pushed back Russian troops and liberated Kutuzivka. Antonova was swiftly detained and placed under criminal investigation for collaborating with Russian soldiers. She faces more than a decade in jail if convicted. Antonova's lawyer did not respond to Reuters' questions.

In a speech earlier this month, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy spoke about the high toll Russian infiltration was taking on the country. Below the highest levels of treason he highlighted, there are many more cases that fall into a grey area. These cases can range from those who post pro-Russian content on social media to those who cooperate in any way with occupying Russian troops.

"Our population played a very big role

in informing police, alerting us to saboteurs," said Yevhen Yenin, the first deputy minister of the internal affairs ministry, which oversees the national police.

Though the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) is officially tasked with investigating such cases, much of the practical work of gathering information has fallen to the police, Yenin said.

The National Police have so far detained more than 1,000 people suspected of sabotage and reconnaissance activities on behalf of the Russian authorities, according to the internal affairs ministry.

In Kharkiv, about 40 kilometres from the Russian border, four police officers began their night patrol just after the city's 10 p.m. curfew in late May. Touting AKs and wearing bulletproof vests, the officers scoured the city's darkened streets for suspicious figures.

'New Cold War': Russia and West vie for influence in Africa

JULY 28, 2022

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Russian, French and American leaders are crisscrossing Africa to win support for their positions on the war in Ukraine, waging what some say is the most intense competition for influence on the continent since the Cold War.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French President Emmanuel Macron are each visiting several African countries this week. Samantha Power, head of the US Agency for International Development, went to Kenya and Somalia last week. The US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, will go to Ghana and Uganda next week.

"It's like a new Cold War is playing out in Africa, where the rival sides are trying to gain influence," said William Gumede, director of Democracy Works, a foundation promoting good governance.

Lavrov, in his travels across the drought- and hunger-stricken continent, has sought to portray the West as the villain, blaming it for rising food prices, while the Western leaders have accused the Kremlin of cynically using food as a weapon and waging an imperial-style war of conquest — words calculated to appeal to listeners in post-colonial Africa. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has been working to win support in Africa for several years, reinvigorating friendships that date back a half-century, when the Soviet Union backed many African movements fighting to end colonial rule.

"Now that campaign has gone into high gear," Gumede said.

Moscow's influence in Africa was on display in March during the UN vote to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

While 28 African nations voted in

favour of the resolution, a significant minority of countries on the continent — 25 — either voted to abstain or did not vote at all.

Russia's top diplomat this week visited Egypt, Congo, Uganda and Ethiopia, pledging friendship and charging the US and European countries with driving up food prices by pursuing "reckless" environmental policies.

"The situation in Ukraine did additionally negatively affect food markets, but not due to the Russian special operation, rather due to the absolutely inadequate reaction of the West, which announced sanctions," Lavrov said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. Lavrov was warmly received in Uganda by President Yoweri Museveni, who for years has been a US ally but has refused to criticise Russia over the invasion. (AP)



INDIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

(a Non-profit Organization)

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

INDIA DAY PARADE

August 14 1 pm

EDISON TO ISELIN ON OAK TREE ROAD

STARTING POINT INTERSECTION OF CINDER ROAD & OAK TREE ROAD, EDISON

CHIEF GUEST

Singham FAME INDIAN ACTRESS
KAJAL AGGARWAL

TITLE SPONSOR

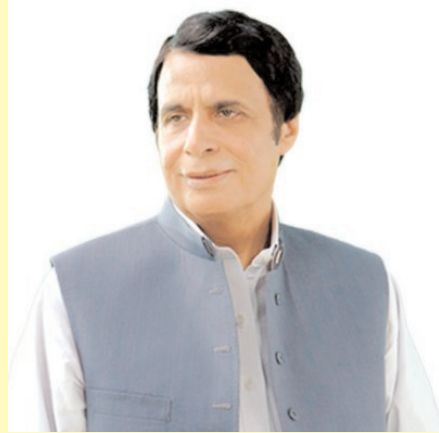


18TH
ANNUAL
INDIA DAY
PARADE



GRAND MARSHAL
NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON
DR. SAMBIT PATRA





PARVEZ ELAHI SWORN IN AS PAKISTAN PUNJAB'S NEW CM AMID HIGH POLITICAL DRAMA

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE (TIP): PML-Q leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi was sworn in as chief minister of Punjab by Pakistan President early July 27 morning, in a boost to ousted premier Imran Khan whose party approached a top court seeking dismissal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government.

Elahi, the 76-year-old leader backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was sworn in at the directions of the Supreme Court which dealt a big blow to Prime Minister Sharif-led coalition by removing his son as the executive head of the country's politically crucial province.

A three-member bench - comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar - on Tuesday night ruled that Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Elahi will be the new chief minister of Punjab, paving the way for a change in the country's most populous province and political heartland.

Elahi, who lost the election held on Friday despite getting a majority vote, had challenged the ruling of deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari who handed victory to Hamza. Elahi secured 186 votes against 179 votes of PML-N candidate Hamza but lost after Deputy Speaker Mazari rejected 10 votes of his PML-Q lawmakers.

Mazari refused to count the vote after PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain through a letter directed his party lawmakers to vote for Hamza, son of Prime Minister Sharif and PML-N president.

The apex court declared Mazari's controversial decision to reject 10 votes as "illegal".

It ordered Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman to administer the oath to Elahi. However, Rehman refused to perform his duties.

Following Rehman's refusal, Elahi left for Islamabad late Tuesday night where he was sworn in as the chief minister by President Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadar in the early hours of Wednesday.

Alvi sent a special aircraft to bring Elahi to Islamabad for the oath-taking ceremony, Geo News reported. (PTI)

Coming from family of doctors, Manisha Ropeta is Pakistan's first Hindu woman DSP

KARACHI (TIP): Manisha Ropeta is making heads turn not only because she is among the few female officers in authoritative positions in Sindh Police but also for the fact that the 26-year-old is the first woman from the minority Hindu community in Pakistan to become a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

In Pakistan's male dominated society and culture, it is difficult for women to join professions considered as "manly" such as the police force.

"From childhood I and my sisters have seen the same old system of patriarchy where girls are told if they want to get educated and work it can only be as teachers or doctors," Ropeta from Sindh's Jacobabad area says.

Belonging to a middle class family from Jacobabad in interior Sindh province, Ropeta says she wants to end this sentiment that girls from good families shouldn't have anything to do with the police or district courts.

"Women are the most oppressed and the target of many crimes in our society and I joined the police because I feel we need 'protector' women in our society," she says.

Ropeta, who is currently under training, will be posted in the crime-infested area of Lyari.

She feels that working as a senior



police officer really empowers women and gives them authority.

"I want to lead a feminisation drive and encourage gender equality in the police force. I myself have always been very inspired and attracted to the police work," the DSP says.

Her three other sisters are all doctors and her youngest brother is also

studying medicine.

Asked what prompted her to choose a different profession, Ropeta says she had failed by one mark to clear her MBBS entrance examinations. "I then told my family I was taking a degree in physical therapy but at the same time I prepared for the Sindh Public Services Commission examinations and I passed that getting 16th position among 468 candidates."

Ropeta's father was a trader in Jacobabad. He passed away when she was 13 after which her mother brought her children to Karachi and raised them.

She admits though it is not easy to be in a senior position in Sindh Police and to get on field training in a place like Lyari, her colleagues, superiors and juniors treat her with respect for her views and hard work.

Ropeta recalls that in her hometown it was not a usual practice for girls to pursue higher education and even when her relatives came to know she was joining the police force they said she wouldn't last for long as it is a tough profession.

"So far I have proven them wrong," she says.

Ropeta is hopeful of playing a big role in portraying a better image of the police whom many people still don't trust and thus don't report crimes. (PTI)

Explosion in shop near Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Afghanistan's Kabul, no casualty



KABL (TIP): A day after the Taliban regime urged its minority communities to return claiming to have addressed their security concern, a bomb reportedly exploded near the main gate of Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Kabul, Afghanistan. However, no loss of life was reported in the incident.

A month ago, a deadly terror attack was executed by Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) at the gurdwara claiming two lives, including a Sikh, and leaving the holy place vandalized.

Puneet Singh Chandok, president of India World Forum said that the explosion occurred in a shop selling herbal medicines owned by an Afghan-origin Sikh family. "It was an alarming development that the explosion occurred in broad daylight targeting a shop owned by a Sikh 'hakim', located in a lane near the gurdwara. The members of Sikh and Hindu community are safe," he said.

A video also went viral in which the owner of the shop selling herbal medicines explained that a 'time bomb' was planted at his shop when he was away to have lunch at another place. Religious minorities in Afghanistan, including the Sikh community, have been targets of violence in Afghanistan.

All claims of the Taliban, that assumed charge of Afghanistan since 2021, fall flat if the repeated attacks on minorities is any indication. It is learnt that around 167 Sikhs and Hindus lived in trouble torn Afghanistan since Taliban took over. Five among them do not possess passports. They all had applied for e-visas (emergency visas). This number has decreased with the Indian government issuing e-visas to facilitate their safe evacuation. (TNS)

READY TO LISTEN TO DEMOCRATIC PROTESTERS: SRI LANKAN PM DINESH GUNAWARDENA

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's newly-appointed PM Dinesh Gunawardena said the government was ready to listen to the demands of democratic



public protesters, but denounced acts of terrorism, calling it the "greatest threat to democracy".

Gunawardena, 73, an ally of the Rajapaksas and a school friend of the newly-elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe, was sworn in as the Sri Lankan PM last week amid an unprecedented economic and political crisis.

Addressing Parliament on Wednesday, Gunawardena said the Sri Lankan government was ready to listen to the democratic public protests, but they could not accept acts of terrorism. (PTI)

Please join us for a discussion on how the partition of the South Asian region of Panjab in 1947 impacted the lives of Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus as well as the lessons it holds for the present and the future.

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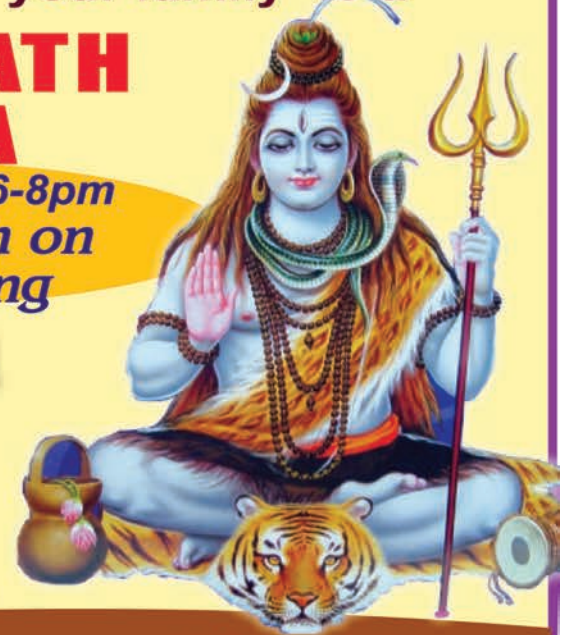


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Healthy foods every woman must eat

While eating healthy is essential for both the sexes, men and women have different dietary requirements. Here are some foods that every woman must include in her diet.

Berries

Why: Ounce for ounce, berries have more protective plant antioxidants than almost any other food. "These compounds not only lower your disease risks, they help prevent memory loss," says Somer.

How Much: Aim for a cup of berries -- any berries, fresh or frozen -- at least three times a week (berry researchers say eat a cup daily). Since berries are high in fill-you-up fiber, they may also help curb weight gain.

Salmon

Why: Sure, salmon is a prime source of omega-3s, the healthy fats that fend off heart disease and maybe more, but are you aware that a mere 3 ounces of the fish serves up 170% of your daily vitamin B12 and more than 80% of your D.

How Much: Aim for two servings a week (and if you substitute tuna for one serving, that's okay).

Leafy Greens

Why: It's almost impossible to meet your nutritional needs without eating dark leafy greens, from spinach and romaine to collard greens and chard. They're huge sources of fiber; vitamins C and K; folic acid (a B vitamin that guards the heart and memory and fights birth defects); lutein, a vision protector; and four essential minerals: calcium, magnesium, iron, and potassium.

How Much: Two servings a day -- and the darker, the better.

Whole Grains

Why: They have up to 96% more fiber, magnesium, zinc, chromium, and vitamins E and B6 than refined



grains. This nutritional powerhouse helps prevent the same health problems that refined grains help cause: heart disease, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and even obesity.

How Much: Ideally, all of the six daily grain servings you need should be whole, unrefined grains, but aim for at least three.

Nuts

Why: They're excellent sources of protein, magnesium, and B and E vitamins -- trusty fighters in the war against heart disease and cancer. Yes, nuts are high in fat calories, but their fat is the heart-healthy kind. Replace junky snacks with them and you won't gain an ounce.

How Much: Up to five small fistfuls a week (roughly 1/4 cup or about 15-20 almonds, cashews, walnuts, or pecans).

Golden Veggies

Why: Just one serving of fiber-filled, deep-yellow-orange

vegetables supplies five times the beta carotene you need daily to lower your cancer risk, defend against colds and other infections, and protect your skin from sun damage. The potassium in these veggies also keeps your heartbeat in sync and your blood pressure down.

How Much: Aim for two half-cup servings a day, the equivalent of one sweet potato, 12 canned apricot halves, or a cup of butternut squash or carrots.

Yogurt

Why: Low- or no-fat plain yogurt is a terrific source of B vitamins, protein, calcium and -- if it has active cultures -- the healthy bacteria known as probiotics, which crowd out disease-causing germs.

How Much: Four or more cups a week, if this is your main dairy source.

How: Cut back on sugar and calories by choosing plain yogurt and adding fruit, especially berries, and some granola.

FOOD

Dhansak Mutton

Dhansak is an ever-popular Parsi dish which people make by combining lentils and the meat of chicken or mutton. This dish is a fan favourite and quintessential comfort food among many Parsi. People who have had the pleasure of sampling their cuisine can vouch for this too.

Dhansak can be enjoyed by vegetarians as well, we're told it's just as tasty without the meat. However, meat is why you're here. So, for that reason, we've got a Mutton Dhansak recipe for you below that you'll surely enjoy.

Ingredients

- ½ kg mutton
- 1 1/2 cup tur dal preferably wet ½ an hour before cooking
- 2 small brinjals cut into 4 pieces each
- Few mint leaves, coriander leaves and curry leaves
- 1 big tomato diced nicely
- ½ tsp haldi powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhanajeera powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhansak masala powder
- ½ tsp garam masala
- Salt to taste
- 1 or 2 green chillies slit into 2
- 1 tsp ginger garlic paste
- 1 tsp oil or ghee

Method

- Wash the dal and mutton
- Take oil or ghee in the cooker put curry leaves, mint leaves and Ginger garlic paste and slit green chillies last add nicely diced tomatoes and fry over sim for
- Few moments then add mutton and cook till the mutton is nicely covered in the masalas
- Then add all the dry masalas let the mutton roast for sometime now add the dal and 1 glass Full of water and put the cooker lid on.
- Cook for ½ an hour.
- Open and add finely chopped Coriander leaves.



Home remedies to remove skin tan

staying outdoors make our skin tanned. The melanin production in our skin increases when our body is exposed to the Ultraviolet radiation of the Sun. Pigmented cells start to accumulate, and the dead cells create a dull, dark and thick layer on the skin.

But don't worry, as we have curated a list of homemade anti tan packs for skin that are pocket-friendly and give your skin the care it deserves.

- Apply tomato juice to your face and wash after 15-20 minutes. Tomatoes are rich in antioxidants and Vitamin C. It will naturally lighten the skin, reduce dark spots, and protect the skin from sunburn.
- Take 2-3 tablespoons of Aloe Vera

gel and honey and add a teaspoon of turmeric powder. Apply the paste to your face and wash it after 10-15 mins.

- Take 2-3 tablespoons of milk or curd. Add 2 teaspoons of gram flour (besan), rosewater, and a pinch of turmeric. Apply the paste to your face and wash it after 15-20 minutes. It will nourish your skin and make it radiant.
- Take some Multani Mitti (Fuller's Earth) and add milk/curd/water. Add a pinch of turmeric and squeeze in a few drops of lemon. Apply the paste to your face and neck. Wash it with lukewarm water after the pack starts to dry. Your

skin will feel fresh and oil-free.

- Take equal parts of lemon juice and honey and add in milk powder to make a paste. Apply it to the face and wash it off with cool water after half an hour. 6. Potatoes work like a charm on tanned skin. You can slice a potato, make a paste/juice or use the potato peel for your skin. Take potato juice and add lemon juice to it. Leave it on your tanned skin area for half an hour and wash it after 10 minutes.

Tip – Use the de tan packs that suit your skin type. De tan packs won't give you immediate results. Give it a month or two to see the effects on the skin.

Source: News18

From hiking and spending time on the beach to exploring a city, or just regularly going to school/office/market exposes us to harmful sunrays.

Be it summers, monsoons or winters,

Depression in young men can be beaten with a healthy diet

Young men with a poor diet saw a significant improvement in their symptoms of depression when they switched to a healthy Mediterranean diet, a new study shows.

Depression is a common mental health condition that affects approximately 1 million Australians each year. It is a significant risk factor for suicide, the leading cause of death in young adults.

The 12-week randomised control trial, conducted by researchers from the University of Technology Sydney, was recently published in the peer-reviewed American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Lead researcher Jessica Bayes, a PhD candidate in the UTS Faculty of Health, said the study was the first randomised clinical trial to assess the impact of a Mediterranean diet on the symptoms of depression in young men (aged 18-25).

"We were surprised by how willing the young men were to take on a new diet," Bayes said. "Those assigned to the Mediterranean diet were able to significantly change their original diets, under the guidance of a nutritionist, over a short time frame."

"It suggests that medical doctors and psychologists should consider referring depressed young men to a nutritionist or dietitian as an important component of treating clinical depression," she said.



The study contributes to the emerging field of nutritional psychiatry, which aims to explore the effect that specific nutrients, foods and dietary patterns can have on mental health. The diet used in the study was rich in colourful vegetables, legumes and wholegrains, oily fish, olive oil and raw, unsalted nuts.

"The primary focus was on increasing diet quality with fresh wholefoods while reducing the intake of 'fast' foods, sugar and processed red meat," Bayes said.

"There are lots of reasons why scientifically we think food affects mood. For example, around 90 per cent of serotonin, a chemical that helps us feel happy, is made in our gut by our gut microbes. There is

emerging evidence that these microbes can communicate to the brain via the vagus nerve, in what is called the gut-brain axis.

"To have beneficial microbes, we need to feed them fibre, which is found in legumes, fruits and vegetables," she said.

Roughly 30 per cent of depressed patients fail to adequately respond to standard treatments for major depressive disorder such as cognitive behaviour therapy and anti-depressant medications.

"Nearly all our participants stayed with the program, and many were keen to continue the diet once the study ended, which shows how effective, tolerable and worthwhile they found the intervention." *Source: ANI*



Monkeypox virus could become entrenched as new STD in the US

The spread of monkeypox in the US could represent the dawn of a new sexually transmitted disease, though some health officials say the virus that causes pimple-like bumps might yet be contained before it gets firmly established.

Experts don't agree on the likely path of the disease, with some fearing that it is becoming so widespread that it is on the verge of becoming an entrenched STD—like gonorrhoea, herpes and HIV.

But no one's really sure, and some say testing and vaccines can still stop the outbreak from taking root.

So far, more than 2,800 US cases have been reported as part of an international outbreak that emerged two months ago. About 99% have been men who reported having sex with other men, health officials say.

Health officials are not sure how fast the virus has spread. They have only limited information about people who have been diagnosed, and they don't know how many infected people might be spreading it unknowingly.

They also don't know how well vaccines and treatments are working. One impediment: Federal health officials do not have the authority to collect and connect data on who has been infected and who has been vaccinated.

With such huge question marks, predictions about how big the US outbreak will get this summer vary widely, from 13,000 to perhaps more than 10 times that number.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the government's response is growing stronger every day and vaccine supplies will soon surge.

"I think we still have an opportunity to contain this," Walensky told The Associated Press.

Monkeypox is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals. It does not usually spread easily among people.

Sunlight may trigger hormone that makes men hungrier, study suggests

Summer sunshine can leave us feeling hot, sweaty and a bit burnt – but it may also make men hungrier, by triggering the release of an appetite-boosting hormone from fat stores in their skin, data suggests.

The study, which was published in the journal Nature Metabolism, adds to growing evidence that the effects of sun exposure may be more complex than first thought.

Excessive exposure is well known to increase the risk of skin cancer, but recent studies have suggested moderate exposure may increase life expectancy, on average, by helping to protect against cardiovascular disease and other causes of death. One possibility is that it lowers blood pressure through the release of nitric oxide from the skin, a process that causes blood vessels to relax. Other scientists have attributed the health benefits of sunlight to vitamin D production.

Wondering whether food consumption could also provide some clues, Carmit Levy, a professor at Tel Aviv University's department of human molecular

genetics and biochemistry, and his colleagues analysed data from 3,000 participants who were enrolled in a national nutrition survey. The researchers found men but not women increased their food intake during the summer months. The effect was not huge – equivalent to eating an extra 300 calories a day – but over time this could be enough to cause weight gain.

To investigate further, they exposed male and female volunteers to 25 minutes of midday sunlight on a clear day, and found it triggered an increase in levels of the appetite-boosting hormone ghrelin in the men's blood but not in women's.

Experiments in mice similarly found that when males were exposed to UVB rays, they ate more, were more motivated to search for food and had increased levels of ghrelin in their blood. No such change was seen in female mice.

The trigger for ghrelin release appeared to be DNA damage in skin cells. Oestrogen blocked this effect, which may be why sunlight did not affect females in the same way. *Source: Theguardian.com*

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Facebook parent Meta posts first ever revenue drop

Facebook parent Meta posted its first-ever revenue drop in the June 2022 quarter (Q2 2022). As per its second quarter 2022 results report, the total revenue dropped by 1 per cent YoY to \$28.8 billion, and the company predicts a further revenue fall in the third quarter (July to September) to roughly \$26 billion. In the last quarter, the overall profit of Meta also fell 36 per cent to \$6.7 billion. Reality Labs, Meta's division that is working on Mark Zuckerberg's metaverse dreams, lost nearly \$2.8 billion in the quarter. The fall in revenue is significant as Meta (erstwhile Facebook) sailed through multiple COVID-19 waves when the world was in fear of economic uncertainties. In Q2 2022, the company posted total revenue of \$18.6 billion, while the total revenue in the second quarter of last year was \$29 billion. The company's revenue also grew annually both in 2020 and 2021.

However, amid crumbling revenue, Meta said it managed to grow daily active users (DAU) margin by 3 per cent year-over-year basis. The DAU in June was 1.97 billion on average. It is still a good sign for the company as analysts feared a further drop since its DAU shrunk for the first time last year.

First rock, soil samples from Mars to arrive on Earth in 2033

As the Perseverance rover continues to explore the cratered world of Mars, the first samples from the Red Planet will arrive on earth in 2033. Nasa has reassessed its sample return campaign and said that it has refined the architecture to return the scientifically selected samples.

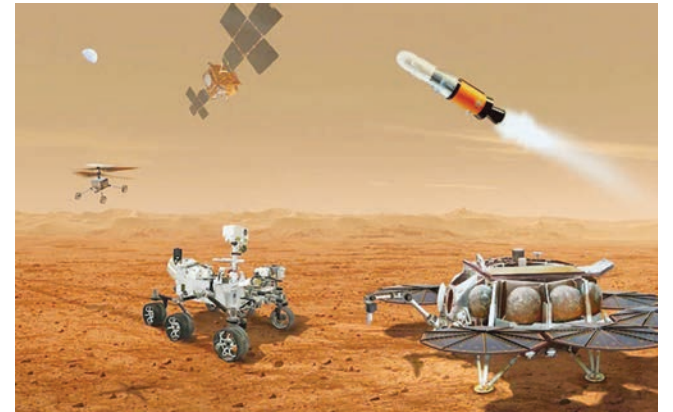
As humans push for an extensive voyage beyond Earth's orbit, Mars is the first destination and while rovers and orbiters explore this unique world, it will be critical to get an in-hand experience to understand what happened on the planet and did life ever exist on it? In a bid to understand science more clearly, rock and soil samples are needed.

The Perseverance rover is currently collecting these samples from the Jazero crater and storing them for future missions to retrieve them. "The conceptual design phase is when every facet of a mission plan gets put under a microscope. There are some significant and advantageous changes to the plan, which can be directly attributed to Perseverance's recent successes at Jazero and the amazing performance of our Mars helicopter," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of Nasa said.

A MEGA MISSION

The mission will see several robots and helicopters teaming up to gather the samples and lift it off from the surface of the Red Planet, pushing it on a trajectory to Earth. Perseverance will be the primary means of transporting samples to the Sample Retrieval Lander carrying the Mars Ascent Vehicle and ESA's Sample Transfer Arm.

Initially, Nasa had announced plans to include a Sample Fetch Rover or its associated second lander to collect the soil from Perseverance. Now it has decided to go ahead with two sample recovery helicopters, based on the design of the Ingenuity helicopter that has performed exceptionally well in the Martian environment.



This illustration shows a concept for multiple robots that would team up to ferry to Earth samples collected from the Mars surface by Nasa's Mars Perseverance rover.

(Photo: Nasa)

With the conceptual stage complete, scientists and engineers will begin the design phase for the multi-robot mission in October, which will go on for a year. Nasa said that with planned launch dates for the Earth Return Orbiter and Sample Retrieval Lander in fall 2027 and summer 2028, respectively, the samples are expected to arrive on Earth in 2033.

Nasa is collaborating with the European Space Agency (ESA) on the sample return campaign. ESA will be responsible for developing the sample transfer arm along with the Earth Return Orbiter.

"ESA is continuing at full speed the development of both the Earth Return Orbiter that will make the historic round-trip from Earth to Mars and back again; and the Sample Transfer Arm that will robotically place the sample tubes aboard the Orbiting Sample Container before its launch from the surface of the Red Planet," David Parker, ESA director of Human and Robotic Exploration said. Source: India Today

iPhone 14 likely facing QC issues over rear camera lens: Report

As Apple is prepping up to launch its next-generation iPhones, a new report said that the tech giant's upcoming smartphone iPhone 14 is allegedly facing quality control issues over rear camera lens cracking.

Analyst Ming-Chi Kuo said the tech giant is facing quality issues with the rear iPhone 14 camera lens.

"One more quality issue. My latest survey indicates one of Genius's iPhone 14 rear lenses likely suffered from coating-crack quality issues. Apple had transferred about 10 million lens orders to Largan from Genius to avoid affecting iPhone 14 shipments," the analyst wrote on Twitter.

However, Kuo mentioned that the impact on iPhone 14 shipments can almost be ignored because Taiwan-based Largan can fill the supply gap well.

"The lens coating-crack problem should be addressed within 1-2 months based on experience. But if Genius can't handle the issue, Largan will continue to receive more orders," he added.

Kuo recently said that some iPhone 14 components, such as display panels, are facing supply chain issues, but the analyst believed the issues will have a limited impact on the upcoming mass production of iPhone 14 models, which are expected to be announced in September.

The lineup is expected to include the 6.1-inch iPhone 14, 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Max, 6.1-inch iPhone 14 Pro, and 6.7-inch iPhone 14 Pro Max. However, the tech giant might discontinue the 5.4-inch iPhone mini this year. Source: IANS



Digital twin: In the future, virtual versions of ourselves could predict our behaviour

A digital twin is a copy of a person, product or process that is created using data. This might sound like science fiction, but some have claimed that you will likely have a digital double within the next decade. As a copy of a person, a digital twin would — ideally — make the same decisions that you would make if you were presented with the same materials. This might seem like yet another speculative claim by futurists. But it is much more possible than people might like to believe. While we might tend to assume that we are special and unique, with a sufficient amount of information, artificial intelligence (AI) can make many inferences about our personalities, social behaviour and purchasing decisions. The era of big data means that vast quantities of information (called "data lakes") are collected about your overt attitudes and preferences as well as behavioural traces that you leave behind.

Equally jarring is the extent to which organizations collect our data. In 2019, the Walt Disney Company acquired Hulu, a company that journalists and advocates pointed out had a questionable record when it came to data collection. Seemingly benign phone applications — like ones used for ordering coffee — can collect vast quantities of from users every few minutes. The Cambridge Analytica scandal illustrates these concerns, with users and regulators concerned about the prospects of someone being able to identify, predict and shift their behaviour. Source: PTI





ROSHNI NADAR REMAINS RICHEST INDIAN WOMAN

HCL Technologies' chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra has retained her position as the richest woman in India, with a 54% jump in her networth to Rs 84,330 crore in 2021. Falguni Nayar, who quit her investment banking career to start the beauty focused brand Nykaa around a decade ago, has emerged as the richest self-made woman with a networth of Rs 57,520 crore, as per the Kotak Private Banking-Hurun list published on Wednesday, July 27. Nayar, who is 59, saw a 963 per cent increase in her wealth during the year and is also the second richest woman overall, trailing the 40-year-old Malhotra, the daughter of HCL Technologies' founder Shiv Nadar, as per the report.

Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw witnessed a 21 per cent decline in her fortune and has moved down one rank to be the third richest woman in the country with a wealth of Rs 29,030 crore, it said.

5G SPECTRUM: RS 1.49 LAKH CR BIDS AFTER 16 ROUNDS

The auction of 5G spectrum for telephony services will stretch to the fourth day after 16 rounds of bidding fetched bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore. Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on July 28 said 16 rounds of bidding have been completed in three days and the auction will continue for another day. Bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore have been received at the end of the third day, he said. This is marginally higher than Rs 1,49,454 crore-worth bids received at the end of the ninth round on Wednesday, the second day of the auction. The minister said industry is committed to taking services to rural areas.

GOVT EXTENDS RS 1.64 LAKH CRORE LIFELINE TO BSNL

The government on July 27 approved a Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL, comprising of converting dues into equity, financial support and allocation of spectrum in a bid to turn around the loss-making telecom PSU. Also, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) - the firm that created a fibre network called BharatNet - will be merged with BSNL to boost its infrastructure and support telephony services, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a news conference. "We are committed to strengthening BSNL," he said. Telecom is a strategic sector where the government is committed to supporting BSNL.

Amazon, Apple beat expectations in gloomy earnings season

Tech giants Amazon and Apple delivered forecast-topping results Thursday, offering some reassurance to an earnings period weighed down by inflation, economic turmoil and war.

A crowded period of results from the world's biggest tech firms has been marked by misses and uncertainty -- making it clear that the pandemic-era boom has tipped toward downturn.

Amazon beat sales estimates to reach \$121 billion in the quarter, and revenue climbed at its cloud-computing platform Amazon Web Services, which brought in \$5.7 billion. The market responded with a 12-percent jump in after-hours trading.

For Apple, product sales tallied \$63.4 billion in a drop from the same period a year earlier, but the dip was more than made up for by services revenue that climbed to \$19.6 billion, earnings figures showed.

"Our June quarter results continued to demonstrate our ability to manage our business effectively despite the challenging operating environment," Luca Maestri, Apple's CFO, said in a statement.

Recession fears, a strong dollar, shrinking advertising budgets and inflation -- headwinds are coming from every direction at the moment.

"Amazon managed pretty well through the second quarter despite tough macro conditions and added costs weighing on its bottom line," said analyst Andrew Lipsman.

Microsoft and Facebook-owner Meta both cited the harm to their business from a strong dollar: when America's currency gains too much value, it can make products more expensive overseas or eat away at a beneficial exchange rate.

The social media giant pointed to the greenback's role in the firm's first year-on-year revenue decline since going public in 2012.

Not much good news

In addition to the generally bumpy economic times, firms such as Netflix and Meta are fighting fierce competition from rivals -- and both reported losing some ground.

Meta lost about two million monthly users between quarters, and Netflix shed nearly a million paying customers, which was less than expected.

Yet Netflix stock is up about a percent in the past five days, with investors potentially hopeful after the firm projected a coming rebound in subscribers.

Markets seemed similarly assuaged despite Google parent



Alphabet missing on revenue and profit.

The Silicon Valley giant's bad news was not unexpected, as the flow of online ad dollars that fuels the company's fortunes has slowed as inflation, war and other troubles vex the overall economy.

"Still, with its tremendous market share in search advertising, Google is relatively well positioned to weather the rough waters that lie ahead," said analyst Evelyn Mitchell.

As advertisers have tightened their belts, and Apple's privacy changes have bitten into firms' sales of costly but highly targeted ads, the damage was uneven.

Meta's income has taken a beating, and with a share price that has lost about half its value since February, it's clear that investors are still wary about the company's future.

Analysts noted Meta's reported 14 percent drop in average price per ad was a steep change coming on top of the first quarter, when ad prices dipped 8 percent.

"The good news, if we can call it that, is that its competitors in digital advertising are also experiencing a slowdown," said analyst Debra Aho Williamson.

Snapchat's parent firm, for example, reported that its loss in the recently ended quarter nearly tripled to \$422 million, despite revenue increasing 13 percent under "more challenging" conditions than expected.

"We are not satisfied with the results we are delivering, regardless of the current headwinds," California-based Snap said in a letter to investors last week.

Source: AFP

Jack Ma plans to cede control of China's Ant Group

HONG KONG/BEIJING (TIP)

Billionaire Jack Ma plans to cede control of Ant Group, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported on Thursday, July 28, after a regulatory crackdown that scuppered its US\$37 billion (\$51 billion) initial public offering (IPO) in 2020 and led to a forced restructuring.

While Ma owns only a 10 per cent stake in Ant, an affiliate of Alibaba Group Holding, he exercises control over the company through related entities, according to Ant's IPO prospectus filed with the exchanges in 2020.

Hangzhou Yunbo, an investment vehicle for Ma, has control over two other entities that own a combined 50.5 per cent stake of Ant, the prospectus showed.

The newspaper said, citing unnamed sources, that Ma could cede control by transferring some of his voting power to Ant officials including chief



executive Eric Jing.

Ant has informed regulators of Ma's intention as it prepares to restructure into a financial holding company, the report said, adding that regulators did not demand the change but have given their blessing.

In April last year, Reuters reported that Ant was exploring options for Ma

to divest his stake in Ant and give up control.

The discussions at the time came amid a revamp of Ant and a broader state clampdown on China's technology sector that was set in motion after Mr Ma's public criticism of regulators in a speech in October 2020.

Ant's IPO, which would have been the world's largest, was derailed days after the speech and Ma's sprawling empire has been under regulatory scrutiny and going through a restructuring since then.

Ant operates the world's largest and China's ubiquitous mobile payment app, Alipay, which has more than one billion users.

Once outspoken, Ma has kept an extremely low public profile as regulators reined in the country's tech giants after years of a laissez-faire approach that drove breakneck growth.

Source: Reuters

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 7, 2022



Aries

Ganesha says, you'll work tirelessly this week to fulfill the task at hand on time. You could encounter setbacks and letdowns at employment this week. You'll want to be more cautious with your itinerary this week since this will affect you. Your economic circumstances will get better, and your salary will go up in the latter half of the week. This week is yours to work on your house. Your bosses will be amazed by your novel ideas, which will make them take notice of you right away. Your connection will blossom and all of your commitment issues with your partner will be overcome. Encourage your friends and family. Take advantage of your current good condition and everything that life has to provide.



Taurus

You're going to have a great week this week. It is very probable that revenues will grow. This week, those who plan to participate in the financial exchange need to proceed with utmost prudence. Only make investments after seeking advice from someone with more expertise than you. Don't miss up on opportunities that will unquestionably be to your advantage. Avoid going since the expenditures will be more than you expected. Make sure you adhere to your commitments. You must be engaged if you want to maintain your commitments. Things are probably going to stay gloomy in your love life. Developing new relationships can help you progress in your career. You are an understanding person who is ready to pardon others. You should gradually include more sleep into your schedule this week.



Gemini

This week you need to take it easy since you really deserve a vacation. Your tasks will be performed with the utmost care this week. You'll get credit for the work you put in. Utilize your brain wisely at work so that you may effectively utilize your innovative thoughts. You need to show off your skills to people. Even when it seems like everything is going your direction, you still need to deal with your issues. Continue to deliver exceptional outcomes while upholding your excellent expectations. It's a wonderful idea to consider how close you are to your family this week. Maintain all of your great recollections close at hand. This week, those with hypertension need to be particularly careful about their wellness.



Cancer

You have had a week of unanticipated joy thanks to life. Everything is more likely to go nicely when you achieve your aims. You must establish the proper objectives if you want to accomplish your objectives. It's a fantastic week to be a finance sector employee right now. You'll be inspired to put forth more effort. You may expect many of nice discoveries this week. You'll get financial success from a number of unanticipated avenues. Buying will yield quick profits for you. Now is not the responsibility to take out mortgages, it is not a good decision. This week, keep your insulin under control. Yoga is a fantastic exercise to stay in shape. Your spouse is pretty tolerant of you when it comes to relationships. Therefore, avoid taking your partner for granted.



Leo

This week, you'll have a nice attitude. Your small, beautiful deeds of compassion have touched the hearts of many people. If given the opportunity, you would be successful. Your ability to analyze deductively will help you this week. This week, you will react swiftly and wisely to situations. There's a high probability that someone you meet this week will end up being your companion. You're going to have a busy week this week. Someone closest to you can surprise you in a way that makes you feel sick. Your physical well-being will improve. Keep a simple diet. Keep a positive view of life. Showcase your skills and use them effectively when called upon.



Virgo

This week, you seem to have lots of enthusiasm. You will certainly have a good week even before you will finish all of your important tasks. Your magnetism will enthrall everyone this week. Long-term financial gain will result from wise real estate acquisitions. If you're considering expanding your company, this week can be the time when you happen upon the best ideas. Consult a qualified economic advisor for assistance on how to keep your investment protected and protected. Have fun this week by doing what you like. Give yourself some breathing room and patience. You must make sure that you look after yourself. You and your partner might not always concur on things.



Libra

Although the first half of the week was hard and taxing, the second half will compensate you for your accomplishments Dear Libra. This week, you'll be able to have a number of your

questions answered. If you're relocating your home or company, this week is also good for you. This week, using fresh approaches to do your responsibilities won't work. Be not disheartened; you will soon return to prosperity. Professional travel is permitted. Purchasing gold and other opulent goods will pay off. Before making a house purchase, give it some serious thought, but you can move your office. This week, you could experience a little anxiety and lightheadedness.



Scorpio

You're probably going to be travelling a lot this week. Your original thinking will inspire you to learn new abilities this week that you'll find useful later. Someone will attempt to direct negative energies at your house. You must develop self-assurance and keep in mind that Lord has given you a plenty of power. Avoiding going out at evening and remain aside from noisy, crowded locations this week. At employment, exercise extra caution since someone will try to sway you and will pick on you. Some individuals could not like you because you have talent and creative ability. This week is the ideal moment to reveal to your partner your intellectual side because Mercury is on your side.



Sagittarius

This week, you'll be the star of the show at both a corporate fronts and a family reunion. There will be some significant, positive developments domestically. When it comes to past choices, try not to be too rigid. You are more likely to lose track of time and overlook important facts when you make generalizations about the situation. Try to confirm the information before taking anyone's instructions. Someone is privately in love with you and will come out to you at the right time. Substantial purchases are wise for you to make this week. Advance because you will be surrounded by money and be able to handle everything that catches your eye.



Capricorn

This coming week is going to be fantastic. This week, you're going to do anything completely new. Have pleasure and enjoy yourself because you will learn anything different that you will love. In terms of administrative issues, you'll also be quite successful. This week, anything will be able to

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 7, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 1 : Ganesha says you strike the ideal balance between religion and reason. You'll spend a lot of time travelling in the upcoming year. You will be fascinated by both music and literature, and you can find tranquility through listening to music. It makes you feel good to support those who are being oppressed. You will have numerous possibilities to help the less fortunate in the upcoming year. The subject of your choice will be available for study, and you will be able to delve deeply into it. You will succeed in your academic subject as a result of this. You are obsessed with upholding the law and order.

AUGUST 2 : Ganesha says your character and optimistic outlook on life will enable you to surround yourself with a large number of friends. The proximity to a body of water will benefit you financially in the upcoming year. Try to land a job in a city or town close to a river or the ocean. Those of you who are single can anticipate getting married. You have a strong sense of independence and self-assurance. In the coming year, you will be moving among intelligent people. You will gain from this in every way. After your marriage, you'll prosper and succeed.

AUGUST 3 : Ganesha says your friends will notice your modesty and humility and come to you for assistance and guidance. However, you occasionally have a tendency to become restless and make rash decisions as a result. It only becomes worse as a result. You don't enjoy using your

authority because you are by nature modest and meek. However, you also detest people meddling in your private affairs. You value privacy and prefer being alone. In the upcoming year, your passion for reading and thirst for information will be assets. You will be able to take use of this strong power of observation that will enable you to notice minute activities around you.

AUGUST 4 : Ganesha says you will experience many events in the upcoming year, but it is best not to overreact to insignificant issues. White, blue, purple, and cream are your lucky colors. You are naturally a studious person, and you are happiest when you are surrounded by literature. You will be willing to defy convention and make decisions that you believe are best in matters of love. Those who will get married this year should anticipate a happy and prosperous life when they tie the knot. Your dedication and hard work will be noticed by your managers, and you will probably be rewarded for your efforts. You are naturally good at teaching. You enjoy doing it professionally and find fulfillment in it.

AUGUST 5 : Ganesha says in the upcoming year, you can anticipate changes on both the professional and domestic fronts. Through speculating, some of you might suffer financial loss. It is advised that you only lend money when you are certain that you will receive it back. In the year ahead, you'll be able to make your own decisions because of your

independence. You are serious by nature, and you value some level of seclusion in your life. You prefer spending time by yourself working on your own projects. The suffering of individuals who are physically disabled is intolerable. You'll be spending a lot of time in the upcoming year working as a social worker for hospitals and nonprofit organizations.

AUGUST 6 : Ganesha says although you have a practical outlook and take your obligations seriously, you need to rein in your tendency to act stubborn and envious at times. Your spouse gives you love and affection, and your kids excel and make you proud. Concern may arise if an elderly relative of yours has a sudden decline in health. Take extra care when driving at night. You have prospects to make sizable investments in the upcoming year, not just in speculative industries but also in real estate.

AUGUST 7 : Ganesha says in the coming year, your self-assurance will help you become well-liked and successful. Family and friends will turn to you for guidance and assistance. The domestic front will be filled with a lot of joy and love, especially for your kids. Shades like yellow, violet, purple, and green are considered lucky for you. Some of you will probably inherit property in the upcoming year, especially from your father's side. In the coming year, your career will include a lot of travel. You enjoy developing your spiritual abilities and using them to help oppressed groups of people.

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

lower your enthusiasm. Your dedication and diligence will help you accomplish some of your business goals. You'll have the confidence to tackle any problem this week. This week, the bulk of problems that newlywed partners confront will be resolved. You'll like it a lot with your partner. Be sure to have a bottle of water before every meal. Hydration is necessary for the efficient operation of every system in your body.



Aquarius

This week, you won't experience any economic issues. You will carry out your everyday activities and finish all of your responsibilities. To demonstrate your merit, you will be concentrating on your upcoming assignments. It's a great time to start a corporate venture if you desire to. You can neglect your wellness as a result of your busy routine. Unresolved concerns will be resolved this week. Take benefit of these incredible opportunities while you can since they don't come knocking on your doorway every week. Those of you who are wedded should take care not to aggravate your partner in any way, even though this can lead to a dispute. For every 60 minutes you sit, get up and take a quick five-minute stroll.



Pisces

You'll be focusing on all the good things in your existence this week. You'll be more inclined to engage in unusual hobbies. You'll lend

an elderly person a necessary support this week. You will receive a fantastic proposal this week and be overjoyed by it. This week can be the week you take the initial move toward starting a new

company, which is something you've been thinking about. All the knowledge you need will be found. Your colleagues will appreciate you in the workplace. This week you'll have some challenges

at home, so settle aside and deal through them. The afternoons will be spent with your special someone. You want to eliminate as many this week as you can.

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Hariyali Teej is a famous festival of Hindus. This festival is celebrated on Tertiya of Shukla Paksha of Shravan month. Hindu women fast on this day. It is especially celebrated in all the cities of northern India. Swings occur from house to house. The group of women sings folk songs. Beautiful dishes, gunjia, ghevar, fanny etc. are sent to Sindhara in Savan. It is of special importance to apply henna on this Teej. Women also put feet on the feet, which is considered a sign of Married. It is believed that Shiva and Parvati had a reunion on this day. On this day Hindu women worship Lord Shiva and Parvati. This day is also known as Chhoti Teej and Shravan Teej.

It is said that Lord Shiva gave this blessing at the behest of Goddess Parvati ji that if a virgin girl keeps this fast, then the obstacles in her marriage will be removed. On this day Lord Shiva granted Goddess Parvati the boon to accept her as his wife.

On this day, Rajputs wear red colored clothes in Rajasthan. The ride of Mata Parvati is taken out. During the reign of King Suraj Mal, Pathan kidnapped some women and took them on this day. Whom Raja Surajmal rescued and sacrificed himself. From the same day, the practice of wrestling started here.

Hariyali Teej worship method

On this day, women fast and listen to the story of Teeri Hariyali. Lord Shiva and Parvati are worshiped. Married women observe this fast because their husbands should be long and their family should have happiness.

Hariyali Teej Vrat Katha

It is believed that this story was told by Lord Shiva to remind Parvati ji about her past birth. The story goes like this--

Shiva says: O Parvati. A long time ago you did extreme tenacity on the Himalayas to get me as a groom. During this time you had to spend the day chewing dried leaves after giving up food and water. You meditated continuously, regardless of the weather. Seeing this situation of yours, your father was very sad and angry. In such a situation Naradji came to your house.

When your father asked him the reason for his arrival, Naradji said - "O Giriraj! I have come here after sending Lord Vishnu. Pleased with your girl's severe penance, he wants to marry her. I want to know your opinion about this." On hearing Naradji, Parvataraj said with great pleasure- O Naradji. If Lord Vishnu himself wants to marry my daughter, then nothing could be more important. I am ready for this marriage.

Shivji says to Parvati ji, "Naradji, after getting the approval of your father, went to Vishnu and told this good news. But when you came to know about this marriage, you were very sad. Husband had agreed.

You told your distraught mind to your friend. He suggested to your friend that she will hide you by taking you to a dense forest and do the meditation to get Shiva there. After this, your father was very worried and sad because he could not find you at home. He started thinking what would happen if Vishnu brought a procession and you did not get it at home. They made you search the earth, but you could not be found.

You were absorbed in my worship inside a cave in the forest. You worshiped me on Bhadrapad III Shukla by constructing a Shiva lingam from the sand, which pleased me and I fulfilled your desire. After this you told your father that 'Father, I have spent a long time of my life in the penance of Lord Shiva. And Lord Shiva has accepted me, pleased with my penance. Now I will follow you on the same condition that you will marry me with Lord Shiva only. "Parvat Raj accepted your wish and took you back home. After some time he married us with full legal practice."

Lord Shiva then told that - "O Parvati! As a result of the fast you worshiped on Bhadrapad Shukla Tertiya by worshiping me, the marriage of both of us was possible. The significance of this fast is that I give the desired fruit to every woman who observes this fast with full devotion. Lord Shiva told Parvati ji that any woman who performs this fast with full devotion will get a steady honeymoon like you.

Hariyali Teej



Important information

Shravan Shukla Teej, Hariyali Teej

Sunday, 31 July 2022

Tritiya Date Start - 31 July 2022 at 02:59 AM

Tritiya Date Ends - 01 August 2022 at 04:18 AM

Rituals of Hariyali Teej

On the day of Hariyali teej, married women are presented with Shringara items like traditional dresses, bangles, henna, sindoor and sweets to name a few, by their respective in-laws.

The women particularly dress up in green color lehengas or saris. These Shringara items are symbolic of marriage and hold great significance for married women. Also wearing them is considered to be auspicious. As per the Hindu traditions it is believed that by wearing all the 16 adornments a woman can keep her husband protected from all evils. This custom of gifting 'Sindhara' is particularly significant for the newlyweds. As a part of the ritual, women then go to their parent's house for celebrating Hariyali Teej. Delicious food items are prepared and enjoyed by all.

The tradition of applying henna on the hands and feet is most significant during Hariyali Teej. The festival of Shingara Teej is incomplete without performing this tradition. It is a popular belief that the color of Mehendi on the hands tells about the love showered by husbands. Darker the color of the henna on the hand, the more she will be loved by her fiancé or husband. In some places, women also write the name of their husband or beloved with henna on their hands.

The tradition of Vat Vriksha also forms an important part of the 'Shravani teej'. In most of the places, swings are hung on the branches of Banyan tree or Vat Vriksha and even in houses. Women spend the day swinging along with dancing and singing with other women. On the day of Hariyali Teej women are given all the liberty for enjoyment and merry making. In Hindu mythology the Banyan tree is help sacred and its hanging branches reflect knowledge. Therefore worshipping the Vat Vriksha on the occasion of Hariyali Teej is also considered auspicious.

On the day of Hariyali Teej, women also observe

strict fast known as 'Nirjala Vrat', where they are not allowed to even drink water for the whole day. The Hariyali Teej vrat can be kept both by married and unmarried women. The fast is broken later after worshipping the moon. On this day women worship Teej Mata (Goddess Parvati) for the prosperity and well-being of their husbands. The idols of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are worshipped and songs are sung in their honour.

The festival of Hariyali Teej celebrates the nuptial bond of marriage. The observance of this festival by Indian women signifies their devotion towards their respective families and how they are always prepared to protect them from all the evils. The celebrations of Hariyali Teej are very elaborate in all the Krishna Mandirs in Vridavan. Swings are laid for their deity and this ceremony is known as 'Jhullan Leela'.

Religious hymes and songs are chanted in all the mandirs and devotees celebrate this festival with complete excitement and enthusiasm. The idols of Lord Krishna and Radha are beautifully adorned with ornaments and after the celebrations; water is showered over the devotees to mark the arrival of monsoons.

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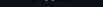
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Home to the mighty Brahmaputra, Assam is the gateway to northeast India (NE) with its main city Guwahati flaunting its one major railway station and an international airport. But unlike what many think, Guwahati is not the only place to visit in the mystic land of Assam. The biggest city and a commercial hub, Guwahati does have several tourist destinations but the entire length of Assam is filled with countless places to visit which will definitely compel you to prolong your stay in this part of the world.

Being the centre of trade in NE, Assam (particularly some towns) is an assembly point for people from all its neighbouring states. So apart from getting a glimpse of the microcosm of NE, a traveler can indulge in some wildlife adventures in Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park; pay a visit to world's largest river island Majuli and go for a heritage walk among the monuments of Sivasagar. Assam's cleanest town Tezpur is known for its association with some of the episodes from The Mahabharata. If you are looking for some spiritual solace, don't miss out on Hajo, an epitome of communal harmony, the Kamakhya shrine and the Vaishnavite monasteries of Barpeta.

JATINGA

Assam is often associated with mysteries and mythical tales and the hill village of Jatinga is just another page in the book of Assam's unsolved puzzles. A sleepy hamlet in the North Cachar Hills (a district in Assam), Jatinga is located at a distance of 9 kms from Haflong, the district headquarters. Take a bus ride to Haflong from Guwahati and from there on you can take local conveyance to reach this mystic village. The most bizarre phenomenon that Jatinga witnesses, is the annual mass bird suicide which is yet to find any conclusive scientific explanation. From September to November every year, hundreds of birds commit mass suicide just after sunset - they move down from the sky, plunging to their deaths by crashing into buildings and trees. One possible reason behind this is the theory that the birds get disoriented by the late monsoon season amid wind and dense fog.

HAFLONG

District headquarters of North Cachar Hills (a district in Assam), Haflong is one of the best hill stations in Assam. This beautiful town is located 310 km southeast of Guwahati and there is a regular flow of buses to Haflong. The best time to visit Haflong is from October to April and this is the time when the azure blue hills and the green rivers of this town are in their full glory. Thanks to the magnificent valleys, adventure sports options like gliding, paragliding and trekking can be availed by the adrenaline junkie. For the tranquility seeker, we suggest Haflong Lake, one of the largest natural water bodies of Assam. Spend a day sitting by its banks and indulging in occasional boat rides which will take away your travel fatigue.

DIGBOI

Located in the eastern most district of Tinsukia, Digboi is a historic place in Assam. This town is synonymous with crude oil and is called the Oil City. And there is a reason behind this title - this is the place where crude oil was discovered in late 19th century and in 1901, the town

Assam — the hidden gem of northeast



got its own oil refinery, which happens to be the oldest of its sort in Asia. The refinery is still in operation and a heritage chaser gets the chance to witness a living legend in action here.

But you will be utterly wrong if you think that oil is all that Digboi is in store. Around 45 km northwest of the town, there is the Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, famous for its rich coterie of flora and fauna. The 18-hole Digboi Golf Course is another place to visit that offers leisurely walks during the non-tournament season. Digboi War Cemetery will take you back to the dark days of World War II when the Japanese army stormed into Assam. In a nutshell, this town is a queer blend of nature, natural resources, wildlife and British era mementoes making it an unconventional tourist destination.

ASSAM TEA GARDENS

Who hasn't heard about the world renowned Assam tea? And what could be better than spending some time in one of the many tea estates in the state? The history of Assam tea goes back to the mid 19th century and the colonial charm is still prevalent in some of the oldest estates. The climate and land quality of Assam is not only conducive for tea plantation but also offer a dream run for travelers who are into eco-vacations. Not to mention tea lovers who are ready to go the extra mile to see their favourite beverage in its birth place! Tea gardens are found in almost all the districts of Assam but the ones in Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts stand apart from the rest. Both these places are easily accessible from Guwahati and we suggest you pay a visit to Gatoonga Tea Estate (Jorhat), Thengal Manor (Jorhat), Burra Sahib Bungalow (Jorhat) and Mancotta Tea Estate (Dibrugarh). These

gardens are situated off the city borders so we suggest you hire a cab and return to your hotel only late evenings. But in case you are willing to spend a night in the silence of the tea hedges, we recommend pre-booking in the commercial bungalows in and around the estates.

POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This wildlife paradise along the Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park form the holy trinity of one-horned rhinoceros preservation in Assam. Located in Morigaon district of the state, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is just 50 kms away from Guwahati. Home to an immense land mass of muddy marshland, which is conducive for rhino habitat, Pobitora attracts thousands of visitors annually. The constant effort of the park authority is visible from the fact that this place has the highest density of Indian rhinos in one location! Apart from rhinos, a safari in this forest will give you the opportunity to see Asiatic buffaloes, leopards, wild bears, civet cats and wild boars in their natural habitats. Birdwatchers will have a field day here with numerous species of resident and migratory birds, earning Pobitora the title of Bharatpur of the East! You can return to your hotel in Guwahati after a day of jungle safari as this place is well connected by the road network. But if the traveler in you is not satiated, you can pre-book rooms in the resorts outside the entrance of the sanctuary.

BARPETA

A sleepy town located around 90 kms northwest of Guwahati, Barpeta has a name of its own in Assam. Headquarters to the district by the same name, Barpeta has a distinct identity, thanks to its own dialect that is a tad different from the standard written and spoken Assamese. A queer fact of this place is that this town does not have a railway station. The nearest railway station is 22 kms away although this quiet town is well connected by bus and auto service. A major spiritual hub of Assam, Barpeta is famous for its Vaishnavite Thaan and Neo Vaishnavite Satras that are spread across adjoining areas like Sundoridiya and Patbaukhi. The major Satra is however located at the centre of the town, locally called the Kirtanghar. A peaceful place for prayer and meditation, Barpeta Satra is the epitome of tranquility and inner peace. If you happen to be here during the time of Holi, you will see this Satra in its full glory. Take time to explore the bell and brass metal industry of Barpeta or visit the firecracker workshops that are known for its unmatched quality. The town is graced by three rivers --- Chaulkhowa, Mora Nodi and Nakhanda?so the natural beauty of Barpeta is easy to imagine. Buses are in plenty from Guwahati and the stay option has also grown better in Barpeta in recent past.

contd from page 1

Commonwealth Games Begin in...

The Games, set to be the biggest and most expensive sporting event in the U.K. since the 2012 London Olympics, have had to deal with the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It comes almost 10 years to the day since the much-acclaimed opening ceremony of the London Games.

The opening act marked the beginning of 11 days of sporting action in the city, with 19 events over 15 venues in the West Midlands. Seven of those events will be contested in Birmingham, the UK's second-largest city with a population of 1.15 million.

More than 5000 athletes from 72 countries will compete in 280 events across 19 sports.

The U.K. is hosting the mega event for the third time in the last 20 years with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) unable to attract new bidders out of the 56 countries that make up the sporting body due to cost constraints.

Having stepped up to host the Games after South African city Durban pulled out because of financial constraints, the organizers went ahead without any change in the original schedule at a time when both the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and this year's Asian Games were postponed by a year owing to COVID-19.

As far as India is concerned, its double Olympic medalist badminton ace PV Sindhu and Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were chosen as the country's flag bearers for the opening ceremony. (With inputs from PTI)

Rishi Sunak pledges major crackdown...

"Sexual violence against women and girls should be treated as a national emergency until it has been defeated. As a father of two girls, I want them to be able to go for a walk in the evening or to a shop at night without any fear of threat," said Sunak, father to schoolgirls Anoushka and Krishna.

Sunak said as chancellor he boosted support for victims to record levels - quadruple those under Labour - and a ground-breaking new approach to policing which is helping drive up prosecutions of sex offenders.

"As the Prime Minister I will go further. I will make it a criminal offence if you harass women by taking intimate images of them without their consent and will introduce a major crackdown on grooming gangs," he said.

"We cannot let sensitivities over race stop us from catching dangerous criminals who prey on women and I will not stop until we live in a society where women and girls can go about their daily lives feeling safe and secure," he said.

The British Indian former finance minister, who is married to Akshata Murty - the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, said he would set up a new emergency taskforce working at the heart of the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) to launch an investigation into any town or city where significant grooming gang activity has been found and root it out.

If elected to succeed Boris Johnson at 10 Downing Street, Sunak promises to force suspects to explain why they have the phone numbers or contact details of children. They will also have to reveal their ethnicity or nationality for the purposes of crime prevention.

He also plans to launch a National Grooming Gangs Whistleblower Network to gather intelligence on gangs and create a dedicated database to help the police monitor suspects.

Besides, the focus will be on boosting training for frontline police to help them identify victims of grooming gangs and remind officers to serve without fear or favour, including the fear of being accused of racism.

"Rishi will give the Justice Secretary a final say over parole decisions for dangerous criminals. His government will personally review and consider denying parole for any gang member convicted of rape who still posed a risk after serving their sentence," reads his campaign statement.

"He will pass the Bill of Rights to help prevent any foreign perpetrators using the Human Rights Act to frustrate their deportation orders," it said.

The former frontline Cabinet minister said he would build on the support for victims he funded as Chancellor - 192 million pounds a year by 2024-25, including funding 1,000 sexual violence advisers - by extending mental health support for rape victims to be available to them for life.

He will also ensure all survivors of sexual violence have access to same-sex spaces, his campaign said. (Source: PTI)

US economy shrinks again sparking...

economy remains sound, noting that the unemployment rate remains at a low 3.6% and hiring has remained strong.

"If you look at our job market, consumer spending, business investment - we see signs of economic progress," Mr. Biden said Thursday, noting the historic post-pandemic gains the US experienced last year. "There's no doubt we expect growth to be slower than last year That's consistent with a transition to stable, steady growth and lower inflation."

This week, ahead of the data from the Commerce Department, he told reporters that the economy was "not going to be in a recession". That prompted his opponents in the Republican party to accuse the White House of trying to redefine the term.

"White House recession 'rebrand' won't reduce Americans' suffering," they said.

In the first three months of the year, the US economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.6%. At the time, economists attributed the decline in gross domestic product (GDP) to quirks in trade data.

But Thursday's report showed more marked slowdown, with growth weighed down by declines in the housing market, business investment and government spending. Consumer spending grew at a slower annual rate of 1%, as people spent more on healthcare, accommodation and dining out, but cut back on goods and groceries.

Harvard professor Jeffrey Frankel previously served on the National Bureau of Economic Research committee, the group of academics that is charged with making the official declaration of recession.

He said he did not think a recession started at the beginning of the year, noting the strong jobs growth. But after that he was less confident.

"Things have already slowed down, so I'm not saying that everything is great," he said. "Odds of a recession going forward are substantially higher than for a random year."

Inflation in the US hit 9.1% in June, the fastest pace of price appreciation in more than four decades.

On Wednesday, July 27, the US central bank responded to the problem with another unusually large increase to its key interest rate, its second 0.75 percentage point rise since it started raising rates in March.

By making borrowing costs more expensive, the Federal Reserve is hoping to reduce spending on items such as homes and cars, in theory easing some of the pressures putting up prices. But lower demand also means a decline in economic activity.

Recent reports have shown consumer confidence falling, the housing market slowing, and the first contraction in business activity since 2020.

The US stock market has sunk since the start of the year, and companies from social media giant Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, to carmaker General Motors have said they plan to slow hiring. Some other firms, especially in the property sector, have announced job cuts.

Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell said this week that he did not think the US economy was in recession, but he noted that some slowdown had begun, and more was likely to be necessary for inflation to return to more normal levels.

Just how severe the expected downturn will be remains a matter of heated debate.

"The last time we saw inflation this high, in the 1980s, we had a pretty deep recession," said Laura Veldkamp, finance professor at the Columbia Business School. She said policymakers have learned from that experience, raising hopes for a milder downturn.

But slowdowns in China and in Europe, which has been hit harder by the surge in energy prices from the war in Ukraine, raise risks from abroad. Nor is the US alone in raising interest rates.

"Many other countries have more serious problems... and they will very likely get hit and that could spill over to us," Prof Frankel said.

He said it was important to consider factors such as the labor market to determine the start of a recession, noting that some downturns, like the burst of the dot com bubble in 2001, would not qualify as a recession under the two-quarters-in-a-row-of-contraction rule, despite the many jobs lost.

Estimates of output in the large US economy often get updated significantly as more data comes in. Even in the UK, there are cases of recessions getting revised away.

Politics, he added, has nothing to do with it, at least historically.

"Every knowledgeable macroeconomist knows that recession in the US is not defined by a mechanical rule," Prof Frankel said. "But given the polarization of politics, there are people who are going to be cynical about it and assume the worst." (Source: BBC)

2 pilots killed in Mig-21 aircraft crash...

The IAF deeply regrets the loss of lives and stands firmly with the bereaved families," the IAF said in a statement.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari following the crash.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of two Air Warriors due to an accident of IAF's Mig-21 trainer aircraft near Barmer in Rajasthan," Mr. Singh said on Twitter.

"Their service to the nation will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of sadness," he said.

IAF has some 70 MiG 21 jets which are a 1960s design but the ones being flown are 30-35 years or more in age.

The IAF announced it intends to phase out the MiG 21 fleet by 2025. (With inputs from PTI)

Former Republicans and Democrats...

Party leaders will hold a series of events in two dozen cities this autumn to roll out its platform and attract support.

They will host an official launch in Houston on September 24 and the party's first national convention in a major US city next summer.

The new party is being formed by a merger of three political groups that have emerged in recent years as a reaction to America's increasingly polarized and gridlocked political system. The leaders cited a Gallup poll last year showing a record two-thirds of Americans believe a third party is needed.

The merger involves the Renew America Movement, formed in 2021 by dozens of former officials in the Republican administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W.

Bush and Donald Trump; the Forward Party, founded by Yang, who left the Democratic Party in 2021 and became an independent; and the Serve America Movement, a group of Democrats, Republicans and independents founded by former Republican congressman David Jolly.

Two pillars of the new party's platform are to "reinvigorate a fair, flourishing economy" and to "give Americans more choices in elections, more confidence in a government that works, and more say in our future."

The party, which is centrist, has no specific policies yet.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

RONALDO REQUESTS TO BE 'FREED' FROM THE FINAL YEAR OF HIS UNITED CONTRACT

Cristiano Ronaldo's transfer saga seems to have taken a fresh twist as the Manchester United ace has reportedly told the club that he wants to be released from the final year of his staggering £360,000-a-week contract. The Portugal forward missed United's tour of Thailand and Australia and hasn't started pre-season training with the club. But his future at Old Trafford looks bleak at the moment, with the five-time Ballon D'or winner wanting to play in the Champions League. United tried to convince Ronaldo following his return with his agent, Jorge Mendes, at the Carrington training base. But the discussions failed to convince the 37-year-old forward to remain at the club, and he wants to be freed from the final year of his contract, according to Daily Mail. Ronaldo on Thursday, July 28, trained for the first time with United since asking for a move. He was also in attendance for the Red Devils' 4-1 friendly win over Wrexham on Wednesday. In Ronaldo's absence, Anthony Martial has been playing up front and impressed on the preseason tour, scoring three goals in four games.

SEBASTIAN VETTEL TO RETIRE FROM F1 AFTER END OF SEASON

Four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel will retire at the end of the ongoing season, Aston Martin announced on Thursday. Vettel he lies third on the all-time list of Grand Prix winners, with 53 victories, behind only Lewis Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91). "Sebastian Vettel will retire from #F1 at the end of the 2022 season, bringing one of the greatest careers in the history of the sport to a close," Team Aston Martin wrote on its official Twitter account. In a statement from Vettel that was released on the official website of Team Aston Martin, Vettel thanked the F1 fraternity for continued support over his 15-year long career.

India beat West Indies by 119 runs in 3rd ODI, clinch series 3-0

PORT OF SPAIN (TIP)

India beat West Indies by 119 runs via DLS method in a rain-hit third ODI to complete a 3-0 whitewash against West Indies here.

Opting to bat, India posted 225 for three in 36 overs with opener Shubman Gill scoring an unbeaten run-a-ball 98 and skipper Shikhar Dhawan hitting a 74-ball 58.

Shreyas Iyer also cracked a 34-ball 44 in the match which was reduced to 36 runs after multiple rain interruptions.

Chasing a revised target of 257 in 35 overs, the Windies folded for 137 in 26 overs.

Brandon King (42) and Nicholas Pooran (42) top-scored for the hosts.

Mohammed Siraj (2/14), Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17) and Shardul Thakur (2/17) were among wickets for India.

Brief Scores: India: 225 for 3 in 36 overs (Shubman Gill 98; Hayden Walsh 2/57) West Indies: 137 all out in 26 overs (Brandon King 42, Nicholas Pooran 42; Yuzvendra Chahal 4/17).

Dhawan Becomes Fourth Indian Captain To Win All ODI Matches In Overseas Tour

Shikhar Dhawan, who led in the absence of Rohit Sharma in the ODI leg, achieved an incredible feat after handing the hosts a whitewash in the series. Dhawan became the fourth Indian captain to win all the ODI matches in an overseas tour.

Dhawan led the Indian team for the second time after he was named captain of a second-string side in Sri Lanka last year. The southpaw scored 168 runs in this series at 56 with 97 coming off his blade in the series opener.

"I feel the boys are young, but they played maturely. The way they handled themselves on the field, really proud them. Very good signs for us. I am quite pleased with my form, I have been playing this format for a long time. I was happy with the way I played that knock,



Shikhar Dhawan in action. Photo source: AFP

in the first ODI. And even today, happy with my performance," Dhawan said in the post-match presentation.

"The way all the boys responded, it was pretty amazing. We feel lucky to come here, we are thankful to the crowd. They make us more popular. I am proud of our bowling unit, they gave their hundred per cent. The way Siraj took those two wickets, and the way Shardul and others bowled," he added.

This was the third instance of a team clean sweeping an opponent twice in a calendar year. Earlier in February, India defeated West Indies with a similar margin in the three-match ODI series.

Zimbabwe is the first team to achieve this feat against Bangladesh in 2001. Five years later Bangladesh repeated the achievement against Kenya.

'Why not Dhawan for T20 WC?'

"We need him (Dhawan) if we talk about the 50-over World Cup. But why

not Shikhar Dhawan for the T20 World Cup, why not an experienced player, the sort of form that is being seen, the way his feet are moving, the fantastic fielding he is doing, Shikhar has presented an extremely strong case," the former India player told India News.

"Dhawan is a player who was down and out. There was not much talk about him a few months back, but it has been a fantastic turnaround because he is captaining in ODI cricket and the form he has caught, it seems he is a certainty," he added.

Former India wicketkeeper and national selector Saba Karim, however, wants Dhawan to partner Rohit Sharma in the ODI World Cup next year. "His performance has been exceptional if we talk about ODI cricket. Shikhar Dhawan showed that he has a lot of cricket left in him and presented a strong case for next year's World Cup," he said.

Neeraj Chopra ruled out of Commonwealth Games 2022 due to injury



Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first-ever silver medal in World Athletics Championships a couple of days ago, has been ruled out of the upcoming Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham due to an injury. Neeraj had complained of discomfort in his groin after the 88.13m throw that earned him the silver medal in the men's javelin final on Sunday.

IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said the reigning Olympic champion has been advised rest for one month. "Team India javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra had called me earlier today from the US to convey his inability to take part in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games owing to fitness concern," Mehta said.

"Following his participation in the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Mr. Chopra had had an MRI scan done on Monday and, based on it, he has been advised a month's rest by his medical team," Mehta added.

Chopra was expected to be India's flag bearer

at the Games, starting Thursday.

"We have a meeting later in the day to decide the new flag-bearer," India team's chef de mission Rajesh Bhandari told PTI.

This comes as a major blow to India's medal prospects as Neeraj was one of the favourites to bag gold in the men's javelin event. He had shot into world limelight after winning a gold in the previous event at the age of 20.

Neeraj has been rewriting record books ever since. In the 2020 Tokyo Games, he became independent India's first track and field athlete to win a gold medal. The Haryana-born javelin thrower then broke his own national record twice - With an 89.30m throw in the Paavo Nurmi games and then followed it up with an 89.94m throw in the Diamond League in Stockholm - almost a year after returning to professional competition.

The 24-year-old then became India's second medalist after the legendary Anju Bobby George and the first male athlete to win a medal at the Athletics World Championships.

History This Week July 29 to August 4

"HISTORY IS NOT THE PAST. IT IS THE PRESENT. WE CARRY OUR HISTORY WITH US. WE ARE OUR HISTORY. IF WE PRETEND OTHERWISE, WE ARE LITERALLY CRIMINALS." - JAMES BALDWIN

July 29

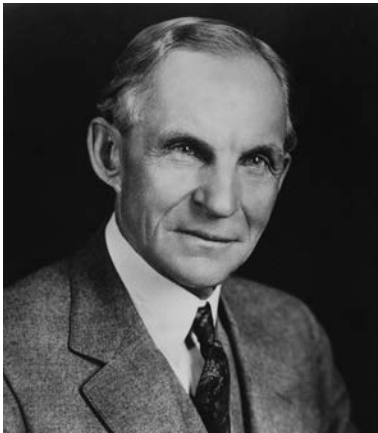


Benito Mussolini

Birthdays - Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) was born in Dovia, Italy. He ruled Italy from 1922-1943, first as prime minister and then as "Il Duce," the absolute dictator.

July 30

July 30, 1975 - Former Teamsters Union leader James Hoffa was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Michigan. His 13-year federal prison sentence had been commuted by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971. On December 8, 1982, seven years after his disappearance, an Oakland County judge declared Hoffa officially dead.



Henry Ford

Birthdays - Automotive pioneer Henry Ford (1863-1947) was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan. He developed an assembly-line production system and introduced a \$5-a-day wage for automotive workers. "History is bunk," he once said.

July 31

July 31, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Francis Salvador became the first Jew to die in the conflict. He had also been the first Jew elected to office in Colonial America, voted a member of the South Carolina Provincial Congress in January 1775.

July 31, 1790 - The U.S. Patent Office first opened its doors. The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont

for a new method of making pearlsh and potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

August 1

August 1, 1838 - Slavery was abolished in Jamaica. It had been introduced by Spanish settlers 300 years earlier in 1509.

August 1, 1944 - Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary. "[I] keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren't any other people living in the world." Three days later, Anne and her family were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Anne died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on March 15, 1945, at age 15.

August 1, 1944 - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets. The Nazis then sent eight divisions to battle the Poles, who had hoped for, but did not receive, assistance from the Allies. Two months later, the rebellion was quashed.



Francis Scott Key

Birthdays - Star-Spangled Banner author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the poem originally entitled Defense of Fort McHenry which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Birthdays - Moby Dick author



Herman Melville

Herman Melville (1819-1891) was born in New York.

August 2

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.

August 2, 1923 - President Warren G. Harding died suddenly in a hotel in San Francisco while on a Western speaking tour. His administration had been tainted by the Teapot Dome political scandal and his sudden death prompted many unfounded rumors. He was succeeded the next day by Calvin Coolidge.

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.

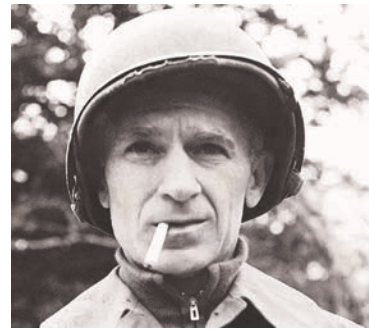
August 3

August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October



Christopher Columbus

12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.



Ernie Pyle

Birthdays - War correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.



Maggie Kuhn

Birthdays - Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995) was born in Buffalo, New York. After she was forced into mandatory retirement at age 65, she founded the Gray Panthers organization to fight age discrimination and succeeded in the banning of mandatory retirement in most professions.

August 4

August 4, 1962 - Apartheid



Nelson Mandela

opponent Nelson Mandela was arrested by security police in South Africa. He was then tried and sentenced to five years in prison. In 1964, he was placed on trial for sabotage, high treason and conspiracy to overthrow the government and was sentenced to life in prison. A worldwide campaign to free him began in the 1980s and resulted in his release on February 11, 1990, at age 71 after 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a nonracial democracy to South Africa. In April 1994, black South Africans voted for the first time in an election that brought Mandela the presidency of South Africa.

August 4, 1964 - Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were found murdered and buried in an earthen dam outside Philadelphia, Mississippi. They had disappeared on June 21 after being detained by Neshoba County police on charges of speeding. They were participating in the Mississippi Summer Project organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to increase black voter registration. When their car was found burned on June 23, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the FBI to search for the men.



Louis Armstrong

Birthdays - Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as "Satchmo," he appeared in many films and is best known for his renditions of It's a Wonderful World and Hello, Dolly.



A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda

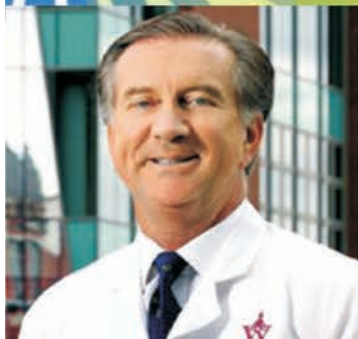


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Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



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