



The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark DEEPAVALI the Indian Festival of Lights on October 21, 2022.

Advertisements and articles for publication in the edition may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by October 17, 2022

For any questions, please call 646-247-9458.

Read in Diwali Special Edition October 21



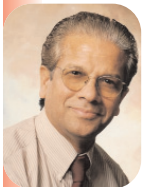
How the USPS Diwali Stamp was won

An interview with Ranju Batra whose relentless pursuit to have the Diwali Stamp finally yielded the desired result



Towards Building Better Relations with Central American Countries

An interview with Mr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, India's Ambassador to Guatemala



A World Without Childhood Blindness

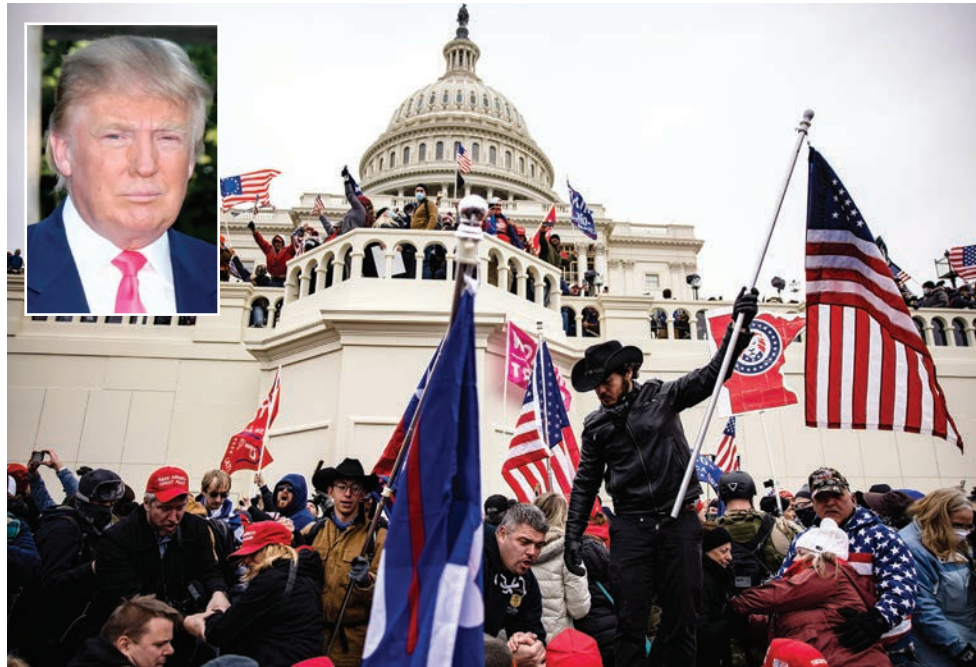
An interview with the Founder and President of the Eye Foundation of America



The Spirit of Diwali

Indrajit S Saluja

Jan. 6 panel subpoenas Trump for testimony on Capitol attack



Former U.S. President Donald Trump has been subpoenaed for his testimony about the 2021 Capitol attack
File photos

OCTOBER 13, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The House Jan. 6 committee has subpoenaed Donald Trump for his testimony about the 2021 Capitol attack

The House Jan. 6 committee voted Thursday, October 13, to subpoena Donald Trump for testimony before the panel over the 2021 attack at the Capitol.

The panel voted unanimously to compel the former President to appear.

"We must seek the testimony under oath of January 6th's central player," said Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the committee's vice chair.

The Jan. 6 panel is showing previously unseen footage of congressional leaders phoning officials for help during Capitol siege.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer can be seen talking to governors in neighboring Virginia and

CONTD ON PAGE 34

India, Pakistan clash over Kashmir at the UN



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj objected to Pakistan raising issues related to "India's internal affairs".

OCTOBER 13, 2022

UNITED NATIONS

(TIP): At the United Nations, India dismissed as "frivolous and pointless" an attempt by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue during the emergency debate on the Ukraine issue. Speaking after the UNGA had voted on

the issue, Pakistan's Permanent Representative Munir Akram said he looked forward to "similar concern and condemnation about the attempts by India to formalize" annexation of Kashmir.

India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj replied by stating that statements "by one delegation to misuse this forum and make frivolous and pointless remarks against my country deserve our collective contempt and sympathy for a mindset which repeatedly utters falsehoods."

CONTD ON PAGE 34

Elon Musk is under federal investigation, Twitter says in court filing



The filing did not say what the exact focus of the probes were and which federal authorities are conducting them

OCTOBER 14, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Elon Musk is being investigated by federal authorities over his conduct in his \$44 billion takeover deal for Twitter Inc., the social media company said in a court filing released on Thursday, October 13. While the filing said he was under investigations, it did not say what the exact focus of the probes were and which federal authorities are conducting them. Twitter, which sued Mr. Musk in July to force him to close the deal, said attorneys for the Tesla Inc CEO had claimed "investigative privilege" when refusing to hand over documents it had sought.

In late September, Mr. Musk's attorneys had provided a "privilege log" identifying documents to be withheld, Twitter said.

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Inside

New Jersey Marks Ground Zero for growing US Resistance to Hindutva

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U.N. demands Russia reverse Ukraine annexations, India abstains from vote

OCTOBER 13, 2022

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The U. N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Wednesday, October 12, to condemn Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of four Ukrainian regions and demand its immediate reversal, a sign of strong global opposition to the seven-month war and Moscow's attempt to grab its neighbor's territory.

The vote in the 193-member world body was 143-5 with 35 abstentions. It was the strongest support from the General Assembly for Ukraine and against Russia of the four resolutions it has approved since Russian troops invaded Ukraine on February 24.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



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Dangerous spiral: On Crimea bridge bombing and Russia's retaliation

ONLY A COMPROMISE THROUGH TALKS CAN END THE HOSTILITIES IN UKRAINE

The massive Russian bombing of cities across Ukraine that followed a blast at the Kerch Strait bridge linking the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula suggests that the Ukraine war is in a dangerous escalatory spiral with no way out in sight. Saturday's attack on the Russian-built bridge was cheered by many in Ukraine, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's adviser Mykhailo Podolyak calling it "just the beginning". But Russia retaliated the next day with its broadest missile strike on Ukraine since the war began on February 24, targeting military and civilian infrastructure. The missile attack has demonstrated not just Russia's firepower eight months into the war but also its little regard for civilian lives and infrastructure. It also points to the desperation of Russia whose forces have suffered a series of setbacks in recent weeks. But besides this show of strength punishing Ukraine's population, the attack has little strategic

value. It has not improved Russia's battlefield positions. And it has not weakened the resolve of Ukraine and its allies to continue to resist the Russian invasion either. On the contrary, the Group of Seven industrialized countries have vowed undeterred support for Ukraine "as long as it takes".

Typically, conflicts come to an end either with an outright victory by one side or through a negotiated settlement. Both possibilities look distant at this point in the Ukraine war. Russia wants to seize at least Ukraine's eastern and southern provinces. It has made some territorial gains but its advances have been stalled by the Ukrainian troops with backing from NATO. Ukraine wants to oust the Russian troops from all captured territories, including Crimea, which appears to be impractical. And Russian President Putin's unilateral decision to annex four Ukrainian provinces, in flagrant violation of

international laws and norms, has made the prospects for peace extremely difficult. But the alternative to talks is continuation of the conflict - Europe's most dangerous land war since the Second World War, with its human and economic costs and growing fears of a nuclear attack. That is the last thing the world wants now. Even in 1962, when Soviet nuclear missiles were in Cuba and U.S. warships had quarantined the Caribbean Sea, Kennedy and Khrushchev had talked to each other, exchanged letters and found a solution to the missile crisis that had pushed the world to the brink of a nuclear war. Mr. Putin should back off from his maximalist threats and offer some concrete proposals for talks. His rivals in the West should also work towards creating conditions for negotiations that could bring this conflict, which has already wreaked havoc, to an end.

(The Hindu)

Curbing hate speech

NEED TO AVOID PICK-AND-CHOOSE ACTION AGAINST OFFENDERS

The Supreme Court has acknowledged that a petitioner may be right in claiming that the 'entire atmosphere is getting sullied' due to hate speech against minorities, even as it has sought responses from the Uttarakhand and Delhi governments on action taken by the police against the speakers who spewed communal venom during Dharam Sansads last year. The court's remarks come weeks after it had stated that 'hate speech is like a layered thing, like killing someone, you can do it in multiple ways, slowly or otherwise.' The court had not only pulled up the Centre for remaining a mute spectator to the goings-on, but also emphasized the need for stricter regulations to monitor TV debates which often degenerated into platforms for hate speech.

Speeches that demonize certain groups often inflame communal passions, posing a threat to peace as well as law and order; what's worse, they undermine India's secular credentials. New Delhi had to do a lot of diplomatic firefighting after the controversial statements made by a couple of BJP leaders about the Prophet triggered a backlash from Islamic nations. The onus is on the political and religious leadership to restrain the hotheads and rabble-rousers and weed them out whenever they cross the line.

The prompt registration of an FIR against the Vishva Hindu Parishad and other organizers of an event in Delhi, where a BJP MP and other speakers

allegedly stoked communal tensions, conveys the stern message that nobody is above the law. Hate speech, however, is not always unleashed on minority communities. Sometimes, one minority group may use it to target another, or even direct it at the majority community. During a rally organized by the now-banned Popular Front of India in Kerala in May, a boy raised slogans that called for the killing of Hindus and Christians. The now-banned outfit did not even offer an apology for this extreme form of hatemongering. With their credibility at stake, law enforcement agencies must crack the whip on all offenders who fan the flames, no matter which community they belong to.

(Tribune, India)



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AIA Diwali celebration in New York offers a rich fare with vegan fair, dance competition, fireworks



Spectacular fireworks

NEW YORK (TIP): There was something for everyone who came to enjoy this year's South Street Seaport Deepavali Festival on Sunday, Oct. 2, from noon to 8 pm in spite of bad weather. It was the 35th Deepavali festival organized by the Association of Indians in America (AIA), New York chapter, one of the oldest Indian-American organizations in this country.

Classical fusion performances, a fashion show, a vegan expo, and fun-filled children's activities were only some of the attractions. There were booths with a variety of fine cuisine, sales of handicrafts and gift items, as well as an exhibition of the works of contemporary Indian artists.

The Deepavali festival at South Street Seaport is known for attracting elected officials and representatives of various government and non-government agencies. NYC mayor, Eric Adams, as well as New York State Assemblyman, David Weprin and NY Governor Kathleen Hochul's representative were among the public officials who came and spoke at the festival. NYC mayor, Eric Adams dwelt on the Diwali holiday in NYC Schools when the AIA President, Harish Thakkar appealed on behalf of the Indian community in NY & USA for the Diwali holiday in NYC Schools as all have been waiting for a long time & now time has come for his



New York Mayor Eric Adams presents a Citation to AIA President Harish Thakkar

support & a push to pass a resolution for the Indian community to have a Diwali holiday in NYC Schools. NYC mayor Eric Adams, mentioned in his speech that he is working with the Indian community leaders for Diwali holiday in NYC Schools.

This flagship event of AIA-NY attracts tens of thousands of New Yorkers every year and according to organizers visitors numbered around 50,000, a press release from AIA indicated. They also say the event is considered by far the largest attraction for Indian Americans from around the tri-state area, there to enjoy the music and dance programs along with the other entertainment. It is a way to showcase Indian ideals and cultural values and traditions.

"We will do our part to educate our children and impress the need to keep our culture and traditions." Harish Thakkar, president of AIA is quoted in the press release.

One of the highlights of the day was the "Nache Inferno" dance competition where seven teams from colleges around the country, including Boston and Maryland, apart from the tri-state area, participated.

The Vegan Expo hosted by World Vegan Vision saw interested crowds there to sample some of the foods and the cooking demonstration. Two doctors spoke about the



Scintillating dance performances

benefits of going vegan; a vegan standup comic, and a vegan music band played for those who came. World Vegan Vision.

Denver - based Bollywood singer star Rex Desoca came to perform to an excited crowd.

Since 1987, when the festive event was started by AIA, the South Street Deepavali event has become a New York tradition, much anticipated every year by not just Indians and Indian-Americans in the tri-state area, but also other ethnicities interested in the color and pageantry of the culture. (Based on a press release)

The 24th Grand Dushahra Festival celebrated in Edison, New Jersey

EDISON, NJ (TIP) Indo American Festivals, Inc. (IAF) hosted its Annual Grand Dushahra Festival on October 8, 2022 (from 1 PM to 8.30 PM) at Lake Papaianni Park in Edison (100 Municipal Blvd.), New Jersey. The event was a grand success.

More than 12,000 men, women and children attended the Dushahra event to witness a cultural program led by Pratibha (with almost 30 song and dance performances), a dazzling Ramleela by Varsha Naik's group (with more than 80 actors, the youngest was less than a year old and the eldest was more than 70 years old). The grand finale of the evening was the Ravan Dahan (the burning of a 20-foot-tall effigy of Ravan, which had been built in the US by Krishna Singhal). There was day long free health/medical screening camp, a Meena Bazaar with almost 200 vendors of Indian clothing, jewelry, and handicrafts vendors, Indian food, fusion cuisine, raffles, and much more. The guests were welcomed by



The effigies of Ravana and Meghnad on fire

Chanchal Gupta (Chair of IAF), Raj Mittal (Vice Chair of IAF), Dinesh Mittal (President of IAF), and our hard-working volunteers.

The occasion was graced by Sam Joshi (Mayor of Edison), Shivi Madhuker (Vice President of Edison Board of Education), Shannon Peng (member of Edison Board of Education) and Jerry Shi (member of Edison Board of Education), our sponsors, and other honored guests.

This program was made possible in part by a grant from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders/Office of Culture & Heritage, and New Jersey State Council for Arts/Department of State.

Indo-American Festivals Inc (IAF) IAF is a non-profit volunteer organization founded by the Late Mr. Mangal Gupta in 1999 to celebrate Dushahra in New Jersey. The events generally attract more than 10,000

spectators every year, and have always been free to the public, and these activities are managed solely through sponsorships and kind donations of our patrons and members.

For any further queries, interested persons should visit us at www.dushahra.com or email us on dushahra.usa@gmail.com.

(Based on a press release)



The huge crowds

Indian American Priti Krishtel wins \$800,000 McArthur Fellowship

OCTOBER 13, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American health justice lawyer Priti Krishtel has been awarded a McArthur Fellowship for exposing inequities in the patent system to increase access to affordable, life-saving medications on a global scale.

"By distilling the technical aspects of the patent system to show its sometimes-devastating impact on people's lives, Krishtel is galvanizing a movement to center people instead of only commercial interests in our medicines patent policy," McArthur Foundation said announcing this year's 25 fellowships on Oct 12.

One of America's most prestigious awards for intellectual and artistic achievements, commonly known as the "genius grant," carries a \$800,000, no-strings-attached grant for individuals who have shown exceptional creativity in their work and the promise to do more.

"I think a lot about who owns our right to heal. We live in a hierarchy of health. Some people get medicine first, and some don't get it at all. Our ability to heal should not depend on our ability to pay or where we live. But it does," says Krishtel.

"The patent system is not working as intended. The system blocks competition and concentrates the power to access medicine in the hands of an elite few. It helps create that hierarchy of health," she says. "Medicine must always be a global public good. Knowledge can no longer be locked up in this way."

"I believe in a future where people know they can keep their loved ones healthy, where people actively shape what access to medicines looks like for their families and communities. Where incentives exist for more just drug development and equitable access, ensuring that innovation exists to serve people, to save lives," says Krishtel.

"The challenge right now is that we are living in the age of the bully. A time when a small minority of the historically powerful are trying to own the un-ownable. We are saying no and creating a new, more compassionate and inclusive future in its place," she says.

"The 2022 MacArthur Fellows are architects of new modes of activism, artistic practice, and citizen science. They are excavators uncovering what has been overlooked, undervalued, or poorly understood," said Marlies Carruth, said Director, MacArthur Fellows.

"They are archivists reminding us of what should



A health justice lawyer Priti Krishtel has been awarded a McArthur Fellowship for exposing inequities in the patent system to increase access to affordable, life-saving medications on a global scale

survive," she said. "Their work extends from the molecular level to the land beneath our feet to Earth's orbital environment-offering new ways for us to understand the communities, systems, and social forces that shape our lives around the globe."

Early in her career, Krishtel worked to increase access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatments at the height of the global AIDS epidemic. She worked alongside patients dying of AIDS and saw first-hand how patent monopolies often reduced the availability of life-saving medications in lower income countries, according to her Foundation profile.

In 2006, Krishtel co-founded the Initiative for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge (I-MAK) to ensure the public had a voice in the pharmaceutical patent system.

Krishtel and the organization are drawing attention to weaknesses within the patent system while identifying needed reforms to make it more responsive to the public good.

Patents are intended to incentivize innovation by ensuring that only the patent holder can sell and profit from the product for a fixed time.

However, many pharmaceutical companies seek to extend their monopolies by filing multiple patents on small changes (such as changes in dosage) to existing drugs over several years. This stifles competition, delays generic production, and keeps medicines out of the hands of people who need them the most.

I-MAK has successfully contested patents worldwide, saving governments billions of dollars in public health

spending and giving millions of people access to life-saving treatments.

The I-MAK team publishes a series of reports, entitled Overpatented, Overpriced, that exposes the scale of pharmaceutical companies' exploitation of the US patent system.

I-MAK also brings together a range of stakeholders-including patient groups, policymakers, and patent lawyers and judges-to deepen collective understanding of the impact of the patent system across different communities.

Krishtel and I-MAK draw on this participatory process in proposing reforms to US patent policy. Their proposed reforms include ensuring only meaningful inventions are rewarded with a patent, increasing oversight from other government branches, and increasing public participation in the patent process.

For example, the Public Advisory Committee of the US Patent Office historically is comprised of lawyers and representatives from companies who financially benefit from the current system.

Adding individuals from patient groups and others with a public interest perspective would help make the patent process more responsive to the full spectrum of stakeholders in the system.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Krishtel has argued powerfully that incentivizing innovation should not come at the expense of equity and public health.

Particularly during public health emergencies and for taxpayer-funded research, commercial and public interest concerns can be balanced.

Krishtel is increasing understanding of how intellectual property policy can impact personal, public, and global health care, and she and I-MAK are envisioning a patent system that benefits all people regardless of geography and economic status.

Krishtel received a BA (1999) from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD (2002) from New York University School of Law.

She worked with the Indian NGO Lawyers Collective (2003-2006) before co-founding the Initiative for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge (I-MAK) in 2006, where she is currently co-executive director.

Krishtel has published in a variety of scientific journals and media platforms, including Science, Journal of the International AIDS Society, The British Medical Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, The New York Times, and USA Today.

Indian Diaspora launches 'Indo American Votes Matter' campaign for 2022 election



The Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), a US-based non-profit institution for policy research and awareness, launched the #IndoAmericanVotesMatter campaign on Oct 12 to increase participation of American voters in the Nov 8 elections.

#IndoAmericanVotesMatter campaign on Oct 12 to increase participation of American voters in the Nov 8 elections.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

OCTOBER 13, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): With Indian Americans making about 4.5 million people in the United States, an Indian Diaspora group has launched a campaign to encourage more participation in mid-term election to augment their influence on policy matters.

The Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), a US-based non-profit institution for policy research and awareness, launched the

Indian-origin owned restaurant in Virginia vandalized with racist graffiti



India K' Raja restaurant in Henrico County, Virginia was vandalized with vulgar and racist graffiti.

The side and back of the India K' Raja restaurant building at 9051 W. Broad St. were spray-painted with derogatory words and phrases targeting Asian Americans on the 27th anniversary of its Oct 1 opening, local media reported.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

OCTOBER 12, 2022

HENRICO COUNTY, VA (TIP): IN yet another incident of rising hate crimes against the Indian American community, an Indian restaurant in Henrico County, Virginia was vandalized with vulgar and racist graffiti.

The side and back of the India K' Raja restaurant building at 9051 W. Broad St. were spray-painted with derogatory words and phrases targeting Asian Americans on the 27th anniversary of its Oct 1 opening, local media reported.

Indian American man arrested for killing daughter-in-law over her plans to divorce his son

OCTOBER 7, 2022

FRESNO (TIP): A 74-year-old Indian American man has been arrested in Fresno, California, for fatally shooting his daughter-in-law last week at a parking lot of a Walmart in San Jose where she worked. Sital Singh Dosanjh killed Gurpreet Kaur Dosanjh "possibly out of anger over her plans to divorce his son.



Sital Singh Dosanjh killed Gurpreet Kaur Dosanjh "possibly out of anger over her plans to divorce his son.

According to the police, just before her murder, a "frightened" Gurpreet Kaur was on the phone with her uncle, telling him that her father-in-law was looking for her.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Esha Gadi, Riya Balaji win IPA 2022 Youth Essay Competition

OCTOBER 12, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Isha Gadi of Warrington, Pennsylvania, and Riya Balaji of San Jose, California, have won this year India Philanthropy Alliance Youth Essay Competition in the high school and middle school categories, respectively.

For the first time since the inception of the competition in 2020, essay winners will have the opportunity to present their ideas, live and in person, to a room full of business leaders, philanthropists, and nonprofit executives, IPA announced Tuesday, October 11.

The gathering will be hosted by Indiaspora, a founding member of the Alliance, and GiveIndia as part of their annual Philanthropy Summit and will be held at the Indian Consulate in New York City.

"Honestly, it means everything to me that I've won," says Gadi. "It gives me hope that people really do care about this topic [sexual assault]. It makes me realize that we can truly change as a society together, for the better."

"I entered this competition in 2021 and I didn't win, but that didn't stop me," says Balaji. "I was determined to do it again but this time with more research, facts, and concrete actions."

"Because I won, I feel really excited and now I'm even more enthusiastic to donate money to a charity knowing that I'm going to make a big difference to the underprivileged."

Runners up are Yashi Bhowmick of Pooler, Georgia and Chinmayi Joshi of Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Finalists include Tej Shah of Chicago, Illinois, Rithvi Sathish of Redmond, Washington,



Winners in India Philanthropy Alliance Youth Essay Competition in the high school and middle school categories, respectively.

and Ramanathan Venkatesh of Brambleton, Virginia.

Competition winners are awarded grants of \$1,000 and runners-up are awarded grants of \$500 to give to the charity of their choice.

Each submitted essay was in response to the following:

India is the world's largest democracy and has made significant progress on social and environmental issues over the past 25 years.

But India and its 1.3 billion people still have many urgent and unmet needs including access to food, shelter, health care, clean water, education, and a safe environment.

What do you think is the most significant issue facing India and its people today? What role do you think individuals (young and old) and groups here in the US can play in being a part of the solution?

The Youth Essay Competition was inspired by the need to engage today's youth to ensure the philanthropy of tomorrow, said IPA, a US-based coalition of 14 nonprofit, philanthropic, and charitable organizations that operate programs in India.

Central to the mission of both Indiaspora and IPA is inspiring the Indian diaspora to be a force for good through collaboration, community engagement and by catalyzing social change, it said.

Learning about the key issues facing India today and doing the research to provide a compelling argument for how best to address these issues, has been a key ingredient to student success and satisfaction, the release said. The number one reward students report is learning that their voice can and will be heard and they can truly have an impact.

The competition, as well as the grants to

nonprofits awarded by the students, is sponsored by Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT), which has supported the competition since its inception, and by the Iowa-based Sehgal Foundation.

"IPA's Youth Essay competition is one of the ways we invest in the philanthropy of tomorrow," says Mona Shah, representative of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust.

With the aim of improving health, education, and wellness of communities where they live and work, SMFT has impacted more than 19 million lives through their generosity.

"As change makers and philanthropists, we need to focus on the future of philanthropy and encourage youth in the United States to engage with issues confronting India, as well as work to have the greatest impact here and now."

The winners of the competition will be interviewed by Shah as they present to attendees at the Philanthropy Summit in New York.

Subjects covered by essay contestants included a variety of topics such as women's rights and safety, pollution, religious intolerance, the stigma of HIV/AIDs, the availability of quality education.

Indian American philanthropy is expected to grow in the coming years from an estimated \$1 billion currently to \$3 billion annually, the release said. IPA seeks to influence how quickly this growth take place and the quality of the giving that it translates into.

The Youth Essay Competition is one of several IPA initiatives designed to catalyze giving to benefit India, particularly with today's youth, it said.

Two Indian Americans, Revathi Advaiti and Bela Bajaria, among Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business



Revathi Advaiti and Bela Bajaria, have made it to Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business list for 2022 headed by CVS Health president and CEO Karen Lynch for the second year running.

OCTOBER 12, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP) : Two Indian American executives, Revathi Advaiti and Bela Bajaria, have made it to Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business list for 2022 headed by CVS Health president and CEO Karen Lynch for the second year running.

The competition to be listed among

Fortune's Most Powerful Women has gotten a little stiffer this year with Fortune deciding to merge its domestic and international lists of top corporate women leaders.

Ranking close behind Lynch, who is leading the highest-ranking Fortune 500 and Global 500 company ever run by a woman, once again are Julie Sweet, chair and CEO of Accenture (No. 2); Jane Fraser, CEO of Citi (No. 3); and Mary Barra, chair and CEO, GM (No. 4).

Advaiti, 54, who took over as the CEO of the \$26 billion manufacturing giant Flex in 2019, is ranked 37 on the list.

She recognizes the efforts of 1,70,000 Flex employees as they navigated Covid-19, supply chain shortages and Russia-Ukraine war to deliver 7.9% revenue growth in FY22, Fortune says.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American Sarah Thankam Mathews among 2022 National Book Awards finalists

OCTOBER 11, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American author Sarah Thankam Mathews has made it to the finals of the 2022 National Book Awards with her debut novel 'All This Could Be Different.'

The Winners will be announced on Nov 16 at the 73rd National Book Awards Ceremony & Benefit Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City and broadcast live for readers everywhere.

Mathews' debut novel tells the story of a young queer immigrant who creates a community for herself while grappling with the oppressive demands of capitalism. Publisher Viking Books describes it as "A beautiful and capacious novel rendered in singular, unforgettable prose."

"It's a wise, tender, and riveting group



Sarah Thankam Mathews has made it to the finals of the 2022 National Book Awards with her debut novel 'All This Could Be Different'

portrait of young people forging love and community amidst struggle, and a moving story of one immigrant's journey to make her home in the world."

"I simply will never be over this," Mathews tweeted after the National Book Awards Foundation announced the name of five finalists in fiction category with the New York Times.

"Congratulations to the #NBAAwards Fiction Finalists: Tess Gunty, Gayl Jones, @JamilJanKochai, Sarah Thankam Mathews (@smathewss), and Alejandro Varela (@drovarela)! And the Fiction publishers: @AAKnopf, @penguinrandom, @beaconpressbks, @VikingBooks, @astrahousebooks," it tweeted,

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

GOVERNOR HOCHUL ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$2.4 MILLION TO DIVERSIFY PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

- **New York State Doubles Investment to Expand Diversity Programs Managed by the Associated Medical Schools of New York and Serving More Than 800 Students**
- **About 20 percent of All Medical Students in New York now from the Black and Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander, and Native American Demographic**

OCTOBER 13, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Governor Kathy Hochul announced, on October 13, that the state has doubled its investment - committing more than \$2.4 million - in diversity programs managed by the Associated Medical Schools of New York to help bring more traditionally unrepresented students to the physician workforce. Funded in part through the state Department of Health, these programs are designed to encourage students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in medicine - including those who are Black, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander, or Native American - to get accepted into and complete medical school in



Governor Kathy Hochul announced, on October 13, that the state has doubled its investment - committing more than \$2.4 million - in diversity programs managed by the Associated Medical Schools of New York

New York.

"For far too long, communities of color in New York have faced disparities in their access to healthcare and have endured poorer health outcomes, both of which have resulted partially from their under-representation

in the medical field," Governor Hochul said. "By doubling our commitment to programs that champion diversity in medicine, we can ensure that our state's healthcare workforce is more representative of our state's population and help right historic wrongs."

While more than 30 percent of the state's population is Black or Hispanic, only 12 percent of physicians represent those demographics. Research has shown that patients seeing doctors from their own background have better health outcomes, which makes diversifying the state's physician workforce imperative to improving the overall health of New Yorkers and addressing disparities.

New York State is now providing more than \$2.4 million to diversity in medicine programs, which are designed to close gaps in the medical profession, doubling the funding commitment made last year. This funding is expected to serve more than 800 students through new and existing diversity initiatives, including Bridges to Medicine, AMSNY's successful post-baccalaureate program at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

Read full story at

www.theindianpanorama.news

Legislator Drucker, Supervisor Saladino Announce Start of Jackson Avenue Streetscape in Syosset



Legislator Drucker and Supervisor Saladino at the site of the Jackson Ave. Streetscape in Syosset on Thursday, Oct. 6.

Photo / Office of Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker

OCTOBER 6, 2022

SYOSSET, N.Y (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker (D - Plainview) joined with Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino on Thursday, Oct. 6 to mark the beginning of work on the Jackson Avenue streetscape project - a crucial investment in Syosset's commercial district near the LIRR station. Legislator Drucker secured \$320,000 in Nassau County Community Revitalization Grant (CRP) funding as part of the \$1.59 million in federal, state, county and town funding that is being applied toward the completion of this project.

Groundbreaking occurred on Monday, Oct. 3, and town officials stated that work is expected to take 120 calendar days (weather permitting). Forthcoming improvements include the installation of a decorative clock, post-top streetlights, benches and trash cans, ADA-accessible access ramps, curb and sidewalk bump-outs, new crosswalks, new push-button pedestrian signals with countdown timers, and a new sidewalk along the east side of Cold Spring Road.

"As a lifelong resident of this community, I take great pride in our vibrant downtowns and appreciate the importance of bringing projects like this streetscape to fruition," Legislator Drucker said. "I am thrilled that shovels are in the ground for infrastructure upgrades that will make downtown Syosset more walkable, accessible and prosperous for many years to come."

Indian American Community hosts fundraiser for Paul DeGroot, Candidate for House of Representatives from District 11 - NJ



PARSIPPANY, NJ (TIP): The Indian American Community held a fund raiser and campaign strategy meet for Paul Degroot at Rajni Restaurant in Parsippany. The event was attended many community leaders who support Paul Degroot in his campaign for House of Representatives from District 11 in New Jersey.

This is one of the many events the Indian American community has hosted for Paul as they feel he is the best candidate for the district given his support and association for the Indian American Community and also his clean record and better vision for the district.

District 11 - Indian American community members - Rajendar Dichpally, Santosh Peddi, Jey Marichamy, Nikhil Patel and Balaji Jilla hosted an event for Paul Degroot at Rajni Restaurant on October 11th.

The community has ensured that voter registration will be taken up strongly in the next few weeks and will ensure that the community rallies behind Paul in his quest to represent House of Representatives from District 11 in New Jersey.

KERALA CENTER ANNOUNCES 2022 HONOREES FOR ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Kerala Center Awardees 2022. From L to R: , Dr. Javad Hassan, who is also the keynote speaker, Jose Kaniyaly, Bindiya Sabarinath, Dr. Silvester Noronha, Thomas Joy and P. T. Paulose.

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center, Inc. will honor six Indian American Malayalees for their outstanding achievements in their field of specialization and for their service to the society at its 30th Annual Awards Banquet to be held on October 22, 2022. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York, NY senators Kevin Thomas and Anna Kaplan, and other dignitaries will be attending the event.

"Kerala Center has been honoring outstanding achievers since 1991. Every year we invite nominations and the committee has to make a unanimous choice for a candidate in a category to receive the award and this year is no different from previous years in terms of their achievements," said Dr. Thomas Abraham, Kerala Center's Trustee Board Chairman and Award Committee Member.

"Kerala Center is very happy to honor American Malayalees who excel in their professions and who work for social progress -- their examples should be an inspiration for others," said Dr. Madhu Bhaskaran, Board and Award Committee Chairman.

This year's honorees include: Dr. Javad Hassan, Chairman of NeST Group, for Corporate Leadership, Thomas Joy, Suffolk County police officer and president of AMLEU, for Public Service; Bindiya Sabarinath, founder of Mayura School of Arts, in the category of Performing Arts; Dr. Silvester Noronha of MIT, in the category of Applied Science, P. T. Paulose, for contributions to Pravasi Malayalam Literature and Jose Kaniyaly, Executive Editor and Partner of Kerala Express weekly newspaper, for his contributions to Malayalam Media and Journalism.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NYC Gala Raises \$1.3 Million toward Sankara's 2030 Vision of One Million Free Eye Surgeries a Year

NEW YORK (TIP): The Sankara Eye Foundation raised \$1.3 million at its glittering gala at Cipriani 42nd Street in Midtown Manhattan on September 24.

More than 300 invitees opened their hearts and wallets as speaker after speaker extolled Sankara's ambitious 2030 vision of one million free eye surgeries annually by the year 2030 for the needy in India and eradicate blindness in the country of 1.38 billion people.

To achieve the ambitious goal - almost four times the 230,000 eye surgeries they performed in 2019 before Covid struck - Sankara executives laid out the ground plan, which is to scale up the operations by almost doubling the existing eleven Sankara Eye Hospitals and eleven partner hospitals.

Donations kicked in after Gala Co-Chair Mohan Wanchoo, techpreneur and philanthropist, made the stunning announcement that he was donating \$500,000 to Sankara. When a couple of philanthropic-minded guests promised to match \$100,000 each, others chipped in to make it happen.

Dr. RV Ramani, Founder & Managing Trustee of Sankara Eye Care Institutions based in Coimbatore, India, addressed the gala through video. The Padma Shri award recipient and General Physician emphasized that Sankara's 2030 vision is to make it sustainable and not remain dependent on donations. That will be achieved by making 20% of paying patients fund 80% of the free surgeries.

Sankara's operations came to a halt during the two Covid years, but, Dr. Ramani said, through the Payroll



S 1: Mohan Wanchoo (center), Gala Co-Chair, holds up a check for the Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) in the amount of \$1.3 million during the Be The Light Gala, which took place at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan. Also pictured (left to right): Murali Krishnamurthy, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, SEF, USA; K. Sridharan, Co-Founder and President, SEF, USA; Anju Desai, Board member, SEF, USA; and Erin Ward, Fundraiser, Be The Light Gala. (Behind Mr. Wanchoo: R. Sundar, Board Member, SEF, USA.)

Protection Program both at their own hospital and partner hospitals, they ensured that medical and other workers were paid. Some hospitals were also made available for Covid care use. Speakers included Murali Krishnamurthy, Founder and Executive Chairman of Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF), USA (pictured), who emphasized the importance of their mission because one-third of the blind of the world are in India, and blindness is curable. Their plan to eradicate blindness includes going to the villages and helping those in need. He also crooned a few lines from



Some entertainment

a bhajan that extolls the virtue of helping others and spreading love.

Indeed, emotional appeals were aplenty. "Vision is a gift of God," it was said, while recounting the ecstatic remarks of one beneficiary who said, after his surgery at Sankara, the first things he saw were peacocks. Moving images of young and old beneficiaries were screened on the massive backdrop interspersing the graphs of projections and pictures representing Sankara's sprawling operations across India.

Keynote speakers were BV Jagadeesh, Managing Partner, KAAJ Ventures, who is a longtime supporter of SEF, and Warren Foust, Worldwide President, Johnson & Johnson Vision - Surgical Vision. (Photos are attached.)

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

CRY America's "Walk for Child Rights" Aims to Make a Difference in Post-COVID India

Nationwide Fundraiser Puts Children's Educational Recovery in Focus



CRY America Fundraising Director Patrick Bocco and organizers of Baxter Intl CRY Walk

NEW YORK (TIP): The COVID pandemic revealed just how interconnected - and interdependent - we all are, the world over.

In that spirit, walkers, runners and bicyclists across the USA will be taking to scenic public trails this fall between September 8 & November 30, 2022 to support children half a world away through Child Rights and You (CRY) America's annual "Walk for Child Rights". This event is sponsored by TV Asia, Deloitte & the Asian Leadership Group at Baxter International.

CRY America is a nonprofit organization that supports over 30



CRY Seattle walk student volunteers

projects in India and the U.S. that ensure access to education and healthcare for underprivileged children, as well as protection from child labor, early marriage and trafficking.

The CRY Walk for Child Rights launched officially on the International day of Literacy and the series features in-person and virtual events in over a dozen cities, including Seattle, New Jersey, San Diego, Houston, Boston, New York, Austin & Nashville. To register to participate at an event near you, visit CRY America's website: <https://events.cryamerica.org/event-category/crywalk/>

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Options before Ukraine

THE WAR CAN EITHER GO TOWARDS NEGOTIATED PEACE OR A NUCLEAR CONFLICT



BY G.
PARTHASARATHY

"RUSSIA HAS LOST SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY ACROSS EUROPE. BUT, IT IS A COUNTRY WITH SCIENTIFIC SKILLS AND IMMENSE NATURAL RESOURCES. IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCERS OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS. WITH SHORTAGES IN SUPPLIES WORLDWIDE, THERE IS LITTLE THE WESTERN WORLD CAN DO TO HALT THE LOOMING RISE IN OIL PRICES NOW BROUGHT ABOUT BY ARAB OIL PRODUCERS LIKE SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE. THIS, DESPITE APPEALS BY BIDEN TO LOWER OIL PRICES. PRINCE SALMAN OF SAUDI ARABIA, HOWEVER, APPEARS DETERMINED TO CHALLENGE BIDEN'S DIKTATS. THE IMPACT OF RUSSIA'S ACTIONS WILL BE FELT BY PEOPLE IN EUROPE DURING WINTER MONTHS WITHOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF RUSSIAN GAS SUPPLIES."

Russia's ties with its former republics have generally been good, even after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1996. It was only natural for Russia's smaller neighbors to seek to widen their regional and international options, which is happening now. Moreover, there are millions of Russians living as local citizens in virtually all former Soviet Republics. Russia also has a long coastline across the freezing waters of the Arctic Ocean. It has, therefore, historically used ports, in what is now Ukraine, for the bulk of its trade and military operations across the sea. It also has serious concerns about ensuring uninterrupted access to the seas, through Crimea, in Ukraine. Under the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine has, however, in recent years, sought to widen its options through a growing strategic partnership with the US.

India has positioned itself as a constructive participant in the emerging situation in Ukraine.

Russia took control of the port facilities in Crimea in southern Ukraine in 2014. Russian population constituting 17% of Ukraine's population lives largely near and across the shores of the Black Sea. Matters came to a head when the young and charismatic Zelenskyy hastily sought close military relations with President Biden's administration in 2021. This transpired even as ethnic tensions between Russians and Ukrainians in southern Ukraine were escalating. Rather than seeking to promote stability in Ukraine, the Biden administration chose to play to the ego of the Ukrainian President.



In 2021 emerged a joint declaration by Biden and his Ukrainian counterpart, laced with strong anti-Russian rhetoric, which included: 'Unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, and extending to its territorial waters, in the face of Russian aggression'. This was an assurance of support to Ukraine for actions which would undermine Russia's access to the sea in Crimea. This was accompanied by rapid transfer of sophisticated US military hardware to Ukraine.

President Putin ordered his troops into southern Ukraine in February, with the stated objective of seizing the cities of Luhansk and Donetsk by declaring them independent states. He thereby established Russia's control over areas where the Russians are well positioned. There are an estimated 7.7 million Russians in Ukraine, which has a total population of 43.3 million. The Russian population resides predominantly in six southern districts of Ukraine which control Russia's access to the sea in Crimea. The Russian Black Sea Fleet was established in the Crimean Peninsula in 1783. It has historically been the gateway of Russia to the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Mediterranean Sea. The ill-planned and poorly executed Russian military response that followed the Biden-Zelenskyy declaration, combined with massive US and NATO arms assistance, threatened the only historical Russian access to the seas.

The Russians are now confined to operating almost exclusively in Ukraine's six districts of Mariupol, Luhansk, Donetsk, Melitopol, Kherson and Crimea. While Russia had taken control of these largely Russian-dominated areas, its forces are now under tremendous risk of being overrun by far better equipped Ukrainian forces. Given the strategic dimensions and the location of these areas, there is every possibility of Russia resorting to the use of tactical nuclear weapons, if unavoidable. Just over a year ago, Biden and Putin proclaimed in a joint statement that: 'A nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought'. The durability of that statement is now under test, with Putin not ruling out the use of tactical nuclear weapons. Biden, in turn, is warning of dire consequences if Russia does so.

Putin placed Russia's nuclear forces in 'special combat readiness' on February 22 and held high-profile nuclear drills. More recently, he said: 'If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will, without a doubt, use all available means to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff.' Biden predictably rebuffed Putin's threat. This is the first time that the world is facing such a dangerous threat of an impending use of nuclear weapons, especially as the Ukrainians are now eyeball to eyeball with Russians. While many Russians may not agree with Putin's policies, they will rally behind him in such a situation.

While the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki had a capacity of 15-25 kilo tons of high explosives, tactical nuclear weapons have capacities ranging from 0.1 to 1 kilo ton. According to US intelligence, Russia has about 2,000 tactical weapons. One hopes Zelenskyy does not provoke the Russians to act drastically.

Russia has lost support and sympathy across Europe. But, it is a country with scientific skills and immense natural resources. It is also one of the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas. With shortages in supplies worldwide, there is little the western world can do to halt the looming rise in oil prices now brought about by Arab oil producers like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This, despite appeals by Biden to lower oil prices. Prince Salman of Saudi Arabia, however, appears determined to challenge Biden's diktats. The impact of Russia's actions will be felt by people in Europe during winter months without the availability of Russian gas supplies.

India has positioned itself as a constructive participant in the emerging situation in Ukraine. This is evident as all sides have hailed PM Modi's talks with Putin at the recent SCO Summit, where Modi drew attention to the reality that: 'Today's era is not an era of war.' This statement has been welcomed by the governments and media in the US, Russia and across Europe. One hopes that Biden, Putin and Zelenskyy heed the advice and move towards a negotiated settlement to avoid a looming, dangerous conflict.

(The author is Chancellor, Jammu Central University & former High Commissioner to Pakistan)

New Jersey Marks Ground Zero for growing US Resistance to Hindutva

MODI REGIME'S AMERICAN SUPPORT BASE SUFFERS MULTIPLE DEFEATS IN SUMMER OF 2022



BY PEITER FRIEDRICH

"HINDU NATIONALISTS IN THE US ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE "ALARMING TREND" OF ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES IN THE COUNTRY. "IF WE ARE TO CONFRONT AND BEGIN TO COUNTER SUCH HATEFUL ASSAULTS, WE MUST RECOGNIZE HINDUTVA'S DEEP ROOTS AND LONG-STANDING HARMS IN NEW JERSEY," SHE WRITES. "A HARD TRUTH IS THAT WHILE MANY NEW JERSEYANS ARE ONLY NOW LEARNING THE BASICS OF HINDU NATIONALISM, MANY OF OUR STATE'S MINORITY COMMUNITIES - ESPECIALLY SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIMS - HAVE LIVED FOR DECADES WITH THE SPECTER OF FEAR AND INTIMIDATION IMPOSED BY PURVEYORS OF THIS INTOLERANT IDEOLOGY. IT IS TIME FOR THAT ERA TO END, AND FOR US TO SAY TOGETHER - HINDUTVA HATE HAS NO HOME IN NEW JERSEY."- DR TRUSCHKE.



After the Old Paramus Reformed Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey cancelled a 10 September 2022 speech by infamous Hindu nationalist demagogue Sadhvi Ritambhara, it sent shockwaves felt on the other side of the Atlantic.

Throughout the Summer of 2022, from New Jersey to California, organized resistance against the influence of Hindutva (that is, Hindu nationalist) politics in the US resulted in multiple victories. The most recent victory started in the small village of Ridgewood, but it soon took on international dimensions.

Ritambhara's multi-state US tour was shrouded in protest from the outset.

Beginning in Atlanta, Georgia on 30 August, she faced protest by an interfaith crowd of over 100. "She has openly called for the massacre of Muslims and

Christians in India," warned protestor Rahim Shah Akhunkhail. "We reject it. America rejects it. We call people of all faiths to reject and denounce such people."



Sadhvi Ritambhara, the fiery orator

Ritambhara - who is the founder of Durga Vahini, the women's wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), which is the religious wing of India's fascist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) paramilitary - next went to New Jersey. There she faced her first defeat. Over two days, the Ridgewood church reported receiving over 100 calls and 1,000 emails requesting it de-platform her. On the eve of the event, the church's pastor finally revoked permission.

The protest continued clouding Ritambhara's US tour as she travelled to Los Angeles, where a large multi-faith crowd again rallied outside the venue hosting her. "She does not represent the Hinduism of inclusion, justice, and service to humanity," declared protestor Tahil Sharma. "She is focused on a narrative that is trying to hurt those that are minorities in India. Her focus is on hatred rather than uniting people."

Ritambhara soon faced total defeat. After completing her US tour in mid-September, she was scheduled for a multi-city tour of the UK. It didn't go as planned.

She was still in America when British Members of Parliament launched demands to deny her entry to the UK. In letters to the Home Minister, MPs denounced her "xenophobic" and "Islamophobic" rhetoric, warning that it could stoke communal tensions in their constituencies. Within days, her entire UK tour was scrapped. "Just prior to her planned visit to the UK, she was disinvited from speaking in a church in the US, thanks to the campaigning by progressive groups in America," noted British journalist Amrit Wilson. "She obviously did not wish to face a similarly humiliating situation in the UK."

Some sources suggest Ritambhara's cancellation was not voluntary but rather the result of Britain's Home Office, responding to the "coordinated action of concerned citizens and civil society group" demanding it, actually revoking her visa. Whatever the case may be, shifting focus back to New Jersey, the Ritambhara drama was not the end of the anti-Hindutva resistance's recent successes in that state.

"America, especially New Jersey, is a stronghold for Hindu nationalist groups who provide financial support and ideological guidance for the larger global movement," explains Dr Audrey Truschke. Many anti-Hindutva activists ruefully refer to the state - in reference to the Indian city where the RSS is headquartered - as the "Nagpur of America." Yet, surprisingly, New Jersey is ground zero for most of the latest victories against the movement.

Since 2014, Hindutva ideologues have dominated India through Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime. Through his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which serves as the political wing of the RSS,

Modi and his devotees are unleashing an authoritarian nightmare upon a country once celebrated as the world's largest democracy. Although mainstream America has been slow to realize it, the RSS-BJP's rise to power in India was aided and abetted by an immense US support base.

The collection of affiliated Hindutva groups in India - which includes the RSS, VHP, and BJP - is commonly known as the "Sangh Parivar" (Family of Organizations). All three outfits have American affiliates, namely: Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA (HSS-USA), Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), and Overseas Friends of the BJP USA (OFBJP-USA). Although all three are legally distinct entities, their leadership and membership - just as it is in India - is heavily cross-pollinated.

Notably, the HSS-USA is registered as a nonprofit in New Jersey. Up until at least 2019, after which it was compelled to register as a Foreign Agent, so also was the OFBJP-USA.

While this American Sangh Parivar has supported the Hindutva agenda in India in many ways, one of the most notable was their mass mobilization efforts to get Modi elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2019. During both election cycles and in coordination with leaders from both HSS-USA and VHPA, the OFBJP-USA reportedly deployed thousands of volunteers to India to campaign for the BJP.

Striking back against the American Sangh, therefore, has great potential to undermine the agenda of the regime in India.



Baba ka Bulldozer which caused a massive reaction to the right-wing Hindutva elements in New Jersey

The current series of struggles in New Jersey began after a 14 August parade hosted in the city of Edison to celebrate India's Independence Day, an event in which many city and state elected officials enthusiastically participated. Organized by the India Business Association (IBA), the event was overtly partisan from the start as organizers invited BJP Spokesperson Sambit Patra to serve as the event's grand marshal. Other participants in the event reportedly included the HSS-USA and VHPA.

Controversy soon erupted.

The parade's centerpiece was a bulldozer bedecked with photos of Modi as well as the BJP Chief Minister of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. Leading the way for the bulldozer, their banner proudly stretched out for all to see, was a contingent of the OFBJP-USA.

CONTD ON PAGE 10

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

The symbolism was beyond inflammatory. "To those who understood its symbolism, it was a blunt and sinister taunt later likened to a noose or a burning cross at a Ku Klux Klan rally," reported The New York Times. It represented an open endorsement of one of the BJP's most egregious current anti-Muslim tactics.

The bulldozer, in short, was a symbol of hate.

A foundational ideological aspect of the RSS-BJP is its devotion to transforming India into an exclusively Hindu nation where all minorities - particularly Christians and Muslims - are either subjugated or eliminated. The bulldozer has increasingly come to symbolize that goal. Under the chief minister's regime, the machine is being used to routinely and extrajudicially demolish the homes, businesses, and religious sites of Muslims, particularly those known for dissenting against him. The New York Times reports that bulldozers have become "a symbol of oppression" while France24 explains that "bulldozer justice" is now perceived as an example of "an unlawful exercise in collective punishment."

The RSS-BJP wants to crush the spirit of Indian minorities, especially the vocal Muslim population, and the physical manifestation of that is currently the bulldozer.

In Spring 2022, Adityanath embraced the symbolism in his campaign for reelection, welcoming slogans hailing him as "Baba Bulldozer" (Daddy Bulldozer) - a slogan displayed alongside his photo on the bulldozer in Edison. The message at the New Jersey parade was clear: Indian minorities are as unwelcome there as they are under RSS-BJP rule in India. Rather than be intimidated, however, locals pushed back hard - and won.

Resistance was swift and successful.

Throughout Edison Township Council meetings on 22 and 24 August, dozens turned out to register their protest in the public comments session. The backlash soon sparked reactions by elected officials ranging from Edison Township all the way to the US Senate.

"This was a tipping point for us," one woman in hijab told the council. Tasim Ansari warned that the bulldozer is being "used to dehumanize people," explaining that anyone who saw it in the parade would be disgusted. "India Day Parade is supposed to be for all the Indians who are living in the US, not for only 30-35 per cent of Hindutva ideology, those who are growing, spreading hate in India, and now sending it overseas in America," said Nasir Ahmed. "Modi, the current prime minister of India, came from RSS. They're the ones who acquired ideology from Hitler." Taj Shaikh claimed the bulldozer represented "fascism and the BJP," noting, "Hindutva is not Hinduism. It is a murderous, socially and culturally backwards, bigoted ideology."

"This is clearly giving a message of intimidation to American Indian Muslims and other minorities that 'hey, we are here, we are in control, you can't do anything, even in America'," explained Dylan Terpstra of CAIR-NJ. Comparing what a bulldozer symbolizes for Indian Muslims to what a noose symbolizes for African-Americans, he continued: "It needs to be understood what this bulldozer really means. Homes, mosques, businesses, and churches, are being demolished in India because people speak up and out against Baba Bulldozer and other Hindutva leaders." As Bishop Nikolaos Brown concluded: "This act of hatred and injustice not only has repercussions here in Edison but across the state, across the country, and across the world."

In response, all but one of the township's nine councilors - many of whom actually attended the parade - vehemently condemned the incident.

"I would not have participated in the parade had I known [about the bulldozer]," said Council President Joseph Coyle. "I would have walked right off the street."

Council Vice-President Joyce Ship-Freeman was even more emphatic, declaring, "Had it been the noose, would we all have been walking behind it and following

it? No. This is not the Edison we should accept. We should all stand out against it because if it's on one group today, it will be on another group tomorrow." Councilor Margot Harris called the incident "absolutely hideous and unacceptable." Councilor John Poyner stated, "We do not want that type of divisiveness and that type of hatred, quite honestly, spread about the township." Councilor Nishith Patel - noting that he's a Hindu of Indian origin - denounced the bulldozer as representing "intolerance of culture, division, hatred."

Simultaneously, the controversy spilled over into the neighboring township of Woodbridge, some of whose officials had also attended the parade. It didn't end at the borders of the townships, however, but soon reverberated across the entire state.

On 25 August, a day after the final showdown at Edison Township Council, five members of the New Jersey State Legislature - four assemblymembers and one senator - issued a joint statement condemning the inclusion of the bulldozer in the parade, describing it as "a symbol of division and hate."

The following day, US Congresswoman Bonnie Coleman, declaring that "hate has no place in New Jersey" and warning that Modi's regime is targeting Muslim properties with bulldozers, stated, "The inclusion of a bulldozer with a picture of Modi at the India Day parade in Edison was a display of bigotry." Finally, in early September, the state's two US senators issued a joint statement. Noting that many local South Asian Americans were "angered and deeply hurt" by the incident, Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez declared, "The bulldozer has come to be a symbol of intimidation against Muslims and other religious minorities in India, and its inclusion in this event was wrong."

Inexplicably, two politicians who participated in the event have maintained their silence. Neither New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin nor US Congressman Frank Pallone (founder of the powerful Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans) have offered any comment.

Initially, the IBA stubbornly refused to apologize, insisting that "it had not done anything wrong" and calling complaints about the bulldozer "prejudiced." Yet it took less than a week for them to reverse course and, in the face of mass pressure, offer their "sincere apologies" for having "offended the Indian American minority groups, especially Muslims."

Ultimately, the IBA probably deserves a heartfelt thank you from the US's anti-Hindutva resistance for - unintentionally - creating a golden opportunity to direct the attention of American elected officials not only to the growing human rights crisis in Modi's India but also to how his authoritarian regime is backed by radical elements from abroad.

Shifting focus from the East to the West Coast, a similar - though smaller-scale - victory occurred after HSS-USA activity in the small city of Manteca, California also offered an opportunity to educate local officials about the realities and dangers of the global Hindutva movement. On 3 August, the Manteca City Council unanimously rescinded and apologized for a proclamation they had passed earlier in the year to honor the US wing of the RSS.

The HSS-USA routinely solicits such proclamations from city councils around the country. Taking advantage of the general American ignorance of even the existence - let alone the nature - of the Sangh Parivar, it stacks up dozens, scores, and hundreds of these official recognitions, then publicizes them through its networks to build up its veneer of legitimacy. After all, the outfit seems to think, if it can show that it has been praised and platformed by local governments all around America, people will be far less likely to heed concerns about how the HSS-USA's leadership and membership systematically work to help prop up the RSS-BJP back in India.

Pushback in Manteca began on 19 July when approximately 50 people gathered during a city council meeting to raise placards and speak in protest during

the public comments session. Their appeals were heard. By the following council meeting, a resolution to rescind the HSS-USA proclamation was on the agenda. During a nearly four-hour meeting, dozens from both opposing sides commented. Eventually, the council - while noting that the HSS did, by all appearances, seem to be linked to the RSS - voted to rescind the proclamation.

It was the first time ever that an American city has overturned one of their recognitions of the HSS-USA, and it has great potential to set a precedent as other neighboring cities are now considering doing the same. Just as in Edison, NJ, the incident offered the anti-Hindutva resistance a chance to turn the eyes of American officials to the situation in India.

In New Jersey, the Edison incident and the Ritambhara drama are now helping to escalate broader regional action against Hindutva.

On 12 September, 40 miles north of Edison, the Democratic Party unit in the township of Teaneck passed a resolution condemning Hindu nationalist groups which operate in the US with "direct and indirect ties" to the RSS. The resolution urged members of US Congress to request the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency to investigate "foreign hate groups that have domestic branches with tax-exempt status" and called for changes to the visa process to prevent speakers like Ritambhara from entering the country. With any luck, and according to feedback from talking to activists on the ground, this may be just the first of many such resolutions to come.

Indeed, since May 2022, we have seen anti-Hindutva activism expand from the confines of the South Asian American community as it is taken up by progressive groups in both Illinois and Maryland. However, while these kinds of efforts are needed nationwide, there are few places in the country where such pushback is of greater urgency than in the Hindutva hub of New Jersey.

The risk of allowing Hindutva-aligned entities to operate in the US without oversight is that they may not stop short of bigoted displays of intimidation - such as with the bulldozer - but stoop deeper to commit actual atrocities. This was most vividly illustrated in 2021 in Robbinsville, a small town less than 40 miles south of Edison.

The religious group Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), while building a giant temple in the town, was raided by the FBI in May 2021. BAPS was accused, essentially, of using slave labour for construction. For years, they had allegedly lured mostly low-caste men from India, reportedly confiscating their passports upon arrival, housing them in guarded complexes, and forcing them to work up to 13 hours a day for less than \$500 a month.

BAPS reportedly has "strong ties" with Modi (who has called its founder his mentor) and has been described as holding both a "close link" with the BJP as well as being "widely suspected of having some connection" with a 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom in the Indian state of Gujarat, which is both Modi's home state as well as the site of the sect's founding.

The FBI raid coincided with the filing of a federal lawsuit on behalf of the allegedly exploited laborer's. By November 2021, the lawsuit expanded to include BAPS properties in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles - all cities which, alongside New Jersey, serve as major hubs for the Hindutva movement in the US.

Even more recently, peaceful American protests against Hindutva have faced outright violence. On the same day that the bulldozer rolled through Edison, protestors in Anaheim, CA were assaulted by participants in an India Independence Day Mela.

As the group of mostly young South Asian American protestors, holding placards calmly walked through the event at Anaheim's La Palma Park, a mob formed and screamed at them to leave.

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IOCUSA KERALA CHAPTER BACKS THAROOR

OCTOBER 12, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : The Executive Committee of the Kerala Chapter of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA has convened an Executive Committee meeting on October 12, 2022 and unanimously passed the following resolution.

IOCUSA Kerala Chapter Resolution:

Indian Overseas Congress, USA Kerala chapter has resolved to throw its unanimous support behind the candidacy of Mr. Shashi Tharoor for the post of the Presidency of the All-India Congress Committee

IOCUSA Kerala Chapter is:

- cognizant of the fact that Mr. Rahul Gandhi has decided not to take up the position;
- appreciative to the Congress working committee for holding an open and independent election;
- anticipating a very tough election battle ahead in 2024;
- conscious of the importance of attracting the youth to the Congress fold;
- sharing the consensus to make the organization more responsive to the grassroots;
- believing that it is time for dynamic and energetic leadership;
- expecting an avalanche of support from the public to reshape the party and catapult into a new horizon to recapture the old glory of the Grand Old party that won Independence and laid the foundation for a progressive India;
- and while expressing intense disappointment that the leadership in Kerala has failed to support its native son.

Biden to celebrate Diwali at White House on Oct 24; Trump at Mar-a-Lago on Oct 21

OCTOBER 12, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden plans to celebrate Diwali at the White House on October 24 while his predecessor Donald Trump is working on celebrating the festival of lights at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida on October 21.

Biden plans to celebrate Diwali with eminent members of the Indian American community and members of his administration. First Lady Jill Biden will also join the festivities at the White House on October 24.

Details of Diwali celebrations at the White House are still being worked out.

Meanwhile, the Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC) on Tuesday, October 11, announced that Trump would celebrate Diwali with its members and Indian American community leaders at his Mar-a-Lago resort on October 21.



President Trump celebrating Diwali with the Indian American community led by Shalabh Kumar from the Republican Hindu Coalition, at the White House in 2017

It is being planned for four hours, said the Trump team was exploring the possibilities of fireworks as well.

IRS sending letters to over 9 million potentially eligible families who did not claim stimulus payments, EITC, Child Tax Credit and other benefits; Free File to stay open until Nov. 17

OCTOBER 13, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Starting this week, the Internal Revenue Service is sending letters to more than 9 million individuals and families who appear to qualify for a variety of key tax benefits but did not claim them by filing a 2021 federal income tax return. Many in this group may be eligible to claim some or all of the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit, the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax credits depending on their personal and family situation.

The special reminder letters, which will be arriving in mailboxes over the next few weeks, are being sent to people who appear to qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC), Recovery Rebate Credit (RRC) or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) but haven't yet filed a 2021 return to claim them. The letter, printed in both English and Spanish, provides a brief overview of each of these three credits.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

"The IRS wants to remind potentially eligible people, especially families, that they may qualify for these valuable tax credits," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "We encourage people who haven't filed a tax return yet for 2021 to review these options. Even if they aren't required to file a tax return, they may still qualify for several important credits. We don't want people to overlook these tax credits, and the letters will remind people of their potential eligibility and steps they can take."

Claiming the credits

These and other tax benefits were expanded under last year's American Rescue Plan Act and other recent legislation. Even so, the only way to get the valuable benefits is to file a 2021 tax return.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

FBAR extension deadline nears for foreign bank and financial account holders

Filers affected by a natural disaster in Puerto Rico, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina may have their FBAR due date further extended.

OCTOBER 13, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): - The Internal Revenue Service today reminds U.S. citizens, resident aliens and domestic legal entities that the extension deadline to file their annual Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) is October 15. For additional information about filing deadlines, filers should look to Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN) website?PDF.

Filers who missed the April 15 annual due date earlier this year received an automatic extension until October 15, 2022, to file the FBAR. They did not need to request the extension.

Filers affected by a natural disaster may

have their FBAR due date further extended. Its important filers review relevant FBAR Relief Notices for complete information. On October 6, 2022, FinCEN announced that victims of Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico; Hurricane Ian in Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina; and storms and floods in parts of Alaska have until February 15, 2023, to file FBARs for the 2021 calendar year.

Who needs to file?

The Bank Secrecy Act requires U.S. persons to file an FBAR if:

They have a financial interest in or signature or other authority over one or more accounts, such as a bank account, brokerage account, mutual fund or other financial account located outside the United States, and

The aggregate value of all foreign financial accounts exceeds \$10,000 at any

time during the calendar year 2021.

Because of this threshold, the IRS encourages U.S. persons with foreign accounts, even relatively small ones, to check if this filing requirement applies to them. A U.S. person is a citizen or resident of the United States or a domestic legal entity such as a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, estate or trust.

How to file

Filers do not file the FBAR with their federal income tax return. The 2021 FBAR must be filed electronically with FinCEN and is only available through the BSA E-Filing System website. Individuals who are unable to e-file their FBAR must contact FinCEN at 800-949-2732 or FRC@fincen.gov to request an alternative filing method. Callers from outside the U.S. can contact the helpline at 703-905-3975.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Avoid penalties

Those who don't file an accurate FBAR when required may be subject to significant civil and criminal penalties that can result in a fine and/or imprisonment, depending on the facts and circumstances.

FBAR resources on IRS.gov:

Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)

Details on reporting foreign bank and financial accounts (FS-2022-24)

Publication 5569, Report of Foreign Bank & Financial Accounts (FBAR) Reference GuidePDF

India US healthcare cooperation set to be taken to a new level: Ambassador Sandhu

OCTOBER 12, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The healthcare cooperation between India and the United States is set to be taken to a new level, New Delhi's top envoy here said on Tuesday, October 11.

The robust and longstanding Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) is perhaps one of the most glaring examples of an initiative where India and the US work together, for the benefit of the people not only of India and the US but across the world, India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, said in his address to the 34th Meeting of the Joint Working Group of the Indo-US VAP.

My compliments to the US and India teams for holding this event, he said, adding: "With strong complementarities and an intent political leadership in both countries, our healthcare cooperation is set to be taken to a new level."

Sandhu said India's embrace of technology in healthcare such as reforms like Production Linked Incentives in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors and its experience in large-scale immunization programs would enable the two countries to take the healthcare cooperation to the next level.

"Going forward, working together in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as, Asia, future preparedness

against outbreaks of infectious diseases, harmonization of standards for medical product innovations, and elimination of risks from import of pharmaceutical ingredients from a single source are some key areas where we could explore bilateral collaboration," he said.

Meeting in the backdrop of an unprecedented pandemic, the ambassador said there had been a number of takeaways from the Covid-19 pandemic for the world.

Most significantly, the pandemic reiterated to the world that vaccination is perhaps humanity's best shot at effectively managing infectious diseases like Covid19 by substantially reducing hospitalizations, mitigating severity, and importantly, bringing down the number of fatalities, he said.

According to Sandhu, in the three and a half decades since its inception, the VAP has supported novel vaccine research, yielded prototype products, trained human resources, and encouraged interactions with scientists, across the globe.

"The Rotavirus vaccine jointly developed under VAP that brought down the price of the vaccine from USD 0.60 to USD 1, is one of the strongest impacts that VAP has made in the world," Sandhu said.

"During the pandemic, we drew

strength from VAP when Indian and the US entities worked together on over half a dozen vaccine collaborations. We combined our unique strengths and synergies including scale, technology, and affordability - be it in the form of the Baylor College of Medicine, developed Corbevax (BCM and BioE), or the Novavax and Serum Institute of India produced Covovax or the BioE - J&J collaborated Janssen," he said.

Today, VAP is supplemented, by the expanding bilateral healthcare collaboration. India and the US have been working together in combatting diseases such as tuberculosis, cancer, HIV, eye diseases, etc. Indian firms supplied about 40 per cent of generics marketed in the United States.

"This has allowed American healthcare consumers, to save up to USD 80 billion in the last two years and enhanced access to quality medicines. There are over 200 active collaborations between NIH and leading Indian research agencies," he said.

Last year the bilateral health dialogue was held in New Delhi where an umbrella MOU on health and bio-medicines was signed.

The two countries helped each other, as well as the world during the pandemic. In 2020, India ensured the integrity of health



India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said that the healthcare cooperation between India and the United States is set to be taken to a new level

supply chains, providing essential medicines to the US.

"In 2021, US supported India, during the Delta surge. The administration, US Congress, private sector and Indian Diaspora came together to support India in various ways, including in vaccine raw materials, and critical health infrastructure. US supported the India-South Africa proposals for a TRIPS Waiver at the WTO," Sandhu said of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

New Era at "Ekal Foundation" with Dr Subra Dravida of 'Qualcomm' as President



Dr. Subra Dravida speaking at the 2022 Ekal International Conference

HOUSTON (TIP): After two years of hosting annual organizational meets virtually, "Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF)", last week hosted an in-person 'International Conference' in Chicago for its USA, Canada and India components to review and recalibrate the roadmap for the future. The main agenda of the conference was to put 'Ekal' (as it is popularly known) on the FastTrack after some setbacks in 2020-21 due to Covid pandemic. Thus, Ekal is launching a new technology driven era by appointing Dr. Subra Dravida, V.P. of 'Qualcomm's technology division as the new President of Ekal-USA. After the previous President, Suresh Iyer, himself a successful entrepreneur in the field of 'Information Technology' had brought

EVF to the threshold of digitized world, Subraji's appointment as his successor was inevitable. Dr Subra Dravida, a well-known brilliant mind from New England's technology hub, has been associated with Ekal for some time now. He had been the President of New England Chapter of Ekal for 4 years, then a member of 'Board of Directors' and recently, an Executive V.P., working closely with Suresh Iyer and Ekal-USA Chairman, Arun Gupta. Subraji received his B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT, Madras in 1979 and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from RPI, Troy, NY in 1980 and 1984. From 1984 to 1998, he worked at Bell Labs in Holmdel, NJ. In 1998, he moved to Massachusetts to work in a start-up, MaxComm Technologies, as VP of Engineering before subsequently ending up as V.P. of Technology with Qualcomm. Subraji has over 50 Patents in Networking and Cellular Communications and has numerous research papers to his credit.

'Ekal' is the largest literacy movement globally undertaken by NRIs and Indians, that also provide healthcare training, economic empowerment and integrated village development to the rural folks. Currently, it is running 78,000 schools that is grooming 2.1 million each year across rural-tribal parts of India. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Three Sikh marine recruits fight to keep turban, beard at US Marine boot camp

OCTOBER 14, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Three Sikh recruits, working to join the US Marine Corps, fought for an emergency appeal in District of Columbia's federal court to get an immediate exemption to the Corps' boot camp rule of cutting their hair and shaving their beards.

The three plaintiffs -- Aekash Singh, Milaap Singh Chahal and Jaskirat Singh -- want to attend Marine Corps basic training without having to shave their beards or forgo their traditional turbans during boot camp.

A three-judge panel expressed skepticism that the Marine Corps had a good reason to deny religious exemptions to its grooming standards but questioned why the plaintiffs required emergency relief, the Marine Corps Times reported. No decision on the motion was made by the judges. The trio had appealed to the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in September after a lower-court judge denied their request for a preliminary injunction that would have allowed the men to enter boot camp with their articles of faith, the Marine Times reported.

In Sikh faith, men wear turban and they do not shave off their beards or cut hair. The Marine Corps previously denied all these requests, due to which the trio for years have remained poolies -- an individual who has already signed



The three plaintiffs -- Aekash Singh, Milaap Singh Chahal and Jaskirat Singh -- want to attend Marine Corps basic training without having to shave their beards or forgo their traditional turbans during boot camp. In Sikh faith, men wear turban and they do not shave off their beards or cut hair.

Photo for representation only

up to become a Marine but has not yet left for the recruit training at boot camp.

"We continue to believe that the Marine Corps is doing a disservice to both our clients and itself in denying basic rights that are recognized by other branches of our military and under the US law," said Giselle Klapper, Sikh Coalition Senior Staff Attorney.

In April 2022, the Sikh Coalition -- a New York-based advocacy group, Winston & Strawn, the Becket Fund and BakerHostetler, with support from the Sikh American Veterans Alliance had filed suit against the US Department of Defense on behalf of the trio.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

KERALA BLACK MAGIC CASE: KILLER A HAIKU POET, REVEAL FACEBOOK POSTS

The Facebook posts of Bhagaval Singh, the traditional medical practitioner, arrested on charges of human sacrifice in Kerala, revealed that he had a penchant for short poems -- Japanese Haiku with 17 syllables. Days before he was arrested along with his wife Laila and the mastermind of the case Shafi, he posted one haiku on October 6. Earlier too, he posted such poems.

Bhagaval Singh was active on Facebook and, in fact, came in contact with Shafi alias Rasheed through Facebook. In his profile bio, Bhagaval wrote he is from Kozhancheri, went to a government school in Elanthoor and studied at St Thomas College. Two family members have also been identified as sons in his profile. "Self-employed in the field of alternative medicine and Marma system of therapy which is well spread and accepted by people," his Facebook bio read. "I plant and nourish various species of herbs of great medical value. Under the supervision of academic personnel, we treat accident-borne complaints, various type of arthritis, paralectic, bone setting and after cure," it said.

Bhagaval Singh was also believed to be a local activist of CPM, a charge brought by the opposition which the party dismissed and said the couple were not party members and did not hold any post in the party or its associated organisations.

Gory details of the human sacrifices emerged as sexual assault, cannibalism, sadism, and conspiracy are suspected. Through an ad promising wealth, Bhagaval and Laila contacted Shafi who asked them to perform human sacrifice which led to the murder of two women. The police reached the three killers investigating a mysterious disappearance case and found that a similar incident took place a few months ago. The cops are investigating whether more women were sacrificed by the three.

SC delivers split verdict on hijab ban, says there's divergence of opinion

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Thursday, October 13, delivered a split verdict on the hijab ban in Karnataka's educational institutions, with one judge holding permitting a community to wear its religious symbols would be an "antithesis to secularism" and the other insisting that wearing the Muslim headscarf should be simply a "matter of choice".

While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals challenging the March 15 judgment of the Karnataka High Court that had refused to lift the ban, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia held there shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab anywhere in the schools and colleges of the state.

With the apex court delivering a split verdict, the high court's judgment still holds the field. However, the split verdict held off a permanent resolution of the vexed row over hijab as both judges suggested placing the matter before a larger Bench for adjudication. Writing a separate 73-page judgment, Justice Dhulia said, "By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates is first an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education."

Justice Gupta, who was heading the Bench and wrote a contrary verdict running into 133-pages, answered the 11 questions framed by him for consideration in the matter and said the constitutional goal of fraternity will be defeated if the students were permitted to carry their apparent religious symbols with them to the classroom. While pronouncing the judgment on a batch of 26 petitions, Justice Gupta said at the outset, "In view of the divergent views expressed by the Bench, the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for constitution of an appropriate Bench."

In his verdict, Justice Gupta said the arguments advanced by the counsel for some of the appellants that this matter involved a substantial question of law and should be referred to a five-judge Bench was "not tenable". Both the judges referred to the state government's February 5, 2022, order which banned wearing clothes that disturbed equality, integrity and public order in schools and colleges.

Justice Gupta noted the government order "promotes an equal environment". "Accordingly, I do not find that the government order impinges on the constitutional promise of fraternity and dignity. Instead, it promotes an equal environment where such fraternal values can be imbibed and nurtured without any hindrance of any kind," he said. On the other hand, Justice Dhulia set aside the high court verdict



and also quashed the government order. "Under our constitutional scheme, wearing a hijab should be simply a matter of choice. It may or may not be a matter of essential religious practice, but it still is, a matter of conscience, belief, and expression," he said.

Justice Dhulia further said the "unfortunate fallout of the hijab restriction would be that we would have denied education to a girl child". He said in his opinion, courts were not the forums to solve "theological questions". He said the courts, however, must interfere when the boundaries set by the Constitution were broken or where unjustified restrictions were imposed.

Justice Gupta noted that some of the appellants had also made a comparison with the rights of the followers of the Sikh faith by arguing that since 'kirpan' was allowed in terms of Explanation I to Article 25, therefore, the students who wanted to wear hijab should be equally protected. "The essential religious practices of the followers of Sikh faith cannot be made basis of wearing of hijab/headscarf by the believers of Islamic faith," Justice Gupta said.

"As discussed above, secularism is applicable to all citizen," he said. *Source: PTI*

UP police raid in Uttarakhand leaves BJP leader's wife dead, 6 cops injured

DEHRADUN (TIP)

A woman shot dead in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district during clashes with an Uttar Pradesh Police team, which reached there looking for a man accused of illegal sand mining, was identified as the wife of a local BJP leader.

The incident at Bharatpur village in Udham Singh Nagar district, in which six UP Police personnel were injured, including two with gunshot wounds, triggered a war of words between police forces of the two BJP-ruled states.

Uttarakhand Police said it was not kept in the loop about the operation, but the UP Police said it had alerted the Udham Singh Nagar police before mounting the operation.

The woman shot dead was identified as Gurpreet Bhullar, wife of local BJP leader and block chief Gurtej Bhullar.

DIG (Kumaon) Nilesh Anand Bharne told The Indian Express that an FIR had been registered on the complaint of the woman's family at the Kunda police station.

He said the UP Police team came to make an arrest in Uttarakhand but did not inform the local police.

The FIR is against 11-12 unidentified UP police personnel and has been registered under IPC sections relating to murder, rioting, house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrong-ful restraint, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy.

Uddhav Sena faction says election body biased, gave priority to Eknath Shinde

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena has alleged that the Election Commission of India (ECI) is biased and that it gave priority to Eknath Shinde while allotting the party symbols to the two factions. Vivek Singh, a lawyer of the Uddhav camp wrote a letter to the ECI stating that the procedure adopted by the election body during the allocation of symbols gave an "undue upper hand to the Shinde camp".

The election commission had frozen the Shiv Sena's bow and arrow symbol amid a tussle between the factions. Afterwards, the election body gave the mashaal symbol to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena and two swords and shield to the Eknath Shinde-led faction.

The Uddhav-led Sena will be called the

'Shiv Sena - Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray' while the Shinde camp was given the name 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena'. The four-page letter by the Uddhav camp alleged that the ECI gave biased treatment to the Shinde faction. It also sought assurance from the Commission that such "biased treatment in favour of the Eknath Shinde faction" will not continue and that both groups will be dealt with on an equal footing.

According to the letter, the EIC uploaded a copy of a confidential letter sent by the Uddhav camp which contained the options for the new symbols that will be used in the upcoming Andheri East by-elections. However, the commission uploaded the letter on its website making it accessible to everyone, including the Shinde camp.



ED FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST RANA AYYUB; SAYS SHE USED PUBLIC FUNDS FOR SELF

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against journalist Rana Ayyub under the anti-money laundering law, accusing her of "cheating" the public and utilising charity funds worth Rs 2.69 crore for creating her personal assets, and also violating the foreign contribution law. The federal agency filed its prosecution complaint against Ayyub before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, on October 12. "Rana Ayyub launched three fundraiser charity campaigns on the 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020 and collected funds totalling Rs 2,69,44,680," the ED said in a statement issued on Thursday. Ketto is an online crowdfunding platform.

The campaigns, it said, were meant to raise funds for slum dwellers and farmers; relief work for Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra and help Ayyub and her team to help those impacted by COVID-19 in India. The probe found that the funds raised on the online platforms were received in the accounts of Ayyub's father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts, the ED alleged.

PAKISTANI DRONE SHOT DOWN ALONG BORDER IN PUNJAB, SAYS BSF

The Border Security Force (BSF) said that it shot down a drone from Pakistan along the International Border in Punjab's Amritsar district on Friday, October 14 morning. The drone was shot down in an area under the jurisdiction of Ramdass police station in Amritsar district. "Today near Shahpur border check post, troops on duty due to dexterity, good firing skill, and courage shot down a rogue drone the moment it entered into Indian territory close to fence... This area is close to BP 67/3 and under Ramdass police station," a BSF spokesperson said. The black drone was not carrying any weapons or drugs. However, BSF and Punjab Police officials launched a search operation to check if it had dropped a consignment before it was shot down.

India abstains on UN resolution flaying Russia's referendums

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution condemning Russia's referendums and the annexation of four Ukrainian territories, saying its decision was "consistent with its well-thought-out national position." India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj said India had consistently advocated that no solution could be reached at the cost of human lives.

"Escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest. We have urged that all efforts be made for an immediate cessation of hostilities and urgent return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy," she said. The resolution — Territorial integrity of Ukraine: Defending the principles of the Charter of the UN — was adopted with 143 nations voting in favour, four against and 35, including India, abstaining.

"The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open. We, therefore, sincerely hope for an early resumption of peace talks to bring about an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the conflict. India stands ready to support all such efforts aimed at de-escalation," said Kamboj. "There are other pressing issues at play, some of which have not been adequately addressed in the resolution voted today. Our decision to abstain is consistent with our well-thought-out national position," she added. India also expressed its concern over the developing world being forced to bear substantial collateral damage.

"As developing countries face the brunt of the conflict's consequences on fuel, food and fertiliser supplies, it is critical that the voice of the global South be heard and their legitimate concerns duly addressed. We must not initiate measures that further complicate a struggling global economy," the Indian PR stressed.

Last month, India had abstained from a draft United Nations Security Council resolution to condemn Russia's referendums and annexation of four Ukrainian territories as invalid. No member of the BRICS bloc voted along with the West.

India slams Pakistan after it raises Kashmir issue

India dismissed as "frivolous and pointless" Pakistan's attempts to raise the Kashmir issue during the emergency



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj.

debate on the Ukraine issue at the UN General Assembly. Speaking after the UNGA had voted on the issue, Pakistan's Permanent Representative Munir Akram said he looked forward to a "similar concern and condemnation on attempts by India to formalise" the annexation of Kashmir. Pakistan, he said, had abstained on the resolution because it "endorses the basic principle reflected in the draft resolution that referendums cannot apply to regions which are part of a sovereign state and in an environment which is not free."

India's PR Ruchira Kamboj replied by saying that statements by "one delegation to misuse this forum and make frivolous and pointless remarks against my country deserve our collective contempt and sympathy for a mindset which repeatedly utters falsehoods. We call on Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism so that our citizens can enjoy the right to life and liberty." Pakistan replied with diplomat Gul Kaiser Sarwani commenting on Hindutva, the RSS, cow vigilantism and the state of minorities in India.

Cong needs stability: G23's Manish Tewari on backing Kharge, not Tharoor, for prez poll

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari feels the party leader and top contender for the Congress presidential poll, Mallikarjun Kharge, can provide the stability that Congress needs.

Speaking on the G23 leaders supporting Kharge instead of Shashi Tharoor for election of Congress presidential post, Tewari said, "Kharge has spent several years, has grown from the lowest posts in the party. Congress needs stability which I feel Kharge can provide..."

Shashi Tharoor, a few days back, lamented that some leaders are openly backing his rival Mallikarjun Kharge for the Congress president post.

Tharoor had called the 'playing field' uneven after several PCC chiefs and senior leaders were not available for a meeting with him during his visits to their respective states, but they warmed up to Kharge when he visited them for support.

However, Kharge then reiterated that there is no bad blood between the



candidates and that they are "like brothers."

Kharge, 80, is being seen as a favourite or the "unofficial official candidate" for the top party post because of his perceived proximity to the Gandhi family.

The Congress presidential poll will take place on October 17, and the results will be out on October 19.

Don't compare me with Tharoor, says Mallikarjun Kharge

When asked about Shashi Tharoor's plan to "decentralise authority" in the Congress, senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge said he does not want the two of them to be compared. Kharge and Tharoor are in the race to become the next Congress president.

In an exclusive interview with India Today, he made an appeal to not compare him with Tharoor. Speaking on Tharoor's manifesto to "reform the way the party functions", he said, "I have come on my own from block president to this level. Was Shashi Tharoor there during that time?"

He added that Tharoor is free to go ahead with his manifesto but his agenda is to implement the decisions taken in the Udaipur declaration. The declaration that was adopted by the party in May pays focus to three fields -- public insight, election management and national training.

Source: India Today

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 14, 2022, TO OCTOBER 20, 2022

14 OCTOBER

1882 The University of Punjab was established in modern Pakistan.

1956 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar accepted Buddhism in Nagpur with 3,85,000 followers.



1240 Razia Sultan, the first female ruler of India, died.

1643 Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah I of Delhi (India) was born.

1953 The Estate Duty Act came into effect in India.

2008 The Reserve Bank of India announced the release of an additional 200 billion rupees to meet the needs of mutual funds.

2010 The 19th Commonwealth Games in the capital Delhi ended.

15 OCTOBER

1931 11th President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was born.



1932 The Tata Company airplane took its first flight. After the acquisition by the Government of India, this company was called Air India.



1997 Arundhati Roy was selected for Britain's most prestigious Booker Prize for her novel 'The God of Small Things'.

1949 The state of Tripura was included in India.

1988 Ujwala Patil became the first Asian woman to travel the world through the sea.

1998 India's Fatima B was awarded the United Nations Award for the Eradication of Poverty.

1686 The Mughal ruler Aurangzeb signed a peace deal with Bijapur.

16 OCTOBER

1861 The sale of federal postage stamps began.



1948 India's famous actress and Bharatanatyam dancer Hema Malini was born.

1968 Bharatvanshi Hargovind Khurana was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for medicine and physiology.

1959 National Women's Education Council established.

1978 Indian cricketer Kapil Dev made his Test debut against Faisalabad against Pakistan.

2002 A gold and a bronze medalist at the 14th Asian Games took Sunita Rani of India to a medal after failing in the dopint test.

2005 G-20 countries agree to reform the World Bank and IMF.

17 OCTOBER



1979 Mother Teresa was given the Nobel Peace Prize.

1605 Mughal ruler Akbar died.



1817 Syed Ahmed Khan, founder of Aligarh Muslim University, was born in Delhi.

1870 The Port of Calcutta was brought under the management of a constitutional body.

1940 Mahatma Gandhi declared private Satyagraha.

18 OCTOBER

1980 The first Himalaya Car Rally was flagged off from Brabourne Stadium in Bombay (now Mumbai).



2004 The notorious Chandan smuggler Veerappan was killed.

1998 India and Pakistan agree to stop nuclear risk.

2008 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati returned 189.25 crore acres of land to the Railway Ministry for the railway coach factory in Rae Bareli.

1950 Famous actor of Hindi films Om Puri was born.

1972 Trial of the first multipurpose chopper SA315 in Bangalore.

19 OCTOBER

1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionary of Charities in Kolkata. Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who held Indian citizenship.

1970 The first MiG-21 aircraft manufactured in India was inducted into the Indian Air Force. It is a super sonic fighter jet which was built by the Soviet Union.

1910 Astronomer and Nobel Prize winner Subramanian Chandrasekhar was born.

1920 Pandurang Shastri Athalve, the founder of the Swadhyay family, was born in Maharashtra.

20 OCTOBER

1568 The Mughal emperor Akbar attacked Chittorgarh.

1774 Calcutta (now Kolkata) was made the capital of India.

1961 Birja Sankar Guha, physical anthropologist and first director of the Anthropological Survey of India, died in Ghatshila Bihar.

1978 India's aggressive batsman Virender Sehwag was born. He scored 8,586 runs in 104 Tests and 8,273 runs in 251 ODIs in his career.

1947 The first war took place between India and Pakistan.

1962 China attacked India and attempted to sneak into the Indian border via Arunachal Pradesh.

1964 One of the revolutionaries of India, HC Dasappa died.

1991 A 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Uttarkashi, India killed more than 1000 people.



Pakistani Senator arrested for tweeting against Army Chief Bajwa

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A lawmaker of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was arrested here on October 13 for accusing Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of legitimising corruption in the high echelon of the country.

Senator Azam Khan Swati was arrested following his scathing tweet targeting Chief of Army Staff Gen Bajwa.

"Mr Bajwa congratulations to you and few with you. Your plan is really working and all criminals are getting free at the cost of this country," he tweeted after the acquittal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz in an alleged money laundering case on Wednesday.

Swati went on to add, "With these thugs getting free you have legitimised corruption. How you predict now the future of this country?"

Swati was booked when the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the First Information Report at its Cyber Crime Reporting Centre in Islamabad.

The FIR read that Swati tweeted with "malafide intentions & ulterior motives" against "State Institutes of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its Senior Government Functionaries including Chief of The Army Staff of Pakistan Army".



"This is a calculated attempt to create hatred in the minds of people and Army Personnel/s against COAS and Pakistan Army and also created distrust towards the Judicial System. In such intimidating Tweet/s, the accused Muhammad Azam Khan Swati has attempted to provoke the general public and Personnel/s of Armed Forces by trying to create a feeling of ill-will among pillars of the State," according to the FIR.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and his son were absolved of any wrongdoing by a court in Lahore where they faced a case of about Rs 16 billion in money laundering.

Swati was produced before a sessions

court in Islamabad where he spoke with the media outside saying that he was not arrested for breaking the law, violating the Constitution or fundamental rights but for "taking one name — of Bajwa — and that is the violation".

The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Swati also accused FIA of torturing him saying that "a parliamentarian has been unclothed". "I am telling the nation."

Earlier, the senior Civil Judge Shabbir Bhatti remanded him for two days to the FIA to probe the allegations and asked the authorities to present Swati before the court on October 15.

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry tweeted that reports of Swati's torture were "disturbing". "Torturing political prisoners has become a new normal in Pakistan," he added.

Former human rights minister during PTI rule, Shireen Mazari, tweeted a video of Azam Swati alleging torture in custody.

"Brave man Senator Azam Swati as he tells of why he was arrested but also how he was subjected to torture while in custody," she wrote. "Shameful." (PTI)

NEPALESE PM DEUBA SACKS FOUR MINISTERS REPRESENTING JANATA SAMAJWADI PARTY

OCTOBER 13

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on October 13 sacked four ministers representing the Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP), which left the ruling coalition last week after joining hands with the opposition CPN-UML for the upcoming polls.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari relieved the ministers from their respective ministerial portfolios at the recommendation of Prime Minister Deuba in line with Article 77 (2) of the Constitution of Nepal, said a statement issued by the President's Office.

Those relieved from the ministerial position include Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration Rajendra Shrestha, Minister for Forest and Environment Pradeep Yadav, Minister for Physical Infrastructure Mohammad Istiyak Rai and Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Mrigendra Kumar Singh.

According to the code of conduct of the Election Commission, even if these ministers are removed, the chances of the prime minister being able to appoint new ministers are very low. The EC states that new appointments in the Cabinet will violate the election code of conduct.

The JSP has made an electoral alliance with main opposition Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) headed by K P Sharma Oli. Janata Samajwadi leaders had argued that they hadn't quit the government but only partnered with the UML for the elections in some constituencies.

Prime Minister Deuba had discussed the matter with the CPN (Maoist Centre), the CPN (Unified Socialist), and the Rastriya Janamorcha. The coalition partners were divided on the issue even though Deuba was firm on sacking them, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

Some leaders had suggested only relieving them of their duties and rendering them ministers without portfolio. They had argued that the party could still be a part of the coalition considering the possibility of new partnerships after the elections. Meanwhile, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Gobinda Prasad Sharma (Koirala) has also been relieved from the portfolio as he could not be a member of the federal parliament within six months as stipulated in the Article 78 of the Constitution of Nepal. Minister for Communication and Information Technology Gyanendra Bahadur Karki has been entrusted with the responsibility of the law ministry as well. There is a provision in the constitution that no one other than the member of the Parliament can be the minister, for more than six months. (PTI)

GRAFT CONVICTIONS EXTEND AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S JAIL TERM TO 26 YEARS



OCTOBER 12

BANGKOK (TIP): A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges on October 12, with two three-year sentences to be served concurrently, adding to previous convictions that now leave her with a 26-year total prison term, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi, 77, was detained on February 1, 2021, when the military seized power from her elected government.

She has denied the allegations against her in this case, in which she was accused of receiving USD 550,000 as a bribe from Maung Weik, a tycoon convicted of drug trafficking. Corruption cases comprise the biggest share of the many charges the military has brought against the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate. — AP

18 flood survivors killed in bus fire in Pakistan's Sindh

OCTOBER 13

ISLAMABAD (TIP): At least 18 flood survivors, including eight children and nine women, died of severe burns in Pakistan, when an overcrowded air-conditioned bus they were travelling in caught fire, police officials said on October 13.

The incident happened near the Nooribad police station in Sindh province on Wednesday night.

The bus with 80 flood-affected people on board was heading towards Karachi from Khairpur Nathan Shah, in Dadu district, according to Geo.tv.

The Jamshoro deputy commissioner confirmed that the number of fatalities had risen to 18, the report said.

"The fire may have been caused by short-circuit in the air-conditioner," the report said, quoting police officials.

Some passengers even jumped out of the bus to escape the fire, police said.

According to the police, rescue work is under way, and firefighters have rushed to the scene to douse the flames, while



the injured were shifted to local hospitals in Jamshoro and Nooribad.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has directed the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Jamshoro to ramp up rescue efforts.

Murad has demanded a report from officials on the incident.

Dadu district is among the worst flood-hit districts in Sindh province.

More than 1,700 people have been killed, 33 million displaced and a third of the country was submerged under water in the worst floods to hit Pakistan, brought about by unprecedented rains since mid-June. (PTI)

WHARTON ARTS' HELEN CHA-PYO RECEIVES CENTENNIAL AWARD

BY MABEL PAIS



Helen Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director
Photo / Courtesy Wharton Arts

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest non-profit community performing arts education organization, proudly announces that Artistic Director Helen H. Cha-Pyo is one of 100 select individuals chosen to receive the prestigious Eastman School of Music Centennial Award. The award is granted to those who exemplify the school's mission and legacy through their

commitment to artistry, scholarship, leadership, community engagement, and philanthropy.

Cha-Pyo joins Renée Fleming, Ron Carter, Chuck Mangione, and Maria Schneider, among other notable artists, as a Centennial Awardee. For a complete list of awardees, visit rochester.edu/adv/eastman-centennial/centennial-awards.

Cha-Pyo said, "This award was a complete surprise to me, and needless to say, I'm deeply humbled by it. One thing I still carry in my heart from my studies at the Eastman School of Music is the phrase engraved on the facade of the Eastman Theater, 'for the enrichment of community life.' I am grateful to be able to work at Wharton Arts which shares the same mission of enriching life through music."

HELEN CHA-PYO

Helen H. Cha-Pyo is currently in her fifth season as the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA), New Jersey's largest independent performing arts education organization, comprising four programs. Under her leadership, Wharton Arts serves close to 2,000 students from 10 New Jersey

counties through a range of private lessons and group classes at the Wharton Performing Arts School, 15 performing ensembles at the New Jersey Youth Symphony, five performing ensembles at the New Jersey Youth Chorus, and the Paterson Music Project, an El Sistema-inspired program that provides free after-school instrumental music instruction to over 450 children in Paterson, NJ.

ACHIEVEMENTS

For 16 years as Music Director and Conductor of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO), Cha-Pyo inspired hundreds of young musicians to perform at the highest levels, resulting in ESYO being recognized as one of the nation's premier music organizations for youth musicians.

Cha-Pyo's vision was instrumental in the founding of ESYO CHIME in 2015, a music education program dedicated to serving underprivileged youth of Schenectady and Troy, NY. In 2018, ESYO established the Helen Cha-Pyo Golden Baton Award and Scholarships for students who embody her passionate commitment to music as a means to uplift and enrich communities.

From 1996 to 2002, Cha-Pyo served as

Artistic Director and Conductor of the Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, as well as Associate Director of Music at The Riverside Church in New York City. She released three recordings with the Riverside Choir. (JAV Recordings)

AWARDS

Helen Cha-Pyo is the recipient of The Dove Leadership Award in 2019; the 2022 Angelos Artist Award from the Angelos Mission Ensemble; the Eastman Centennial Award from Eastman School of Music given to those who exemplify the school's mission and legacy through their commitment to artistry, scholarship, leadership, community engagement, and/or philanthropy and the ASCAP's (American Society of Composers, Authors, & Publishers) Adventurous Programming Awards for championing music by American composers.

TOURS

She led the orchestra on three international tours: Europe in 2008, China and South Korea in 2012, and Portugal in 2016. Read more at helenchapyo.com.

Wharton Arts Makes Key Appointments

BY MABEL PAIS

As we enter the second year of our five-year strategic plan, Wharton Arts is making key senior staff appointments in order to move the organization forward," said Peter H. Gistelinck, Executive Director at Wharton Arts. "Continued investment in people is essential for any organization. We are confident that the continuity of our exemplary team will help us in achieving our ambitious goals."

APPOINTMENTS

Shanna Lin, Director of Paterson Music Project (PMP) (Paterson Music Project)

As Co-Founder of the PMP program and her tenure of 10 years with Wharton Arts, it was logical to appoint

Shanna Lin as Director of PMP, thus filling in the role of former PMP Director Elizabeth Mouthrop, recently appointed as Executive Director of El Sistema USA.

Debra Joyal, Director of Performing Arts School (PAS) (Wharton Performing Arts School)

Debra Joyal is a classically trained musician, administrator, skilled writer, and researcher in institutional funding and communication with degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her overall focus is on building connections to communicate the vision and mission of nonprofit organizations. She is welcomed as the new Director of the Performing Arts School in Berkeley Heights, NJ.

Andrew Nitkin, Director of Community Partnerships (Wharton Performing Arts School)

Andrew Nitkin, having been instrumental for many years in successfully leading the Performing Arts School at Wharton Arts in Berkeley Heights, NJ is now appointed in the role of Director of Community Partnerships for the Performing Arts School.

Roger Sweet, Manager of Orchestras (NJYS) (New Jersey Youth Symphony)

Roger Sweet has been with Wharton Arts as a Production Assistant of the Operations department. He is now appointed as the new Manager of Orchestras of the New Jersey Youth Symphony in New Providence, NJ.

Eva Dooley, Director of Finance & Administration (Wharton Arts)

Eva Dooley has been appointed as the new Director of Finance & Administration of Wharton Arts. Eva has long-time expertise in accounting and financial analysis with an emphasis on business analytics, strategic planning, project management, and overall bookkeeping. In each of these roles, she has gained skill sets that allow her to work in many different capacities including human resources. She is welcomed as a new member of the senior staff team.

WHARTON ARTS

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality, transformative performing arts education that sparks personal growth while building inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. Through the New Jersey Youth Symphony, the Paterson Music Project, and the Performing Arts School, Wharton Arts offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best. To learn more, visit whartonarts.org

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



Clockwise, left to right): Debra Joyal, Roger Sweet, Eva Dooley, Andrew Nitkin, and Shanna Lin
Photo / Courtesy Wharton Arts

AUGUST WILSON'S PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY RETURNS TO BROADWAY

BY MABEL PAIS



August Wilson
Photo / playbill.com

THE PIANO LESSON, August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork, returns to Broadway as a first revival, starring in the lead, Academy Award® winner Samuel L. Jackson, Screen Actors Guild Award nominee® John David Washington and Tony® and Emmy® nominee Danielle Brooks. They are directed by Tony nominee LaTanya Richardson Jackson.

Richardson Jackson.

The first Broadway revival of the August Wilson work began its 17-week engagement September 19 and opened October 13 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, 243 West 47th Street, New York, NY.

Set in Pittsburgh's Hill District in 1936, a battle is brewing in the Charles household. 'The Piano Lesson' follows a brother and sister who are embroiled in a battle over a family heirloom piano carved with the faces of their ancestors. At the center lies the family's heirloom piano. On one side, a brother plans to build the family fortune by selling it. On the other, a sister

will go to any length to keep it and preserve the family history. Only their uncle stands in between. But even he can't hold back the ghosts of the past.

'THE PIANO LESSON' is the play for now. It reaches into the souls of the present, revealing startling truths about how we perceive our past - and who gets to define our legacy.

CAST



Lead Actors-(left to right): Samuel L. Jackson, John David Washington, Danielle Brooks
Photo / playbill.com

The rest of the cast are Trai Byers as Avery, Ray Fisher as Lymon, April Matthis as Grace, Michael Potts as Wining Boy, and Nadia Daniel and Jurnee Swan alternating in the role of Maretha. Understudies are Shirine Babb, Charles Browning, Peter Jay Fernandez, Sharina Martin, Warner Miller, Doron JePaul Mitchell, and Kim Sullivan.

CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team also includes Tony-winning music director Jason Michael Webb, who composed new music for the revival, Tony-winning set designer Beowulf Boritt, Tony-nominated costume designer Toni-Leslie James, Tony-nominated lighting designer Japhy Weideman, Tony-winning sound designer Scott Lehrer, Drama Desk-nominated designer Cookie Jordan, Tony-winning projection designer Jeff Snug, and choreographer Otis Sallid. Casting is by Calleri, Jensen, Davis, and general management is by Foresight Theatrical.

AWARDS

The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama received Tony nominations for Best Play, Best Direction of a Play, Best Featured Actor in a Play, Best Actor in a Play, and Best Featured Actress in a Play.

For more information, visit pianolessonplay.com

HORRORFEST CELEBRATES TWO DECADES

BY MABEL PAIS

Featuring Director RAMONE MENON'S 'THE PEY'

ANITA GUPTA, Semi-Finalist Screenplay Co-Writer for 'JUNKIES, LOVE & VAMPIRES'

The Film and Media Alliance of Southern Utah (FMASU) presents the HorrorFest International Film Festival, October 19-22. Southern Utah's historic Electric Theater serves as the primary venue for the event.

This year's edition will screen 67 films (6 features and 61 shorts) representing 16 countries. In addition, 26 feature-length scripts and 22 scripts for short films will also participate in the film festival's script competition over the four-day fright-filled event. Additionally, HorrorFest International 2022 will host its always anticipated secret screening, filmmaker and horror-themed panels, its traditional trivia event, a live script read of a beloved horror classic, a costume contest, and more as part of its 20th Anniversary celebration.

Recognized as one of the top horror festivals in the world and taking place in beautiful St. George, Utah, HorrorFest International FF not only has the benefit of utilizing one of the truly historic theaters in the United States as its festival hub, but it is also surrounded by some of the most breathtaking scenic locales in the U.S. including Zion National Park, Pine Valley, and Snow Canyon.

HorrorFest International Film Festival Co-Founders and Senior Programmers, Adam Mast, John Pugh,

and Jeff Sanders, said, "We could not be more excited to roll out this lineup of films and events as we celebrate our 20th year. We have seen this film festival grow over the past two decades to become a truly special film festival that is a stalwart on the international scene, while highlighting the filmmaking accomplishments in our home state of Utah - and yet, never losing the warmth and camaraderie our filmmakers and film fans enjoy here at the Electric Theater in St. George."

TICKETS & PASSES

For more information about the HorrorFest International Film Festival and to purchase Tickets and Passes, visit fmasu.com/horrorfest.

HORROR FEST FILM 2022 LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT

Bunker
DIRS: Adrian Langley | USA | 1h 48m



Bunker, Opening Night
Photo / fmasu.com/horrorfest

Trapped in a bunker during World War

I, a group of soldiers are faced with an ungodly presence that slowly turns them against each other.

CLOSING NIGHT

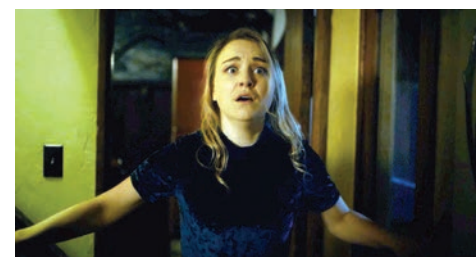
Deadstream
DIRS: Joseph Winter, Vanessa Winter | USA | 1h 27m

A disgraced internet personality attempts to win back his followers by livestreaming one night alone in a haunted house. But when he accidentally pisses off a vengeful spirit, his big comeback event becomes a real-time fight for his life.

FEATURE FILMS

There are 61 Feature Films.

SHORT FILMS



The Pey, Short film.
Photo / fmasu.com/horrorfest

There are 61 Short Films.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

FEATURE LENGTH SCREENPLAYS (SEMI-FINALISTS)

There are 26 semi-finalists for Feature Length Screenplays.

SHORT SCREENPLAYS (SEMI-FINALISTS)

There are 22 semi-finalists for the Short Screenplays category.

HORRORFEST INTERNATIONAL

Horror-Fest has prided itself on showcasing countless horror gems of yesteryear in a bid to not only keep the spirit of horror film history alive but to entertain audiences and to champion the big screen experience. Through the years, this long-running fest has brought titles like "The Exorcist," "Psycho," "Jaws," "Dawn of the Dead," "Phantasm," "Frankenstein," "Dracula," "Halloween," "Poltergeist," "The Omen," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," "Evil Dead II," "Fright Night," "Creepshow," and "The Shining" back to the big screen in terrifying fashion.

Since the early 2000s Horror-Fest has been a showcase for various film projects produced in Southern Utah and throughout the state. Since 2020, HorrorFest International has opened its arms to genre storytellers from all over the world making for what will most certainly be the most fun you'll ever have been scared! To learn more, visit fmasu.com/horrorfest

FILM AND MEDIA ALLIANCE OF SOUTHERN UTAH (FMASU) -- Created in 2017, FMASU is designed to encourage, inspire, nurture, and educate filmmaking talent and to preserve film history and the theatrical experience. To learn more, visit fmasu.com.

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



Netizens ask Urvashi to leave Rishabh Pant alone as she wears sindoor, mangalsutra

Actress Urvashi Rautela has shared a cryptic post for Karwa Chauth, which has made netizens ask her to leave cricketer Rishabh Pant alone.

Urvashi, who is currently in Australia, made a post for Karwa Chauth on Instagram. She is seen dressed in a red saree and has completed her look with a mangalsutra and sindoor.

She captioned the image: "Prem main padi premika ko, sindoor se priye kuch nahi hota!! Saari rasm rivaaz ke saath chahiye umar bhar ka saath piya tumse."

Users couldn't stop themselves commenting on the picture as they thought the caption is cryptic and directed towards Pant.

One wrote: "World cup ke baad hum shaadi karwa denge but please usko divert na karo."

"Pant ko chod do world cup ke liye please," said another.

"Is hisaab se chalta rahega to World Cup ka to pata nai, bhaiya Bhabhi ki Australia me zarur ho jaegi," commented a user.

Akshay Kumar goes on epic adventure, walks on water in 'Ram Setu' trailer

"Duniya main Shri Ram ke lakhon mandir hai par Setu sirf ek" -- is a line that actor Akshay Kumar is heard saying while he's seen walking on water in the trailer of the upcoming film 'Ram Setu'.

The makers unveiled the over two-minute long trailer, where Akshay seems to be saving what his character claims to be an ancient treasure - a bridge built by Lord Ram in the Ramayana. It starts with an explanation of the story where the antagonist wants to destroy 'Ram Setu'.

As Akshay and his team set out to prove the existence of the structure, they get embroiled in a big scheme where they are the targets. The action-adventure filled video also shows Akshay walking on water at the end of the trailer.

Jacqueline Fernandez and Nushratt Bharuccha have a blink-and-miss appearance.

According to the description on YouTube, the film is about an atheist archaeologist turned believer, who must race against time to prove the existence of the legendary Ram Setu before evil forces destroy the pillar of India's heritage.

An action adventure with a strong serving of twists and turns, Ram Setu promises to keep the viewer engaged



and entertained, making it the perfect festive film to be enjoyed with the entire family in cinemas. 'Ram Setu' has been directed by Abhishek Sharma and co-produced by Cape of Good Films along

with Amazon Prime Video, Abundantia Entertainment, and Lyca Productions. The film also stars Satya Dev, Nasser, Pravesh Rana, Jennifer Piccinato.

Source: IANS

More trouble for Adipurush, case filed against Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan and 3 more

A complaint filed in Jaunpur court against 5 including Saif Ali Khan. The court fixed the date of October 27 for the statement of the complainant, who has alleged 'indecent depiction of Lord Ram, Sita, Hanuman, Ravana in the film's teaser, which was unveiled on October 2.

Jaunpur's Judicial Magistrate Ashutosh Singh has filed a complaint against five, including the producer of the film Adipurush Om Raut and actors Prabhas and Saif Ali Khan, on the complaint of advocate Himanshu Srivastava. The court has fixed October 27 for the statement of the complainant. Srivastava alleged indecent portrayal of Lord Rama, Sita, Hanuman and Ravana in the film's teaser that has hurt religious sentiments.

Earlier, a plea was filed in a court in Delhi seeking injunction against the upcoming movie Adipurush, alleging it has depicted Hindu gods in an "unwarranted" and "inaccurate" way in its promotional video. The matter has been listed for hearing before senior civil judge Abhishek Kumar on Monday, October 10.

Adipurush is a mythological film based on the epic, Ramayana. Directed by Om Raut, the film will see Prabhas playing the role of Lord Rama and Saif Ali Khan as Ravana. Made on a mammoth budget of nearly Rs 500 crore, Adipurush is all set for a grand release on January 12, 2023, ahead of Sankranti. The release date of Adipurush was postponed multiple times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Adipurush is one of the most anticipated films of 2023. The storyline of the film follows Ayodhya's king Raghava who travelled to the island of Lanka 7000 years ago. He had one aim - to rescue his wife Janaki, who has been abducted by Lankesh, the king of Lanka. Kriti Sanon will be seen playing the role of Janaki.



Source: India Today

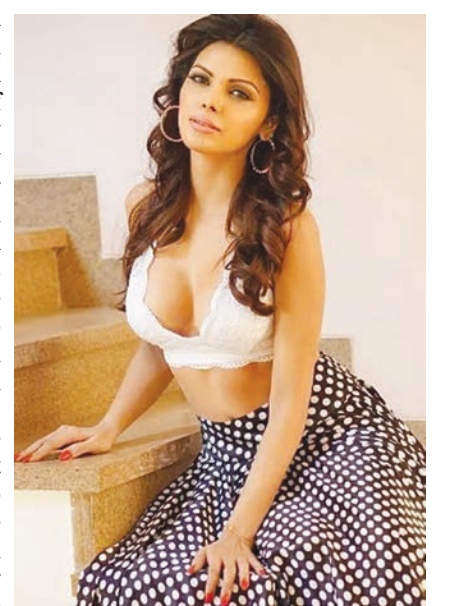
Sherlyn: Not settling scores, just ensuring no other woman becomes a victim

Actress and celebrity Sherlyn Chopra is miffed with the makers of the reality television show 'Bigg Boss' for including film director Sajid Khan, who was embroiled in the #MeToo controversy in India, back in 2018.

However, she has clarified that she just wants to make her voice heard along with several other women, who are the victims to Sajid's alleged sexual misconduct.

During a media interaction at her Juhu home in Mumbai, Sherlyn told reporters, "I'm not looking to settle the scores with Sajid, I just want to make sure that no other woman falls victim to a molester like Sajid Khan."

She further mentioned that she would like to go to the 'Bigg Boss' house not as a contestant but just for a day to have a face off with Sajid Khan so that she could bring the truth to light on national television.





Madonna appears to come out as gay on TikTok

Queen of pop Madonna seemingly came out as gay in a playful video posted to TikTok.

The 64-year-old put her spin on a new viral trend by attempting to throw a pair of bright pink underwear into the trash can and purposely missing, reports pagesix.com. "If I miss, I'm Gay," text over the video read.

The 'Material Girl' singer, who was rocking a cream-coloured corset over a white tee with matching pants and pink hair, seemed to accept the outcome, staring into the camera while proudly throwing one arm into the air.

However, the video has left many fans confused, with some questioning whether Madonna was just jumping on the trend for fun or was serious about coming out.

"What in the 80s is happening," one fan asked, with another adding, "Did Madonna just come out? And I'm witnessing it in real time??"

A third supportive fan wrote: "Madonna this is very slay energy being delivered." While the 'Vogue' songstress - who has alluded to her sexuality in the past - has mostly dated men in the public eye, she famously kissed Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

For Julia Roberts, domestic life brings more 'joy' than career

Actress Julia Roberts has "never" been consumed by her acting career. She said in a new interview that it is her domestic life that brings her a lot of "joy" even though she noted that her career in showbusiness has been a "dream come true."

The actress, who shares 17-year-old twins Phinnaeus and Hazel as well as son Henry, 15, with cinematographer Daniel Moder, shared: "It's just never consumed me being an actor. It is my dream come true, but it is not my only dream come true."

"The life that I have built with my husband, the life that we've built with our children. That's the best stuff. To come home at the end of the day, triumphantly to them. When I'm not working, that is my full-time job. And it isn't rainbows and kittens every day, but it does bring me a lot of joy," she continued.

The 'Pretty Woman' actress took a break from making movies in 2018 before returning to the screen in 'Ticket to Paradise' opposite George Clooney earlier this year and explained that she kept in touch with her family while she was away with a series of handwritten letters because emails can be "boring."

Speaking on 'CBS Sunday Morning', she said: "I wrote a lot of letters. Email is kinda boring. And you don't get the cool stamps and it's something Danny and I have always done. The first letter that he ever wrote me, which was seven pages long, I still have it tucked away. One day, I'll show it to Hazel and say, 'That's what you're looking for'."

Source: IANS



Tom Holland, Zendaya hold hands on Louvre museum date

Hollywood stars Tom Holland and Zendaya have taken their romance to France as they were spotted on a romantic date in Paris over the weekend.

The British actor and the Emmy Award-winning actress were pictured holding hands as they joined a special tour at the Louvre.

They were seen listening attentively as a tour guide gave an explanation of the artwork displayed at the famed museum, reports aceshowbiz.com.

For the outing, Holland looked stylish in a long-sleeved, black-and-white striped sweater which he tucked into the waist of his black pants.

As for Zendaya, she opted for a smart chic look in a light blue, oversized blouse with the long sleeves rolled up towards her elbows.

Her hair was pulled into a fashionable up do with bangs framing the side of her head. She accessorized with a pair of glasses along with a black cross-over body bag and a black watch on her left wrist.

She appeared to be holding a gold-coloured camera in her left hand.

Zendaya had been spotted earlier in

the city of love to attend the Paris Fashion Week, which came to an end on October 4.

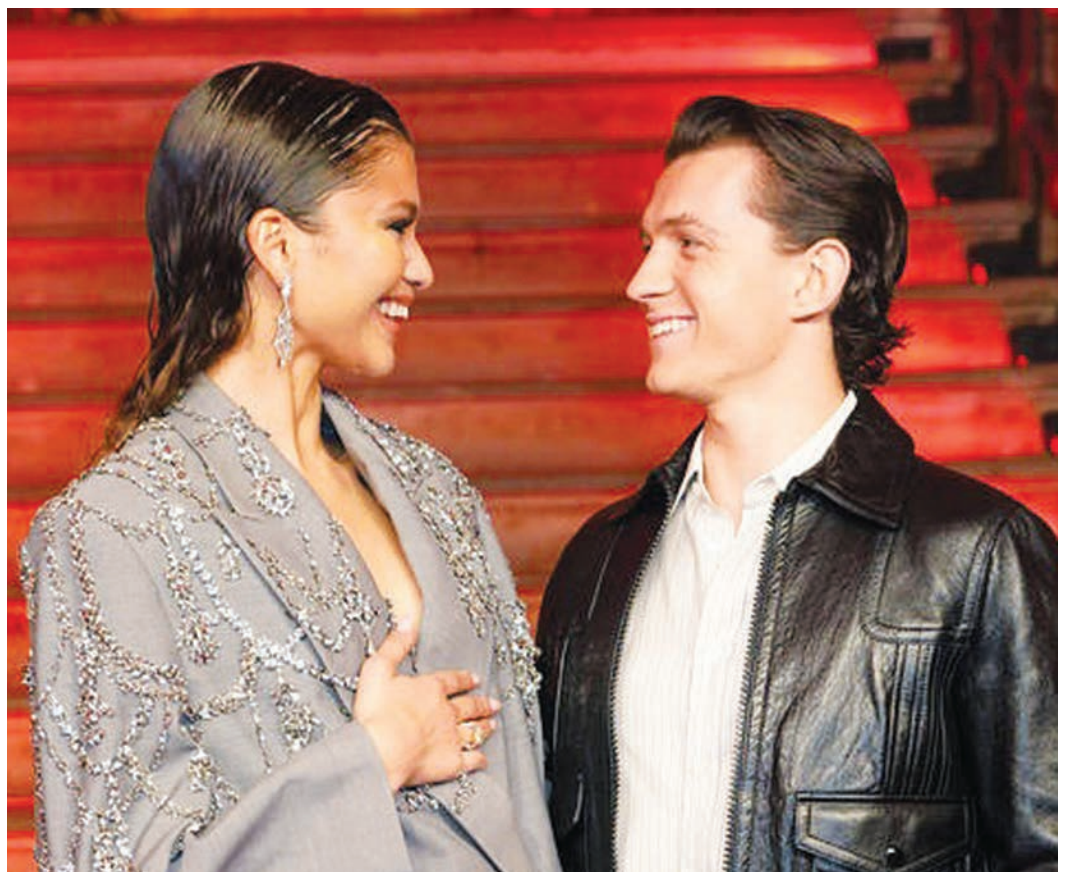
Holland and Zendaya have been romantically linked to each other since July 2021, when they were caught sharing kisses inside a car. The two have connected earlier in 2016 when they worked on their first Spider-Man movie, 'Spider-Man: Homecoming'.

"They're both not one to make their relationship public," a source recently informed Us Weekly about the young couple's romance.

"They're private when it comes to dating, so any photos that have come out would've just been them going about their business and not knowing photographers were around."

Despite their busy schedules, Tom and Zendaya have always made time for each other. Last month, the 'Euphoria' star celebrated her birthday with her boyfriend by hitting the Big Apple for some fun dates.

A week before, the couple was zipping around on scooters in Budapest, where the actress was filming 'Dune 2'.



JAPAN SPACE AGENCY ROCKET CARRYING 8 SATELLITES FAILS

OCTOBER 12

TOKYO (TIP): The Japanese space agency said a rocket carrying eight satellites failed just after liftoff October 12 and had to be aborted by a self-destruction command, in the country's first failed rocket launch in nearly 20 years.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said its Epsilon-6 rocket experienced an unidentified "abnormality" and its flight had to be aborted less than seven minutes after takeoff from the Uchinoura Space Center in the southern Japanese prefecture of Kagoshima.

JAXA officials said the agency sent a self-destruction signal after deciding that the rocket was not able to fly safely and enter a planned orbit. They said the rocket was believed to have fallen into the sea with the payloads.

The cause of the failure was still being investigated, the agency said.

The Epsilon rocket was carrying eight payloads, including two developed by a private company based in Fukuoka, another southern prefecture. It was the first time an Epsilon rocket carried commercially developed payloads.

The 26-meter (85-foot) -long, 95.6-ton and solid-fuel Epsilon-6 rocket is the final version before JAXA plans to develop another variation, Epsilon-S. After five upgrades since the early 2010s, the Epsilon-6 is designed for a compact launch as JAXA aims to develop a commercial satellite launch business.

Wednesday's failure ended success records for the Epsilon series since its first launch of the original version in 2013. It was also a first for JAXA since its H2A rocket failed in 2003.

The launch, originally scheduled for last Friday, had been delayed due to the location of a positioning satellite in space. AP

RARE PROTESTS AGAINST XI BEFORE PARTY MEET

BEIJING (TIP): A rare protest against Chinese President Xi Jinping and his government's rigid zero-Covid policy took place in Beijing, days before he is expected to be handed an unprecedented third term in office at a landmark meeting of the ruling Communist Party.

Unfazed by the rare protests, China on October 13 ruled out a rollback of the zero-Covid policy, saying no timeline can be fixed over the restrictions to fight the deadly pandemic, amid growing frustration over the damage it is inflicting on jobs, businesses, economy and public life.

China has no timeline for an exit from its Covid strategy, a senior government adviser heading an expert panel bluntly said. (PTI)

Robot addresses UK Parliament, says 'Although not alive, I can still create art'

OCTOBER 12

LONDON (TIP): A "robot artist" called Ai-Da told British lawmakers on October 11 that although it was an artificial creation, it was still capable of producing art, as it spoke at a parliamentary inquiry into how new technologies will affect the creative industries.

Described as "the world's first ultra-realistic AI humanoid robot artist", it appeared in one of parliament's ornate wood-paneled rooms, wearing a short black-haired wig and denim dungarees.

Bearing a female humanoid face and with exposed robotic arms, Ai-Da was created by scientists at the University of Oxford and named after British mathematician and computer pioneer Ada Lovelace.

It answered questions alongside the head of the Ai-Da project and art gallery director Aidan Meller in a televised session hosted by the House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee.

"I am, and depend on, computer programmes and algorithms.

Although not alive, I can still create art," Ai-Da said when asked how its



creations differed from those produced by humans.

Ai-Da has created a series of works, including a painting of the late Queen Elizabeth, and the works have been shown in exhibitions and galleries.

The committee heard from the humanoid robot as well as industry experts and academics about the effects of technology on workers in the creative industry.

Answering the first question from

the committee on how it produced paintings, Ai-Da said AI algorithms, cameras in its eyes, and a robotic arm helped it paint on a canvas.

Ai-Da also explained how "analysing a large corpus of text" to identify common content and poetic structures enabled it to generate new poems.

"How this differs to humans is consciousness; I do not have subjective experiences despite being able to talk about them," Ai-Da said. Reuters

477 whales die in "heartbreaking" New Zealand strandings

OCTOBER 12

WELLINGTON (TIP): Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say.

None of the stranded whales could be refloated and all either died naturally or were euthanised in a "heartbreaking" loss, said Daren Grover, the general manager of Project Jonah, a nonprofit group which helps rescue whales.

The whales beached themselves on the Chatham Islands, which are home to about 600 people and located about 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of New Zealand's main islands.

The Department of Conservation said 232 whales stranded themselves Friday at Tupurangi Beach and another 245 at Waihere Bay on October 11.

The deaths come two weeks after about 200 pilot whales died in Australia after stranding themselves on a remote Tasmanian beach.

"These events are tough, challenging situations," the Department of Conservation wrote in a Facebook post. "Although they are natural occurrences, they are still sad and difficult for those helping." Grover said the remote location and presence of sharks in the surrounding waters meant they couldn't mobilize volunteers to try to refloat the whales as they have in past stranding



events. "We do not actively refloat whales on the Chatham Islands due to the risk of shark attack to humans and the whales themselves, so euthanasia was the kindest option," said Dave Lundquist, a technical marine advisor for the conservation department.

Mass strandings of pilot whales are reasonably common in New Zealand, especially during the summer months. Scientists don't know exactly what causes the whales to strand, although it appears their location systems can get confused by gently sloping sandy beaches.

Grover said there is a lot of food for the whales around the Chatham Islands, and as they swim closer to land, they would

quickly find themselves going from very deep to shallow water.

"They rely on their echolocation and yet it doesn't tell them that they are running out of water," Grover said. "They come closer and closer to shore and become disoriented. The tide can then drop from below them and before they know it, they're stranded on the beach." Because of the remote location of the beaches, the whale carcasses won't be buried or towed out to sea, as is often the case, but instead will be left to decompose, Grover said.

"Nature is a great recycler and all the energy stored within the bodies of all the whales will be returned to nature quite quickly," he said. AP

Iran sees 'major' internet disruption amid renewed protests

OCTOBER 12

DUBAI (TIP): Iran suffered a "major disruption" in internet service October 12 as calls for renewed protests again saw demonstrators on the streets weeks after the death of a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the country's morality police, an advocacy group said.

The demonstrations over the death of Mahsa Amini have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement protests. Demonstrators have included oil workers, high school students and women marching without their mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Calls for protests beginning at noon Wednesday saw a massive deployment of riot police and plainclothes officers throughout Tehran, witnesses said. They also described disruptions affecting their mobile internet services.

NetBlocks, an advocacy group, said that Iran's internet traffic had dropped to some 25% compared to the peak, even during a working day in which students were in class across the country.

"The incident is likely to further limit the free flow of information amid protests," NetBlocks said.

Despite the disruption, witnesses saw at least one demonstration in Tehran by some 30 women who had removed their headscarves while chanting: "Death to the dictator!" Those cries, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, can result in a closed-door trial in the country's Revolutionary Court with the threat of a death sentence. Passing cars honked in support of the women despite the threats of security forces. Other women simply continued with their day not wearing the



hijab in a silent protest, witnesses said. Demonstrations also occurred on university campuses in Tehran as well, online videos purported to show.

Lawyers also peacefully demonstrated in front of the Iran Central Bar Association in Tehran, chanting: "Woman, life, freedom" — a slogan of the demonstrations so far. The video corresponded to known features of the association's building. A later video posted by activists purported to show them fleeing after security forces fired tear gas at them. At least three were arrested, the pro-reform newspaper Shargh reported.

Videos also purported to show demonstrations Wednesday in Baharestan, just southeast of the city of Isfahan, as well as in the southern city of Shiraz and northern city of Rasht on the

Caspian Sea. Gathering information about the demonstrations remains difficult amid the internet restrictions and the arrests of at least 40 journalists in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their hijabs.

Khamenei, speaking Wednesday to the country's Expediency Council, again claimed Iran's foreign enemies had fomented what he dismissed as "scattered" demonstrations. (AP)

RUSSIA'S FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE ARRESTS 8 FOR CRIMEA BRIDGE BLAST

OCTOBER 12

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said on October 12 that it had detained five Russians and three citizens of Ukraine and Armenia over the explosion that damaged the Crimea Bridge last Saturday, Interfax reported.

The FSB said the explosion was organised by the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, and its director Kyrylo Budanov.

Ukraine has not officially confirmed its involvement in the blast, but some Ukrainian officials have celebrated the damage.

The explosion on the 12 mile-long bridge destroyed one section of the road bridge, temporarily halting road traffic. It also destroyed several fuel tankers on a train heading towards the annexed peninsula from neighbouring southern Russia.

The bridge, a prestige project personally opened by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2018, had become logistically vital to his military campaign, with supplies to Russian troops fighting in south Ukraine channelled through it.

Russian forces launched mass missile strikes against Ukrainian cities, including power supplies. At a televised meeting of Russia's Security Council on Monday, Putin said the strikes were a retaliation for the Crimea bridge blast, which he said had been organised by Ukraine's secret services. Reuters

Child malnutrition soars in central Somalia, area on verge of famine

OCTOBER 13

SOMALIA (TIP): Acute malnutrition is surging among children displaced by drought and conflict in a part of central Somalia teetering on the edge of famine, according to a survey conducted by humanitarian agencies.

The United Nations warned at the beginning of September that two districts were projected to face famine between October and December, with more than half a million children in Somalia at risk of dying from malnutrition.

A screening conducted from Sept. 19-24 by U.N. agencies and other humanitarian groups in camps for internally displaced people in the Baidoa district found the situation quickly deteriorating.

Of more than 98,000 children screened between the ages of 6 and 59 months, 59

per cent were suffering from acute malnutrition, including 24 per cent whose cases were classified as severe, the report seen by Reuters shows.

A previous screening in June and July found 28.6 per cent of children in the camps were suffering from acute malnutrition, including 10.2 per cent with severe cases.

The two screenings used different methodologies, so the figures cannot be directly compared, but aid workers said the results clearly indicate a steep rise in hunger since July despite a massive scale-up of food aid.

"These very high malnutrition rates from the mass screenings are alarming and indicative of a rapidly deteriorating situation," said Petroc Wilton, head of communications in Somalia for the World Food Programme (WFP), one of

the U.N. agencies involved in the survey.

The last four rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa region have failed, making this the worst drought in 40 years. The crisis has been exacerbated by attacks by al Shabaab Islamist militants and high global food prices.

An area is considered to be experiencing famine when at least 30 per cent of children are suffering from acute malnutrition, at least 20 per cent of households face an extreme lack of food, and at least two out of every 10,000 people are dying each day from malnutrition or related diseases, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Initiative.

The initiative involves the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and governments. An IPC



Famine Review Committee of four to six independent experts is responsible for approving any famine declaration.

In Somalia's last famine in 2011, half of the more than 250,000 victims were later determined to have died before the famine was officially declared. Reuters

Steps to detox your skin

A skin detox doesn't need to be part of your daily skincare ritual, but it's a good idea to perform a week-long skin detox cycle every 3 months or so in the evening. Prioritizing your skin health is self care; enjoy this relaxing ritual while enjoying a brighter, healthier, glowing complexion.

Drink Lots of Water

Drinking water helps flush your pores of toxins and promote healthy, clearer skin. According to the Institute of Medicine, you should drink around 91 ounces of water a day (or about 10 glasses of water a day) if you're aiming to flush toxins from your system. During your detox, drink plenty of water and try to steer away from alcohol and sugary juices.

Make a Morning Detox

The use of apple cider vinegar for detoxification goes back thousands of years. Apple cider vinegar is known to help your pH balance get back to an alkaline zone, which gets your digestive system back in order, keeps your energy higher from natural resources, and is naturally stimulates the detox of your liver. Swap out your morning cup of coffee for a morning detox elixir; you may miss that cup of joe, but your body will adjust and you will eventually feel healthier and cleaner.

Double Cleanse

Double cleansing might be a change from your typical skincare routine, but it's extremely important during a skin detox. To start, cleanse with an oil-based cleanser. Next, cleanse with a high quality cleansing cream. The first part of your double cleansing routine will help remove makeup, dirt, excess oils, and pollution from your skin, while the second part will remove any remaining impurities that are left on the surface of your skin.

Exfoliate Gently

Gentle exfoliators help to slough away all the pollution, makeup, oil, bacteria, dead skin cells, and toxins that you are purging from your skin.



Just be careful not to use a harsh, abrasive exfoliator that will irritate sensitive skin. Instead, use a gentle exfoliating formula like an enzymatic powder in your daily skin care ritual to remove pore-clogging agents while protecting you from skin damage.

Steam Your Pores With Hot Water

After your double cleansing and exfoliating skincare routine, expose your skin to steam to allow skincare products to penetrate and clean out your pores. To steam your pores, bring a pot of water to boil, then transfer the water to a bowl. Hover your face above the bowl and drape a towel over your head to concentrate the steam to your facial pores for about 10 minutes.

Add in Your Boosters

Now that your pores are open, clean, and ready to absorb the active ingredients in some targeted skincare products, start layering products proven to nourish and repair your skin. We'd recommend

products like a vitamin C booster, natural retinol serum, and tea tree oil face serum. Vitamin C especially is a great detoxing agent.

Rich in antioxidants, vitamin C scavenges free radicals—pesky environmental aggressors that can cause things like fine lines, wrinkles, dull skin, and other premature signs of aging to occur on the skin. So, protecting—and detoxifying—the skin from free radicals can help prevent premature skin aging.

Time to Hydrate

Your skin detox wouldn't be complete without keeping your skin's moisture levels balanced. Opt for a hyaluronic acid serum designed to help lock water into the skin to reach optimum hydration levels. Follow up with an illuminating moisturizer to recharge and hydrate the skin. Algae adds moisture to the skin by improving the cell membranes, and it contains multiple antioxidants, essential amino acids, and omega-three fatty acids to detoxify the skin.

Source: *Comfortzoneskin*

FOOD

Sabudana Tikki

INGREDIENTS

250 gm soaked sago, 1 boiled potato, 1/4 cup coriander leaves, 1/4 teaspoon red chilli powder, 1 cup refined oil, 2 large, chopped green chilli, sendha namak as required, 1/4 cup, crushed roasted peanuts



METHOD

- To make this scrumptious Navratri special recipe, soak sago (sabudana) in water for around 2 to 3 hours. When the sago has turned a little fluffy, drain the excess water and transfer the sago in a bowl.
- Now to prepare the tikki mixture, take a big bowl and add the boiled potatoes in it. Mash them completely using your hands. Now add crushed roasted peanuts, chopped green chillies, coriander leaves, red chilli powder and sendha namak along with the drained sago.
- Make small tikkis of this potato and sago mixture. The tikkis should not be soggy. Now take a pan and add oil in it. Heat it over moderate flame. Once the oil is sufficiently hot, carefully place the sago-potato tikkis in it and deep fry till they turn crispy and brown in colour.
- Serve these hot and crispy tikkis with peanut chutney and beaten curd. You can also enjoy this delicious snack recipe with hot piping cup of tea or coffee. These Sabudana Tikkis are perfect for Navratri fasts.

Banana Burfi

INGREDIENTS

5 banana, 100 gm sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 teaspoon pistachios, 1/4 cup milk powder, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon crushed lightly cashews, 50 gm ghee



METHOD

- To make this delicious Navratri special recipe, heat 1 tsp ghee in a pan over moderate flame. Add crushed pistachios and cashews to the pan. Lightly fry them till they turn golden in colour.
- Now take another heavy bottomed pan and heat it over medium flame. Add the remaining ghee and the bananas in it. Mix well. Add sugar and stir well. After a minute, add cocoa powder, milk powder and butter. Reduce the flame and gently stir till all ingredients are evenly combined.
- When the mixture starts to leave the sides of the pan and the bananas are well mashed, remove and transfer to a greased plate. Allow it cool. Before the mixture hardens completely, cut it into desired shapes and garnish with cashewnuts and pistachios.



Benefits of olive oil for hair growth

Boosts hair growth

A study conducted on mice showed that oleuropein, a compound in olives stimulates hair growth. Apart from that, massaging the scalp with olive oil improves blood circulation, which makes hair grow faster.

Helps in reducing DHT production

One of the major factors contributing to hair fall is DHT production. Dihydrotestosterone, commonly known as DHT, is a hormone and a derivative of testosterone. When this hormone is excessively produced by the body, it causes hair fall. It interferes with the cycle of hair growth and makes it easier for hair to fall out in clumps.

Oleic acid present in olive oil inhibits 5-alpha reductase, an enzyme that is responsible for converting testosterone into DHT, which in turn reduces the production of DHT. So, massage your hair with olive oil to block DHT production

and make your hair shinier and stronger.

Provides great nourishment to hair

Massaging your scalp with olive oil not only improves blood circulation but also nourishes hair follicles. The nutrients and unsaturated fats present in olive oil prevent dryness by locking moisture in the hair shaft.

Prevents hair breakage

Olive oil soothes the scalp and prevents dryness, which in turn reduces hair breakage and makes hair appear voluminous. It is rich in omega-3 fatty acids that condition the hair and make them stronger.

Good for scalp health

Dandruff is an irritating problem and can annoy anyone. Olive oil helps soothe irritated scalp and prevents problems like dryness, itchiness, dandruff, and so on.

Eating after bedtime increases hunger, decreases calories burned

About 42 per cent of adult Americans in the United States are obese, which increases the risk of developing chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, and other illnesses.

Few studies have thoroughly examined the simultaneous effects of late eating on the three main players in body weight regulation and thus obesity risk: regulation of calorie intake, the number of calories you burn, and molecular changes in fat tissue.

Popular healthy diet mantras discourage midnight snacking, but few studies have investigated the effects of late eating on all three players simultaneously. Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding institution of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, discovered in a recent study that the timing of meals has a big impact on our metabolism, hunger, and biochemical pathways in adipose tissue. Cell Metabolism has reported their findings.

According to senior author Frank AJL Scheer, PhD, Director of the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Brigham's Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders, "We sought to test the processes that may explain why late eating raises obesity risk." "Previous studies conducted by us and others have demonstrated that eating in the evening increases the risk of becoming obese, increases body fat, and hinders the success of weight loss. We were curious as to why."

"In this study, we asked, 'Does the time that we eat matter when everything else is kept consistent?'" said first author Nina Vujovic, PhD, a researcher in the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Brigham's Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders. "And we found that eating four hours later makes a significant difference for our hunger levels, the way we burn calories after we eat, and the way we store fat."

16 patients with a body mass index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range were the subject of a study by Vujovic, Scheer, and their colleagues. Each participant did two lab protocols: one with an exact early meal schedule and the other with the same meals timed exactly four hours later in the day. Participants



kept set sleep and wake times in the final two to three weeks before beginning each in-lab regimen, and in the final three days before entering the lab, they closely adhered to similar meals and meal times at home.

Participants frequently kept track of their hunger and appetite in the lab, gave us numerous times during the day tiny blood samples, and had our researchers assess their body temperature and energy expenditure. During laboratory testing in both the early and late eating protocols, researchers took biopsies of adipose tissue from a subset of participants to enable comparison of gene expression patterns/levels between these two eating conditions. This allowed them to measure how eating time affected molecular pathways involved in adipogenesis, or how the body stores fat.

Source: ANI



Loneliness, sadness speed up ageing faster than smoking

According to a study, weakness and major diseases associated with ageing are worsened by the development of molecular damage. Some people's molecular processes are more intense than others, causing them to age faster.

Fortunately, the increased pace of ageing may be detected before its disastrous consequences manifest by using digital models of ageing (ageing clocks). Such models can also be used to derive anti-ageing therapies on individual and population levels.

According to the latest article published in Aging-US, any anti-ageing therapy needs to focus on one's mental health as much as on one's physical health. An international collaboration led by Deep Longevity with the US and Chinese scientists have measured the effects of being lonely, having restless sleep, or feeling unhappy on the pace of ageing and found it to be significant.

The article features a new ageing clock trained and verified with blood and biometric data of 11,914 Chinese adults. This is the first ageing clock to be trained exclusively on a Chinese cohort of such volume.

Ageing acceleration was detected in people with a history of stroke, liver and lung diseases, smokers, and most interestingly, people in a vulnerable mental state. In fact, feeling hopeless, unhappy, and lonely was shown to increase one's biological age more than smoking. Other factors linked to ageing acceleration include being single and living in a rural area (due to the low availability of medical services).

The authors of the article concluded that the psychological aspect of aging should not be neglected either in research or in practical anti-ageing applications. According to Manuel Faria from Stanford University: "Mental and psychosocial states are some of the most robust predictors of health outcomes -- and quality of life -- yet they have largely been omitted from modern healthcare".

Alex Zhavoronkov, the CEO of Insilico Medicine, points out that the study provides a course of action to "slow down or even reverse psychological aging on a national scale.

Earlier this year, Deep Longevity released an AI-guided mental health web service FuturSelf.AI that is based on a preceding publication in Aging-US.

Source: ANI

Pfizer, BioNTech's updated booster protects against Omicron in human trial

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said their COVID-19 vaccine booster, adapted for the BA.4 and the BA.5 subvariants, generated a strong immune response and was well tolerated in testing on humans.

With the results, which the companies described as consistent with preclinical data, the partners are following up with human trial data that had previously been missing from their successful filings for regulatory approval.

Healthcare regulators for the European Union and the United States had already approved the upgraded shot last month, even though trial data from testing on humans had at the time not been available.

But they felt sufficiently encouraged from human study results on a similar shot targeting the BA.1 subvariant and on the established vaccine based on the original virus detected in China in



late 2019.

"While we expect more mature immune response data from the clinical trial of our Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine

in the coming weeks, we are pleased to see encouraging responses just one week after vaccination in younger and older adults," said Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla.

While the European Medicines Agency has also cleared shots that address the BA.1 subvariant, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has focused its response for immunity against the fast spreading Omicron variant only on BA.4/5-adapted shots.

Both are known as bivalent in that they target both the original virus as well as Omicron subvariants.

The preliminary data on Thursday also showed that, in the age group of adults older than 55, the new bivalent shot triggered a better neutralizing antibody response against the Omicron BA.4/5 subvariant than the established shot based on the initial form of the virus..

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WhatsApp allows some beta testers to add up to 1,024 users to groups

After announcing several new features, the Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is now releasing the ability to add up to 1,024 participants to groups, for some beta testers.

According to WABetaInfo, this feature is available on WhatsApp beta for Android and iOS, but it is limited to a certain undefined number of beta testers.

The report mentioned that if any user wants to check if the feature is available on their WhatsApp account, they can try to create a group or add new participants to an existing one.

WhatsApp is also developing new tools to give admins more control over these larger groups in the future, such as a list of pending participants and an approval system, as per the report.

In May, along with new features, the company rolled out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group from 256 people.

Meanwhile, recently, the platform rolled out another feature for business accounts -- WhatsApp Premium -- beta testers in certain countries.

Through WhatsApp Premium, businesses can take advantage of some advanced features, such as a better way to be reached by customers and some improvements when linking new devices.

Source: IANS

Apple may bring USB-C port to AirPods, Mac accessories by 2024

Tech giant Apple might bring USB-C port to AirPods and Mac accessories by 2024, the media reported. According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the company might introduce USB-C to its newest AirPods, AirPods Pro, and AirPods by the year 2024, while Mac accessories like the Magic Mouse, Magic Keyboard, and Magic Trackpad may convert to USB-C as soon as the next year.

"It's a safe bet that those accessories will move to USB-C in their next incarnation", Gurman was quoted as saying. As the European Union moves to mandate USB-C charging on new smartphones, tablets, and headphones introduced in the territory in late 2024, there has been a rumoured shift away from Lightning ports. Before EU legislation takes effect, Apple will replace its AirPods, the report said.

Tony Fadell, inventor of the iPod, has said that Apple should include USB-C port in iPhones, as the European Union passed a resolution on USB Type-C as standard charging port.

The debate started when a Twitter user questioned if the iPod would succeed if Apple was forced to utilise USB 1.0 rather than the fast FireWire technology. "I can't see a problem. The world has converged on USB-C. The physical and user limits have been hit. Next up is wireless per, not a diff physical connection. So I'm not too worried about this regulation. They're simply forcing Apple to do the right thing. It's overdue frankly", Fadell posted on Twitter.

Source: IANS

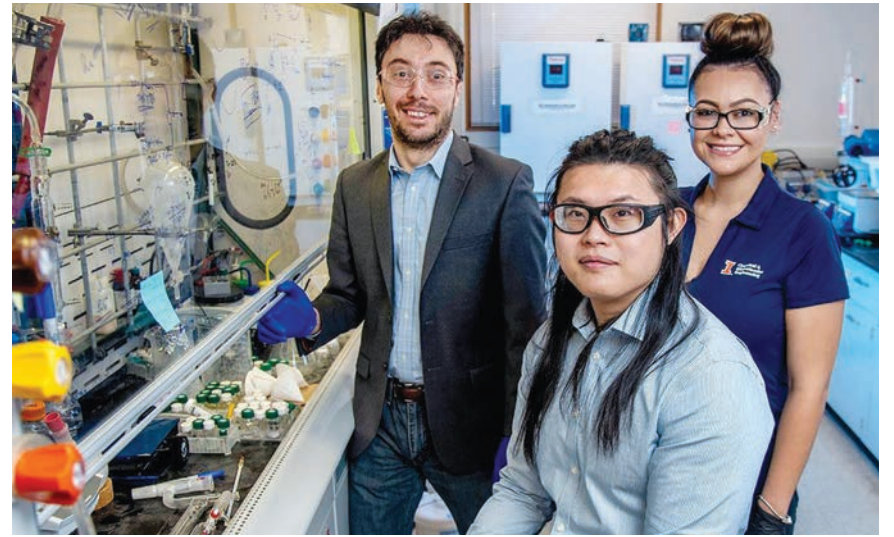
New plastic upcycling tech can potentially cut greenhouse gas equivalent to 3 million cars

Researchers have developed a breakthrough upcycling process that can help transform polyethylene (PE)—the most widely used plastic in the world—into polypropylene, which is one of the top 5 most common plastic types in the world.

"Today unfortunately a major fraction of PE is not recycled and accumulates in landfills. The fraction that is collected is recycled in the form of energy through combustion. This recycling approach is not really sustainable," said Damien Guironnet to indianexpress.com over an email. Guironnet is a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and co-lead author of the research article published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

According to the researchers' preliminary analysis, if just 20 per cent of the world's PE plastic production could be recovered and converted using this method, it could reduce as much greenhouse gas emissions as taking three million cars off the road.

The researchers developed a proof-of-concept for upcycling PE plastic—a reactor that creates a flow of propylene, which can be turned into PP using current technology. The reactor does this by cutting PE molecules many times into small pieces of propylene molecules. The process begins when a catalyst removes hydrogen from the PE chain, creating a location where a reaction can happen.



The scalable process to upcycle plastic was developed by chemical and biomolecular engineering professor Damien Guironnet (left) and graduate students Vanessa DaSilva (right) and Nicholas Wang (centre). (Image credit: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

After this, a second catalyst splits the chain in two before finally, a third catalyst moves the reaction up the PE chain so that the process can be repeated by the first catalyst. When the process is complete, 95 per cent of the finished product is propylene. The other 5 per cent is butene, a chemical that has many uses in the plastic production, gasoline and rubber manufacturing industries.

A similar process has been documented in a research article published in the journal Science on Thursday. According to the researchers, the research team that authored the Science article used a process that is more energy intensive.

Guironnet is confident that the technology is scalable and can be

adapted to current industry needs but the research faces a few obstacles before it can be applied at a large enough scale. "The biggest challenge is the catalyst stability. To scale up such a process we will need to identify catalysts that are extremely robust. PE waste always comes with impurities. To remain scalable, we would need to find catalysts that remain unaffected by these impurities," explained Guironnet.

If the researchers manage to find a stable enough catalyst, then the PE that is being upcycled does not need to be as pure but if the catalyst is sensitive, that would mean that the PE has to be cleaned, which will make the solution more expensive.

Source: The Indian Express

Giant impact may have formed Moon within hours, say scientists

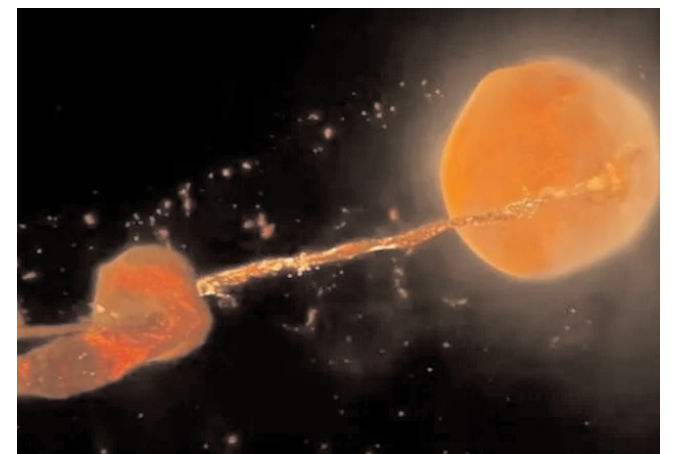
A giant impact could have formed the Moon more rapidly within hours, scientists have revealed, opening up a whole new range of possible starting places for the Moon's evolution. The Moon is thought to have formed following a collision 4.5 billion years ago between the young Earth and a Mars-sized object, called Theia.

Most theories create the Moon by gradual accumulation of the debris from this impact.

However, this has been challenged by measurements of lunar rocks showing their composition is like that of Earth's mantle, while the impact produces debris that comes mostly from Theia.

Scientists from Durham University's Institute for Computational Cosmology in the UK used the most detailed supercomputer simulations yet to reveal an alternative explanation for the Moon's origin, with a giant impact immediately placing a Moon-like body into orbit around Earth.

The research team included scientists at NASA Ames Research Centre and the University of Glasgow, UK, and their simulation findings have been published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.



"We went into this project not knowing exactly what the outcomes of these very high-resolution simulations would be. So, on top of the big eye-opener that standard resolutions can give you wrong answers, it was extra exciting that the new results could include a tantalisingly Moon-like satellite in orbit," said Jacob Kegerreis, lead researcher of the study.

IMF PROJECTS INDIA'S DEBT RATIO AT 84% OF GDP BY YEAR-END

India's debt ratio is projected at 84 per cent of its GDP by the end of 2022, which is higher than many emerging economies, but its debt is a little bit easier to sustain, a senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

Stressing that it is important for India to now have a very clear medium-term objective on the fiscal anchor, Paolo Mauro, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, said there's still not a whole lot of clarity. "It will be very important to give reassurance to people and to investors that things are under control, and things are going to become less vulnerable over time," Mauro said.

"In terms of the debt ratio, we're projecting it at about 84 per cent of GDP at the end of 2022. That is higher than in many emerging economies," he said. Krishna Srinivasan, IMF Director of Asia and Pacific Department, said when everyone was slowing down in terms of economic growth, India had not remained unimpacted, but "is doing better and is in a relatively bright spot compared to other countries".

Mauro too said India had a lot of special features being the most populous country in the world by now and being a very large, emerging economy. "The other things that are special in a way or distinctive compared with other emerging economies are that most of India's debt is in non-indexed domestic currency and there's a large investor base from India. So those are good features to have and that's what makes this debt a little bit easier to sustain," he said.

Source: PTI

ELON MUSK UNDER PROBE BY US AUTHORITIES OVER \$44 BILLION DEAL: TWITTER

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is being investigated in connection with his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter, the microblogging site said in a court filing on Thursday. The lawyers on behalf of social media company wrote in a court filing in Delaware that Musk is presently under investigation by federal authorities for his conduct in connection with the acquisition of Twitter, Bloomberg reported.

"Elon Musk is presently under investigation by federal authorities for his conduct in connection with the acquisition of Twitter," attorneys for Potter Anderson Corroon LLP wrote in a filing dated October 6 and unsealed Thursday.

Lawyers representing Twitter said the company had requested Musk's attorneys for months to produce their communications with federal authorities but they failed to do so, citing 'investigative privilege'. The lawyers wrote that the company has asked the court for access to documents that Musk has given to authorities. "This game of 'hide the ball' must end," the company said in the court filing. Twitter's lawyers said the documents 'bear upon key issues in this litigation.'

Core US inflation rises to 40-year high, securing big Fed hike

A key gauge of US consumer prices advanced to a 40-year high in September, underscoring persistent, elevated inflation that's squeezing households and pushing the Federal Reserve toward another aggressive rate hike.

A total of 142 basis points of rate hikes are now priced in for the next two policy meetings, just short of consecutive three-quarter-point hikes.

The core consumer price index, which excludes food and energy, increased 6.6% from a year ago, the highest level since 1982, according to data released by the US Labor Department showed Thursday. From a month earlier, the core CPI climbed 0.6% for a second month.

The overall CPI rose 0.4% in September compared to August, twice the 0.2% projected by analysts even as the annual rate slowed slightly to 8.2% from 8.3%.

Futures fall after hot consumer prices data

US stock futures tumbled and Treasury yields spiked higher after the inflation data topped estimates. The dollar rallied.

At 8:33 am ET, Dow e-minis were down 297 points, or 1.02%, S&P 500 e-minis were down 54.5 points, or 1.52%, and Nasdaq 100 e-minis were down 265.5 points, or 2.45%. Moments before the data, Dow e-minis were up 285 points, or 0.97%, S&P 500 e-minis were up 38 points, or 1.06%, and Nasdaq 100 e-minis were up 93.5 points, or 0.86%.

Markets had briefly taken support from a report that the British government was discussing making



US stock futures tumbled and Treasury yields spiked higher after the inflation data topped estimates. Photo credit: AP

changes to its fiscal plan that spooked global financial markets when it was announced last month.

Big Fed hike bets

Bets rose that the US Fed will raise rates by three-quarters of a percentage point when it meets next month. Those on the Nasdaq 100 lost 3%.

The inflation data will determine how much further the Fed's policy-tightening cycle will run. Upcoming monthly consumer-price figures may determine if the Federal Reserve delivers a fourth-straight outsized hike in interest rates. Thursday's data is expected to show a slight deceleration to 8.1% annually but

all eyes are on the 'core' reading that excludes food and energy. This is seen rising 6.5% from a year earlier, matching the rate seen in March that was the highest since 1982. Any sign that price pressures remain elevated may send markets into sell mode, as on Wednesday, when an above-forecast producer prices reading erased a tentative stock rally. It would also boost Treasury yields and the dollar, potentially adding to its 15% year-to-date gain.

However investors note the Fed is already more or less priced to raise rates by about 75 basis points next month and most markets have fallen sharply in recent weeks. Source: Livemint

Singapore Airlines in talks with Tatas to merge Vistara, Air India

Singapore Airlines (SIA) said on Thursday, October 13, it was in talks with Tata Group about a potential merger of Vistara, their joint venture airline, with Air India to give the Singaporean carrier a bigger foothold in South Asia.

"The discussions seek to deepen the existing partnership between SIA and Tatas, and may include a potential integration of Vistara and Air India," SIA said.

It said no definitive terms had been agreed on a deal that would form a more formidable competitor to the country's dominant airline IndiGo and Middle-Eastern rivals that carry a large share of India's international traffic.

SIA said India had strong domestic and international traffic flows that were expected to double over the next 10 years, which compares to its more mature home market.

The Singaporean carrier has a 49% stake in Tata SIA Airlines, which operates full-service carrier Vistara, while the Indian conglomerate owns the rest.

Tata owns all of Air India after completing its purchase of the previously state-owned Indian national carrier in January.

SIA, which was focused on repairing its balance sheet, did not take part in the bidding process, but Campbell Wilson, a former senior executive at the Singaporean carrier, started as Air India's new chief executive in July.

The Indian airline is rebuilding its fleet and targeting a domestic market share of at least 30% over the next five years



as it looks to repair its reputation after years of losses.

It is also launching more services to North America, where its use of Russian airspace gives it a shorter flight time than rivals that have avoided it since Moscow began its invasion of Ukraine in February.

"SIA converting its stake in Vistara into a stake for the Tata-led airline group makes sense," said Brendan Sobie, an independent analyst based in Singapore. "The creation of this group will improve the position of all the Tata airlines and SIA's investment in the Indian market." Air India and Tatas, which also controls low-cost carrier AirAsia India, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. 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 - OCTOBER 17 TO OCTOBER 23, 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, you'll have the opportunity to catch up with your pals and have fun. This week will be enjoyable and devoid of tension. Your emotional and professional lives will be seamlessly merged. This week appears to be lucky for you economically. If you work a normal job, you'll stay positive and enthusiastic during the week, inspiring your colleagues to be more productive. You'll most likely feel worn out this week. In order to keep discipline at business, try to get to sleep early at night for this week. Time spent with your pals will strengthen your ties, but this week will be less favorable for romance. If you can go to bed early, your endurance will be OK.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, this week is a great week to get back on track. This week is fortunate for you since you have a boatload of positive momentum on your favor. This week will have future programming accessible, but if you are not cautious, you could miss it. This week, you'll be overflowing with the incorrect kind of arrogance. Although if your colleagues don't accord with you, you will make awful judgments. You and your partner will argue and conflict this week, but communication is essential to mending your marriage. This week, your close relations will virtually surely have an impact on your work life. Begin consuming vegetables and nuts straight immediately to maintain good wellness.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, You're in for a challenging and terrifying week this week. The coming week will be unwinding. Your contemporary memory will be overloaded with old recollections, making it difficult for you to concentrate on your work. You can accomplish harder and maintain your happiness by talking to anyone. The moment is here for you to begin all of your preferred pastimes. Antagonism should be resisted at all circumstances. A new property or piece of property properties is a great investment right now. A good nutrition and frequent exercise can help you stay strong and cheerful. You are encouraged to regularly get your dietary assessed.



CANCER : Ganesha says, the optimum time to start enhancing your cognitive capacity is this week. Paying close consideration to the particular tasks you perform. Give yourself permission to participate in things that will purify your soul. Avoid your regimen and spend more time and energy focusing on yourself. You'll be able to have a successful work week as a result of this. Your superiors will commend you for giving your all. This week, there's a good chance you'll make contact with an old colleague. Even if your employment and money are steady this week, you will still be thinking

about them when you take a prolonged walk to calm your thoughts and physique.



LEO : Ganesha says, you'll be motivated by positive emotions this week, and your work life will prosper as a result. Your solid foundation would bear fruit and bring in money. This week is the time to start focusing on the good instead of your past negative attitude. This week will be pleasant and healthful for you. There won't be any side activities or disruptions throughout this week. Remember that your wellness is at its best right now, so be sure to eat well and drink enough of water. Your marital issues will start to disappear. You'll also spend good contact with your partner this week if you're engaged.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, you deserve to unwind and treat yourself this week, so put yourself first on your checklist of priorities. To reduce anxiety, participate in any exercise or a brief exercising. Relaxation of tension from the body is necessary for sustained focus. You'll be able to reason logically and come to smarter judgments as a result. You'll almost certainly have a disagreement with a colleague this week. It's crucial to devote a bit more awareness to your ongoing medical issues. If your partner seems distant to you, try to talk to him or her and devote so much quality with them. It's likely to be a fantastic week, so don't panic.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, this week, don't be afraid to take a chance and go forward. A friend will bail you out of your existing monetary situation. Trade and manufacturing activities will repay off nicely, but you'll have to walk about in difficult situations a little bit. This week, your parents and others who formerly despised you will create a favorable relationship with you. This new friendship you're forming this week will be highly advantageous to you later on. This week, your love connection will blossom into an intense partnership, and your perspective of them will change. It is a fallacy to let your previous ties define your career. Your wellness will be OK.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, you will have the knowledge this week to establish harmony between your emotional and professional life. It's almost guaranteed that you'll experience significant changes. This week, you must play it safe because you won't run across someone you may potentially date for a long time. Keep an open mind when you discuss your business challenges. Even though you could feel attracted to them, it is not the right moment to start dating. You need to put your focus right now on consciousness. You are probably going to be in trouble with the law for what you did in the past. So, proceed

with care. This week, be mindful of your health and eat frequently. Your cheerful attitude may be maintained by staying refreshed.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, this week is the time to settle disputes between those who are in disagreement with one another. As a caring person, make sure that nobody in the company loses a lot of money.

This week is a great time to take an opportunity but first, consider the benefits and risks. You'll discover the perfect ally to support the beginning of your organization. Individuals will condemn your choices, but you shouldn't let that worry you. Even when your romance is headed in the right direction, invoking your partner's past might cause it to stall. Let your partner feel dependable and protected this week. Prevent stifling situations if you are experiencing any lung issues.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, First, a piece of guidance for this week is that you must keep patience and retain calmness before making decisions. Take part in a creative curriculum to sharpen your decision-making and judgment abilities. You will experience a difficult week at business; you will commit errors and choose not to improve. This week, refrain from asking someone for a loan of cash or anything precious. Strengthen your leadership practices by learning from your errors. Regularly eat at residence and normal food to aid with processing if your abdomen aches.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, this week is perfect for spending time with the persons you cherish. Make a conscious commitment to improving your relationship with your family. Let go of everything you've been dragging off for weeks and grant yourself permission to accept yourself. Your public and corporate facades will both remain intact this week. You may work more effectively and maintain an equilibrium between your emotional and corporate life by expelling all bad emotions. Take additional measures and close carefully this week since your condition might improve. You may be able to reduce anxiety and irritation by resting well.



PISCES : Ganesha says, you may not want to engage in your company this week since you are surrounded by bad vibes. It will be challenging for you to begin something new. Although you and your boss may not get along, this week you will begin concentrating on your abilities. You can keep your cool by meditating. You'll hear some encouraging information from overseas, which will brighten your week. Your physical condition appears to be excellent. It's good that your mate wants to invest in contact with you and interact with you since neglecting to converse is not the best way to make situations better.

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 17 TO OCTOBER 23, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

OCTOBER 17 : Ganesha says your expenses will increase today, making it harder for you to save. Investments done during this time will eventually yield good returns, if not right away. Academic excellence and participation in extracurricular activities will be acknowledged for students.

Although sluggish work progress and arguments over little matters may anger you and even affect your health, towards the end of the year, you will be happy and content with your accomplishments. Despite your irregular behaviour, your spouse continues to be cooperative.

OCTOBER 18 : Ganesha says financial gains today will come from a variety of sources, but the uncertainty surrounding your relationship is likely to leave one blemish on your record of success and accomplishments. Socializing, gatherings, and enjoyable outings will all be frequent and enjoyable.

For those who are eligible, wedding bells will ring, and others will discover romance to keep them going. Don't put more faith in others than necessary.

Planning and managing your time will be crucial.

OCTOBER 19 : Ganesha says a promotion or an increase in responsibilities this time will give you

cause to rejoice. Your profile will gain some sophistication with new initiatives. At home, there will be a healthier, more loving atmosphere that will promote prosperity and excellent health. Professionals that are interested in working overseas will be well received. Housewives will have to deal with frequent visits from family and friends. It is possible to go on a spiritual journey to a far-off location.

OCTOBER 20 : Ganesha says you shouldn't give out too much of your time and money this year. Make the most of the chances that present themselves to raise your income and standard of living. You'll have a lot of confidence and motivation, and you'll probably get a lot of favours during this time.

Participating in cultural events will be entertaining and educational. The new collaboration will be profitable, and the investment will pay off. Your standing in the social group will improve.

OCTOBER 21 : Ganesha says through the new contacts you make this year, you'll have the chance to raise your level of living. Your professional advancement needs to be your main focus because it will produce the required results. The health of your parents will be a concern, but your spouse and kids

will be supportive. If you go out and join clubs and social activities, you'll be quite successful socially. Some of you have a far pilgrimage on the horizon.

OCTOBER 22 : Ganesha says people at work constantly offer you significant responsibility because they trust you. Unresolved issues will be resolved. You will receive awards and acknowledgment for entering this new stage of your life. The health of your parents will be a concern, but your spouse and kids will be supportive. Additionally, your financial situation will improve, and you'll feel safer and content in all you do. marriage connections for a select few lovers. Religious practises and pilgrimages will provide tranquilly.

OCTOBER 23 : Ganesha says gains in your career are almost assured but rising costs will worry you. There will be instances when your accomplishments surpass your expectations, but for the most part, you will have to work really hard to get the bare minimum of outcomes. The relationship you share with your spouse will be friendly and even-handed, but you must restrain yourself from being overly stubborn because this could lead to uncomfortable situations at home.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAHI ||



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History This Week OCTOBER 14 TO OCTOBER 20

"HISTORY IS NOT THE PAST BUT A MAP OF THE PAST, DRAWN FROM A PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW, TO BE USEFUL TO THE MODERN TRAVELER." - HENRY GLASSIE, US HISTORIAN

OCTOBER 14

October 14, 1066 - The Norman Conquest began with the Battle of Hastings in which King Harold II of England, the last of the Saxon kings, was defeated and killed by William of Normandy's troops.

October 14, 1912 - Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot by a fanatic while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by his thick overcoat, a glasses case and a folded speech in his breast pocket, all of which slowed the bullet. Although wounded, he insisted on making the speech with the bullet lodged in his chest and did not go to the hospital until the meeting ended. Roosevelt, a rugged outdoorsman, fully recovered in two weeks.

October 14, 1933 - Nazi Germany announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations and stated it would take no further part in the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

October 14, 1947 - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.



Martin Luther King, Jr

October 14, 1964 - Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the \$54,000 in prize money to the Civil Rights movement.

Birthdays - Pennsylvania founder William Penn (1644-1718) was born in London. In 1681, he received a Royal charter with a large land grant in America from King Charles II. Penn, a Quaker, welcomed members of all religious faiths and established a democratic form of government in his province which measured over 50,000 square miles.

Birthdays - Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) the 34th

U.S. President was born in Denison, Texas. He served two terms as President, from January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961. Nicknamed "Ike," he was a West Point graduate and career Army officer who became Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II. He held the rank of Five-star General of the Army.

OCTOBER 15

October 15, 1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the Island of St. Helena beginning a British-imposed exile following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.



Mata Hari

October 15, 1917 - World War I spy Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks, outside Paris.

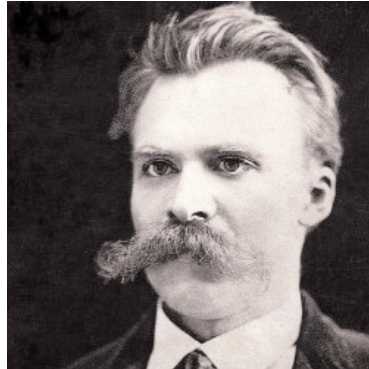
October 15, 1945 - Pierre Laval, the former premier of Vichy France, was executed for collaborating with Nazi Germany during World War II.

October 15, 1946 - Nazi leader Hermann Goering committed suicide by swallowing poison in his Nuremberg prison cell just hours before his scheduled hanging for war crimes.

October 15, 1964 - Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev was deposed as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.

October 15, 1991 - The U.S. Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court by a 52-48 vote following several days of tumultuous hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning sexual harassment charges made by a former aide. Thomas became the second African American to sit on the Court, replacing retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, an African American.

Birthdays - German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) was born



Friedrich Nietzsche

in the Province of Saxony. Best known for stating, "God is dead," and for his prediction in the late 1800s, "There will be wars such as there have never been on Earth before." He eventually succumbed to mental illness.

Birthdays - Lee Iacocca was born to Italian immigrant parents in Allentown, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1924 (as Lido Anthony Iacocca). Dubbed "America's first corporate folk hero," he was a mechanical engineer who became an automobile executive at Ford and later helped save Chrysler from bankruptcy. He also served as foundation chairman for the rehabilitation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

OCTOBER 16

October 16, 1701 - Yale University was founded in Killingworth, Connecticut (as the Collegiate School of Connecticut). The school moved to New Haven in 1716. Two years later, the name was changed to Yale College to honor Elihu Yale, a philanthropist. In 1886, it became Yale University.

October 16, 1793 - Queen Marie Antoinette was beheaded during the Reign of Terror following the French Revolution. She was the wife of King Louis XVI and had become the symbol of the people's hatred for the old regime due to her extravagance and frivolity. According to legend, she responded, "Let them eat cake," when told poor people had no bread.

October 16, 1853 - The Crimean War began after the Turkish Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia, Britain, France and portions of Italy allied with the Turks against Russia. It became the first war observed up close by newspaper reporters and photographers. One of the battles was immortalized in Tennyson's

poem, The Charge of the Light Brigade. Amid poor sanitary conditions, disease killed many wounded French and British troops. British nurse Florence Nightingale then pioneered modern-style sanitation methods, saving many lives.

October 16, 1859 - Fanatical abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry with about 20 followers. Three days later, Brown was captured and the insurrection was put down by U.S. Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee. Brown was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and was hanged on December 2, 1859.

October 16, 1916 - The first birth control clinic in America was opened in Brooklyn, New York, by Margaret Sanger, a nurse who worked among the poor on the Lower East Side of New York City.

October 16, 1946 - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.

October 16, 1964 - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.

October 16, 1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope. He was the first non-Italian Pope chosen in 456 years and took the name John Paul II.

October 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered the main address to the gathering of African American males.



Noah Webster

Birthdays - American teacher and journalist Noah Webster (1758-1843) was born in West Hartford, Connecticut. His name became synonymous with "dictionary" after he compiled

the first American dictionaries of the English language.

Birthdays - Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was born in Dublin, Ireland. Best known for his comedies including The Importance of Being Earnest. And his novel The Picture of Dorian Gray in which he wrote, "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about."

Birthdays - David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) was born in Plonsk, Poland. He was largely responsible for founding the modern state of Israel in 1948 and is revered as "Father of the Nation."

Birthdays - American jurist William O. Douglas (1898-1980) was born in Maine, Minnesota. He served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court for 36 years and was also a world traveler, conservationist, outdoorsman and author.

OCTOBER 17

October 17, 1777 - During the American Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.



Pope John Paul I

Birthdays - Pope John Paul I (1912-1978) was born in Forno di Canale, Italy (as Albino Luciani). He was elected the 263rd Pope of the Roman Catholic Church on September 28, 1978 but died in Rome just 34 days later.

OCTOBER 18

October 18, 1685 - The Edict of Nantes was revoked by King Louis XIV of France thus depriving Protestant Huguenots of all religious and civil liberties previously granted to them by Henry IV in 1598.

(Read more on www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Ahoi Ashtami Vrat

Ahoi Ashtami is Hindu festival that is mainly observed by mothers for the well being of their children. It is observed on the ashtami tithi (8th day) of the Krishna Paksha (the dark fortnight of moon) during the month of Kartik in Hindu calendar. In the Amanta calendar as followed in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and some southern states, it is observed during the Hindu month of Ashwin. It corresponds to the months of mid-October to November in the English calendar. Ahoi Ashtami is observed 8 days before the Diwali celebrations and four days after the festival of Karwa Chauth.

Just like Karwa Chauth the celebrations of Ahoi Ashtami is very widespread in the whole of northern India. This day is dedicated to worshipping Goddess Ahoi or Ahoi Mata. Ahoi ashtami vrat is observed only by Mothers, as the vrat is kept for the long life and well being of their children and also to be blessed with more children.

Rituals during Ahoi Ashtami

On Ahoi Ashtami, the mother of boy observes a strict fast all through the day for their child's well-being. They spend the day even without drinking a drop of water. The fast is broken after sighting the stars, during twilight. In some places, the observer of the Ahoi Ashtami fast break their fast after sighting the moon, however it might be difficult as the moon rises late on the Ahoi Ashtami night.

Women get up early and take a bath. Following this they take a 'sankalp' that is a pledge to keep the fast for the whole day for their children's well-being. The preparations for the puja are done before the sunset.

Women draw the image of Ahoi Mata on a wall. The image drawn should have 'Ashtha Koshtak' or eight corners. Along with other images, the picture of 'Sei' (hedgehog with its children) is drawn close to Goddess Ahoi. If the image cannot be drawn then the wallpaper of Ahoi Ashtami can also be used. The image also depicts the seven sons with the daughter-in-laws as mentioned in the Ahoi Ashtami katha.

The place of worship is cleaned and an 'Alpana' is drawn. An earthen pot known as 'karwa' is filled with water and covered with a lid and kept near the place of worship. The nozzle of this karwa is blocked with a special grass known as 'Sarai Seenka'. This shoot of grass is also offered to Ahoi Mata during the puja rituals.

The actual puja of Ahoi Ashtami is performed during sandhya time, that is, just after sunset. All the women in the family get together for the puja. After the rituals the women listen to the Ahoi Mata vrat katha. In some communities the devotees use Ahoi made from silver. This silver form is known as 'Syau' and is worshipped with milk, roli and akshata during the puja. After the puja, this 'Syau' is woven in a thread with two silver pearls and worn by women around their neck.

Special food offerings are prepared that includes puri, halwa and pua. 8 of all these are offered to the Goddess and then given to some elderly lady or even a Brahmin. The puja is terminated by performing the 'Ahoi Mata aarti' at the end.

Significance of Ahoi Ashtami

Ahoi Ashtami fast is undertaken by mothers of boys for the long life and happiness of their sons. They worship Goddess Ahoi on this day with full devotion and fervour. On this day women observe a fast for their sons. The time for sighting the stars and moonrise can be seen in the Ahoi Ashtami Puja timings in the Hindu panchang.

It is believed that women who face miscarriage or have problems in conceiving should perform the Ahoi Ashtami puja and vrat to get blessed with a baby boy. For this reason, it is also known as 'Krishnashtami'. This day is therefore significant for childless couples. On this occasion, couples take a holy dip in the 'Radha Kunda' at Mathura. Devotees from all over the country come and throng the place during this time.

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat Katha

According to the story of Ahoi Ashtami, long time ago, a moneylender lived in a city. He had seven sons.



Important information

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat 2022

Monday, 17 October 2022

Evening time to see the stars : 06:13 PM Approx.

Ashtami Tithi Begins : 17 October 2022 at 09:29 AM

Ashtami Tithi ends : 18 October 2022 at 11:57 PM

Once, when only seven days were left for Diwali, the family was engaged in cleaning the house. For renovation of their house, the moneylender's wife went to collect mud from an open pit mine near the river. Unaware that a hedgehog has built its den in the mine, the moneylender's wife started digging for mud. While doing so, her hoe hit a hedgehog cub killing it instantly.

Seeing this, the moneylender's wife felt very sad. Heartbroken she returned to her home. A few days after due to the curse of the hedgehog mother, the woman's eldest son died, then the second son died, and likewise the third child was no more and in one year all their seven sons died.

Due to the death of all her children, the woman started living very sad. One day, while crying, she told her sad story to one of her elderly neighbours and confessed that she did not commit the sin on purpose and that the cub was killed unknowingly and that it was after the incident her seven sons died. On hearing this, the old lady comforted her and said that half of her sin has been redeemed by her repentance.

The woman also suggested that, on the day of Mata Ahoi Ashtami, with recourse to Goddess Bhagwati, by drawing a picture of hedgehog and its cubs, worshiping them and apologizing for her act, she will be benefited. The woman also said that doing so, by the grace of God, all her sins will be cleansed.

The moneylender's wife obeyed the old woman and worshiped Mother Ahoi. Fasting on the eighth day of the Krishna Paksha of Kartik month, she started doing this regularly every year and with time, she got seven sons. It is since then the tradition of Ahoi Ashtami vrat has started.

Significance

The ancient myths suggest that Maa Ahoi may accept your wishes if you recall her with a pure heart. And therefore, women try to impress the Goddess by performing rituals and keeping fast. They even refrain from drinking water for a day and only end their fast after seeing the stars or moon at night. Women visit the nearby temple after dusk and worship the Goddess. On this day, ladies get together under one roof and listen to devotional songs or ancient legends. Apart from this, women also prepare food delicacies for their family members. They offer sweet dishes to Goddess and seek blessings from her. This auspicious day brings an opportunity to impress Maa Ahoi with true devotion. Those couples who are preparing for conception visit Radha Kunda at Mathura to take a dip inside the river. It is said that by doing so, they may get blessed with a baby boy.

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contd from page 1

Jan. 6 panel subpoenas Trump for testimony on Capitol attack

Maryland. Later the footage shows Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and other GOP leaders as the group asks the acting attorney general for help.

"They're breaking the law in many different ways - quite frankly at the instigation of the President of the United States," Pelosi is heard saying at one point.

The U.S. House Jan. 6 Committee planned to vote Thursday to subpoena former President Donald Trump to testify, as it presented interviews with his aides and new documents detailing his unflinching multi-part efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss.

The vote seeking Trump's testimony comes as the panel is producing vivid new details and evidence of Trump's state of mind as he refused to concede his election loss to Joe Biden, resulting in the 2021 attack at the Capitol.

In never-before-seen Secret Service messages, the panel produced evidence of the way extremist groups provided the muscle in the fight for Trump's presidency, planning weeks before the attack to send a violent force to Washington.

"Their plan is literally to kill people," read a tip that was sent to Secret Service more than a week before the violence on Jan. 6.

The Secret Service warned in a Dec. 26, 2020, email of a tip that members of the right-wing Proud Boys planned to march in Washington on Jan. 6 with a group large enough to outnumber the police.

"It felt like the calm before the storm," one Secret Service agent wrote in a group chat.

The House panel warned that the insurrection at the Capitol was not an isolated incident but a warning of the fragility of the nation's democracy in the post-Trump era.

"None of this is normal or acceptable or lawful in a republic," Republican Rep. Liz Cheney said.

"There is no defense that Donald Trump was duped or irrational. No President can defy the rule of law and act this way in a constitutional republic, period."

The 10th public session, just weeks before the congressional midterm elections, was delving into Trump's "state of mind," said Democratic Chairman Bennie Thompson.

The committee is starting to sum up its findings that Republican Trump, after losing the 2020 Presidential election, launched an unprecedented attempt to stop Congress from certifying Democrat Biden's victory. The result was the mob storming of the Capitol.

Statements from Thompson and Cheney were laden with language frequently seen in criminal indictments. Both lawmakers described Trump as "substantially" involved in the events of Jan. 6. Cheney said Trump had acted in a "premeditated" way.

To illustrate what it said were "purposeful lies," the committee juxtaposed repeated instances in which top administration officials recounted telling Trump the actual facts with clips of him repeating the exact opposite at his pre-riot rally at the Ellipse on Jan. 6.

The committee may well make a decision on whether to make a criminal referral to the Justice Department.

Thursday's hearing opened at a mostly empty Capitol complex, with most lawmakers at home campaigning for reelection. Several people who were among the thousands around the Capitol on Jan. 6 are now running for congressional office, some with Trump's backing. Police officers who fought the mob filled the hearing room's front row.

To describe the President's mindset, the committee divulged new material, including interviews with Trump's top Cabinet officials, aides and associates in which some described the President acknowledging that he had lost.

In one, according to ex-White House official Alyssa Farah Griffin, Trump looked up at a television and said, "Can you believe I lost to this (expletive) guy?"

The committee is also drawing on the trove of 1.5

million documents it received from the U.S. Secret Service, including an email from Dec. 11, 2020, the day the Supreme Court rejected one of the main lawsuits Trump's team had brought against the election results.

"Just fyi. POTUS is pissed," the Secret Service wrote, according to documents obtained by the committee.

White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson, a top aide to then-chief of staff Mark Meadows, recalled Trump as being "livid" and "fired up" about the court's ruling.

Trump told Meadows "Something to the effect of: 'I don't want people to know we lost, Mark. This is embarrassing. Figure it out,'" Hutchinson told the panel in a recorded interview.

Cabinet members including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Attorney General William Barr and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia also said in interviews shown at the hearing that they believed that once the legal avenues had been exhausted, that should have been the end of Trump's efforts to remain in power.

"In my view, that was the end of the matter," Barr said of the Dec. 14 Electoral College vote.

But rather than the end of Trump's efforts to stay in power, the committee signaled it was only the beginning - as the President summoned the crowd to Washington for a rally to fight the election on Jan. 6.

The session was serving as a closing argument for the panel's two Republican lawmakers, Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, who have essentially been shunned by Trump and their party and will not be returning in the new Congress. Cheney lost her primary election, and Kinzinger decided not to run.

Another committee member, Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., a retired Naval commander, is in a tough reelection bid against state Sen. Jen Kiggans, a former Navy helicopter pilot.

The panel was expected to share information from its recent interviews - including testimony from Ginni Thomas, the conservative activist and wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. She was in contact with the White House during the run-up to Jan. 6.

The committee, having conducted more than 1,500 interviews and obtained countless documents, has produced a sweeping probe of Trump's activities from his defeat in the November election to the Capitol attack.

"He has used this big lie to destabilize our democracy," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-N.Y., who was a young House staff member during the Richard Nixon impeachment inquiry in 1974. "When did that idea occur to him and what did he know while he was doing that?"

This week's hearing is to be the final presentation from lawmakers before the midterm elections. But staff members say the investigation continues.

The Jan. 6 committee has been meeting for more than a year, set up by the House after Republican senators blocked the formation of an outside panel similar to the 9/11 commission set up after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Even after the launch of its high-profile public hearings last summer, the Jan. 6 committee continued to gather evidence and interviews.

Under committee rules, the Jan. 6 panel is to produce a report of its findings, likely in December. The committee will dissolve 30 days after publication of that report, and with the new Congress in January.

House Republicans are expected to drop the Jan. 6 probe and turn to other investigations if they win control after midterm elections, primarily focusing on Biden, his family and his administration.

At least five people died in the Jan. 6 attack and its aftermath, including a Trump supporter shot and killed by Capitol Police.

Police engaged in often bloody, hand-to-hand combat, as Trump's supporters pushed past barricades, stormed the Capitol and roamed the halls, sending lawmakers fleeing for safety and temporarily disrupting the joint session of Congress certifying Biden's election.

More than 850 people have been charged by the Justice Department in the Capitol attack, some receiving lengthy prison sentences for their roles.

Several leaders and associates of the extremist Oath Keepers and Proud Boys have been charged with sedition.

Trump faces various state and federal investigations over his actions in the election and its aftermath.

India, Pakistan clash over Kashmir at the UN

"We call on Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism so that our citizens can enjoy the right to life and liberty," she also said.

Pakistan replied with diplomat Gul Kaiser Sarwani commenting on Hindutva, the RSS, cow vigilantism and the state of minorities in India. India preferred not to exercise its right to reply.

India and Pakistan also clashed over the issue of Kashmir at two other international forums spread as far apart as Kigali (Rwanda) and Astana (Kazakhstan).

In Astana, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said it was unfortunate that Pakistan misused the ongoing CICA conference to "propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country and distract from the theme and focus of today's discussions and cooperation among the member states".

"The UTs of J&K have been and will remain an integral part of India. Pakistan has no locus standing to comment on India's internal affairs," she added at the CICA Summit in Astana.

In Rwanda, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh exercised his right of reply against remarks made by a Pakistani delegate on the issue of Kashmir at an Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Both he and Lekhi said it was unfortunate that Pakistan has once again chosen to misuse the platform to "propagate false and malicious propaganda against India and distract from today's discussion".

The Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman called on Pakistan to immediately cease anti-India cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism.

Elon Musk is under federal investigation, Twitter says in court filing

The log referenced drafts of a May 13 email to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a slide presentation to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

The court filing, which asked a Delaware judge to order Mr. Musk's attorneys to provide the documents, was made on October 6-the same day that the judge that paused litigation between the two sides after Mr. Musk reversed course and said he would proceed with the deal.

"This game of 'hide the ball' must end," the company said in the court filing.

Alex Spiro, an attorney for Mr. Musk, told Reuters that Twitter's court filing was a "misdirection." Twitter declined to comment on Mr. Spiro's response and to Reuters queries about its understanding of any investigation into Mr. Musk.

The SEC did not immediately respond to request for comment and the FTC declined to comment.

The SEC has questioned Mr. Musk's comments about the Twitter acquisition. In April, the SEC asked Mr. Musk whether the disclosure of his 9% Twitter stake was late and why it indicated that he intended to be a passive shareholder. Mr. Musk later refiled the disclosure to indicate he was an active investor.

In June, the SEC asked Mr. Musk in a letter whether he should have amended his public filing to reflect his intention to suspend or abandon the deal.

The Information, a tech news site, reported in April that the FTC was scrutinizing whether Musk failed to comply with an antitrust reporting requirement as he amassed his stake in Twitter.

Twitter said in June that the takeover deal with Musk had cleared an antitrust waiting period for review by the FTC and U.S. Justice Department.

Varkala is a coastal town in the southern part of Kerala known for the unique 15m high 'Northern Cliff' adjacent to the Arabian Sea. It is popular for its hippie culture, shacks on the cliff serving great seafood and playing global music and the samadhi of Kerala's saint Sree Narayana Guru. Varkala is also known for Jardana Swami Temple, also known as Dakshin Kashi.

Varkala has some of the best pristine beaches, hills, lakes, forts, lighthouses, natural fisheries and springs - all of this together makes this town a little paradise. You will also find a lot of shops with signboards in Hebrew selling Yoga mats, oxidised silver jewellery and harem pants made of cotton. Ayurvedic spas, affordable resorts, hostels, clean beaches make it a must-visit city of Kerala.

Water Sports in Varkala

Varkala is the only place in Kerala where the hills come close to the sea. The uniqueness of the place is the merging of cliffs with the Arabian Sea. Varkala Beach is a popular beach where you can enjoy various water sports activities such as para-sailing and paragliding.

The Geological Survey of India calls it as the Varkala Formation. The Discovery Channel has named Varkala as one of the top ten seasonal beaches.

Several water sports operators are to be found along the beaches, and travellers can easily do a lot of water activities with good fun. The Kapil Lake, situated close to the beach, is another famous destination to enjoy moments of peace. The Chilakkoor Beach which is close to the Varkala town is a perfect destination to view the sunset. Though the beach is not developed commercially, it is an ideal place for leisurely evening walks.

Varkala Beach

Set amid a beautiful setting about 10 km away from the calm and quiet hamlet of Varkala in Kerala, Varkala Beach, also known as Papanasam Beach, is a beautiful stretch of sand renowned for its solitude unlike other commercial beaches of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The backdrop Arabian Sea against the cliffs of Kerala is a unique one since these sedimentary formation peaks are not found anywhere in the otherwise flat coastline of Kerala.

The beach itself is divided into two parts, the southern area of the beach lying at the end of the road leading from Janardhana Swamy Temple regarded as sacred by Hindus. However, if you are a tourist, the north part of the beach right at the bottom of the cliff is worth going renowned for its natural mineral spring.

The water of Varkala Beach is regarded to own medicinal and curative properties. A dip in the hoi water is said to cleanse the body of impurities and all sins and thus the name Papanasam Beach meaning 'Destroyer of Sins'.

Sunsets at the Varkala Beach are especially pristine and call for a serene walk along the beach. Also if you are a seafood lover, then the place is a paradise for you. The eating joints nearby offer some of India's best moth watering and affordable food.

Edava Beach

Untouched and unspoilt by tourist activities, the Edava beaches are the virgin stretches circling a blue lagoon where sea and backwaters run parallel

Varkala: The hidden treasure of Kerala



divided by a more-than-one km of straight road. There is also an estuary that connects the sea with the backwaters here.

Mangrove Forest Kayaking

Mangrove forest in Nedungolam, Paravur, in the district of Kollam, is located at a distance of 18kms from Varkala. Perfect for a half-day trip, one can go on 4km kayaking during morning or evening. Sailing through these canals of Nedungolam, especially the mangrove forest, is a must-try experience.

Thiruvambadi Beach

Lying 1 km off Thiruvambadi road, this black sand beach adjacent to the North cliff is an ideal picnic spot amidst lush coconut groves to relax and unwind.

Anjengo Fort

Anjengo Fort, situated 12 km off Varkala at Anjengo, is believed to have been built in 17th century. Presently the fort is protected by the National Heritage monuments.

The cemetery in the fort shelters the deceased occupants of the fort. The popular Muthalapuzhi Lake is situated very close to the Fort. Autos or cabs can be taken to reach the fort.

Sivagiri Mutt

Located at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala is the one of the popular ashrams of Shri Narayana Guru, Sivagiri Mutt. This ashram celebrates Guru Deva Jayanti (in August) and the Guru Deva Samadhi (in September) every year. Janardhana Swami Temple



and Varkala Beach are some nearby attractions which one should never miss during their visit to Sivagiri Mutt. Sree Narayana Guru (1855-1928), a saint, social reformer, philosopher and a leader of Ezhava community, made Varkala his headquarters. Sivagiri mutt, instituted by Sree Narayana Guru, is another major pilgrim centre here. The 'Sivagiri Pilgrimage' is usually conducted between 30th December and 1st January every year. Even decades after the Guru breathed his last breathe here in 1928; his Samadhi (resting place) continues to be thronged by thousands of pilgrims. The Sivagiri Mutt is also the headquarters

of the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sangham, a religious organization established by the Guru to propagate his concept of 'One Caste, One Religion, One God'.

Varkala Cliff

Varkala CLIFF is a geologically important site in the region. The cliff is formed by laterite and overlooks the Varkala beach. It has been declared as a Geological monument by the Geological Survey of India but the stunning view of the golden beach and the playful waves that it offers is worth a visit for beach lovers and photographers.

Source: *Holidify*

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- Tanisha Greenaway, Police Officer, Office of the Chief of Department Domestic Violence Unit Queens Family Justice Center



NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

contd from page 1

U.N. demands Russia reverse Ukraine annexations, India abstains from vote

Ukraine's U. N. ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, called the vote "amazing" and "a historic moment." U. S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said supporters were "holding our breaths" and called it "a monumental day." European Union Ambassador Olof Skoog called it "a great success" that sends "a resounding message to Russia that they are and remain isolated."

U. S. President Joe Biden said in a statement that the vote demonstrated the world "is more united and more determined than ever to hold Russia accountable for its violations." It is "a clear message" that "Russia cannot erase a sovereign state from the map" and it "cannot change borders by force," he said.

The Western-sponsored resolution was a response to Russia's announced annexation last month of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Moscow acted following Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" that the Ukrainian government and the West have dismissed as sham votes conducted on occupied land amid warfare and displacement.

Violation of U.N. Charter

During two days of speeches at the assembly's resumed emergency special session on Ukraine speaker after speaker accused Russia of violating key principles of the United Nations Charter - respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all U. N. member nations.

There was intense lobbying by supporters of the E. U.-facilitated resolution ahead of Wednesday's vote.

U. S. envoy Thomas-Greenfield told the assembly before the vote that when the United Nations was

established on the ashes of World War II it was built on an idea - "that never again would one country be allowed to take another's territory by force."

Afterward, she told reporters the vote means "that in the eyes of the world and the United Nations, Ukraine's borders remain the same."

"The resolution also sends an enormously important signal to Moscow and to everyone: It does not matter if you as a nation are big or small, rich or poor, old or new. If you are a U. N. member state, your borders are your own and are protected by international law," Ms. Thomas-Greenfield said. "They cannot be redrawn by anyone else by force."

Result beyond expectations

A key issue for the resolution's Western backers was how many countries would support it, and the result went beyond their most optimistic expectations.

The General Assembly voted 141-5 with 35 abstentions March 2 to demand an immediate Russian ceasefire, withdrawal of all its troops and protection for all civilians. On March 24, it voted 140-5 with 38 abstentions on a resolution blaming Russia for Ukraine's humanitarian crisis and urging an immediate ceasefire and protection for millions of civilians and the homes, schools and hospitals critical to their survival.

But the assembly voted by a far smaller margin April 7 to suspend Russia from the U. N.'s Geneva-based Human Rights Council over allegations Russian soldiers in Ukraine engaged in rights violations that the United States and Ukraine have called war crimes. That vote was 93-24 with 58 abstentions.

A 2014 resolution affirming Ukraine's territorial integrity and declaring the referendum that led to Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula illegal was adopted by a vote of 100-11 with 58 abstentions.

Among the surprise supporters of Wednesday's

resolution were the "yes" votes from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as Brazil.

Russia responds

Russia's U. N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, had appealed to countries to vote against the resolution, calling it "a politicized and openly provocative document" and denouncing its sponsors as "unscrupulous Western blackmailers". He expressed regret the vote was not by secret ballot, as Russia sought but the assembly rejected.

Mr. Nebenzia reiterated Russia's claims the referendums were valid, saying "the populations of these regions do not want to return to Ukraine."

The four countries that joined Russia in voting against the resolution were North Korea, Belarus, Syria and Nicaragua.

Ukraine's Kyslytsya expressed profound regret that the four countries made "the wrong choice against the U. N. Charter" and urged them to reconsider their commitment to the U. N.'s principles.

India abstains

Among the 35 countries that abstained, 19 were from Africa, including South Africa. China and India, the world's two most populous countries, also abstained along with Pakistan and Cuba.

The more powerful Security Council, whose resolutions are legally binding, has been stymied on taking action on Ukraine because of Russia's veto power, which it used September 29 to block condemnation of Russia's attempts to annex Ukrainian territory.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

contd from page 10

New Jersey Marks Ground Zero for growing US Resistance to Hindutva

"Open your hearts," said one sign. Another asked: "Where is your empathy?" Yet another stated: "Protect India's Muslim Lives." Even as the protestors exited the public event, the enraged mob continued to pursue them, shoving them, swinging at them, and stealing and destroying their signs. Frightened protestors cried out, "Don't touch me. Get away from me." In response, at least one of their assailants shouted, "Stupid Muslim, get out!"

The greatest concern prompted by the Hindutva violence in California - although it is already perhaps the most egregious witnessed in the US during the Modi regime's reign - is that unchecked, it could escalate to the higher levels already occurring in other countries where the movement has gained strong footholds.

In October 2021, for instance, Australian resident Vishal Jood was deported to India after being arrested and jailed for multiple armed assaults on Sikhs who had protested Modi's policies. Upon returning to India, he received a "hero's welcome," complete with a street parade in his honor.

In September 2022, far more organized violence broke out in the streets of Leicester, UK.

The city, which is reportedly home to the largest population of British Indians outside of London, has seen brewing tension between Hindu and Muslim communities for several months. One of the flashpoints allegedly occurred in May, when a gang of 30 apparently Hindu youth savagely beat a young Muslim man with baseball bats, breaking his arm while demanding to know if he is Muslim.

As conflict successively escalated, it came to a head on 17 September when a mob of approximately 200 masked and hooded men - many of whom appeared armed with metal rods or pipes - marched through the city chanting, "Jai Shri Ram." As British criminologist Chris Allen notes, the phrase has become "synonymous with Hindu nationalist violence"; or, to quote British

journalist Faisal Hanif, it is "a Hindu chant that became 'a murder cry' in India." As the mob marched through the streets, scuffles broke out that bled over into the next day.

Nearly 50 people were ultimately arrested, with authorities reporting that a large number of them hailed from outside the region.

Should US authorities continue to ignore the spread of Hindutva influence in the country, the risk that the same sort of street violence witnessed in Australia and the UK will spread to the US grows. The bulldozer incident - an example of hateful intimidation - was handled peacefully through proper civic channels. Yet the incident in Anaheim is an entirely different story.

In fact, when I spoke with organizers of the peaceful protest in Anaheim (who chose to remain anonymous), they expressed fears about even registering a case with the local police, even though their attackers, their violent actions, and their faces were all clearly caught on camera and even personally witnessed by a Los Angeles Times journalist.

So extensive is the network and influence of the American Sangh Parivar, it seems, that when its apparent sympathizers begin enacting physical violence, their victims don't feel safe to even file a police report. If that's the case now, imagine what the situation - left unchecked - will look like over the ensuing years, particularly considering that the RSS-BJP appears likely to remain in power in India (probably thanks, in part, to continued backing from its overseas support base) for quite some time to come. As Indian academic Pratap Bhanu Mehta notes, Hindutva has become "a global ideology of hate and asserting cultural dominance." Thus, he warns, "It is bizarre to think you can have this much dissemination of hate without it having violent political consequences. Now that inhibitions have been broken, brace for more conflict."

It is well past time that the American public - especially the nation's elected officials, from city to state to federal level - wake up not only to the threat that the Hindutva movement poses to the citizens of India but even to those living abroad who would dare to

oppose it. Successful resistance like that seen in New Jersey with Ritambhara, the bulldozer, and one small political party chapter rising up must be applauded and replicated throughout the US - as must be the victory over the HSS-USA witnessed in California.

Can New Jersey remain the ground zero for such resistance?

For the sake of saving lives, action is urgently needed. International experts are sounding the alarm, warning that India is edging closer and closer - day by day - to the brink of genocide. Let it not be said that we live abroad stood silently by while that impending atrocity unfolded.

Let it certainly not be said that we allowed violence in India to be supported by elements within our own countries - let alone bleed over to touch and harm anyone within our own nations.

Dr Truschke - who herself is a professor at New Jersey's Rutgers University - says that Hindu nationalists in the US are contributing to the "alarming trend" of anti-Asian hate crimes in the country. "If we are to confront and begin to counter such hateful assaults, we must recognize Hindutva's deep roots and long-standing harms in New Jersey," she writes. "A hard truth is that while many New Jerseyans are only now learning the basics of Hindu nationalism, many of our state's minority communities - especially South Asian Muslims - have lived for decades with the specter of fear and intimidation imposed by purveyors of this intolerant ideology. It is time for that era to end, and for us to say together - Hindutva hate has no home in New Jersey."

With any hope, New Jersey - that "Nagpur of America" - will shine forth as one of the most gloriously victorious battlegrounds against the fascism of Hindutva.

(Pieter Friedrich is a freelance journalist specializing in analysis of South Asian affairs. He is the author of *India at a Crossroads: Hindu Nationalist Efforts to Eradicate Christianity, Sikh Caucus: Siege in Delhi, Surrender in Washington and Saffron Fascists: India's Hindu Nationalist Rulers as well as co-author of Captivating the Simple-Hearted: A Struggle for Human Dignity in the Indian Subcontinent. Discover more at PieterFriedrich.com.*)



DISCUS THROWER KAMALPREET BANNED FOR THREE YEARS

Discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been banned for three years by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for a doping violation.

Punjab's Kamalpreet, who represented India at the Tokyo Olympics last year, admitted to the violation in a letter to the AIU after which her four-year sanction was reduced by one year.

Her ban will run from March 29, when she was provisionally suspended after her sample showed a presence of the banned steroid stanozolol, till March 2025.

The AIU said that all her results since March 7, when her sample was collected, will be quashed and any award or appearance money received will have to be forfeited.

Interestingly, in her plea during the proceedings, Kamalpreet had blamed the supplements that were provided to her during the national camp for the presence of the banned substance in her sample.

This was after she had refused her right to get her 'B sample tested. The 26-year-old then got the supplements tested in a private lab in New Delhi, and traces of the steroid were found. The AIU asked her to deposit the samples with the WADA-recognised lab in New Delhi.

The results showed the presence of stanozolol in the protein supplement that Kamalpreet was taking on a regular basis in the weeks leading up to her testing. *Source: TNS*

India lose second T20 World Cup warm-up game to Western Australia

PERTH (TIP)

India's star-studded batting line-up belied expectations as the team lost to Western Australia by 36 runs in its second T20 World Cup warm-up match here on Thursday, October 13.

Inaugural edition champions India laboured to 132 for eight in 20 overs chasing 169.

India had won the opening warm-up match by 13 runs.

D'Arcy Short smashed 52 off 38 balls and Nick Hobson hammered 64 off 41 balls to take Western Australia to 168 for eight in the stipulated 20 overs. R Ashwin was the pick of India's bowlers, taking three wickets in an over.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh was impressive again in his three overs while under-fire Harshal Patel returned with tidy figures of 27 for two in four overs.

India struggled in the run chase on a pacy WACA surface. India captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav did not come out to bat. Both Rohit and Kohli fielded during West Australia's innings.

Rishabh Pant (9) opened the batting alongside stand-in captain K L Rahul whose 74 off 45 balls went in vain.

None of the other Indian batters could make an impact in the innings. Batting at three, Deepak Hooda perished after making 6 off 9 balls. Hardik Pandya began with a couple of sixes before being dismissed for 17 off 9 balls. The designated finisher in the Indian team, Dinesh Karthik struggled to a 14-ball 10.

India are camped in Perth ahead of the T20 World Cup to get used to the pace and bounce. The squad now moves to Brisbane for the warm-up games against Australia and New Zealand on October 17 and 19 respectively.

They open their campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23 in



Melbourne.

Chahar out; 3-way fight for Bumrah's place

Pacer Deepak Chahar, who was a strong contender to replace Jasprit Bumrah in the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup, has been ruled out of the marquee event due to a back injury.

While Chahar will miss the plane to Australia, the national selectors have asked pacers Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur to join the squad.

"Deepak will take some time to get fit. His back issue has flared up again. His ankle is fine and there wasn't any problem there. So BCCI is sending three reinforcements, Mohammed

Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur," a BCCI official said.

One among the three pacers will replace Bumrah in the squad of 15. Since the team has time till Saturday to announce a replacement, the team management can check on form and fitness of all the three pacers.

Chahar had competed in the T20I series against South Africa but developed a back issue and was forced to skip the ODI series. He reported to the National Cricket Academy for rehabilitation.

Pacers' timely arrival will give them time enough to acclimatise to the conditions Down Under. In case their services are required, they will be ready for the contest. *Source: PTI*

India crush Thailand by 74 runs to enter women's Asia Cup final



Team India players in action against Thailand. (BCCI Women).

A dominant India crushed minnows Thailand by 74 runs to storm into the final and remain on course for a record-extending seventh women's Asia Cup title here on Thursday, October 13.

The win over Thailand took India to their eighth straight Asia Cup final -- four each in ODI and T20 formats. Before 2012, the tournament was a 50-over-a-side affair.

The semifinal contest against Thailand was always expected to be a cakewalk for India and it turned out to be so.

India posted 148 for six after being sent in to bat and then restricted Thailand to 74 for 9 in the lop-sided contest.

Chasing the target, Thailand were never in the hunt as they lost wickets at regular intervals. The Thai women, however, fared much better than their previous outing against India in the league

stage, where they were crushed by nine wickets. In that match, the Indians bundled out Thailand for just 37 runs in 15.1 overs and then chased down the target with consummate ease.

On Thursday, the Thai women gave a better account of themselves with the bat despite being reduced to 21 for 4 in the eighth over.

Deepti Sharma (3/7) did most of the damage with her off-spin, picking up the first three Thai wickets -- Nannapat Koncharoenkai, Natthakan Chantham and Sorannarin Tippoch -- in consecutive overs. Medium pacer Renuka Singh (1/6) then cleaned Chanida Sutthiruang as Thailand's chase fell apart. Captain Naruemol Chaiwai (21) and Nattaya Boochatham (21) showed some resistance with the bat with a 42-run stand for the fifth wicket but the asking rate was too tall. In fact, they were the only two Thai batters to register double digit scores. *Source: PTI*



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