



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 15, 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

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Shri Guru Ram Das, the founder of Shri Harimandir Sahib (Golden Temple)

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Ambassador Taranjit Sandhu pays rich tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 153rd birth anniversary

OCTOBER 2, 2022

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated in New York City on October 2, 2022.

India's Ambassador to the U.S. Taranjit Sandhu paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue in Union Square, and later addressed the gathering. He described Gandhi as a man who influenced world leaders and

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Ambassador Taranjit Sandhu, in his remarks, described Mahatma Gandhi as a great influence on many leaders across the world

Photo / courtesy Tirlok Malik



President Biden plans to celebrate Diwali at White House

OCTOBER 5, 2022 WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): US President Joe Biden has plans to celebrate Diwali at the White House this year, his spokesperson said.

Details and nature of preparations have not been revealed yet.

"Yes, he has plans to celebrate Diwali just like he did last year," White House Press Secretary Karen Jean-Pierre told reporters at



President Biden and the First Lady lighting a diya on Diwali in 2021

File photo / White House

her daily news conference here.

"We don't have a date to share with you at this time, but it is an event that he thinks is very important as he sees a partnership with India as well as Indian Americans here in this country," Jean-Pierre said in response to a question.

Meanwhile, Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan has declared October as Hindu Heritage Month.

Beginning with the Bush Administration, Diwali is being celebrated at the White House every year.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mandya



Huge crowds at the Bharat Jodo Yatra

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress party is undertaking the 3,570-km 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that began at Kanniyakumari on September 7, 2022 and will end at Srinagar covering 12 States in 150 days. The party's biggest mass contact programme in the recent times will see 119 leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi.

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India expected to grow at a slowed down rate of 6.5% in FY22-23: World Bank



Image for representation only

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The numbers were released as part of the World Bank's twice yearly South Asia Economic Focus, titled, 'Coping with Shocks: Migration and the Road to Resilience,' ahead of the World Bank IMF annual meetings in Washington DC.

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Neutrality and abstention: On India's stand in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

INDIA MUST TAKE A STAND AGAINST RUSSIA'S BOMBING OF CIVILIANS AND ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday, October 4, was a significant marker in the continuing war in Ukraine. While Mr. Modi has often spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin and also met him last month, his conversations with Mr. Zelenskyy thus far were restricted to the period when the Government was involved in the evacuation of about 20,000 Indian students. The phone call came a few weeks after the Putin meeting, and Mr. Zelenskyy joined western leaders in complimenting Mr. Modi for his "now is not the time for war" comment. In turn, Mr. Modi told Mr. Zelenskyy that there is no military solution to the conflict. They also spoke a week after India chose to abstain from voting against Russia for conducting referendums and annexing Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, although neither leader referred to it. They also discussed the

critical importance of nuclear safety, particularly the Zaporizhzhia plant, that has been of much concern for the IAEA, which is involved in brokering talks between Ukraine and Russia to enforce a nuclear protective zone around it. The plant, under Russian control, and in Oblast province where Mr. Putin recently declared "annexation," is near the scene of fighting. The MEA said that Mr. Modi "underlined that endangerment of nuclear facilities could have... catastrophic consequences for public health and environment," although he did not clarify which side the peril was posed from. Finally, Mr. Modi expressed "India's readiness to contribute to any peace efforts," to which Mr. Zelenskyy responded that he would not conduct any negotiations with the "current President of the Russian Federation."

Over the past seven months, the war and western sanctions have had a

dramatic impact on global security, food, fuel and energy supplies, and it is important to keep the lines of communication open, as Mr. Modi has done, with Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy. India has an established record in global peacemaking. However, New Delhi can only play that part if it also sets out its position more clearly, and links it to its actions on the global stage. The Government's defiance of western sanctions on oil and defense trade is understandable in terms of defending India's national interests. However, it is harder to correlate Mr. Modi's comments, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's remarks, on adherence to the UN charter and the importance of protecting territorial sovereignty while India continues to abstain on all votes that criticize Russia's actions in Ukraine: including the bombing of civilians, and the annexation of occupied territories.

(The Hindu)

Feasibility of freebies

POLITICAL PARTIES NEED TO SPELL OUT FINANCIAL RAMIFICATIONS

Political parties have no qualms about promising all kinds of freebies to voters in the run-up to elections, even if the state's coffers are empty or highly depleted. With the freebies coming under the Supreme Court's close scrutiny, the Election Commission (EC) has proposed that the Model Code of Conduct be amended so that all parties can be asked to apprise the electorate of the financial viability of their poll promises. The EC has noted that the high frequency of elections in India provides opportunities to the parties to indulge in competitive electoral promises 'without having to spell out their financial implications, more particularly on committed expenditure.'

Even as PM Modi has repeatedly derided the politics of freebies as 'revdi culture,' the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is of the view that governments should spend the taxpayers' money to provide facilities to people. Undoubtedly, the promise of freebies such as providing 300 units of electricity free of cost per month to domestic consumers helped AAP storm to power in Punjab earlier this year. However, election-centric

sops deny a level playing field to the stakeholders as the ruling party can afford to splurge - at the cost of the overstretched exchequer. The distribution of free food kits powered the ruling Left Democratic Front to an emphatic victory in the 2021 Kerala Assembly elections, in stark contrast to the rout it had suffered in the Lok Sabha polls held two years earlier.

Unreasonable freebies need to be weeded out as they are taking a heavy toll on the states' fiscal health. In a research report, the State Bank of India has suggested that the expenditure on populist welfare schemes should be capped at 1 per cent of the state's GDP or 1 per cent of its own tax collection. The report has noted that freebies have exceeded 2 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product for debt-ridden states such as Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. A financially feasible road map for fulfilling poll promises is the need of the hour to help voters make informed choices and deter irresponsible governments from living beyond their means.

(Tribune, India)



TIMES SQUARE DIWALI TO LIGHT UP NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 15



'Diya Lighting Countdown' atop the One Times Square Tower screen in the evening is similar to the New Year ball drop countdown.



Times Square Diwali founder Neeta Bhasin with New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Harry Bolla, a supporter and businessman.

OCTOBER 6, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): "Josh is very high as this year we are celebrating Diwali as well as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in Times Square on October 15," says Neeta Bhasin, President & CEO of Diwali at Times Square (DTS), which is in its 7th year.

The festival kicked off with the Flash Mob in the 'Crossroads of the World' on September 21 on UN International Day of Peace. This year's theme is 'End Racism, Build Peace,' to create a world in which

all people are treated equally, regardless of their race. DTS partner AR Helping Hands Foundation founder, Naresh Kumar, said, "Diwali is a festival of knowledge over ignorance, good over evil and light over darkness. Diwali asks us all to bring into focus the light needed to conquer obstacles like societal ills born of ignorance and malintent, like racism." DTS spreads its message of peace, love, harmony, togetherness and inclusion through art, culture, entertainment, and food.

According to the mainstream media, DTS is the largest festival held outside of India. The US Government's Share America website says the same.

Diwali at Times Square will be celebrated from 1 pm - 9 pm on October 15th, between 46th and 48th streets on Broadway. Diwali Bazaar Pavilion will offer products and services to visitors all day.

In the evening, the 'Diya Lighting Countdown' atop the One Times Square Tower screen will be followed by 'Light

Up Times Square Concert' with performers including singers Jay Sean, Arjun, Hrishi Songs, and Sparsh Shah. Dance performances are by Shiamak Davar Dance Academy, Arya, Masala Bhangra, Dance X Studio, SDA Dance Group and Prashant Shah.

American Airlines, Eye Foundation of America, State Bank of India, Northwell, ShopRite, Laxmi, Quickly, Nanak Foods, The American Foundation, Save Soil, and many others are partnering with the festival.

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Ambassador Taranjit Sandhu pays rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 153rd birth anniversary



Ambassador Sandhu with Indian-American community members who came to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti Photo / courtesy Tirlak Malik

inspired many to embrace his path of non-violence to achieve freedom and liberty in nations across the world. He said the world, more than ever, now needs his gospel of truth and non-violence.

Gandhi ji's favorite bhajans were sung on the occasion.

Those present included Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal, the Consulate staff, Gandhians and community leaders.

Five Indian Americans on Business Insider's list of 'Rising Stars of Wall Street'

NEW YORK (TIP): Five Indian American are on Business Insider's list of 'Rising Stars of Wall Street,' 25 young professionals under 35 rising up despite the challenges and grasping opportunities as they see them.

As Wall Street navigates volatile markets, fewer deals, and plummeting company valuations, they are "on the runway to success," as the business magazine puts it.

"Some up-and-comers are pushing their teams to the top of industry rankings, and many are immigrants climbing the ranks at major institutions infusing diverse ideas into their decision-making," it says.

The five Indian American rising stars of Wall Street from in or around New York City, who "distinguished in some way from the pack" are: Akash Pradhan, Swati Rao, Naveen Shahani, Richesh Shah and Vinay Trivedi.

Akash Pradhan, 33, principal at TPG

Pradhan joined the boutique-investment bank The Raine Group in 2011 "despite not knowing what the firm did because of The Raine Group's focus on sports, media, and entertainment," he told Insider.

The UC Berkeley graduate left Raine for TPG in 2013 and has been with the \$127 billion private-equity firm ever since, aside from a stint at Harvard Business School to get his MBA.

Promoted to the role of principal in January 2022, Pradhan leads investments in software and enterprise technology, working across funds including TPG Capital, TPG Growth, and the impact-oriented sector of TPG, The Rise Fund.



Akash Pradhan, Swati Rao, Naveen Shahani, Richesh Shah and Vinay Trivedi are the five Indian Americans among Business Insider's list of 'Rising Stars of Wall Street'

Over the past five years, Pradhan has been involved in or helped lead deals that total roughly \$3 billion in invested capital.

He was part of TPG's investments in the software unicorns Nintex and Catalis. Nintex represents Pradhan's interest in workflow automation, facilitating, for instance, automatic emails about benefits to new employees once they submit a signed offer letter.

Swati Rao, 34, director at Citi

Rao is a director within the banking, capital markets, and advisory division at Citi, focusing on deals mainly for companies handling transportation, logistics, and the supply chain.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin Amrapali Ami Gan among 'Time 100 Next'



Amrapali 'Ami' Gan, CEO of content-sharing website OnlyFans, is one of this year's "Time 100 Next," honoring 100 rising stars from various fields across the world.

LONDON (TIP): Indian origin Amrapali 'Ami' Gan, CEO of content-sharing website OnlyFans, is one of this year's "Time 100 Next," honoring 100 rising stars from various fields across the world.

Along with her, Pakistani singer, songwriter, composer, and author Ali Sethi famed for his song 'Pasoori,' British-Pakistani actress Nida Manzoor, and Indian tycoon Akash Ambani, chairman of telecom major Jio have also made it to the list.

Ami Gan was appointed to handle the London-based media firm into a billion-dollar business that porn stars, singers, and fitness enthusiasts use to share material with their fans in December of last year.

"OnlyFans hit rough waters in 2021 when it announced, and then walked back, a plan to ban the sexually explicit content the subscription-based social platform was increasingly known for. When Amrapali Gan took over as CEO that winter, she had a decision to make," according to Gan's profile in media.

"I'm very proud to embrace our adult-content creators, and also all of our other creators," Gan told the media. "Under her leadership, OnlyFans launched a safety and transparency center, and the platform's popularity has continued to boom," it said.

Gan, a Mumbai native, joined OnlyFans, a rapidly expanding subscription-based content business, as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer in 2020.

Since its founding in 2016, OnlyFans has built a reputation as a platform for hosting adult material. The company gained attention during the pandemic when many adult content producers switched to it as a result of lockdown.

Prior to joining OnlyFans, the 36-year-old communicator earned expertise in the quickly evolving consumer products and services sector.

She was an advisor for the Arcade Agency. Earlier she served as vice president of marketing at Cannabis Café in the US, where she played a crucial role in rebranding and opening the country's first cannabis restaurant.

Born in Mumbai, Gan earned an Associate of Arts degree in Merchandise Marketing from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM), Los Angeles.

She has a BA degree in Public Relations and Organizational Communication from California State University. Later she joined Harvard Business School for a Certificate in Entrepreneurship Studies.

'Kidnapped' Sikh family found dead in orchard in California: Sheriff

OCTOBER 6, 2022

MERCED, CA (TIP): The sheriff of Merced County in California has said a baby girl and three other Sikh family members who were kidnapped at gunpoint have been found dead.

Sheriff Vern Warnke announced on Thursday, October 6, 2022, that the bodies were found in a Merced County orchard and told reporters: "Our worst fears have been confirmed."

The announcement came after authorities released surveillance video of a man kidnapping 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her parents and uncle from their business Monday, October 3 in Merced in the San Joaquin Valley southeast of San Francisco.

A four-member Sikh family, including an 8-month-old child were originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. They were kidnapped in Merced County, California, on Monday.

The family was identified as 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh.

A vehicle owned by one of the family members was found on fire late Monday, which led law enforcement to determine that the four had been kidnapped.



The victim family, from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, was kidnapped on October 3

According to a news release, detectives received information on Tuesday, October 4 morning that one of the victim's bank cards was used at an ATM in Atwater in Merced County.

"There's a special place in hell for this guy," the Sheriff of Merced County in California has said of the suspect who is believed to have abducted the family of four, including an eight-month-old baby girl, found dead in an orchard.

"There are no words right now to describe the anger I feel and the senselessness of this incident," Merced

County Sheriff Vern Warnke said on Wednesday, October 5 night after authorities confirmed the death of four members of the family, who were missing since Monday, October 3.

"There's a special place in hell for this guy," Warnke said of suspect Jesus Manuel Salgado, who was convicted of armed robbery in 2005 and spent 11 years in prison.

The 48-year-old on Tuesday, October 4, attempted suicide in the town of Atwater after being arrested for the murder.

Indian American Vivek Lall gets lifetime achievement award in US



US President Joe Biden has conferred on Vivek Lall the Lifetime Achievement Award with the citation 'With Grateful Recognition'.

OCTOBER 3, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Vivek Lall, an Indian-origin General Atomics CEO, is honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by US President Joe Biden with citation of 'With Grateful Recognition'.

The citation was given to Lall, who has done PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Wichita State University in Kansas, by the AmeriCorps and the Office of the President. It was also personally signed by the President of the United States, as per the official statement.

AmeriCorps is a part of the US Government. The organization aims to foster activities that bring Americans closer together to "serve communities." Dr Lall, an industry leader and scientific community titan works as Chief Executive at General Atomics. The company is a global leader in the specialized fields of nuclear technology and has developed state-of-the-art Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) like the Predator, Reaper and Guardian drones.

Lall, a son of an Indian diplomat, was one of the handfuls of individuals with Indian origins to have been invited to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the past year during his Washington visit.

Notably, before his leadership position in General Atomics, Dr Lall worked at other leading organizations like NASA, Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin; his experience and accolades have been considered unparalleled by many in the scientific community and by long-term industry watchers alike.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American student killed by his roommate

OCTOBER 6, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Varun Manish Chheda, a 20-year-old Indian-American student at Purdue University, was killed in his dorm room by his roommate, who has been arrested on a preliminary murder charge, police said.



Varun Manish Chheda was killed allegedly by his roommate who has been arrested

Ji Min Sha, a 22-year-old junior cybersecurity major from Seoul, South Korea, has been held as the prime suspect in the case, Purdue Police Chief Lesley Wieta said.

Wieta called the crime "unprovoked and senseless". Chheda died of "multiple sharp force traumatic injuries" and the manner of death was a homicide, according to preliminary autopsy results, an NBC report said. A university spokesperson told the media that a 911 call came into the Purdue University Police Department at 12:44 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5, from McCutcheon Hall on the western edge of the campus. The call was made by Sha himself. Purdue University President Mitch Daniels said in a statement that the Purdue University Police Department is conducting a thorough investigation into the incident.

"This is as tragic an event as we can imagine happening on our campus and our hearts and thoughts go out to all of those affected by this terrible event... I assure you that the safety and security of our students is the single highest priority on our campus," Daniels added in his statement. This was Purdue's first on-campus homicide since January 2014, according to the University. Chheda was just 10 days away from his 21st birthday, the Indianapolis Star reported. He graduated from Park Tudor High School in 2020 and was a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Programme the year he graduated.

DIWALI AT TIMES SQUARE

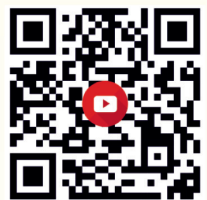
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Shri Guru Ram Das, the founder of Shri Harimandir Sahib

Guru Ram Das was the fourth Sikh Guru of the 10 Gurus of Sikhism. He is founder of Ramdasapur, later known as Amritsar, the centre of Sikhism and the site of the Sikhs' principal place of worship—the Harimandir Sahib, or Golden Temple. Guru Ram Das composed 638 hymns or about 10 percent of hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib. While Guru Amar Das introduced the manji system of a religious organization, Ram Das extended it by adding the Masand institution.

The masand were Sikh community leaders who lived far from the Guru, but acted to lead the distant congregations, their mutual interactions, and collect revenue for Sikh activities and temple building.

Born as Bhai Jetha on 9 October 1534 — according to the Nanakshahi calendar — in Lahore, he lost his parents at the age of seven and was brought up by his grandmother, who later took him to Goindval in Punjab's Tarn Taran district. It was here that he met Guru Amar Das and decided to become the latter's disciple. He quickly rose in the ranks to emerge as his Guru's favourite, and even married the latter's younger daughter — Bibi Bhani — and eventually, was appointed Ram Das, the fourth Guru of the Sikhs.

His bani, or set of songs, contained more than 600 hymns that held various teachings for followers of the faith. But his teachings went far beyond the books. When a group of Brahmins in Goindval raised objections to langar — that ostensibly ignored distinctions of the four castes — Amar Das dispatched his son-in-law to meet Emperor Akbar and address the grievances. Ram Das's strikingly simple statement at the royal court, that all were equal in the eyes of God, led Akbar to dismiss all objections.

In the years to come, Ram Das also stepped up efforts to strengthen the practice of commensality and even proclaimed that “kings and emperors are all created by God; they come and bow in reverence to God's humble servant”.

But he had to leave Goindval soon after his coronation in 1574 when he was faced with rivalry from Amar Das' sons. As advised by his father-in-law, Ram Das and Bibi Bhani then moved to a new place.

An 'autonomous' Amritsar

It is this new place, the chief feature of which was its human-made sarovar (tank), that was to become Amritsar in the years to come. Guru Ram Das had laid the foundations of Ramdasapur, later renamed to Amritsar, when he inaugurated the pool's excavation in 1577.

The sarovar later became the nucleus of Amritsar when Ram Das' youngest son and successor, Guru Arjan Dev, built a temple complex around it and placed a copy of the Adi Granth at Harmandir Sahib in 1604.

Ramdasapur or Amritsar was also perhaps one of those few towns that

Guru Ram Das was the fourth Sikh Guru. His birth anniversary falls on October 11.



remained autonomous in the context of a larger Mughal rule. Arjan Dev's proclamation that the town had no collector of taxes was a testimony to this fact. He had pointed toward a reality that the town was under the “authority of the Guru, not the Mughal state”.

Charting roadmap for a marriage law

Among Guru Ram Das's most famous compositions, the most well-known is his wedding hymn that formed the basis of the Sikh wedding ceremony called Anand Karaj. This ceremony is centered on the laavaan — four stanzas that the fourth Guru had composed. The hymn also emerged to be the focal point on which the British-era Anand Marriage Act of 1909 was later formed.

In the years after Independence, however, the Act garnered controversy when Sikh marriages were brought under the fold of the Hindu Marriage Act. After years of protests, in 2012, several states, including Delhi, decided to allow Sikhs to register their

marriages under the Anand Marriage Act.

As Bhai Jetha grew up, he began to appreciate the simple things in life. He wanted to know more about God and the different religions of the world. He would often ask his parents all sorts of questions about things he could not understand such as the racist Hindu caste system, the scriptures, the creation of the world and the like.

When his parents were unable to provide satisfactory answers, Bhai Jetha would turn to the learned men who could. The search for answers led Bhai Jetha to priests, to scholars, and other holy men who happened to pass Chuna Mandi. He began finding their discourses so interesting that he would spend more and more time with them.

At first his parents encouraged him hoping that he would become a better person through his association with holy men. But as he grew up they began to get worried. They realised that Bhai Jetha was spending more time with these men

than on his vocation. They feared that he would become an reclusive sadhu, if he continued mixing with the holy men. Thus, they asked him to take up some work so that he could earn a living, and get involved in household affairs.

Though Bhai Jetha was not interested in establishing a trade, he nevertheless obeyed his parents. He asked them what he was supposed to do. His mother thought hard. It so happened that their neighbour used to peddle roasted grams in the nearby market, and earn reasonably well from it. Daya Kaur decided that her son could do the same. When they told Bhai Jetha about it, he agreed dutifully.

Helping The Needy

On the very next day, Daya Kaur prepared a bagful of roasted grams and gave it to Bhai Jetha to sell. After leaving home, Bhai Jetha went on his errand with his food. But as he passed by the bank of the river Ravi he happened to see a group of holy men. Pleased to see them he decided to stop by, and pay his respects.

During the course of their conversation he gathered that none of them had eaten anything since the morning, and had no hope of finding anything to eat for the rest of the day. Bhai Jetha was so pained after hearing this that he decided not to go to the market at all. Instead he offered the holy men his bag, of grams.

As the hungry holy men began eating the grams they thanked young Bhai Jetha, and blessed him. It pleased Bhai Jetha to have fed the hungry holy men who otherwise would have gone to sleep on an empty stomach. But then he suddenly realised that his parents would be very upset when they would hear that instead of selling the grams, he had donated it to a group of holy men. He was still wondering what to do when he spotted a group of Sikhs passing. He learned that they were heading towards Goindval to pay their respects to Guru Amar Das, who was the third Guru of the Sikhs.

When Bhai Jetha heard this he was so thrilled at the prospect of meeting the Guru that he immediately decided to join the group, instead of going back home. To him, nothing seemed more important than seeing the Guru in person, and seeking his blessings. He left Lahore without giving it a second thought, and eagerly looked forward to meeting the Guru in search of God.

Selfless Service

Bhai Jetha used to be either cleaning the utensils in the kitchen or sweeping the house or something else. He was always around to help other people. He was loved by one and all, including the Guru and his family. Soon, Guru Amar Das became so fond of him that he began guiding him spiritually. When he realised that the young boy was truly a slave of God, he began to dote on him.

Bhai Jetha, on the other hand, took it upon himself to serve Guru Amar Das in

every way, and he began looking after the Guru's personal comforts by himself. He would clean the dharamsala, serve the food, press the Guru's feet, massage his body, and sometimes even wash his clothes with great pleasure. All this endeared him greatly to Guru Amar Das, and he grew really fond of Bhai Jetha. The boy too felt very happy and content when he was with Guru Amar Das, in his service.

When the whole party returned to Lahore, Bhai Jetha stayed back in Goindwal to serve the Guru. He knew his parents would initially be upset at his decision, but he also knew that with time they would accept his decision, and even appreciate it. They were as religious minded as he was, and lived by the teachings of the Gurus. He decided that one day he would go himself and explain his decision to them, but for now he had to stay by his Guru's side.

He continued to perform all sorts of tasks without any consideration for himself. He was always doing something either for Guru Amar Das or for the other people, and also the dharamsala. It was not long before he actually became part of their family.

The Necklace

One day, a very rich banker arrived in Goindwal to visit Guru Amar Das. As a mark of respect he presented a very expensive pearl necklace containing precious stones to the Guru. The man wanted to put the necklace on Guru Amar Das, but the Guru said he was too old for such ornaments.

Instead, he asked the man to put it the necklace on one who was the Guru's image, that resembled him the most. The puzzled devotee did know what to do so he handed the necklace to Guru Amar Das asking him to give it to the one he thought was his mirror image. The gathered Sangat started speculating whether it would be one of the Guru's two sons, Mohri and Mohan, others again thought of other faithful and obedient Sikhs.

Guru Amar Das surprised them all when he asked Bhai Jetha to approach him. Then, placing the necklace, with all its beauty and splendour on him, he declared that no one resembled him more in looks and nature than Bhai Jetha. This was an open indication to the people that Bhai Jetha would succeed Guru Amar Das.

The Faqir's Slander

On an occasional afternoon Guru Amar Das used to go with his retinue to the bank of the river Beas. On the way a filthy naked muhammadan faqir, who was almost always under the influence of intoxicants, took up his position. The faqir wanted to maliciously slander the Guru.

As Guru Amar Das passed, he said, in a voice loud enough for the Guru to hear, "He consumes the wealth of the whole world. The older he grows the more miserly he becomes. He only makes gifts to those from whom he desires something in return. He takes no notice of faqirs, and has never remembered me who am a beggar like others. I take opium and bhang, and he never offeres me any, though he ought sometimes to think of the poor. I care for no one, be he king or emperor; I speak the truth to his face. When a man gives me anything I pray for his welfare."

The faqir often used such offensive



Devotees attend morning prayers at the illuminated Golden Temple on the occasion of birth anniversary of Guru Ram Das Ji in Amritsar. File photos

language in reference to the Guru. The Guru, who was patience incarnate, used to remain silent and pass on. One day Bhai Jetha accompanied the Guru, and on hearing the graceless faqir spluttering and discharging, as it were, the sediment of his bhang, said to the faqir, "Why participate in sin by slandering the true Guru?"

The Faqir's Gratitude

The faqir replied, "Why should I not? He has never given me alms. Give me the necklace you wear." On this Bhai Jetha took off his precious necklace, and put it on the faqir. Upon this the faqir began to sing aloud the Guru's praises, "You are more generous than Raja Harishchandra, than Raja Karan, and than Raja Vikramadit (these Rajas were renowned for their generosity)."

As the party returned from the river in the evening, and while the Guru was still distant, the faqir began to shower further praises and blessings on him. "You save the world; may your sons and grandsons prosper and flourish!" The Guru on hearing this remarked that somebody must have been generous to the faqir, otherwise he could have altered his tone and language so quickly.

After making enquiries, Guru Amar Das learned what had occurred. Bhai Jetha confessed, "Guru Sahib, I gave the faqir my necklace. You have given me God's name as a necklace; I keep it by me. This perishable necklace, I offered in your name." On hearing this the Guru Amar Das was very pleased and blessed Bhai Jetha.

Ramdaspur

The City of Amritsar (literally "pool of nectar") was originally called Ramdaspur (Guru Ram Das's city) and Chakk Ramdas, or Chakk Guru, or simply Guru Ka Chakk. The habitation



was started by Bhai Jetha (the future Guru Ram Das) when Guru Amar Das asked him to establish a new colony of Sikhs.

Guru Nanak's Visit

At that time there was no habitation nearby Ramdaspur. A few kilometers away were the villages of Sultanwind, Tung, Chattiwind and Khaparkheri. Guru Amar Das knew that Guru Nanak stayed at the bank of the small natural lake and the berry trees. Guru Nanak rested at night and in the early morning throughout the day, sang Gurbani (kirtan). Guru Nanak sang of his thirst only for the nectar of the God's Name, to be engrossed in devotion to Waheguru. After staying near the pond for sometime, Guru Nanak then travelled towards the west. Bhai Jetha was tasked with finding the location that Guru Nanak had visited. Bhai Jetha searched, and found an open uninhabited tract of country some twenty-five miles from Goindwal, and there he established himself.

Santokhsar Sarovar

Bhai Jetha, with the help of Sikhs and labourers began to excavate the earth for the construction of a sarovar (tank or pool of water). This first sarovar was not Amritsar, it was Santokhsar. When Bhai Jetha began the work on digging Santokhsar sarovar, he found a yogi, meditating nearby. After sometime the yogi opened his eyes and told Bhai Jetha that he had been meditating here for a long time, waiting for a Guru to give him salvation. He disclosed his name as Santakha and then breathed his last. The sarovar was then named as Santokhsar however Bhai Jetha was not sure the location of Santokhsar was the correct site that Guru Nanak had visited.

Return To Goindwal

After some time, when a portion of the work was accomplished and several people had built huts for themselves on the new site, Bhai Jetha, suffering from the pain of separation from the Guru, returned to Goindwal to report the extent of the work he had performed.

Domestic terror poses challenges for democracies



BY VAPPALA
BALACHANDRAN

THE US, WHICH CLAIMS TO BE THE PRIME TARGET OF GLOBAL TERRORISM AND HAS 67 'FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' COVERED UNDER ITS LAWS, HAS NO PROVISION LIKE OURS TO BAN DOMESTIC SEDITIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. LIKE INDIA AFTER THE REPEAL OF POTA AND TADA, THE US USES OTHER PENAL LAWS FOR PROSECUTION AS IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY LAW TO MAKE DOMESTIC TERRORISM A PUNISHABLE CRIME. IN INDIA, WE USE IPC AND UAPA FOR PROSECUTING TERRORISTS. WITH LEGAL LIMITATIONS, THERE ARE WORRIES OVER GETTING CONVICTIONS IN THE CAPITOL HILL ATTACK CASE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAD INDULGED IN VIOLENCE.

REUTERS

On September 30, former IPS officer SR Darapuri, now vice-president of the People's Union for Civil Liberties in Uttar Pradesh, described the Union Home Ministry's ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) as 'premature' as the proscription was imposed before court verdicts.

An English daily opined that the ban could "only end up strengthening the sense of disquiet at the treatment of minorities" with the danger of further radicalization as a clear case-to-case judicial process was not followed.

On the same day, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mumbai acquitted Arshi Qureshi, in jail for six years, of all charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). In 2016, he had allegedly influenced some individuals from Kerala to go abroad to join the Islamic State (IS) on behalf of Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation (IRF). The media said Qureshi's attempt was cited as one of the reasons to 'ban' the IRF in 2016.

Meanwhile, on September 27, Stewart Rhodes, founder of American far-right group 'Oath Keepers', went on trial with four others in Washington DC for "seditious conspiracy and use of force on January 6, 2021, to prevent the transfer of presidential power to Joe Biden". The prosecutors alleged that 'Oath Keepers' had stashed "guns just outside Washington DC for a quick reaction force to rush into the city."

These seemingly unconnected incidents are relevant for ascertaining whether a 'case-to-case judicial process' is more effective than a 'ban' in checking seditious elements such as the PFI. Qureshi's case would underline the difficulty of expecting favorable results in terror-related prosecutions in India as a prerequisite for such bans.

The US, which claims to be the prime target of global terrorism and currently has 67 "foreign terrorist organizations" (FTOs) covered under its laws, has no provision like ours to ban domestic seditious organizations.



Jan 6, 2020, storming of the Capitol is a recent example of domestic terrorism in the US

Like India after the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act (TADA), the US uses other penal laws for prosecution as it does not have any law to make domestic terrorism a punishable crime.

In India, we use IPC and UAPA for prosecuting terrorists. However, the US is handicapped, as it has no 'domestic terror crime,' nor the power to 'ban.'

Contrastingly, FTOs can be 'sanctioned' ('banned') under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This, along with the Department of Treasury notifications, would result in ordering entry restrictions, freezing of assets and imposing other financial impediments to prevent them from spreading their influence into the US. Besides, any US citizen providing support to an FTO is liable to be sentenced to 15 years in prison under Section 2339A of US Code No. 18, which could be enhanced to life term if deaths are caused by the FTO.

Section 2331 defines 'international terrorism' and 'domestic terrorism' but lays down no criminal penalties for the latter. Consequently, the FBI and other agencies use other penal provisions to deal with threats from white supremacists like the January 6, 2021, Capitol Hill insurrection.

To us, in India, this situation may appear chaotic. It is for this reason that President Joe Biden had promised to enact a domestic terrorism law during his 2020 campaign. It is also learnt that the FBI Agents' Association, which represents nearly 14,000 agents, has been lobbying with the Congress to pass a federal law on domestic terrorism, making it punishable. However, progress even now is tardy.

The reason for this is the fierce opposition from academics and human rights groups such as American Civil Liberties Union to put fetters on domestic organizations even if they are found to be taking liberties with the law, in which case only normal penal laws should be applied. They feel any other action like a 'ban' will violate the First Amendment. Even a leading 'progressive' Democrat, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a

Bernie Sanders follower who was vice-chairwoman of a house committee, had opposed special laws.

This difficulty in formulating 'domestic terrorism' laws came to the fore during investigations by the US House Select Committee, which started public hearings on July 27, 2021, regarding the Capitol Hill violence. Yet, a draft Bill, Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2022, reintroduced after the racially motivated mass killing of 10 persons in a Buffalo supermarket in May, was passed only with a narrow majority in the lower house on May 18, but its fate in the Senate is uncertain.

With all these legal limitations, there are worries over getting convictions in the Capitol Hill attack case against 'Oath Keepers' and 'Proud Boys,' the pro-Trump white supremacists, who had indulged in violence, challenging the very essence of the US democratic system. This is also, because under the 1807 Insurrection Act, the US President could order even private 'militias', presently numbering 200, to put down any violence - and don't forget, President Trump was in office on that day.

A similar federal prosecution for sedition against a far-right militia, 'Hutaree,' in Michigan for plotting to kill policemen had failed in 2012, as the prosecution could not prove that they had done anything beyond expressing 'hatred'. This was despite FBI's long-infiltration operation into 'Hutaree' before prosecution.

The point is that other democratic countries are also experiencing serious domestic terror situations and not all of them are able to choose the easy way of 'banning' such organizations. Besides, the ban on the PFI is 12 years late - it should have come immediately after July 4, 2010, when its members chopped off Prof TJ Joseph's hand.

As to the question whether such bans would check future seditious activities, the answer is 'no.' The government admits that banned SIMI cadres had migrated to ISS-NDF-PFI and SDPI, thus exposing the difficulties of checking seditious elements that way.

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

The bewildering inner dynamics of Congress



BY PARSA
VENKATESHWAR
RAO JR

THERE ARE SIGNS, HOWEVER FAINT, THAT THE POPULARITY OF PM MODI IS FRAYING AT THE EDGES AND PEOPLE ARE NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE GOVT INDULGING IN POLITICAL GAMES, EVEN AS THEY ARE FEELING THE PINCH IN TERMS OF INFLATION AND LACK OF JOBS. AND THIS IS THE TIME FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE CONGRESS, TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR. BHARAT JODO YATRA IS EXPECTED TO BE THE GRAND STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THE MARCH HAS BEEN WORTHWHILE.

Two major things are happening simultaneously in the Congress at a time when its friends and critics gave it up as being irredeemable. First, party's former president Rahul Gandhi, who refused to take over as the chief despite the cringing pleas made by sycophants, has set out on a marathon padayatra based on the theme of 'Bharat Jodo' (unite India). Optimists believe that this move would revive the party, and party insiders and those who support the Nehru-Gandhi family believe that this would also show the challengers and the sceptics in the party as to who commands popular support in the country.

In many ways, the party's presidential election has been almost reduced to a sideshow. The contest for the party's top post is between seasoned Mallikarjun Kharge, who is seen as the Sonia-Rahul candidate - though 'strenuous' efforts were made to show that the family had not endorsed his name - and the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Shashi Tharoor.

This was preceded by the tragicomedy of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot leading a last-minute protest rally by the party's MLAs in Jaipur, which showed the chinks in the Nehru-Gandhi armor and forced the family to adopt a tough stance towards the family loyalist. The attempt of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh to enter the fray failed once Kharge entered the fray. It is quite clear that the contest between Kharge and Tharoor, interestingly both from south India - one from Kerala and the other from Karnataka - is no epic battle like the one between Subhas Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi's nominee Pattabhi Sitaramayya in 1938. This year's Congress presidential contest is not even like the one that took place in 1996 between Sitaram Kesri, Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot because at that time Sonia Gandhi had not entered politics. Jitendra Prasada challenging Sonia in the 2000 party presidential election was indeed a non-event.

The contest between Kharge and Tharoor is not evenly balanced. Kharge, apart from the 'tacit' support from the Nehru-Gandhi family, is considered by many Congress people as one of them because he has been in the party for decades now. Tharoor, despite being a three-time MP, is viewed as an unreliable newcomer, if not a total outsider. The former international civil servant, with all his proven savvy, has no advantages with the Congress and its convoluted factionalism.

The fact that the Congress needs new ideas and a revamp is not a priority for the Rahul and Sonia camps; it is necessary to recognize that there are two camps, and the Congress deadlock since 2019 has been due to the tussle between the two groups. Tharoor does not belong to either of them. And it appears that the Rahul camp may tolerate Kharge better than they would Tharoor. The Nehru-Gandhi family should have favored Tharoor, but they are not sure of his loyalty quotient. Or, Sonia should have asked Sachin Pilot, the Gehlot rival in Rajasthan, to contest the presidential election. But it seems that they do not like the 'ambitious' Pilot, and his failed attempt to bring down



Mallikarjun Kharge (center) is seen as the Sonia-Rahul candidate despite efforts to show that the Gandhi family has not endorsed his name.

Photo / PTI

the Gehlot government and his flirtation with the BJP have alienated him from the family.

The palace intrigues of the Congress are indeed endless and they are not relevant when the question arises as to whether the Congress can revive itself sufficiently under Rahul to put up a credible fight against the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. There are signs, however faint, that the popularity of Prime Minister Modi is fraying at the edges, and people are not too happy with the government indulging in political games, even as the people are feeling the pinch in terms of inflation and lack of jobs. And this is the time, indeed, for the Opposition parties, especially the Congress, to get a foot in the door. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is expected to be the grand strategy to achieve the breakthrough. Time will tell whether it has been worthwhile.

A member of G-23, the dissident faction inside the Congress, has remarked that the Bharat Jodo Yatra will help rebrand Rahul; and strengthening of the Congress is incidental. But many would say that if Rahul is successful in rebranding his image, it would amount to rebranding the Congress.

But Congress members of all camps should pay heed to what Union Home Minister Amit Shah told BJP members over a month ago; he advised the Union Cabinet Ministers to give time to the party work and party members. He said PM Modi was indeed popular

across the country, but Modi would not be able to win the election if the party organization was not strong. It is a lovely commentary on the ruthlessly realistic approach of the BJP towards Modi and to elections in general.

It seems that the strategy of the Nehru-Gandhi family as well as other leaders in the party camp is to strengthen the brand image of Rahul and of the family, so that it helps the party. But Rahul seems to be working on a Mahatma Gandhi-like mass contact program. It is an idealistic plank that will work on the realistic plane of day-to-day politics as well, but the party has to close its ranks and present a united front.

Rahul is apparently focusing on making the Congress the lone alternative to the BJP because he seems to realize that Opposition unity is just a chimera. But he cannot ignore the imperative of making the party strong and broaden the base of inner-party consultation.

A G-23 member's complaint is that before 2019, Rahul did not like to have anything to do with the people above the age of 50, and now he has conceded to talk to people between the age group of 50 and 60. So, 80-year-old Kharge and 66-year-old Tharoor do not fall in this category.

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

Putin and M.B.S. Are Laughing at Us



BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Wars bring together surprising alliances.

Today, we have America and its NATO allies backing the brave Ukrainians fighting to save their country from being torn to shreds by Vladimir Putin.

And we have Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bernie Sanders, the House progressive caucus and the whole G.O.P. all working - deliberately or because they are dupes - to ensure that Putin has more oil revenue than ever to kill Ukrainians and freeze the Europeans this winter until they abandon Kyiv.

In another dark corner, Putin and Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are also probably hoping that the soaring energy inflation since Russia's invasion helps the Donald Trump-led Republicans to regain control of at least the House of Representatives in next month's elections. That would be icing on the cake for both, who view Trump as a president who still loves black crude over green solar and knows how to look the other way when bad things happen to good people.

Too cynical you say? No, sorry, you can't be too cynical with this cast of brutes, bandits, and useful idiots. Just look at the facts.

On Wednesday, with the world already heading toward recession and with the global oil and natural gas market already tight, the OPEC Plus cartel, which includes Russia, agreed to collectively reduce its output by two million barrels a day - to ensure oil prices don't retreat, but instead go back over \$100 a barrel and stay there.

While the actual cut in output will most likely amount to close to one million barrels a day, because many smaller OPEC producers are already pumping below their quotas, in today's market it will still pinch. As *The Financial Times* noted: At roughly \$90 a barrel today, "crude is well below levels reached soon after Russia's invasion of Ukraine but higher than at any point between 2015 and early 2022."

Putin's motivation for this price hike is no mystery. With his army in Ukraine suffering steady losses of territory - and his having annexed portions of Ukraine that he doesn't even control - Putin has one hope before he's forced to do something really reckless: squeeze the supply and jack up the price of oil and gas high enough to force the European Union to abandon both Kyiv and Washington and accept his annexations in return for a cease-fire and resumption of Russian energy exports.

Putin's strategy is neither crazy nor without hope because of two decades of



Signs of chemistry: Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Vladimir Putin

File photo

Western nations' failing to think strategically about energy. They willed the ends - a world no longer dependent on fossil fuels as soon as possible. But they did not will the means to reach that goal in a stable way - by maximizing their climate security, their energy security, and their economic security all at the same time.

Instead, they pretended.

In Europe they pretended - with Putin's covert encouragement - that they could abandon large-scale, largely emissions-free energy like nuclear power, as the Germans did, and just jump directly to intermittent wind, solar and other renewables and everything would be just peachy. Oh, my goodness. The Germans felt so virtuous in doing so - without acknowledging that the only reason they were getting away with this pipe dream was that Putin was selling them cheap gas to make up the difference.

When Putin ended the charade, here's what happened: On Sept. 28, Reuters reported from Frankfurt, "Germany's cabinet on Wednesday passed two decrees to prolong the operation of sizable hard coal-fired power generation plants up to March 31, 2024, and to bring back idled brown coal capacity up to June 30, 2023, to boost supply."

In America, we did our own version of this green virtue signaling. Green progressives demonized the oil and gas industry - for good reasons in some cases because of how much the industry worked to deny the reality of climate change and refused to clean up its own act - and basically told it to please go off and die somewhere quietly, while we moved to wind and solar. Oil and gas investors and bankers got the message and began delaying or stopping investment in new oil and gas production at home, and instead focused on reaping as much profit as they could from existing wells.

As a Goldman Sachs newsletter in April put it: "How much future production have we lost because

of all the delays in investment decisions on new oil and gas projects? The answer is 10 million barrels per day of oil, which is the equivalent of Saudi Arabia's daily production and three million barrels per day of oil equivalent in liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is more than the equivalent of Qatar's daily production. If we had not kept delaying new investment decisions in oil and gas since 2014, we essentially could have had a new Saudi Arabia and a new Qatar."

While America can still theoretically take care of most of its own needs for oil and gas today, unlike Europe, we do not have enough to export at the scale required to make up for Putin's and OPEC Plus's cutbacks and ease Europe's transition to a decarbonized future.

But the green progressives never got that message. At a House committee hearing two weeks ago, Representative Rashida Tlaib demanded to know if JPMorgan Chase C.E.O. Jamie Dimon and other banking executives appearing before the panel had any policies "against funding new oil and gas products."

Dimon answered, "Absolutely not, and that would be the road to hell for America."

Tlaib then told Dimon that any students who had student loans and bank accounts with JPMorgan should retaliate by closing their accounts. Have no doubt: This kind of juvenile moral preening by Tlaib surely made Vladimir Putin's day. She's nowhere nearly as bad as the G.O.P. senators who were inspired for years by ExxonMobil lies that climate change is a hoax, and then used that to block our transition to clean energy. But Tlaib still made Putin's day.

What lifted Putin even more was when he watched Bernie Sanders, House progressive Democrats and the whole G.O.P. last week come together to kill a bill backed by President Biden and the Democratic leadership to streamline the permitting process for domestic energy projects, particularly permitting for gas pipelines and wind and solar transmission lines - one of our biggest

impediments to a stable green transition.

Hard to know who is worse, the progressives who did not understand how much solar and wind energy require quicker transmission permitting to safely scale clean energy or the Republicans, who knew oil and gas companies need quicker pipeline permitting to grow gas production but killed it so Biden would not have another success. As Joe Manchin, a fossil fuel-friendly Democrat who championed the bill, put it: "What I didn't expect is that Mitch McConnell, my Republican friends, would be signing up with Bernie or trying to get the same outcome by not passing permitting reform."

All in all, Putin had a bad month in Ukraine - but a good month in the U.S. Congress.

This is not complicated, folks: Do you want to make a point, or do you want to make a difference? If we want to make a difference, we need to maximize our energy security, natural security and economic security, all at once. The only way to do that effectively is to incentivize our market to produce a stable and secure supply of energy, with the lowest possible emissions at the lowest possible costs as fast as possible.

The only truly effective way to do that is with a strong price signal - either taxes on dirty stuff or incentives for clean stuff - plus steadily increasing clean energy standards for power generation along the lines proposed by Hal Harvey and Justin Gillis in their new book "The Big Fix: Seven Practical Steps to Save Our Planet."

As long as we are not ready to do that, we're just faking it, indulging in virtue signaling on the left and the right - and Putin and M.B.S. are laughing all the way to the bank.

(The author writes on foreign affairs, globalization and technology)

(Source: New York Times)

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar arrived in New York on September 18, 2022 to attend the United Nations General Assembly session.

During his stay in the City, he met with United Nations officials, world leaders, diplomats, and the community. Jay Mandal, a well-known photographer,

took hundreds of photographs of the visit of the External Affairs Minister. Here are a few selected photographs.

All Photos: Jay Mandal/On Assignment



Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj greets External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar with a bouquet of flowers at JFK Airport in New York City. September 18, 2022



Dr. S. Jaishankar (Right), Union Minister for External Affairs during a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan of UAE on the sideline of 77th UNGA in NY City. Also in the Picture, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj (Left), India's Permanent Representative to the UN. September 19, 2022



Dr. S. Jaishankar (Center), Union Minister for External Affairs before a trilateral meeting with his counterparts Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Left) of UAE and Catherine Colonna of France on the sideline of 77th UNGA in NY City. September 19, 2022



French President Emmanuel Macron (Left) welcomes India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar As he arrives to attend a dinner hosted by the French President, on the theme of the North-South Divide at the French Consulate in New York. September 20, 2022



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister for External Affairs (Right) at a bilateral meeting with James Cleverly, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, on the sideline of the 77th UN General Assembly in New York. September 22, 2022



India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar (left) calls on CSABA K?RÖSI, President of the 77th UN General Assembly, at the UN Secretariat in New York. September 19, 2022



QUAD Meeting in NYC. From left, The Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken, the Foreign Minister of Australia, Penny Wong, Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi at a multilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City. September 23, 2022



India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar (left) and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry at the bilateral meeting in New York City. September 19, 2022



Dr. S. Jaishankar (Center), Union Minister for External Affairs before a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia on the sideline of 77th UNGA in NY City. September 19, 2022



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister for External Affairs delivers his statement at the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City. September 24, 2022

EXPERTS CALL FOR 'PRAGMATIC ENGAGEMENT' WITH PAKISTAN



The report argues for a "modest pragmatic" relationship between the two countries while accepting the facts that the two countries differ on India, China and Afghanistan.

Photo for representation only

OCTOBER 05, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of experts in the United States has called for "pragmatic engagement" with Pakistan, saying the US administration had pinned great hopes on their alliance, only to be "disappointed and frustrated."

Coinciding with the visit of Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Pakistani Study Group in a report, "US Re-Engagement with Pakistan: Ideas for Reviving an Important Relationship," spoke about the country's poorly veiled support for the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, backing for jihadi groups targeting Kashmir, close embrace of China and expanding nuclear arsenal.

At the same time, the experts advise against ignoring or trying to isolate Pakistan because of its population size, its location and possession of nuclear weapons.

The report argues for a "modest pragmatic" relationship between the two countries while accepting the facts that the two countries differ on India, China and Afghanistan.

The US administrations going back to President Eisenhower had great hopes from their alliance, only to be "disappointed and frustrated," it said.

It also says the US will not be able to change Pakistan's "strategic calculus." But instead of relying on either inducements or threats to encourage greater cooperation, the report proposes that the two countries "develop a framework for pragmatic engagement."

The report, according to a media release, lays out what "American critics of Pakistan" have long stated that "Pakistan has always pursued its own agenda, which too often collides with American interests" and yet Pakistan "repeatedly seeks US money and arms without keeping its commitments." The report said American policymakers need to move beyond thinking simply in terms of either massive amounts of aid or coercion as policy tools in dealing with Pakistan. It also cautions Pakistan's leaders and says they too need to move beyond the fantasy that it is critical to America and so US policymakers will always be focused on Pakistan.

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Biden to pardon thousands convicted of marijuana possession under federal law

OCTOBER 6, 2022

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden on Thursday, October 6, announced he will take executive action to pardon thousands of people convicted of marijuana possession under federal law.

"Sending people to prison for possessing marijuana has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit," Biden said in a statement. "Criminal records for marijuana possession have also imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities. And while white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates."

A senior administration official said they estimate over 6,500 people with prior federal convictions for simple possession of marijuana will be pardoned.

Biden said he would also encourage governors to take similar action with state offenses and would ask the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice



President Joe Biden said he would ask Justice Department to "initiate the administrative process to review expeditiously how marijuana is scheduled under federal law." File photo

to "initiate the administrative process to review expeditiously how marijuana is scheduled under federal law."

Federal law currently classifies marijuana as a schedule 1 drug, the same classification as heroin and LSD.

In a call with reporters, a senior

administration official said that thousands of people with prior convictions for marijuana possession are denied housing, employment or educational opportunities as a result. "This pardon will help relieve those collateral consequences," they said.

1984 marks 'one of the darkest years' in modern Indian history: Pat Toomey

OCTOBER 02, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The anti-Sikh riots of 1984 mark "one of the darkest years" in modern Indian history, a US Senator has said, as he underlined the need to remember the atrocities committed against the Sikh community so that those responsible may be held accountable.

Violence erupted in Delhi and other parts of the country after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

Over 3,000 Sikhs were killed across India, mostly in the national capital.

"1984 marks one of the darkest years in modern Indian history. The world watched as several violent incidents broke out among ethnic groups in India, with several notably targeting the Sikh community," Senator Pat Toomey said on the Senate floor.

"Today we are here to remember the tragedy that commenced on November 1, 1984, following decades of ethnic tension between Sikhs in the Punjab province and the central Indian Government," he said recently.

"To prevent future human rights abuses, we must recognize their past forms. We must remember the atrocities



"To prevent future human rights abuses, we must recognize their past forms. We must remember the atrocities committed against Sikhs so that those responsible may be held accountable and that this type of tragedy is not repeated against the Sikh community or other communities across the globe," Toomey, a Republican, said.

committed against Sikhs so that those responsible may be held accountable and that this type of tragedy is not repeated against the Sikh community or other communities across the globe," Toomey, a Republican, said.

Senator Toomey, who is a member of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus, said Sikhism traces its nearly 600-year history to the Punjab region of India. With nearly 30 million followers globally and 700,000 here in the US, Sikhism is one of the world's major

religions.

Toomey said he has personally witnessed the spirit of Sikhs and has come to better understand the Sikh tradition that is founded on equality, respect, and peace.

It is clear that the presence and contributions of Sikh communities have thoroughly enriched their neighborhoods across the country, he said.

He also mentioned the community services rendered by Sikhs in the US during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, nine Indian-origin rights bodies here on Saturday published an advertisement in The New York Times to raise the alleged "religious persecution, discrimination and deadly mob violence" against minorities in India.

The advertisement was published on the eve of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The nine bodies include the American Muslim Institution, Association of Indian Muslims of America Howard Cain, ICNA Council for Social Justice, Dalit Solidarity Forum Hindus for Human Rights, Indian American Muslim Council International Society for Peace and Justice and American Sikh Council. Each of them paid USD 1,000 for the advertisement.

We are both daughters of India, in a way: Priyanka Chopra to Kamala Harris

OCTOBER 4, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): United States Vice President Kamala Harris and Indian actress Priyanka Chopra shared a stage past week, reflecting on their Indian connections, marriage equality and climate change.

Chopra, who is now settled in Los Angeles, was invited by the Democratic National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum to interview the Vice President for a fireside chat.

The Indian actress kicked off the fireside chat with their Indian connection.

"I think we're both daughters of India, in a way," Priyanka told the room full of prominent Democrats invited for the conference from across the country.

"You're a proud American-born daughter of an Indian mom and a Jamaican father. I am an Indian born of two physicians as parents and a recent immigrant to this country who totally still believes in the wholehearted, you know, American Dream," she said.

The United States, she said, is regarded as a beacon of hope, freedom, and choice for the whole world. "And these tenets are being endlessly assaulted right now," she said.

Chopra said after working for over 20 years, it was only this year that she got pay equal to male actors.

The actress also touched upon the issue of marriage equality.

Harris acknowledged that right now they are living in an unsettled world.

"I've been travelling around the world as Vice President. I've directly talked with 100 world leaders in



Priyanka Chopra (right) interviewed Vice President Kamala Harris

Image / Instagram

person or by phone," she said, adding "things that we long took for granted are now up for debate and question".

"You look, for example, at Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine. We thought it was pretty well settled-the issue of territorial integrity and sovereignty - and now that is up for some debate, given what's happening there," she noted.

Harris quickly turned to the United States.

"We look in our own country. We thought, surely with the Voting Rights Act and all that it stood for, we assumed and thought the issue of voting rights in America was settled," she said.

"Then we had the Shelby v. Holder decision. And then after the 2020 election, when more people voted and more young people voted than ever before, states

around our country started systematically and intentionally making it more difficult for people to vote," Harris said.

"We thought a woman's right-a constitutional right-to make decisions about her own body was settled. No longer," said Harris.

Agreeing with her, Chopra said, "Absolutely. You're so right. There's so much to navigate right now." Chopra also touched upon the climate change issue as she acknowledged the relief efforts in hurricane-hit Florida.

"Extreme weather conditions like this are becoming more frequent and more severe. And I wanted to acknowledge the administration for passing the biggest climate legislation in history earlier this year because it is a fact that America's leadership sets an example to other major economies around the world, which are truly dragging their feet when it comes to doing their bit," Chopra said.

"The crisis is real, and the clock is ticking. And the urgency with which we must act is without any question," Harris responded stressing on adapting to extreme weather conditions.

"On the point that you made about disparities, you know, back when I was the district attorney of San Francisco, I started one of the first environmental justice units of any DA's office in the country focused on this issue," she said.

"As you have described rightly, which is that it is our lowest income communities and our communities of color that are most impacted by these extreme conditions and impacted by issues that are not of their own making," Harris said.

American Dr Vivek Murthy on WHO board as US representative



Dr Vivek Murthy has been nominated by President Biden to serve as the country's representative on the executive board of the World Health Organisation

OCTOBER 5, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): President Joe Biden has nominated US Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy, to serve as the country's representative on the executive board of the World Health Organisation. Dr Murthy, 45, will serve in the new position alongside his continued duties as the US Surgeon General, the White House said in a statement.

He was confirmed by the US Senate in March 2021 to serve as the 21st Surgeon General of the country. He previously served as the 19th Surgeon General under President Barack Obama.

As the nation's doctor, the Surgeon General's mission is to help lay the foundation for a healthier country, relying on the best scientific information available to provide clear, consistent and equitable guidance and resources for the public.

The first Surgeon General of Indian descent, Murthy, was raised in Miami and is a graduate of Harvard, the Yale School of Medicine, and the Yale School of Management, the White House said.

Robert Vadra attends wedding in Chicago



Robert Vadra (right) on a morning walk with Rajendar Dichpaly, General Secretary, IOCUSA, in Chicago

OCTOBER 4, 2022

CHICAGO (TIP):

Indian National Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's husband and businessman Robert Vadra attended the marriage function of an eminent Indian-American from Chicago.

The wedding of Iram Shareef, daughter of Chicago-based businessman Iftekhar Shareef, last Friday, September 30, at the popular Shalimar Banquets in the city was attended by eminent Indian-Americans, including Bharat Barai and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.

"Robert Vadra presented a special congratulatory message signed by Gandhis to Iftekhar Shareef," said a media release issued on Monday.

The media release carried a set of pictures of Vadra attending the marriage ceremony. In one of them, Vadra is seen presenting a letter to Shareef signed by his wife Priyanka Gandhi.

Shareef, who is from Andhra Pradesh, is the president and CEO of National Bankcard Corp, according to his LinkedIn profile.



Shreya Ghosal to celebrate her twenty years in Bollywood with an international music tour

The renowned Bollywood singer Shreya Ghoshal known for her melodious and soulful voice and robust on-stage energy will headline a series of concerts across the world in different countries. As the world is working its way back towards normalcy after the pandemic, the music industry is also trying to bring back happiness and certain excitement by resuming music tours and concerts. Bringing the euphoria back to the stage in the festive season, this year Shreya Ghoshal along with her band and crew, already performed at world-class venues in UAE (twice), London, Birmingham, Kochi, Kolkata, Thiruvalla, New Delhi, Bangalore, Indore and now are scheduled to perform in a 5-city Australia-New Zealand tour from 7th to 16th October 2022 and in Ireland on 29th October 2022 and The Netherlands on 30th October 2022 as well. And then she is all set to perform in the USA from 4th to 19th in the month of November 2022.

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VETERAN ACTOR ARUN BALI DIES AT 79

Veteran actor Arun Bali, best known for his work on TV show "Swabhimaan" and blockbuster hit "3 Idiots", died on Friday morning at his residence in suburban Mumbai. He was 79.

Bali's son Ankush said his father was suffering with Myasthenia gravis, an autoimmune disease caused by communication failure between nerves and muscles, for which he was admitted to a hospital early this year.

Ankush said his father was responding well to the treatment but passed away at around 4.30 am.

"My father left us. He was suffering from Myasthenia gravis. He had mood swings for two-three days. He told the caretaker he wanted to go to the washroom and after coming out he told him he wanted to sit down and he never got up then," he told PTI.

Bali made his acting debut with noted filmmaker Lekh Tandon's TV show "Doosra Keval" as superstar Shah Rukh Khan's uncle and went on to work in TV shows such as period drama "Chanakya", "Swabhimaan", "Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chand", "Kumkum - Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan", and "P.O.W. - Bandi Yuddh Ke".

Some of his popular films include "Saugandh", "Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman", "Khalnayak", "Satya", "Hey Ram", "Lage Raho Munna Bhai", "3 Idiots", "Ready", "Barfi", "Manmarziyaan", "Kedarnath", "Samrat Prithviraj", and "Laal Singh Chaddha".

His last film "Goodbye", also featuring Amitabh Bachchan and Rashmika Mandanna, released on Friday. *Source: PTI*

India's Maiden pharma, under WHO scanner for Gambia kids' deaths, flouted norms in 4 states

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Ever since Maiden Pharmaceuticals has come under the scanner of the World Health Organisation (WHO) after being flagged for the four cough syrups manufactured in India and exported to Gambia that led to the death of 66 children, it has come to light that the company has in the past flouted countless norms but was allowed to operate with impunity.

While the statements from the Indian government state that the four cough syrups found to have dangerously high levels of ethylene glycol and deethylene glycol that led to kidney injuries were only licensed by the state drug controller for export and sale in Gambia, the company has been flagged in many Indian states over the years for their medicines failing the quality and safety parameters.

FRAUDULENT TRACK RECORD

Previous reports suggest that the company has been a serial offender on quality control standards in the past as many state governments, and authorities have flagged it. Dinesh thakur, a public health activist based in St Petersburg has published a long Tweet thread on the matter and has also raised questions over the functioning of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in India as well as the pre-qualification process of the WHO.

"Usually the CDSCO simply passes the buck in these cases to the state drug controller who issues the manufacturing licence. Except in this case Maiden Pharmaceuticals was certified by the CDSCO through the CoPP process. The national drug regulator, CDSCO provides assurance via the CoPP (Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product) to buyers overseas that it has inspected and ensured that the exporting pharma company complies with WHO cGMP standards. A pharma manufacturer has to provide this certificate (and the certification is not worth the paper it is written on) to the buyer overseas. Given the wonderful track record above of this company, does it not beg the question on what basis does the CDSCO issue this piece of paper," Dinesh Thakur tweeted.

PREVIOUS MEDICAL RED FLAGS RAISED IN INDIA

In 2011, the government of Bihar also blacklisted Maiden Pharmaceuticals for supplying substandard drugs. A drug named Methylergometrine tablets which were provided to the civil surgeon in Munger was found to be spurious. Another batch of drugs, Erythromycin Sterate Syrup 125mg/5 ml was found to be of unsatisfactory quality.

In states like Kerala, in 2017, a Judicial First-Class



Magistrate Court in Kerala fined this company a small ransom of Rs 1,000 in a prosecution filed by a Drug Inspector in Kerala in 2005. EVEN Jammu and Kashmir has raised an alarm over substandard products.

A central government drug inspector prosecuted the company in Sonapat, Haryana for quality violations under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. The company was charged under sections of the drugs and cosmetics act, for offences related to adulteration.

According to the extended licensing, Laboratory and Legal Node (XLN) database maintained by the Government of India, at least two state governments Kerala and Gujarat have repeatedly warned of the company's illegal practices. Several calls and messages to the company promoter Naresh Goyal, have gone unanswered.

COMPANY CLAIMS WHO-GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES CERTIFICATE

The company website also says that it is a WHO-GMP (Good manufacturing practices) certified company that holds an international presence in many countries. "WHO-GMP Certified Formulations Company Manufacturers in India brings the best quality products."

The company carries more than 30 years of experience in the niche manufacturing of WHO-GMP Certified Formulations Company," states the website. A WHO GMP holds credibility in the international market, and allows any company to enter into agreements with other countries for export as the company now has a WHO credibility tag on it.

Source: India Today

TRS now BRS as Telangana CM eyes entry into national politics

HYDERABAD (TIP)

Seeking to expand its electoral footprint beyond Telangana, the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on Wednesday changed its name to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

Over two decades after the founding of the party with the objective of carving out a separate Telangana from Andhra Pradesh, the party adopted a unanimous resolution at its general body meeting here, rechristening it as BRS. Now, the goal is to take on the BJP and emerge as a national force to reckon with, bringing together like-minded parties. The decision was announced by TRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the presence of special invitees, including former



Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

Rao released a letter that has been sent to the Election Commission of India (ECI) informing it of the development. It was earlier decided that the announcement on the name change and character of the party would be made on the occasion of Dasehra at 1.19 pm, the time considered "auspicious" for the new beginning.

NCB seizes mephedrone worth Rs 120 cr from Mumbai, Gujarat; Air India ex-pilot among six held

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized 60 kg mephedrone drug worth more than Rs 120 crore from Mumbai and Gujarat and arrested six persons, including a former Air India pilot, a senior official said on Friday, October 7.

The action was taken based on specific information received by the Naval Intelligence unit at Jamnagar in Gujarat, said Sanjay Singh, Deputy Director General of the NCB in a press briefing here.

"Following the tip-off, the officials from the NCB headquarters in Delhi and its Mumbai zonal unit conducted a raid at Jamnagar on October 3 and seized 10 kg mephedrone," he said.

The NCB team had arrested one person from Jamnagar and three more were held from Mumbai in this connection, Singh added. "On Thursday, the NCB team raided a godown located on S B Road in Fort area of south Mumbai and seized 50 mephedrone," he said. After that, the anti-drug agency arrested two persons, including the kingpin of the cartel, he said, adding that one of the accused, Sohail Gafar Mahida, is a former Air India pilot.

Mephedrone, also known as 'meow meow' or MD, is a synthetic stimulant and psychotropic substance banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Source: PTI

INDIA SKIPS VOTE ON CHINA'S 'RIGHTS ABUSES'

India on Thursday, October 6, abstained from voting on two separate draft resolutions pertaining to the situation in China as well as Sri Lanka.

India's abstention was crucial in a West-led motion to hold a debate about alleged human rights abuses in China's Xinjiang region after a UN report found possible crimes against humanity.

The hall burst into a rare applause when it was announced that the motion had been defeated by 19 against 17 in favour with 11 abstentions. The US, Canada and the UK were among the countries that called for the motion. China's ambassador had warned shortly before the vote that the motion would create a "dangerous shortcut" for examining other countries' human rights records. "Today China is targeted. Tomorrow any other developing country will be targeted," said Chen Xu.

This is the second time in 16 years of the UNHRC's inception that a resolution on China has been rejected.

India also abstained from a draft resolution on "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka" adopted at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, with 20 nations voting in favour in the 47-member Council. There were seven against.

The resolution was passed and India said it would work with Sri Lanka and the international community to attain the related objectives of legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka and prosperity for all Sri Lankans, said India's Permanent Representative of India to United Nations in Geneva Indra Mani Pandey. *Source: TNS*

DELHI EXCISE POLICY: ED CONDUCTS FRESH RAIDS AT 35 LOCATIONS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday, October 7, launched fresh raids in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now-scraped Delhi excise policy, official sources said.

The searches are being carried out at about 35 locations in Delhi, Punjab and some places in Hyderabad, they said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said hundreds of raids by central agencies to find evidence against his deputy Manish Sisodia have yielded nothing as he didn't do anything.

Time of hundreds of sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is being wasted for "dirty politics", he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is an accused in an FIR registered by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

"Over 500 raids, more than 300 officials have been working round the clock for three months to find evidence against Manish Sisodia.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ELECTION

'Not going to withdraw': Shashi Tharoor dismisses rumours of him opting out

CHENNAI (TIP)

Shashi Tharoor on Thursday, October 6, rejected rumours that he's going to withdraw his nomination from contesting for the Congress' top post.

"Rumours I am going to withdraw (nomination) are false. I am receiving so much support that if I wouldn't have been democratically inclined, I would have asked the other candidate to withdraw," Tharoor said.

"I'm here to fight for a strong Congress party that can take on the formidable machine of BJP in 2024. This (upcoming election for Congress President) is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest between different approaches," Tharoor added.

Tharoor also favoured limiting the term of office for state presidents in the party and called for Congress to be revived and re-energised to take on BJP in the 2024 general elections.

"My message is revive the party, re-energise it, empower workers, decentralise authority and be in touch with the people. This, I believe will make Congress politically fit to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP in the 2024 general election," Tharoor said during his interaction on Thursday with media persons at Sathyamurthy Bhavan, the Congress state headquarters.

Stating that he has respect and great regards for party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge, Tharoor said the contest was friendly based on different approaches to face the BJP and not ideological, as both



hailed from the same party.

"We need to reform the way our party functions. We need to bring young people in the party and give them real authority. At the same time, we should give greater respect to hardworking and long-serving karyakartas," he said releasing his poll manifesto.

Decentralising powers, strengthening party at the booth level, utilising general secretaries for nation building activities while dispensing their services as state in-charges, and trusting state presidents by giving them a free hand in decision making besides limiting their term of office, are among the 10 points highlighted in the manifesto.

"We need to reiterate the core convictions of the Congress. We are the

party of inclusive India, a party that believes in equal rights and is against oppression. This is the idea we stood and fought for and we must reiterate it," he said. If elected as president, he has promised to revive certain institutions like the parliamentary board. The manifesto focuses on the need for the Congress to return to the ethos of social work, Tharoor added.

"The party is not a machine to fight elections once in five years, but it should live along with and serve the people...we should connect with the people and work with them," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said.

Popular connect with people is fundamental and this was being illustrated by the successful Bharat Jodo Yatra of party leader Rahul Gandhi, he said. Tharoor also said he was getting enormous amount of feedback from ordinary party workers, especially the youngsters.

He said it was very gratifying for him that the youth who are the future and also the majority in our country, back him in the polls.

Those aged 35 years and below account for 65 per cent of our population.

"It is their country, this is a young India," he said.

"I want Congress to be the party of young India. I want to represent the aspirations, dreams and hopes of young India, just as (former prime minister) Rajiv Gandhi attempted to do 40 years ago and succeeded in his initiation of telecom and IT revolution. *Source: Agencies*

Jaishankar holds talks with NZ counterpart on Indo-Pacific and Ukraine conflict

AUCKLAND (TIP)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday, October 6, held "warm and productive" talks with his New Zealand counterpart Nanaia Mahuta during which the two leaders exchanged views on issues of international concerns such as the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict.

It is Jaishankar's first visit to New Zealand as External Affairs Minister.

"Warm and productive talks with New Zealand Foreign Minister @NanaiaMahuta this afternoon. Two societies, respectful of tradition and culture, are seeking to forge a more contemporary relationship," Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting.

"Appreciated the exchange of views on (issues of) international concerns such as the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict. Value our working together in multilateral forums including the UN and Commonwealth," he said.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta, in Auckland, New Zealand. PTI

ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-

rich region.

India has repeatedly emphasised on the immediate cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and the need to resolve the ongoing conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Jaishankar also took up the issue of Indian students impacted by covid measures in New Zealand and urged expeditious visa processing of those desirous of studying in New Zealand now.

India is the second largest source of international students in New Zealand pursuing higher education in various disciplines such as information technology, hospitality, science, engineering and architecture.

He also met Associate Minister for foreign affairs Aupito William Sio during his meeting with Mahuta.

"Pleasure to meet Associate Minister for foreign affairs @AupitoWSio_MP during my talks with FM @NanaiaMahuta Benefitted from his insights on Pacific Islands," Jaishankar tweeted. *Source: PTI*

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 7, 2022, TO OCTOBER 13, 2022

07 OCTOBER



- 1914 India's famous Ghazal singer Begum Akhtar was born.
- 1950 Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata.
- 2008 Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived in India on a four-day state visit.
- 1586 The Mughal army entered Kashmir.
- 1737 Three lakh people died in Bengal when a 20 thousand small ship sank 40 feet below the sea.
- 1919 Gandhiji's 'Navjeevan' magazine published.
- 1952 Chandigarh became the capital of Punjab.
- 2000 WWF - India won the first Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award.
- 1891 Freedom fighter and close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Narhari Parikh was born.
- 1907 Durga Bhabhi, the principal ally of revolutionaries, was born in India's freedom struggle.
- 1708 Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh died.

08 OCTOBER

- 1932 Indian Air Force was established.



- 1936 Famous Hindi writer and novelist Premchand died.
- 1998 India became a member of the Flight Safety Foundation.
- 2004 Monsanto's patent on Indian wheat revoked.
- 2005 Thousands died due to earthquake in Kashmir.
- 1926 Bollywood actor Rajkumar was born.

09 OCTOBER

- 1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.
- 1942 Freedom fighter Bibi Amar Kaur hoisted the national flag at the Lahore Jail Gate. He was arrested and sent to Ambala Jail.
- 1949 The first governor of independent India, C. Rajagopalachari, officially inaugurated the territorial army.

- 1976 International direct dialing service started between Bombay (now Mumbai) and London.
- 2006 Google announced the acquisition of YouTube.
- 2008 The central government formed a committee of experts to save oil from the mafia.



- 1945 Famous Indian sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was born.
- 2007 China accused India of violating the agreement.

10 OCTOBER

- 1756 The British army led by Governor General Robert Clive recaptured Calcutta.
- 1910 The first All India Hindi Conference was organized in Varanasi under the chairmanship of Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- 1906 Indian novelist RK Narayan was born.
- 1954 Famous Indian actress Rekha was born.



- 2011 India's famous Ghazal singer Jagjit Singh passed away.



- 1978 Rohini Khadilkar became the first woman to win the national chess competition.
- 1991 India won the team title of the World Carrom Competition.
- 1992 The second Hooghly Bridge 'Vidyasagar Setu' opened.
- 2014 Nobel Prize was announced to Kailash Satyarthi of India.

11 OCTOBER

- 1902 The veteran socialist leader Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan was born.
- 1916 Social worker Chandika Amritrao Deshmukh was born.



- 1942 Bollywood emperor and century great Amitabh Bachchan was born in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh.
- 1987 India's Peace Army launched Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka. The campaign was waged to liberate Jaffna by destroying the LTTE's occupation.
- 1737 An earthquake in Calcutta (now Kolkata) killed 3 lakh people, half the city was devastated by this natural disaster.
- 2001 Trinidad-born Indian-born British writer Vidyadhar Suraj Prasad Noyyal was announced to be awarded the 2001 Nobel Literature Prize.
- 1930 Jawaharlal Nehru was released from Naini Central Jail.
- 2008 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh flagged off from Naogaon station and flagged off the first train to run in the valley of Kashmir.

12 OCTOBER

- 1967 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a fighter, fierce thinker and socialist politician of India's freedom struggle died.
- 1968 Equatorial Guinea, a country located in Central Africa, gained independence from Spain and this day was declared the national day of this country.
- 2008 Sister Alphonsa of Kerala became the first female saint of India.
- 1888 First revolutionary and later Gandhiji's follower Perrin Ben was born.

13 OCTOBER



- 1987 Evergreen actor, singer Kishore Kumar, died.
- 1895 The first Test captain of India's cricket team, C.K. Naidu was born.
- 1999 Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of India for the third time.
- 2013 A stampede in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh killed 109 people.
- 2011 Instructions have been given to use the words of Urdu, Persian, general Hindi and English instead of the difficult words of Hindi used in offices.

Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, Barry Sharpless win 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and Barry Sharpless won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry. While Barry Sharpless and Morten Meldal laid the foundation for a functional form of chemistry click chemistry in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly and efficiently. Carolyn Bertozzi took it to a new dimension and started utilising it in living organisms.

"This year's Prize in Chemistry deals with not overcomplicating matters, instead working with what is easy and simple. Functional molecules can be built even by taking a straightforward route," said Johan Aqvist, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

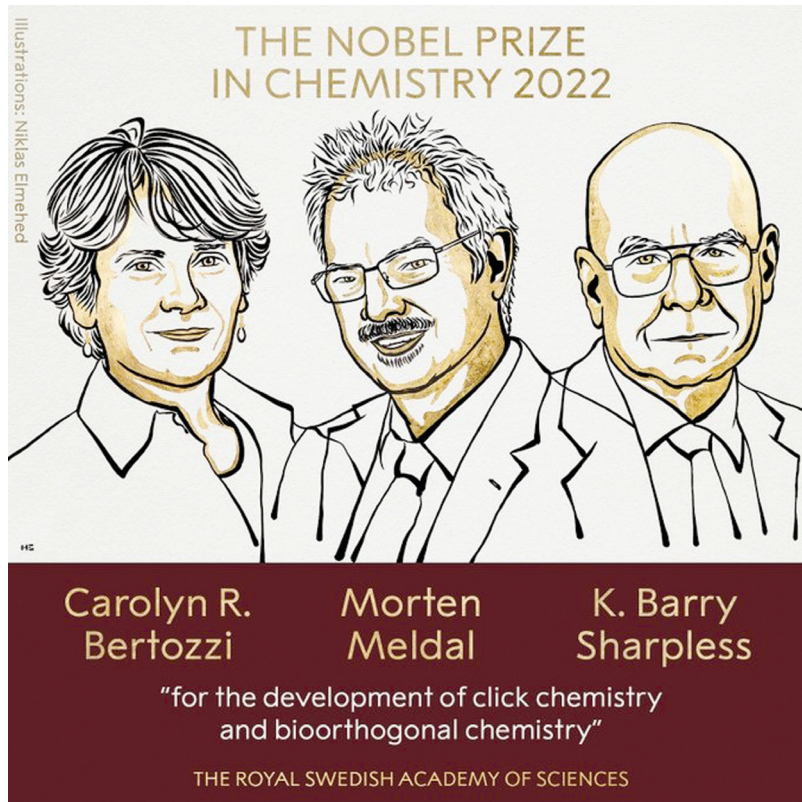
The Chemistry Nobel is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences as per the will of Alfred Nobel. So far, the committee has chosen 113 laureates in the field, of which seven have been women. Meanwhile, 25 chemistry prizes have been shared by two laureates.

Frederick Sanger is the only person to have won the Chemistry prize twice, in 1958 and in 1980.

The Nobel Committee in 2021 awarded the top award jointly to Benjamin List and David MacMillan for their development of a precise new tool for molecular construction: organocatalysis. The tool has had a great impact on pharmaceutical research and has made chemistry greener.

The Chemistry announcement comes a day after the Academy announced the Physics Nobel, which has been given to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, and Anton Zeilinger for their experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science.

The three laureates conducted groundbreaking experiments using entangled quantum states, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated.



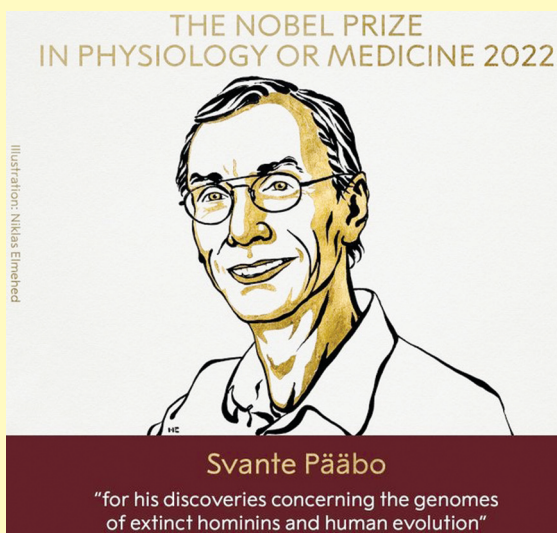
Svante Pääbo awarded Nobel Prize in medicine

The Nobel Prizes 2022 for medicine or physiology was awarded to Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo. Svante Pääbo was given the award "for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution," the Nobel Prize committee. Considered the most prestigious prize in the scientific world, it is awarded by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$900,357).

Through his pioneering research, Svante Pääbo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova. Importantly, Pääbo also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections.

In 1990, Pääbo was recruited to the University of Munich, where, as a newly appointed Professor, he continued his work on archaic DNA. He decided to analyze DNA from Neanderthal mitochondria – organelles in cells that contain their own DNA. The mitochondrial genome is small and contains only a fraction of the genetic information in the cell, but it is present in thousands of copies, increasing the chance of success.

Svante Pääbo (born 20 April 1955) is a Swedish geneticist specialising in the field of evolutionary genetics and a Nobel prize laureate. As one of the founders of paleogenetics, he has worked extensively on the Neanderthal genome. He was appointed director of the Department of Genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany in 1997. He is also a professor at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan.



3 scientists share Nobel Prize in Physics

Three scientists jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday, October 4, for proving that tiny particles could retain a connection with each other even when separated, a phenomenon once doubted but now being explored for potential real-world applications such as encrypting information.

Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F. Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for experiments proving the "totally crazy" field of quantum entanglements to be all too real. They demonstrated that unseen particles, such as photons, can be linked, or "entangled," with each other even when they are separated by large distances.

It all goes back to a feature of the universe that even baffled Albert Einstein and connects matter and light in a tangled, chaotic way.

Bits of information or matter that used to be next to each other even though they are now separated have a connection or relationship—something that can conceivably help encrypt information or even teleport. A Chinese satellite now demonstrates this and potentially lightning fast quantum computers, still at the small and not quite useful stage, also rely on this entanglement. Others are even hoping to use it in superconducting material.



French author Annie Ernaux wins Nobel Prize in Literature

French author Annie Ernaux has won the 2022 Nobel Prize in literature "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."

Annie Ernaux was born in 1940 and grew up in the small town of Yvetot in Normandy.

"Annie Ernaux's debut was *Les armoires vides* (1974; *Cleaned Out*, 1990), and already in this work she started her investigation of her Norman background, but it was her fourth book, *La place* (1983; *A Man's Place*, 1992), that delivered her literary breakthrough," The Swedish Academy said in a statement.

"In her writing, Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class. Her path to authorship was long and arduous," the statement further read. Ernaux's famous works include *A Woman's Story*, *A Man's Place*, *Simple Passion*, *Cleaned Out* and *L'occupation*.



Indian Muslim delegation meets New Jersey lawmakers for probe in Hindu supremacist bigotry

OCTOBER 5, 2022

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): The Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to peace, pluralism, and social justice, has urged New Jersey's state legislators to condemn Islamophobic hate and bigotry being propagated by Hindu supremacists in the state, and seek an investigation into their links to India's Hindu supremacist movement.

An IAMC delegation met several lawmakers and officials from the state General Assembly and the Senate on Monday and presented them with documentary evidence of Hindu supremacist hate and the organizations behind them, both in the US and India.

"New Jersey's lawmakers have a duty towards their constituents to ensure that the alien hate ideology of Hindu supremacism is stopped at the state's borders and not allowed to vitiate the peace here," Mohammad Jawad, president of the New Jersey chapter of IAMC, said. "Every lawmaker we spoke with at Trenton fully agreed with this objective."

The IAMC delegation informed the lawmakers of the bigoted display of a bulldozer at a parade called by the Indian Business Association (IBA), an Indian American organization, in the state's Edison and Woodbridge cities on August 14. Initially defending the bulldozer's float, the IBA later apologized saying it was a "blatant divisive symbol."

"We asked the lawmakers to seek federal investigation into the links of the IBA and the Overseas Friends of the BJP (OFBJP), whose leaders were prominently present at the hate parade, with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), India's preeminent Hindu supremacist organization that is persecuting India's religious minorities," Jawad said.



The IAMC leaders urged the New Jersey lawmakers to ask the Biden Administration to revoke the visa of Sambit Patra, an Islamophobic leader from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who was the grand Marshall at the August 14 parade, and of Sadhvi Ritambhara, an anti-Muslim Hindu supremacist hatemonger who was invited by the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) to New Jersey last month.

The IAMC delegation also informed the lawmakers of the Islamophobic speech made by a Hindu resident of New Jersey named Vivek at a meeting of the Teaneck City Council on September 20, 2022, in the presence of City Council members. "It is beyond shocking that the Teaneck city council leaders did not immediately stop and evict the person for misusing their platform to abuse Islam and Muslims," Jawad told the state lawmakers.

The IAMC leaders met with Assemblywomen Nancy F Munoz, Mila Jasey, Lisa Swain, and Michele Matsikoudis; and Assemblymen Raj Mukherji, William W. Spearman, John F. Mckeon, Gary S. Schaer, Sterley S. Stanley, Roy Freiman, and Antwan McClellan, among others.



The meetings with lawmakers involved over a hundred Muslims from across the state participating in an Advocacy Day outreach called by the Council on American-Islamic Relations New Jersey (CAIR-NJ). The Advocacy Day aimed to strengthen New Jersey Muslims' relationships with the state's lawmakers and their offices, to educate them about concerns about increasing Islamophobia and denial of civil liberties to Muslims.

The Muslim attendees advocated for the Defining Islamophobia Bill (A465/S2368), Maintaining the Religion of Foster Children Bill (A1050), and Establishing Same-Day Voter Registration (A1966/S247). They also brought to the table the resolution Condemning People's Republic of China's Treatment of Uyghurs - (AR128/SR79).

The Muslims urged the lawmakers to designate a month in the year as Muslim Awareness and Appreciation Month.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Indian American Muslim Council)

Federal Judge Blocks N.Y. Gun Law, Finding Much of It Unconstitutional

OCT. 6, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): A federal judge on Thursday blocked large portions of New York's new gun law, finding that the expansive restrictions on the public carrying of guns created by the measure were unconstitutional.

The order, issued by Judge Glenn T. Suddaby, found that the state's

new restrictions on the carrying of guns in public trampled on the rights of New Yorkers.

The state's new gun law, passed this summer, imposed elaborate restrictions on the carrying of weapons in "sensitive places," including Times Square.

In a 53-page order, the judge, Glenn T. Suddaby of the Northern District, said he would block the state from enforcing a number of the new law's provisions, writing that New York was trampling on the constitutional right to bear arms. But he agreed to a three-business-day stay of his order, pending an emergency appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

That court could take the issue up and grant a significantly longer stay of the order - but if it does not, the order will go into effect.

If the Second Circuit does allow New York's gun law to remain in place, the plaintiffs, a group of six New York gun owners who are members of the Gun Owners of America, would consider an immediate appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, according to a spokesman for the organization.

Erich Pratt, the organization's senior vice president, said in a statement that Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York and Mayor Eric Adams of New York City had "lied and misrepresented the Second Amendment to the courts, putting New Yorkers at a great disadvantage in the midst of rising crime." (Source: New York Times)



Image for Representation only

QUEENS GRAND JURY INDICTS MAN FOR HATE CRIME ATTACK ON MUSLIM WOMAN

DEFENDANT ALLEGEDLY HARASSED, THEN STRUCK VICTIM WITH METAL PIPE; FACES UP TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON IF CONVICTED

OCTOBER 6, 2022

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today, October 6, that Joval Cedenno, 41, has been indicted by a Queens County grand jury and arraigned in Supreme Court on assault as a hate crime

and other charges for allegedly pursuing and then attacking a Muslim woman inside the N train near the Queensboro Plaza train station on February 18, 2022.

District Attorney Katz said, "As alleged, the defendant was motivated by his own hatred when he attacked the victim, who was wearing a Hijab at the time, based on her physical appearance and perceived ethnicity.

This shameful behavior will not be tolerated in Queens County, and I remain committed to holding accountable those who try to undermine the feeling of safety for our vibrant and diverse communities. The defendant has been indicted and faces justice in our courts."

Cedenno, of Winthrop Street in Brooklyn, was arraigned yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Toni Cimino on a five-count

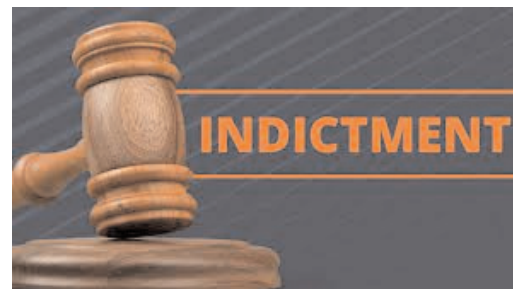


Image for Representation only

indictment. The defendant is charged with assault in the second and third degrees as a hate crime, assault in the second and third degrees and aggravated harassment in the second degree. Justice

Cimino ordered the defendant to return to Court on November 2, 2022. Cedenno faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Following an investigation led by Detective Desmond Brown of the New York City Police Department's Hate Crime Task Force, Cedenno was apprehended in his home in Brooklyn on September 14, 2022.

Assistant District Attorney Gabriel Mendoza, Assistant Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Hate Crimes, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Michael Brovner, Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for the Supreme Court Trial Division Pishoy B. Yacoub.

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Indian Mining expert delegation to El Salvador



On their first day of visit, 4-member Indian Mining expert delegation to El Salvador under @ITECnetwork On Site Programme, inspected mining site of Santa Rosa de Lima in the presence of officials of @EconomiaSV



Cricket match in Guatemala on Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary



On the occasion of 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy and UK Embassy organized a friendly cricket match with participation of Indian and British diaspora & Guatemalan cricket lovers in the presence of Indian Ambassador Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and the British Ambassador Nick Whittingham.



Hindi in Guatemala

As a part of the Indian Embassy's endeavor to introduce Hindi in Guatemala, the Embassy organized 'Introduction to Hindi Workshop' in Guatemalan university @UNISgt, @IndianDiplomacy @iccr_hq



22 CHILDREN AMONG 37 KILLED BY EX-COP AT THAILAND DAYCARE CENTRE

06 OCTOBER 2022

BANGKOK (TIP): A former policeman killed 37 persons, including 22 children, in a knife-and-gun rampage at a daycare centre in Thailand on October 6. He later shot dead his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself, the police said, identifying the suspect as 34-year-old Panya Kamrap.

In one of the world's worst child death tolls in a massacre by a single killer in recent history, most of the children who died in Uthai Sawan, a town 500 km northeast of Bangkok, were stabbed to death, the police said. The age range of children was from two to five years, a local official said.

The police said the attacker was a former member of the force who was dismissed from his post last year over drug allegations and he was facing trial. The man had been in court earlier in the day and had then gone to the daycare centre to collect his child, said police spokesperson Paisal Luesomboon. When he did not find his child there, he began the killing spree, Paisal said. "He started shooting, slashing, killing children." Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood in the garden of the daycare centre. When the attacker arrived, about 30 children were at the facility, fewer than usual, as heavy rain had kept many of them away, district official Jidapa Boonsom said.

"The shooter came in around lunch time and shot four or five officials at the centre first," Jidapa said. The attacker forced his way into a locked room where the children were sleeping, Jidapa said, adding that a teacher who was eight months pregnant was also stabbed to death.

The massacre is among the worst involving children killed by one person. In Norway, Anders Brevik killed 69 persons, mostly teenagers, at a summer camp in 2011, while the child death toll in other cases include 16 at Dunblane in Scotland in 1996 and 19 at a school in Uvalde, Texas, this year. The Beslan school hostage crisis in Russia in 2004 saw 186 children killed by a group of hostage takers. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha, in a statement on Facebook, called Thursday's shooting a "shocking incident". Gun laws are strict in Thailand, where possession of an illegal firearm carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years. But ownership is high compared with some other countries in Southeast Asia. The police, however said the gun used in the shooting had been obtained legally. Mass shootings in Thailand remain rare, although in 2020, a soldier angry over a property deal gone sour killed at least 29 persons and wounded 57 in a rampage that spanned four locations. — Reuters

Pakistan government focused on completing CPEC linked projects on priority basis: PM Shehbaz Sharif

OCTOBER 6

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on October 6 that his government was focused on completing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor linked projects on priority basis.

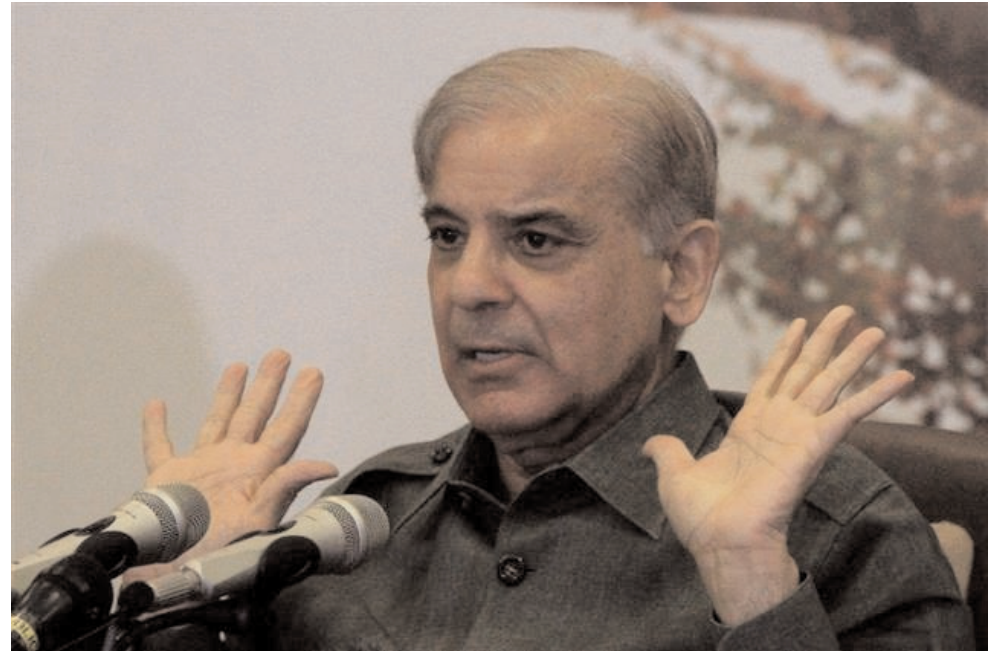
Sharif made the comments during a meeting with a delegation of China Road and Bridge Corporation headed by its Vice President Ye Chengyin in Islamabad, state-owned Radio Pakistan reported.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing on the ongoing and completed projects. It was informed that the Havelian-Thakot section of Karakorum highway has been completed while work is in progress on its second phase from Thakot to Raikot.

The meeting was also apprised of the progress made on other projects including Karachi Coastal Development, Rashakai Special Economic Zone, Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M-9) Babusar Tunnel and railway corridor from Karachi Port Trust to Pipri.

Prime Minister Sharif directed the authorities concerned to complete all the CPEC related projects in the stipulated period.

"The government is ensuring transparency in development projects and those relating to public importance will be completed on an urgent basis," he said.



The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched by President Xi Jinping when he came into power in 2013. The BRI aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

The Chinese delegation was appreciative of the steps taken by the government for timely completion of the CPEC projects. In addition, China Road and Bridge Corporation showed interest

in investing in Pakistan's 10,000 megawatts solarization project.

Sharif said both Pakistan and China are longstanding friends and their relations date back to decades.

The Prime Minister said China has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times. He said the entire Pakistani nation is grateful to the Chinese leadership for their assistance to the flood victims.

Ye presented a cheque of USD 100,000 to the Prime Minister for the relief and assistance of flood victims. (PTI)

UNHRC adopts resolution against Sri Lanka's rights record; India abstains from voting

OCTOBER 6

COLOMBO (TIP): India on October 6 abstained on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka which was adopted. While abstaining, India stressed that it will work with Sri Lanka and the international community to attain the related objectives of legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka and prosperity for all Sri Lankans. The draft resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, with 20 nations voting in favour in the 47-member Council, seven against, including China and Pakistan, and 20 abstentions, including by India, Japan, Nepal and Qatar.

The 20 countries that voted in favour of the resolution included, the United Kingdom, the United States, Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, the

Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea and Ukraine. In a statement during the adoption of the resolution, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Permanent Representative of India to UN & other International Organisations, said while India has taken note of the commitments by the government of Sri Lanka on issues of implementation of the commitments in the spirit of the 13th Constitutional Amendment, meaningful devolution and the early conduct of provincial elections, "we believe that the progress towards the same remains inadequate."

"Achieving prosperity for all Sri Lankans and realising the legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka for prosperity, dignity and peace are two sides of the same coin," Pandey said.

He stressed that as an immediate neighbour, India has substantially contributed to the relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction process in Sri Lanka after 2009. More recently

since January this year, India has stepped up and provided unprecedented assistance to the people of Sri Lanka to face the challenges of the recent economic crisis.

"In finding a lasting and effective solution for peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, India has always been guided by the two fundamental principles of support to the aspirations of the Tamils for equality, justice, dignity and peace and unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka," he said.

The significant feature in the resolution is its call to investigate the ongoing economic crisis and prosecute those responsible. It also "calls upon the government of Sri Lanka to address the ongoing economic crisis including by investigating and where warranted prosecuting corruption including where committed by public and former public officials and stands ready to assist and support independent impartial and transparent efforts in this regard". (PTI)

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A FILM FESTIVAL NOTEWORTHY LIKE NO OTHER



Myanmar Diaries



Photo /dxfest.com Sushmit Ghosh

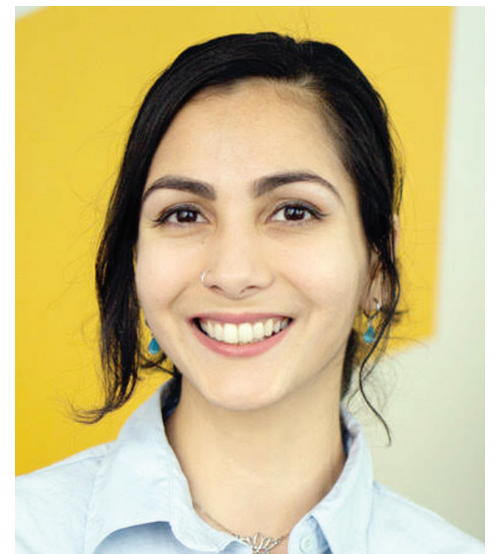


Photo /dxfest.com Gunita Singh.<

Photo /dxfest.com

BY MABEL PAIS

Double Exposure' Investigative Film Festival for its eighth annual season presents the 11 investigative feature films selected for the highly curated film festival and symposium series. It takes place in-person, October 13-16 in Washington, DC.

Based in Washington D.C., the epicenter of power in the United States, if not the world, Double Exposure is the first and only U.S. film festival solely dedicated exclusively to investigative storytelling. A project of the investigative news organization 100Reporters, Double Exposure combines film screenings for the public followed by in-depth filmmaker Q&As that frequently include film protagonists and subject experts, and that dig much deeper than traditional Q&As. These are paired with a professional conference for filmmakers and journalists whose work is driven by the investigative instinct.

This year's slate is a testimony to the incredible dedication of journalists and filmmakers who risk it all to go beyond the headlines." said Double Exposure founder and co-director Diana Jean Schemo.

"This year's lineup reveals the value of long form storytelling to offer depth and nuance to headline news," says festival co-director Sky Sitney. "The films take us viscerally and visually into the stories that shape our world today, often at the profound risk and extraordinary sacrifice of the filmmaker and journalist behind the lens. One film in our lineup, Myanmar Diaries is credited to an anonymous filmmaking collective to protect their identity: a group of local filmmakers working tirelessly in Myanmar to expose crimes committed by the military. While Mantas Kvedaravičius, the Lithuanian director behind Mariupolis 2, was tragically killed during the filming of his project - arrested by Russian soldiers when he attempted to leave the city and reportedly murdered. The film was completed by co-director Hanna Bilobrava."

TICKETS & PASSES

For Tickets & Passes, and more information visit dxfest.com

2022 DOUBLE EXPOSURE FILM LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT

The Grab
Dir: Gabriela Cowperthwaite | USA | 1h 42m
An investigative journalist uncovers the money, influence, and alarming rationale behind covert land grabs by some of the world's most powerful countries.

CLOSING NIGHT

Retrograde
Dir: Matt Heineman | USA | 1h 34m
The story of the last months of the 20-year war in Afghanistan through the intimate relationship between American Green Berets and the Afghan officers they trained.

CENTERPIECE FILM

AMERICAN PAIN

Dir: Darren Foster | USA | 46m
American Pain traces the rise and fall of twin bodybuilders from Florida who became the kingpins of the largest oxycodone trafficking network in US history.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

BODY PARTS

Dir: Kristy Guevara-Flanagan | USA | 1h 30m

HAZING

Dir: Byron Hurt | USA | 1h 43m

INTO THE WEEDS

Dir: Jennifer Baichwal | USA | 1h 36m

THE KILLING OF A JOURNALIST

Dir: Matt Sarnecki | Denmark/Czech Republic/USA | 1h 40m

MARIUPOLIS 2

Dir: Mantas Kvedaravičius | Ukraine | 1h 52m

MYANMAR DIARIES

Dir: Anonymous | Myanmar | 1h 10m

THE NEW GREATNESS CASE

Dir: Anna Shishova | Russia | 1h 32m

PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS

Dir: Sinéad O'Shea | Ireland | 1h 21m

SYMPOSIUM PANELS LINEUP

REFRAMING REPRESENTATION

PARTICIPANTS: Patricia Aufderheide, Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh, June Cross
Academy Award-nominated filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh's decade-long work has focused on developing a new visual and narrative language for telling stories of under-represented voices in India - ranging from farming communities and journalists working to create

transformative change for their communities to refugees and LGBTQ artists finding ways of platforming critical issues around citizenship. In this session, Thomas and Ghosh will talk about how they maintain the delicate balance between filmmaker-participant relationships and the stakes and challenges of storytelling in a dynamically evolving and complex democracy. With Patricia Aufderheide, media scholar and a member of the Documentary Accountability Working Group, they will look at the internal process of working with subjects, and the external pressures that swirl around films that challenge power in an increasingly polarized and dangerous world.

WHISTLEBLOWERS AND THE CREATOR ECONOMY

PARTICIPANTS: Karim Amer, Ed Pierson, Mary Inman, and Amber Scorch
Theranos. WeWork. Uber. Anna Delvey. Harvey Weinstein. Over the past year, the entertainment industry has brought true stories of corporate fraud, scandal, and power abuse to the screen, as part of a growing trend in Hollywood to transform adaptations of non-fiction journalism into film and television. Whistleblowers are also beginning to take to storytelling via social media and podcasts, transcending the gatekeepers of book agents or journalists to share valuable information with the public and achieve virality on their own terms. This panel will explore what it means to incorporate the whistleblower into the process of making a movie - narrative or documentary - or a television show or series about their story.

DOCUMENTALITY FOR FILMMAKERS AND JOURNALISTS

PARTICIPANTS: Malikkah Rollins, Dr. Meryl Heyliger
Documentary filmmakers, as well as journalists, often engage with issues related to trauma, injustice, and abuse, but there has been very little institutional or even community support, let alone recognition of the burden of witnessing. DocuMentality, an initiative of The D-Word, Film in Mind and Malikkah Rollins, recognizes the hidden impact of this work on the frontlines. We seek to normalize a conversation about mental health and well-being in the documentary industry, and to provide best practice guidance and information for documentary filmmakers - and for journalists as well - to become more resilient resources for themselves, their teams and the people who entrust them with their stories.

CONTD FROM PAGE 22

FACING GOLIATH

PARTICIPANTS: Byron Hurt, Jennifer Baichwal, Nate Halverson, Amanda Pike

Investigative filmmakers and journalists are committed to holding power to account and following a covert trail of misdeeds wherever it may lead. But what happens when the trail lands them on the doorstep of the most powerful governments, corporations, and institutions in the world? In three remarkable films in this year's lineup, filmmakers and their subjects dare to stand up to powerful, perhaps even untouchable institutions.

REFLECTION IS KEY: HOW VALUES-BASED FILMMAKING CAN REDUCE HARM

Participants: Natalie Bullock Brown, Molly Murphy
Filmmakers come up with ideas for new documentaries every day. But should they be made? This panel will explore how the Documentary Accountability Working Group's framework for values, ethics, and accountability in non-fiction filmmaking can be utilized to deeply consider the merits and possibilities for harm during the very first phase of production: reflection.

LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION: READING THE SUPREME COURT ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Participants: Max Mishkin, Jennifer Nelson, Alison Scharly

First Amendment at a Changing Supreme Court: Discussing what the new, right-leaning Supreme Court means for First Amendment issues, including potential changes to anti-SLAPP laws and the "actual malice" standard in defamation liability.

VANISHING ACT: CAPTURING THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY

Participants: Anna Shushova, Matt Sarnecki
In Myanmar Diaries, anonymous filmmakers mix chilling footage of police arrests and killings filmed by citizen journalists with fictionalized scenes by an anonymous filmmaker collective that gave voice to fear and despair, struggle and resistance, following that country's military takeover in February 2021. Anna Shushova, in *The New Greatness Case*, zeroes in on a KGB sting that entrapped teenagers into challenging the authority of Vladimir Putin, landing them in prison, to convey how fear can be engineered to rise and choke civic engagement. *The Killing of a Journalist* begins with a very tight focus on two people in Slovakia, 27-year-old investigative journalists and his fiancée, coldly murdered at home. Their killing prompts a sprawling investigation and nationwide protests, with surprising results. Each of these films tackles an increasingly urgent question for filmmakers in an age of crisis: How do you capture the death of freedom, when it becomes a way of life?

MEET THE FUNDERS WHO ARE MEETING THE MOMENT

Participants: Eric Ferrero, Keisha Knight, Lauren Pabst

This year's edition of a perennial favorite at Double Exposure, the Meet the Funders panel, comes with a particular focus, in response to assaults on freedom across the planet, captured so vividly in this year's film slate, and the looming threat to democracy closer to home. We've asked participating funders to talk about their grantmaking as it supports work to investigate and expose efforts to dismantle democracy and freedom.

OBTAINING AUDIO & VISUAL MATERIALS THROUGH PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

Participants: Gunita Singh, Ken Klippenstein, Lauren Feeney

Police body cam footage, military training videos, surveillance recordings from government buildings - these are just a few examples of the types of audio/visual material that can be obtained via public records requests and incorporated into your documentary films and video journalism. In this workshop, we'll talk about what sorts of materials you might be able to find and offer helpful tips on how to navigate the notoriously complex process. This workshop will have a special focus on audio and video material but will also explore how to access other types of documents.

WORLD BUILDING FOR STORYTELLERS: A VIEWERS LIKE US CASE STUDY

Participants: Olivia Aylmer, Grace Lee, Tony Patrick
As storytellers, documentarians, and investigative journalists, we are also world builders: actively shaping the future and seeding change through the questions we raise, the histories we document, and the fresh perspectives we gather. In this interactive workshop, Tony Patrick will walk attendees through the basic tenets of a world-building session, wherein a group of participants connect with each other and collectively envision the future of XYZ organization/industry/city/institution, unlocking a blueprint for actionable change, consensus, and problem-solving in the process.

LEGAL BOOT CAMP: INVESTIGATIVE BASICS FOR FILMMAKERS

Participants: Jennifer Nelson, Lisa Zycherman
A primer on journalists' legal rights and responsibilities, including safety tips for investigative journalism, recording laws, and common legal issues that may arise while filming (e.g., intrusion, trespass, recording laws), how to avoid them, and related resources. Lawyers will field your questions at the end of the presentation.

NAVIGATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ISSUES IN DOCUMENTARY FILM

Participants: Tom Hentoff, Jen Nelson
Legal experts will provide intellectual property

training, including advice regarding fair use, clearance of music, and visuals and archival materials, with a focus on issues affecting the investigative documentary film community. Time will be set aside for questions from the audience.

FOR PRINT JOURNALISTS: BEYOND THE PITCH

Participants: Douglas Blush, Erica Berenstein
So, you've just seen your groundbreaking investigation in print, and you believe it would make a riveting film. But how do you get there? This session will demystify the process. You'll learn how to evaluate your story's cinematic and storytelling potential and tease out creative points of entry for a visual story.

THE ART, CRAFT AND HEART OF A GREAT PITCH

Participant: Judith Helfand
A two-hour pitching workshop led by Judith Helfand, award-winning filmmaker. Helfand will lead a series of exercises meant to engage the storyteller in you. This session will prepare you for round table meetings and fast intros at the festival, in part by showcasing examples of pitches that incorporate best practices while honoring the unique voice of the filmmaker and proposed film. Helfand believes in the wonder of wordsmithing and the power of context, in using words with edges and delighting in detail. She will push you to identify the core inquiry and fundamental question at the heart of your story.

TENDING THE UNSPOKEN WOUNDS: THE ROLE OF SELF-REFLECTION IN CULTIVATING A HEALING-CENTERED ETHIC IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM & DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

Participant: Dr. Kameelah Mu'Min Rashad
Many in the industry find themselves standing (or struggling) at an exquisitely perplexing crossroad: how do we document and share the stories unfolding in a world which is experiencing such upheaval and uncertainty? How do we both bear witness and process the painful AND joyous events in the lives of our storytellers? How does one acknowledge and cope with vicarious trauma in a field which prioritizes (the myth of) objectivity as the gold standard of professionalism? This workshop will explore these questions from the lens of self-awareness, critical consciousness, and healing justice.

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Double Exposure, a project of the nonprofit investigative news organization 100Reporters, showcases the best new films inspired by the investigative instinct, in a bid to raise public recognition of this vital form of reporting that doesn't just ask tough questions, but delivers answers. It pairs film screenings with a concurrent symposium for journalists and filmmakers to connect with each other, and with the producers, editors, funders, and experts who can advance their work. To learn more, visit dxfest.com

NYC FEST INTERSECTS ART WITH SCIENCE

BY MABEL PAIS



Geographies of Solitude.

Photo / imaginesciencefilms.org/ny15

New York City's Imagine Science Film Festival announced the lineup of films and events for the hybrid presentation of its 15th edition, taking place October 14-21. This year continues Imagine Science's unique exploration through cinema of the intersection between science and society. This year's theme is Science New Wave, characterized by its rejection of traditional scientific film conventions and stereotypes in favor of experimentation and personal expression. The festival will include 101 films (29 features and 72 short films) from 40 countries.

Imagine Science will also utilize its art/science networking tool, 'Habitat,' as well as the film festival's own streaming platform, Labocine, as the only film festival which has its very own platform (as opposed to a third-party platform). The innovations allow the film festival to bring together art and science communities to spark true collaboration (Habitat) and encourage audiences to view the festival's programming with an eye toward their greater mission to foster that intersection between art and science, like this year's Science New Wave theme. This year's initiative to engage art/science collaborations and a

community of scientists and filmmakers beyond the NYC-based film festival itself has over 3000 multidisciplinary people participating on the ambitious project.

Imagine Science FF Programming Coordinator Natalia Solórzano, said "This year's Imagine Science Film Festival is by far the most ambitious undertaking, worthy of its 15th year of existence. Films coming from corners of the world will accompany us during these 8 days."

ISFF Artistic Director and Founder Alexis Gambis, added, "Imagine Science survived hurricanes, pandemics, and recessions. Experimentation, research, and community-building are part of this organization's DNA. Imagine Science acts as a mirror to show others the many ways we can create and make scientifically enriched narratives. This year, we continue to celebrate the Science New Wave. It gave courage to an entire generation to experiment with the rules of storytelling and break away from conventions and rules. Godard forever."

To learn more, visit imaginesciencefilms.org/ny15

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



Alia Bhatt wins Time100 award in Singapore

Alia Bhatt was awarded the Time100 award in Singapore on October 2. She was looking stunning in a dusty shimmery cape gown as she accepted the award. The soon-to-be-mom delivered an impressive acceptance speech. Alia said, "I am immensely proud to be here tonight as the representative of my country — a country that has built both me and my career. India is a country that, at its core, values diversity above anything else."

She added, "And lastly when it comes to making an impact, I hope that I can continue to do so in whatever way possible, but for now, tonight, this award has genuinely made an impact on me...Me and my little one, who has relentlessly kicked me through this speech." Alia also thanked her family members. "Thank you all for patiently listening to me. Also thank you to my team, for constantly being there for me, my family; my mom (Soni Razdan) for bringing me on to this planet; my father (Mahesh Bhatt); my sister Shaheen Bhatt, who has helped put my talks into words; my husband Ranbir Kapoor. I need to give them separate awards for putting up with me on a daily basis."

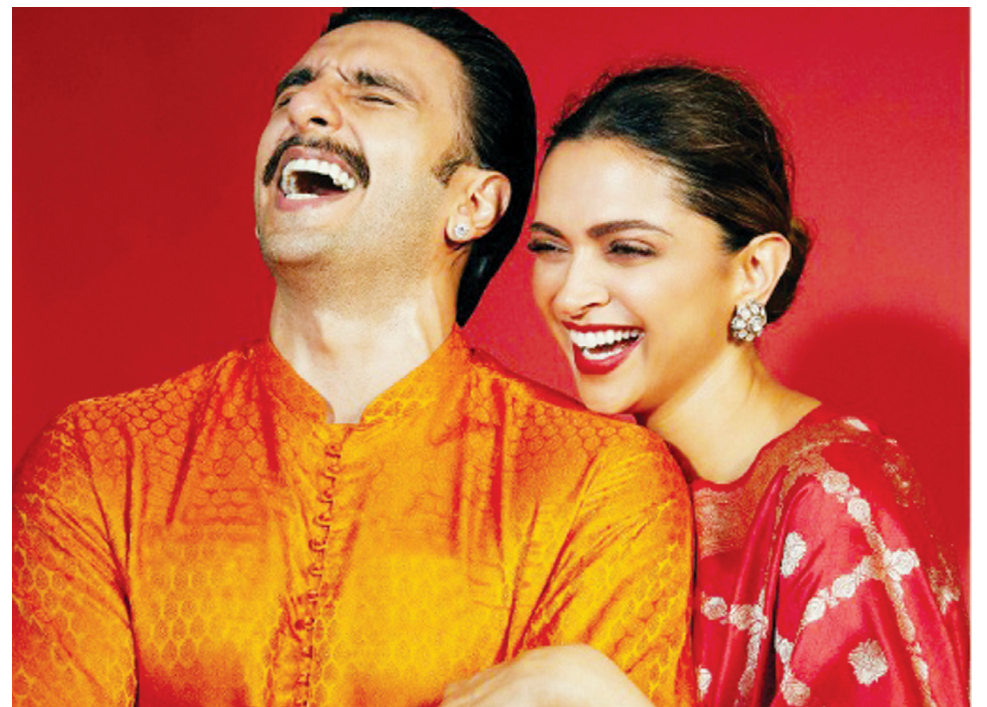
Ranveer Singh calls Deepika Padukone 'my queen' amid separation rumors

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone continue to go strong on the relationship front. Amid rumours of their separation, Ranveer has praised Deepika after she was signed by an international jewellery brand as its brand ambassador.

After Cartier welcomed Deepika Padukone as its 'newest ambassador' along with a stunning black and white picture of her sporting a diamond necklace from the brand, Ranveer reacted to the post. He tweeted, "My Queen. Doing us proud!" along with a tricolor, hands joined in prayer and heart emoji.

Recently, Ranveer had stepped out in a pink look from head to toe. He shared pictures of his look in a pink tee and pants paired with pink jacket and shoes on Instagram. Deepika had called his look 'edible' in the comments section. He also called Deepika 'Queen on Instagram, while reacting to her look at the recent The Business of Fashion event in Paris.

Deepika was among many celebrity guests at the The Business of Fashion event in Paris. She is the first Indian to feature on the Bof 500 cover. At the event, she joined the likes of Kylie Jenner, Natasha Poonawalla, Charli XCX, Ellie Goulding, Jaden Smith, Jared Leto, Paloma Elsesser and Karlie



Kloss. Ranveer and Deepika had made quite a few joint public appearances last month. They attended Mukesh Ambani's Ganpati visarjan and attended the Ganpati darshan at Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde's residence. Deepika had also joined Ranveer on stage to present him

a trophy at the Filmfare Awards held last month. She gave her a kiss on the cheek and a hug as she arrived on stage. She handed him the Filmfare best actor award for his performance in the film 83. Deepika had co-produced the film, and had played the role of Kapil Dev's wife Romi Bhatia in it. *Source: HT*

Phone Bhoot: Katrina Kaif plays a ghost; it's an encounter you can't afford to miss

Katrina Kaif is all set to experiment with her characters and has now decided to play the role of a ghost in Phone Bhoot. The actress has been roped in by Excel Entertainment to feature in their horror-comedy that also stars Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter.

The movie's first look featuring the trio - Katrina Kaif, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter has piqued curiosity among the audience for its unusual casting. A source close to the film confirmed about the actress saying, "Phone Bhoot is undoubtedly a film that has been the talk of the town for a long time. While the audience does know some elements of the story as well as about the film, the big question that left everyone wondering was about the details of the ghost in the film. While we have seen Katrina essaying

many glamorous characters in her intriguing filmography, this time she will be seen playing the character of a ghost for the first time in the film. As the film is slated to release this Diwali season, it would be exciting to see Katrina playing such a different role on the big screen. Katrina coming as a ghost with her distinctive charm would be a treat to watch in the film. Phone Bhoot will also mark Kartina's first film after her marriage."

Katrina Kaif, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Ishaan Khatter recently attended Koffee With Karan 7 with Karan Johar as the host. While audience got a glimpse of their off screen camaraderie, they seem to be quite excited to see them together on the big screen as well. Directed by Gurmeet Singh and written by Ravi Shankaran and Javinder Singh Bath, Phone Bhoot is produced by Excel Entertainment, headed by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar. The film will be a post-Diwali release and is all set to be released on November 4.

Source: Bollywoodhungama



Ajay Devgn's Maidaan to release in 2023

Ajay Devgn has announced that his highly-anticipated film "Maidaan" will now arrive in theatres on February 17, 2023.

Based on the golden years of Indian football, the movie tackles the true story of Syed Abdul Rahim (Devgn), who served as a coach and manager of the Indian football team from 1950 until his death in 1963.

Devgn, who recently won his third National Award for best actor for his performance in "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior", shared the new release date of "Maidaan" on Twitter.

"Experience the true story of an unknown hero, Syed Abdul Rahim who brought glory to India. #Maidaan releasing on 17th February, 2023," the 53-year-old wrote.

The sports drama has been postponed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was previously set for release in June this year.

The film is directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma of the "Badhai Ho" fame with screenplay and dialogues by Saiwyn Quadras and Ritesh Shah, respectively.

"Maidaan" also features Priyamani, Gajraj Rao and noted Bengali actor Rudranil Ghosh.





Margot Robbie, Cara Delevingne involved in fight with pap

Actors Margot Robbie and Cara Delevingne were reportedly involved in an altercation with a photographer in Argentina recently. The altercation, which soon became physical as the actors got involved, resulted in the paparazzo pressing charges after he ended up with a broken arm. Two friends of the actors, who reports say aren't bodyguards, have been detained by the police.

Cara and Margot worked together on the 2016 film *Suicide Squad*, in which Margot played her iconic role of Harley Quinn, while Cara played the antagonist Enchantress. The two have since remained friends and often meet for luncheons. As per a report, they were recently dining in Buenos Aires, Argentina when a paparazzo reportedly invaded their personal space.

According to a TMZ report, the two were 'thrust into a dangerous situation' as they were leaving the restaurant and the photographer Pedro Alberto Orquera rushed to click them. The report states that eyewitnesses called the photographer 'intrusive' and 'aggressive' as he tried to click them while Margot was entering the car. This led to the Uber driver speeding away and the actor had to jump out on the pavement.

Naomi Watts was told her career would end at 40 after 'becoming unf-able'

Hollywood star Naomi Watts just earned strong reviews for leading the English remake of 'Goodnight Mommy', was told her career in acting would end at 40.

This month, she's headlining Ryan Murphy's latest Netflix thriller, 'The Watcher'. She'll also be reuniting with the mega-producer to play Babe Paley in the Capote-centric second season of 'Feud', reports Variety.

All of this is to say that Watts' acting career is thriving, which is not what she was told by an unnamed Hollywood figure after her US breakthrough in David Lynch's 'Mulholland Drive'. Watts was 33 at the time, which many in Hollywood viewed as old.

"I was told, 'You better get a lot done because it's all over at 40 when you become unf***able.' And I'm like, 'What? What does that mean exactly?'" Watts recently told Entertainment Weekly.

"Then you think about it, and you go, 'Oh, right. When you are no longer reproductive, when those organs are no longer functioning, you are not sexy, so, therefore, you are not hireable.' That just made me so mad."

Talking about what Hollywood can do better to make room for women after a certain age, Watts replied: "It's such an awkward conversation because, from day one, we begin our aging process. It's something we just all have to get comfortable with and women are asked to do it more than men."

"We don't talk about a man aging... We don't talk about his gray hair. In fact, if we do, it's like, 'Oh, he gets more handsome, more desirable, more powerful.' And why is he powerful? Because he's accumulated experiences."

"Well, it should be the same for women. We've got important and powerful experiences as well at this age that we should feel proud of."

Charlize Theron recently made headlines for sharing a "belittling" experience from earlier in her career when an unnamed male director made repeated attempts to make her look more "f***able" in their film.



Kim Kardashian pays \$1.26 mn fine for illegally promoting crypto on Instagram

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian paid \$1.26 million fine after she was charged with unlawfully promoting an illegal crypto investment scheme on Instagram, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said.

Kardashian has also agreed to not promote any crypto asset securities for three years.

She promoted on social media a crypto asset offered and sold by EthereumMax without disclosing the payment she received for the promotion.

The SEC said that she agreed to settle the charges, pay \$1.26 million in penalties, disgorgement, and interest, and cooperate with the Commission's ongoing investigation.

"This case is a reminder that, when celebrities or influencers endorse investment opportunities, including crypto asset securities, it doesn't mean that those investment products are right for all investors," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler.

"We encourage investors to consider an investment's potential risks and opportunities in light of their own financial goals," Gensler said in a statement.

In a series of posts to her Instagram story,

Kardashian asked her followers, "Are you guys into crypto??? This is not financial advice but sharing what my friends just told me about the ethereum max token!"

Her followers were then encouraged to head to the EthereumMax website and "join the E-Max community".

The SEC found that Kardashian failed to disclose that she was paid \$250,000 to publish a post on her Instagram account about EMAX tokens, the crypto asset security being offered by EthereumMax. Kardashian's post contained a link to the EthereumMax website, which provided instructions for potential investors to purchase EMAX tokens.

"The federal securities laws are clear that any celebrity or other individual who promotes a crypto asset security must disclose the nature, source, and amount of compensation they received in exchange for the promotion," said Gurbir S. Grewal, Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement. "Investors are entitled to know whether the publicity of a security is unbiased, and Kardashian failed to disclose this information," Grewal said.

Source: IANS



RUSSIAN ROCKETS HIT CITY NEAR UKRAINIAN N-PLANT

OCTOBER 6

KYIV (TIP): Seven Russian rockets slammed into residential buildings in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia before dawn on October 6, killing a few persons and trapping at least five in the city close to Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, the governor of the mostly Russian-occupied region said.

The strikes came just hours after Ukraine's President announced that the country's military had retaken three more villages in one of the regions illegally annexed by Russia, the latest battlefield reversal for Moscow.

Governor Oleksandr Starukh said many people were rescued from the multi-storey buildings. Photos provided by emergency services showed rescuers scrambling through rubble in the wreckage of a devastated building.

The deputy head of the Ukraine President's office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said 10 persons had been killed in the latest Russian attacks in the Dnipro, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Zaporizhzhia is one of the four regions of Ukraine that President Vladimir Putin-led Russia annexed recently. (PTI)

TWO SHIPS SINK IN GREECE, 21 DEAD

OCTOBER 6

KYTHIRA (GREECE) (TIP):

Bodies floated amid splintered wreckage in the water off a Greek island on October 6 as the death toll from the sinking of two migrant boats rose to 21, with many missing.

The boats went down hundreds of miles apart, in one case prompting a dramatic overnight rescue effort, as residents and firefighters pulled shipwrecked migrants to safety up steep cliffs.

The coast guard on the eastern island of Lesbos said 16 bodies of young African women and one young man were recovered there after a dinghy carrying about 40 people sank. — AP

15 DEAD AS 2 MIGRANT BOATS SINK IN GREEK WATERS

OCTOBER 6

ATHENS (TIP): At least 15 people have died as two boats carrying migrants sank in Greek waters late October 5, and rescuers were looking for dozens still missing, authorities said early Thursday.

The coast guard said 15 bodies had been recovered near the eastern island of Lesbos after a dinghy carrying about 40 people sank.

Five people were rescued and three had been located on a rocky outcrop near the site of the sinking. (AP)

Putin and North Korea's Kim forge closer ties amid shared isolation

OCTOBER 7

SEOUL (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a birthday greeting to Russian President Vladimir Putin this week, congratulating him for "crushing the challenges and threats of the United States", the latest sign of deepening ties between the two pariah states.

As Russia's isolation over its war in Ukraine has increased, it has seen increasing value in North Korea. For North Korea's part, relations with Russia haven't always been as warm as they were during the heady days of the Soviet Union, but now the country is reaping clear benefits from Moscow's need for friends.

Here's how North Korea-Russia relations began, and how they are becoming closer:

Political backing

Communist North Korea was formed in the early days of the Cold War with the backing of the Soviet Union. North Korea later battled the South and its U.S. and United Nations allies to a stalemate in the 1950-1953 Korean War with extensive aid from China and the Soviet Union.

North Korea was heavily reliant on Soviet aid for decades, and when the Soviet Union collapsed in the 1990s it helped spark a deadly famine in the North.

Pyongyang's leaders have tended to use Beijing and Moscow to balance each other. Kim Jong Un initially had a relatively cold relationship with both countries, which both joined the United States in imposing strict sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear tests.

But after his country's last nuclear test in 2017, Kim took steps to repair ties.

In 2019 Kim and Putin met for the first time in a summit in the Russian city of Vladivostok.



Since then, Russia has joined China in opposing new sanctions, vetoing a US-led push in May and publicly splitting the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the first time since it started punishing Pyongyang in 2006.

Ukraine war support

North Korea has reciprocated with public support for Moscow after Russia invaded Ukraine. It was one of the only countries to recognise the independence of breakaway Ukrainian regions, and this week it expressed support for Russia's proclaimed annexation of parts of Ukraine.

"Moscow's 'special military operation' in Ukraine has ushered in a new geopolitical reality in which the Kremlin and (North Korea) may become increasingly close, perhaps even to the point of resurrecting the quasi-alliance relationship that had existed during the Cold War," Artyom Lukin, a professor at Far Eastern Federal University in

Vladivostok, wrote in a recent report for 38 North.

It is notable that Pyongyang has begun using the new phrase "tactical and strategic collaboration" to describe its relationship with Russia, he added.

The United States has said that Russia approached North Korea about buying millions of rounds of ammunition and other weapons to refill its stockpile depleted by the war. Both Russia and North Korea have denied that claim.

Economic ties

The vast majority of North Korea's trade goes through China, but Russia is a potentially important partner as well, particularly for providing oil, experts said. Moscow has denied breaking U.N. sanctions, but Russian tankers have been accused of helping evade caps on exporting oil to North Korea and sanctions monitors have reported that labourers remained in Russia despite the ban. (Reuters)

'Date' of Chinese doctor's death who warned of Covid remains mystery

OCTOBER 7

BEIJING (TIP): The death mystery of a China-based ophthalmologist who had warned his colleagues about early Covid-19 infections in early 2020, went more tricky after the latest report showing a discrepancy in the timing of the doctor's death came to light by the US-based media outlet, The New York Times.

Dr Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old doctor from Wuhan died of a Covid-19 infection in February. According to the hospital at 4 am, Dr Li died on February 7 at 2:58 am, but conflicting messages about Li's condition had surfaced on media outlets from February 6, the day when he went into cardiac arrest at around 7.20 pm.

Some media outlets released the information which later deleted, as per The New York Times. State-run

publication Life Times said that he had died at 9:30 pm, while another said that he died at 10:40 pm on February 7.

In an exclusive interview with one of Dr Li's colleagues, the New York Times's Visual Investigations team highlighted several aspects of the time duration when Li was in the hospital.

"I think Dr. Li Wenliang had already died by the time I saw him around 9 pm on February 6," Li's colleague said during the interview. "They dragged their feet for so long over the announcement. It's like the hospital really did not treat us as human beings," he said. Li was widely regarded in China as a heroic truth-teller. He had been punished by the authorities for trying to warn others about the virus, and then, in a terrible turn, had become severely sickened by it. Weeks later, he

would become China's most famous fatality of the emerging pandemic. He was 34, according to The New York Times.

In early 2020, the virus was spreading rapidly in Wuhan, the city in China where the pandemic first took hold. Dr. Li checked into the hospital on January 12 with a fever, a lung infection and other symptoms. According to several of the doctors who reviewed his medical records for The Times, by the third day, Dr. Li was seriously ill and required oxygen support.

"He was infected with an early variant of the virus, so the illness started acutely, its course was life threatening and it developed very fast," said Dr Wu Yuanfei, a virologist at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, said, reported The New York Times. (ANI)

Complainant testifies about Australian Parliament House rape

OCTOBER 5

CANBERRA (TIP): A government staffer testified on October 4 about being raped by a colleague in the Australian Parliament House and described her fears of not being believed because of the disparity in their workplace statuses.

Brittany Higgins became the first witness to testify against Bruce Lehrmann, 27, who has pleaded not guilty in the Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court to a charge of sexual intercourse without consent in a minister's office in March 2019.

He faces a potential 12-year prison sentence if convicted.

Higgins said she was a 24-year-old staffer in an administrative role in then-Defence Industry Minister Linda Reynolds' office while Lehrmann had a more senior role as a ministerial adviser.

The pair had gone back to Parliament House early one Saturday morning after a night of heavy drinking with colleagues.

Higgins said she thought Lehrmann wanted to collect documents from Reynolds' office, where she fell asleep on a couch and was awoken by Lehrmann raping her.

Higgins said she felt "trapped, not human" as Lehrmann hovered over her, grunting and making noise. She said she started crying and told him to stop but he continued.

Higgins decided to have Lehrmann charged last year and the jury on Wednesday heard her video-recorded police interview from February 2021.

She told police that when she returned to work on Monday, two days after the



alleged rape, she feared she would be fired because she and Lehrmann entering the minister's office was flagged as a security breach.

"I knew what had happened to me was wrong, I knew I hadn't consented," she said.

She told police she didn't think anyone would believe her story and figured Lehrmann's words carried more weight than hers because of his more senior role.

"He was in the office on Monday. He didn't seem ashamed (or) upset," Higgins said. "It just didn't feel like something he wanted to address." She told police when she identified the incident as a sexual assault to her former chief of staff, "the gears shifted".

"It became less about me and more political, in a sense," she said.

Defence lawyer Steven Whybrow told the jury Higgins' allegations had not been tested or proven and Lehrmann denied having sex with her.

Prosecutor Shane Drumgold flagged more than 50 witnesses who could be called to give evidence during the trial, which is expected to last between four and six weeks.

Among the witnesses are Reynolds as well as former government ministers Michaelia Cash and Steven Ciobo.

The Associated Press does not usually identify alleged victims of sexual assault, but Higgins has chosen to identify herself in the media. (AP)



N KOREA FIRES MISSILES AMID MILITARY SHOW BY SEOUL

OCTOBER 1

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea off its east coast on Saturday, hours before South Korea staged a large military show, displaying stealth fighters and its own missiles.

Pyongyang's fourth launch in a week comes amid a flurry of military muscle-flexing by countries in the region, including joint anti-submarine exercises on October 7 by the navies of South Korea, the US and Japan. US Vice President Kamala Harris visited the region this week, meeting with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol in Seoul on October 6. The rival Koreas are in a regional arms race that has seen a major increase of weapons and military spending. Marking South Korea's 74th Armed Forces Day, Yoon condemned what he called recent military provocations by the North and vowed to strengthen joint military drills with the US. "The government will further strengthen the Korea-US joint exercises," he said. — Reuters

UK Opposition Labour Leader Keir Starmer vows to combat 'Hinduphobia'

OCTOBER 6

LONDON (TIP): In its first direct reference to the term "Hinduphobia", the UK's Opposition Labour Party committed itself to fight against hate crimes of all kinds following communal clashes in Leicester and Birmingham in the wake of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

Addressing one of Europe's largest Navratri celebrations here on October 4 evening, Labour Leader Keir Starmer told a gathering of hundreds of British Indians that he was determined to put an end to "divisive politics" and extremist elements exploiting social media to spread hatred within communities.

Some diaspora organisations in the UK have claimed the disorder in Leicester last month reflected Hinduphobia, or hate crimes targeted at Hindus, intensified by social media

disinformation.

"Hinduphobia has absolutely no place in our society anywhere and we must all fight this together," said Starmer, amid cheers.

"I know that many people are targeted based on their religion and there's been a rise in hate crimes in recent years. I'm so tired of our divisive politics. I'm saddened by the division we have seen on the streets of Leicester and Birmingham in recent weeks; violence and hatred spread by extremists exploiting social media. We must all together stand firm against all attempts to spread hate," he said.

"Nor will we tolerate the far right attempting to exploit grievances. We have more that unites us than divides us. Our religion, places and symbols of worship must and will be respected. A Labour government will bring people back together and end this divisive

politics," he added.

The Opposition leader, who has been quite obviously attempting to reverse predecessor Jeremy Corbyn's stance towards India and its diaspora perceived as less India-friendly, noted that it was his first time attending Dussehra celebrations in London and spoke of the deeper significance of Navratri as embodied in Goddess Durga's resilience and strength, which signifies the importance of the female divine and women's empowerment.

"I'm particularly honoured to join you on Vijayadashami celebrations. The fires that burn effigies of Ravana all over the world serve as a reminder of our need to extinguish the evil that's facing our society – the need to defeat poverty, injustice, hate and to attack our own shadows and bad habits," he said.

Starmer took aim at the governing

Conservative Party for dragging the country into the midst of a crisis and declared that after "12 long years", the Labour Party would be the government on the people's side. The Opposition party has been positioning itself for the UK's next general election, due around 2024, and hoping to capitalise on the recent bounce in opinion polls amid declining Tory popularity over an ongoing economic crisis.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the Hindu community for your contribution to Britain, for everything you do for us, whether its culture, business, the financial sector, the NHS, supporting your community through the cost of living. Your contribution to Britain is huge. You are an integral part of Britain, the past, the present and very much the future," said Starmer. (PTI)

Morning drinks for good skin, great hair and weight loss

Regular exercise and proper food not only helps you to build immunity but also keeps your weight in check. To aid the process, all you need to add to your daily routine is a morning drink that will improve your health overall just like a miracle. Result? Good skin. Great hair. And of course, weight loss.

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Add one teaspoon of apple cider vinegar to a lukewarm glass of water and drink it first thing in the morning. Ensure that you do not consume anything in the next 30 minutes of drinking this miracle potion that aids in weight loss, helps to reduce cholesterol and lowers blood sugar levels.

AMLA JUICE

Concentrated amla juice is available in almost every drugstore. Add two tablespoons of the juice to a glass of water and drink it on an empty stomach. Do not eat or drink anything till the next thirty minutes. Amla juice is a perfect drink to boost immunity and also helps in weight loss apart from improving skin and hair.

HONEY LEMON WATER

An age-old remedy, honey lemon water is a preferred drink for weight loss. Add a teaspoon of lemon juice and honey each to a glass of lukewarm water and drink it first thing in the morning.

AMLA ALOE VERA JUICE

The concentrated form of amla and aloe vera juice is also available in drugstores as well as online. Mix 30ml of juice in a glass of water and drink it on an empty stomach in the morning. This mixture contains essential vitamins and improves metabolism and digestion, thereby



aiding weight loss. It acts as a natural detox and promotes clear skin.

GINGER WATER

Add half a teaspoon of ginger zest to a pot of boiling water. After a few minutes, pour the mixture into a glass and allow it to cool for a while. Drink it once it is lukewarm. Ginger water boosts immunity and hydrates the body apart from helping in weight loss and balancing blood sugar levels.

GREEN TEA AND MINT TEA

Boil a cup of water with a few mint leaves. After five minutes, add green tea to the pot. Boil it for five minutes and then, strain it into a cup and drink it in the morning. This is an effective drink for weight loss.

LEMON HONEY & CINNAMON WATER

Mix half a teaspoon of cinnamon powder with some lemon juice and honey. Put the mixture in a glass and add warm water to it. Drink it on an empty stomach. This concoction kills your hunger pangs, thereby aiding in weight loss.

LEMON WATER WITH CHIA SEEDS

Add the juice of half a lemon to a glass of lukewarm water. Mix Chia seeds in this drink and consume it in the morning. It will not only detoxify your body but will also help you in losing weight.

GREEN TEA

If you want to cut a long story short, ditch your regular cup of coffee or chai, and begin your day with green tea. It contains antioxidants and is also great for your skin. Weight loss? Yes, it helps.

Source: India Today

FOOD

Doodhi Ka Halwa

Ingredients

Lauki (bottle gourd) 300 gms
Milk 500 ml
Sugar 20 gms
Khoya 5 gms
Kishmish 2 gms
Cashewnuts 2 gms
Saffron 5 strands
Desi ghee 5 gms
Cardamom powder 1 gm

Method

- Remove the outer skin of bottle gourd (lauki) and grate it.
- Squeeze to remove excess water.
- Heat 3 grams of desi ghee in a handi.
- Add the grated lauki and saute for few minutes till it starts to get translucent.
- Now add milk and stir, till the milk boils and starts reducing.
- Keep stirring as the lauki has to be mashed in the milk and the milk gets completely reduced, this might take 20-30 minutes.
- Now add sugar and stir till the sugar dissolves completely.
- Soak the saffron in luke warm water for 10 minutes and add to the halwa.
- Heat the remaining desi ghee in a small pan and once it is heated, pour over the halwa, mix moderately so that the desi ghee flavor gets infused.
- You can either fry the raisins and cashew nuts or soak them in luke warm water, once done add to the halwa.
- Finish with cardamom powder.
- Serve hot.



Face masks to try for healthy and glowing skin



Banana lemon and honey mask

‘The fibrous fruit not only helps with blood pressure and digestion, but also works wonders for your skin. This banana and honey fruit pack helps exfoliate the skin and gets rid of the clogged pores and dry, dead skin, leaving your skin with a subtle glow.

HOW TO MAKE: Take a couple of mashed bananas and add a tablespoon of honey and lemon juice. Apply this evenly on the face and neck area. Let it dry for about 15 minutes and wash it off with lukewarm water for best results.

Green tea mask

Green tea is extremely rich in antioxidants and does magic to your body, both internally and externally. It works great for oily skin, cures acne issues and its anti-inflammatory properties help fight premature ageing.

HOW TO MAKE: Take two tablespoons of green tea and grind it into a fine powder. Now, add some whipped yogurt and a few drops of an essential oil (optional). Massage the prepared pack thoroughly over your skin. Wash it off with warm water after five minutes.

Papaya and honey face pack

A fruit abundantly rich in antioxidants, papaya is known to treat dark spots and pigmentation with its high vitamin A and vitamin C content. When mixed with the natural humectant honey, it makes a great mask to help treat pigmentation, fine lines, sunburn, and a lot more.

HOW TO MAKE: Mash some semi-raw papaya cubes and add a tablespoon of honey and milk to it. Give all the ingredients a good mix and once it converts into a smooth paste, apply the mask over your face and neck. Let it settle for 15-20 minutes before rinsing it off.

Source: Idiva

Lifting weights once a week linked to reduced risk of premature death: Study

It is well known that aerobic exercises, such as running and cycling, can help you live longer, but less has been known about the effect of lifting weights on longevity.

Now, results from a new study suggest that adding weightlifting to your exercise regime, even in later life, is a sensible thing to do if you want to avoid an early death.

The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, aimed to find out if lifting weights was linked to a lower risk of death from any cause, either on its own or alongside moderate to vigorous exercise.

Moderate-intensity exercise was described as "activity where you worked up a light sweat or increased your breathing and heart rate to moderately high levels", and vigorous activity as "activity strenuous enough to work up a sweat or increase your breathing and heart rate to very high levels".

The researchers led by a team from the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, Maryland, analysed data on just under one lakh men and women from ten cancer centres in the US. The participants had an average age of 71 and an average body-mass index of 27.8 (overweight). They followed the group for just shy of a decade, monitoring deaths from any cause, including heart disease.

Around a quarter of people (23 per cent) reported lifting weights, with 16 per cent doing so regularly – between one and six times a week. And around a third (32 per cent) either met or did more than the recommended amount of aerobic exercise.

Weightlifting and aerobic exercise were independently linked with a lower risk of premature death from any cause, except cancer.

For adults who reported no aerobic activity, any weightlifting was associated with a nine per cent to 22 per cent lower risk of early death, depending on how often they lifted weights. For those who did not lift weights but did any level of aerobic exercise, this was 24 per cent to 34 per cent.

However, the lowest risk was seen in those who did



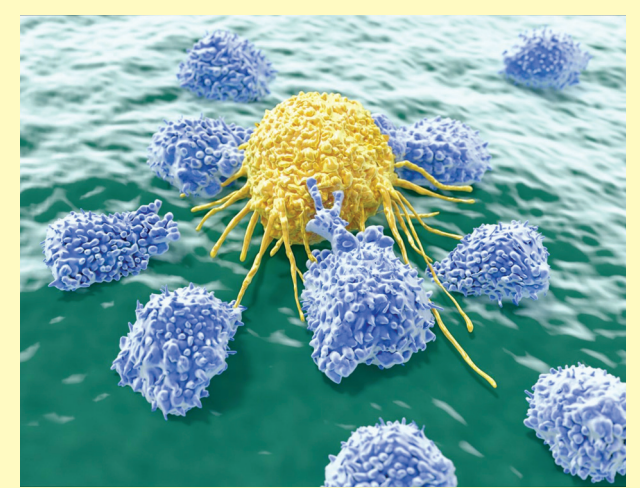
both weightlifting and aerobic exercise. For example, lifting weights once or twice a week and doing at least the recommended amount of aerobic exercise had a 41 per cent to 47 per cent lower risk of premature death.

The study also found that women benefited more from weightlifting than men.

Possible explanations for these findings are that weightlifting may have similar beneficial effects to aerobic exercise. For example, reducing heart disease risk factors by improving blood pressure and blood lipid (cholesterol and triglycerides) profile.

Other recent research that combined studies on muscle strengthening and health outcomes found similar results, but also found a reduced risk of cancer, overall. Perhaps this new study did not find effects for cancer as they were targeting a population already at higher cancer risk, given the participants were part of a cancer screening programme. The best effects were again seen from combining aerobic and strengthening activity. Measuring exercise by asking participants to recall how much they exercised over the past year, for example, is a good option for large observational studies of this type, but it can mean over or under-reporting may influence the findings. A study that used digital devices such as smart watches to measure actual activity would provide more accurate results.

Source: PTI



Researchers find immunotherapies for chemotherapy-resistant breast tumour

The researchers have identified immune cell types that could be targeted to create particular immunotherapies for chemotherapy-resistant breast tumours.

Researchers from King's College London and The Institute of Cancer Research, London, with support from Breast Cancer Now, have performed a deep dive into the different immune markers within tumour tissues and blood samples of early breast cancer patients whose cancer failed to respond to chemotherapy given to them prior to surgery.

The research, published in Clinical Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, gives insight into the function of immune cells in patients with chemotherapy-resistant breast cancers. While chemotherapy may not kill cancer cells in these high-risk patients, immunotherapy, a type of treatment that helps the immune system to attack cancer cells, may provide a benefit.

To investigate the immune environment that surrounds these chemotherapy-resistant tumours, researchers employed multiple and novel complementary technologies looking at proteins and genes on both pre-treatment and post-treatment breast cancer tissue. They also measured how 1,330 cancer and immune-related genes within cancer tissues were affected by chemotherapy.

They found that chemotherapy-resistant cancer cells had very few immune cells around them, but chemotherapy did induce changes in several immune cell types. Specifically, they found increases in the number of "innate" (first responder) cells such as neutrophils and natural killer (NK) cells. NK cells help the body to fight infection and cancer. But the analysis found the increased NK cells in patients with chemotherapy-resistant disease lacked cytotoxic activity - the 'killing instinct'.

Researchers also found that immune-related genes associated with NK cells were those associated with cell inhibition or exhaustion, which meant NK cells were unable to fight cancer cells.

Source: ANI

New drug NMT5 may turn covid virus against itself, fight variants

Scientists in the US have developed a new drug that can turn SARS-CoV-2 against itself, and prevent the deadly virus from infecting humans.

The researchers from The Scripps Research Institute believe that the drug, called NMT5, is likely to be effective against the emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2.

The drug, described in the journal Nature Chemical Biology, coats SARS-CoV-2 with chemicals that can temporarily alter the human ACE2 receptor -- the molecule the virus normally latches onto to infect cells.

When the virus is near, its path into human cells via the ACE2 receptor is blocked. In the absence of the virus, however, ACE2 can function as usual, the researchers said.

"What's so neat about this drug is that we're actually turning the virus against itself," said study senior author Stuart Lipton, a professor at



The Scripps Research Institute.

The team tested a library of compounds and pinpointed NMT5 as having two key properties: It could recognise and attach to a pore on the surface of SARS-CoV-2, and chemically modify human ACE2 using a fragment of nitroglycerin as the warhead.

The researchers realised this could turn the virus into a delivery vehicle for its own demise.

They characterised and tested NMT5 in isolated cells as well as animals. The study showed how NMT5 attaches tightly to SARS-CoV-2 viral particles as the viruses move through the body.

The researchers then revealed the details of how the drug adds a chemical, similar to nitroglycerin, to certain molecules if it gets close enough. When the virus gets near ACE2 to infect a cell, it translates into NMT5 adding a "nitro group" to the receptor.

When ACE2 is modified in this way, its structure temporarily shifts -- for about 12 hours -- so that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can no longer bind to it to cause infection.

"What's really beautiful is that this only knocks down availability of ACE2 locally when the virus is coming at it. It doesn't knock down all the function of ACE2 elsewhere in the body, allowing for normal function of this protein," said Lipton.

Source: PTI

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Ingenuity helicopter spots mysterious foreign object on Mars

Engineers flying the Ingenuity helicopter on Mars have spotted a foreign object on the surface in the footage beamed back by the helicopter. The object was seen in the helicopter's navigation camera footage during its 33rd hop on the alien world.

The Jet propulsion Laboratory, which flies the quadcopter on Mars, said that the foreign object debris was not visible in Navcam footage from the previous flight. The helicopter has been revving up its wings as it continues to aid Perseverance in the search for ancient microbial life on Mars.

"The FOD is seen in Flight 33 Navcam imagery from the earliest frames to approximately halfway through the video when it fell from the leg and drifted back to the Mars surface," JPL said in a blog update.

While the telemetry data indicate that the machine is not damaged, post-flight search and transfer have come out to be nominal. "The Ingenuity and Perseverance Mars 2020 teams are working to discern the source of the debris," JPL added in its update about the quadcopter.

The 33rd flight for the helicopter on Mars saw it climb to an altitude of 10 meters above the surface, covering a distance of 111.238 meters. The helicopter revved at a speed of 4.75 meters per second and remained airborne for 55.61 seconds. The aim of the flight was to reposition the helicopter.

The small, autonomous aircraft has been on Mars for over a year now, during which it has not only demonstrated its ability to fly in the Red Planet's thin air, but also act as a guide for the Perseverance rover. Ingenuity was deployed to the surface on April 4, 2021, and on April 19, it became the first aircraft in history to make a powered, controlled flight on another planet.

No fuel, India's Mars Orbiter craft quietly bids adieu

India's Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery has drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that the country's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings.

The Rs 450 crore Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was launched onboard PSLV-C25 on November 5, 2013, and the MOM spacecraft was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

"Right now, there is no fuel left. The satellite battery has drained," sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. "The link has been lost".

There was, however, no official word from the country's national space agency, headquartered in Bengaluru.

With fuel on board, ISRO had been performing orbital manoeuvres on MOM spacecraft to take it to a new orbit to avoid an impending eclipse in the past.

"But recently, there were back-to-back eclipses including one that lasted seven-and-a-half hours," officials said on condition of anonymity, noting that all the propellant on board the ageing satellite had been consumed.

"As the satellite battery is designed to handle eclipse duration of only about one hour and 40 minutes, a longer eclipse would drain the battery beyond the safe limit," another official said.

ISRO officials noted that the Mars orbiter craft functioned for almost eight years, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"It has done its job and yielded significant scientific results," they said.

Meanwhile, plans on a follow-on 'Mangalyaan' mission to the red planet, however, are yet to be firmed up.

Source: PTI

Big Tech firms to empower disabled users with sound recognition

The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (UIUC) has announced a new Speech Accessibility Project with big tech companies like Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft, and Meta.

The aim of the project is to improve voice recognition for users with disabilities and different speech patterns including users with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Parkinson's, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other diseases that affect speech.

"Speech interfaces should be available to everybody, and that includes people with disabilities," said Mark Hasegawa-Johnson, a UIUC professor.

The Speech Accessibility Project will gather speech samples from people with a variety of speech patterns to include communities of people with disabilities like Parkinson's.

To contribute voice samples and help create a private unidentified dataset, the UIUC will hire paid volunteers. At first, the group will focus on American English.

The initiative has received support commitments from Team Gleason (ALS) and the Davis Phinney Foundation (Parkinson's).

"Part of that commitment includes ensuring people with Parkinson's have access to the tools, technologies, and resources needed to live their best lives," said Polly Dawkins, the Davis Phinney Foundation's Executive Director.

"Parkinson's affects motor symptoms, making typing difficult, so speech recognition is a critical tool for communication and expression," she added.

Facebook Parent Meta Launches AI Software Tools to Ease Switching Between Nvidia, AMD Chips

Facebook parent Meta said on Monday it has launched a new set of free software tools for artificial intelligence applications that could make it easier for developers to switch back and forth between different underlying chips.

Meta's new open-source AI platform is based on an open-source machine learning framework called PyTorch, and can help code run up to 12 times faster on Nvidia's flagship A100 chip or up to four times faster on AMD's MI250 chip, it said.

But just as important as the speed boost is the flexibility the software can provide, Meta said in a blog



Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft are working with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) on its Speech Accessibility Project, which aims to make voice recognition more inclusive.

post. The software has become a key battleground for chipmakers seeking to build up an ecosystem of developers to use their chips. Nvidia's CUDA platform has been the most popular so far for artificial intelligence work.

However, once developers tailor their code for Nvidia chips, it is difficult to run it on graphics processing units, or GPUs, from Nvidia competitors like AMD. Meta said the software is designed to easily swap between chips without being locked in.

"The unified GPU back-end support gives deep learning developers more hardware vendor choices with minimal migration costs," Meta said in its blog post.

Meta's software is made for AI work called inference, which is when machine learning algorithms that previously have been trained on huge amounts of data are called on to make quick judgments, such as deciding whether a photograph is of a cat or a dog.

"This is a software effort that is multi-platform. And it's a testament to the importance of software, particularly for deploying neural networks in machine learning for inference," said David Kanter, a founder of MLCommons, an independent group that measures AI speed.

EU mandates USB Type-C as common charger for mobile phones, tablets by 2024

Common charger for mobile devices will soon be a reality as the European parliament on Tuesday passed a new law requiring USB Type-C to be the single charger for all mobile phones and tablets from 2024, a press release by the EU Parliament read.

The new law, adopted by plenary on Tuesday with 602 votes in favour, 13 against and 8 abstentions, is part of a broader EU effort to reduce e-waste and to empower consumers to make more sustainable choices.

This move will be benefitting the environment and the consumers. USB Type-C port will be the new standard for portable devices, offering high-quality charging and data transfers.

By the end of 2024, all mobile phones, tablets and cameras sold in the EU will have to be equipped with a USB Type-C charging port. From spring 2026, the obligation will extend to laptops.

Buyers will be able to choose whether to purchase a new device with or without a charging device. Following Parliament's approval, EU consumers will soon be able to use a single charging solution for their electronic devices, the press release added.

Under the new rules, consumers will no longer need a



different charger every time they purchase a new device, as they will be able to use one single charger for a whole range of small and medium-sized portable electronic devices.

Regardless of their manufacturer, all new mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld videogame consoles and portable speakers, e-readers, keyboards, mice, portable navigation systems, earbuds and laptops that are rechargeable via a wired cable, operating with a power delivery of up to 100 Watts, will have to be equipped with a USB Type-C port.

Source: ANI

ELON MUSK MAY GO AHEAD WITH ORIGINAL PRICE OF \$54.20 A SHARE FOR TWITTER

Elon Musk is proposing to buy Twitter Inc. for the original offer price of \$54.20 a share, potentially avoiding a courtroom fight over one of the most contentious acquisitions in recent history.

Musk made the proposal in a letter to Twitter, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing confidential information. Shares in Twitter climbed as much as 18% on the news, and is now halted. Representatives for Musk and for San Francisco-based Twitter didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Musk's proposal to match the original deal terms means Twitter is facing a future under the leadership of a mercurial billionaire who has spent months publicly criticizing its management and questioning its value. It also means that his claims - about how many of Twitter's users are bots, for instance - are not likely to be scrutinized in a courtroom.

Musk had been trying for months to back out of his contract to acquire Twitter, signed in April. Musk began showing signs of buyer's remorse shortly after the deal was announced, alleging that Twitter had misled him about the size of its user base and the prevalence of automated accounts known as bots.

RECESSION AVOIDABLE WITH RIGHT FISCAL POLICIES: IMF

Global recession can be avoided if governments' fiscal policies were consistent with monetary policy tightening, but likely there would be countries falling into recession next year, the International Monetary Fund's managing director Kristalina Georgieva said. In the context of monetary policy tightening, fiscal policy cannot stay idle because the cost of living crisis is hitting parts of society dramatically, Georgieva said.

She said fiscal policies that indiscriminately support everybody by suppressing energy prices and providing subsidies are working against monetary policies' purposes. "So you have monetary policy putting a foot on the brakes and fiscal policy putting a foot on the accelerator," she said, after taking part in a conference on food security in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Governments across the globe have stepped in to support their populations amid high food inflation and shortages by following the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes, sending shockwaves through financial markets and the economy.

Earlier, a United Nations agency warned of the serious consequences of a monetary policy-induced global recession for developing countries. It called for a new strategy, including corporate windfall taxes, supply-side efforts and regulation on commodity speculation.

UN agency warns of recession linked to 'imprudent' monetary policy

A United Nations agency warned on Monday of the risk of a monetary policy-induced global recession that would have especially serious consequences for developing countries and called for a new strategy.

"Excessive monetary tightening could usher in a period of stagnation and economic instability" for some countries, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a statement released alongside its annual report.

"Any belief that they (central banks) will be able to bring down prices by relying on higher interest rates without generating a recession is, the report suggests, an imprudent gamble," it said.

The report said that higher interest rates, including hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve, would have a more severe impact on emerging economies, which already have high levels of private and public debt. The report, entitled "Development prospects in a fractured world", also warned of a potential debt crisis in the developing world.

"The current course of action is hurting vulnerable people everywhere, especially in developing countries. We must change course," UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan told a press conference in Geneva.

Asked about solutions, she suggested



there were other ways to bring inflation down, mentioning windfall taxes on corporations, better regulations to control commodity speculation and efforts to resolve supply-side bottlenecks.

"If you want to use only one instrument to bring inflation down...the only possibility is to bring the world to a slowdown that will end up in a recession," she said.

Overall, UNCTAD revised down its 2022 global growth projection to 2.5% from the earlier 2.6% estimated in its March assessment. It expects growth of 2.2% in 2023.

The International Monetary Fund also warned last month that some countries may slip into recession next year and revised its growth forecast downwards.

Source: Reuters

Four Indian-Americans in Forbes 400 rich list

Indian-Americans Vinod Khosla, Romesh Wadhvani and Rakesh Gangwal made it to the Forbes 2022 list of 400 wealthiest Americans with Zscaler CEO Jay Chaudhry leading the pack with a net worth of \$8.2 billion.

Overall, Tesla's Elon Musk earned the top spot for the first time, unseating former Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who had held the top spot for four consecutive years.

As a group, the 400 wealthiest Americans are worth \$4 trillion, \$500 billion less than last year, Forbes noted.

Chaudhry, 63, who founded the cybersecurity firm Zscaler in 2008, is ranked 79. He and his family members own 42 per cent of the Nasdaq-listed firm which went public in March 2018.

Before Zscaler, Chaudhry had founded four other tech companies that were all acquired -- SecureIT, CoreHarbor, CipherTrust, and AirDefense. In 1996, Chaudhry and his wife quit their jobs and used their life savings to launch SecureIT, their first startup.

Chaudhry had moved to the US in 1980 to attend graduate school. He now lives in Reno, Nevada.

With a net worth of \$5.2 billion, Vinod Khosla (67) was ranked 181. His firm, Khosla Ventures, invests in experimental technologies such as biomedicine and robotics. Khosla had co-founded the computer hardware firm Sun Microsystems in 1982 with Andy Bechtolsheim, Bill Joy, and Scott McNealy.

Romesh T. Wadhvani (67), founder and chairman of Symphony Technology Group, was ranked 196 with a net worth of \$5.1 billion. He stepped down as CEO of SymphonyAI at the start of 2022 in a move to ready the firm for a potential public offering. He is also the chairman of ConcertAI, an AI company focused on healthcare and life sciences that was valued at \$1.9 billion by venture capital investors in March 2022.

With a net worth of \$3.7 billion, airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal (69) made his fortune from InterGlobe Aviation, the parent outfit of budget airline IndiGo, India's largest by market share. He started his airline career with United Airlines in 1984



Vinod Khosla, Romesh Wadhvani and Rakesh Gangwal made it to the Forbes 2022 list.

and went on to run US Airways Group as its chief executive and chairman. Gangwal had cofounded IndiGo with Rahul Bhatia in 2006 with one aircraft. The Miami resident, who is ranked 261 on the list, owns close to 37 per cent of the company

Source: IANS

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 10 TO OCTOBER 16 , 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, due to your upbeat and optimistic energy, this week will be excellent for you. You must make sure that you do all jobs with complete confidence. Your share exchange earnings will rise this week. You'll be working on the right tasks this week. The best time to change professions is not this week. Your tenacity will also be retained. This week, you'll have a lot of duties to carry out. You'll appear distant in your connection with your partner. You'll effectively manage your marriage-related situation this week. This week, your physical condition will be in terrific form.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, this week, you're going to change your routine significantly. Your ability to manage your emotional and business life will increase. You'll advance in your industry and that of your business. Avoid speaking with political representatives this week. In regards of your love life, you'll feel more comfortable revealing yourself, which will motivate you to begin a new relationship. You will feel so much healthier this week in terms of your health as a result of practicing awareness and meditation.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, this week, you'll feel way stronger and be properly equipped for the workplace. Your pleasant vibe will actually lead to gravitate toward you. You should use more restraint while making snap decisions if you work in the healthcare or pharmaceutical sector. Additionally, this week is a wonderful time to begin a new betting addiction. Keep clear from business conferences this week. With the assistance of colleagues and relatives, you and your partner will make plans for your destiny in regards of your romantic relationship. Your wellness will likely need some care this week. Don't assume anything; you could have to cope with a pulmonary disease this week.



CANCER : Ganesha says, although your week will proceed without a hiccup, you should keep an eye on your children this week since someone is staring at them with hate. This week, you'll probably get a fabulous job recommendation for your field. This week, your reliable connection will spring to your aid. Rahu's detrimental impact on your home fronts might stir outrage. Long distance travel should be avoided. Avoid touching anything unpleasant as well. Your spouse has been expecting for you to talk up wedding with your love relationship; the moment is here. Perform it since you're equipped, not as you want to wow everybody.



LEO : Ganesha says, in order to attract beneficial energies, prepare to start a cooperative business this week. Create a plan and talk about it with your companion. Even if you are a good person, you could predict receiving a lot of affluent advantages this week. This week, your analytical outlook and insightful nature will aid you in persuading people. This week will be unusual as you and your partner will be on the identical path and will address important marriage issues, even if you and your substantial other may regularly have divergent opinions and consider life uncomfortable.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, you'll be capable to stay on task this week sans becoming distracted. Be cautious even though you can experience some sudden changes that impair your ability to make well-informed decisions. Be less agitated than usual to avoid forgetting your obligations. Later on in the week, people will recognize you. You must trust your instincts even if your companion or family friends don't confirm your fears. You're going to make and extravagant property purchase. this week. This week, your endurance will be good, but you still require following your regimen. You'll be well-built and have a highly correct mindset this week.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, with whatever you do, you'll be able to quickly see positive outcomes. This week is not very terrible, but avoid making someone appear inadequate this week, whether on purpose or accidentally. Your employment is where you devote the bulk of your energy. This week, you'll have to operate past your normal schedule, and your coworkers will ask you for help. You'll need to begin putting what you learned this week into practice. It's a great day to start developing your study habits. In the upcoming, your lover will have higher expectations of you. Regardless of if you are not an outgoing personality, interactions are all about giving and accepting. You will try to be more affectionate this week.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, this week, taking into account other individuals' viewpoints will help you make the right decisions. Your kids will make you happy this week. All day long, they will bring a grin to your face. You will feel privileged to have children, and you must make an effort to show your appreciation in order to raise their sense of self-worth. This week, you and your partner must complete a fascinating and challenging task. You'll each discover anything unexpected about the other this week. You will struggle to complete several important activities that were supposed to be completed sans failure this week.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, you will process a boatload of information this week, both pleasant and bad, and this will serve as the beginning of a fresh framework for you. So rather than making a huge leap, take small steps. Keep unnecessary expensive acquisitions and don't add resources to your firm. This week, your romance with your significant other will be wonderful, but you'll be preoccupied with an addiction. Refocus your attention by recalling the first reasons you started in romance. This week, your long-gone headache will resurface and bring you a tremendous deal of pain. Switch doctors and try a new treatment this time. Methods are mainly might lead to the destruction of your optimistic views, therefore avoid doing it.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be really grateful for your financial situation because you'll have successfully created a new source of income. This week, your irritating disposition will be subdued. Your parents will direct you in the right direction and motivate you to move on with their advice. Be less concerned about your condition; things will be OK. This week, you'll be liberated of medical issues that have bothered you for a very lengthy moment. On the emotional aspect, your partner will say anything you don't appreciate, but don't be offended; rather, try to understand it from their perspective. The secret to your pleasure is kindness.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, this week you will experience healthier because of your kindness. You'll be able to meet new people this week. Your reliability will also increase this week. Your acts will likely be more guarded, but people will still question your motivations. You're going to do really well in the financial exchange this week. You'll be allowed to keep up your romantic facades this week. There will be no damage done to your buddy in any form. Even though this week isn't the best for you, your condition will ultimately get better. Don't worry about it.



PISCES : Ganesha says, you don't seem to be able to give your task your whole focus recently. This week, you'll be able to solve the issue, and the Sun's blessings will help you regain your composure. Once you've established a pattern, check to see if you're making the most of your schedule. Individuals who work in educational or specialized occupations should anticipate getting paid for their work and having their accomplishments acknowledged. Monetary industry employees will be able to handle their monetary issues. You'll be in good condition and able to make significant dietary modifications.

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 10 TO OCTOBER 16, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

OCTOBER 10 : Ganesha says although productive, this day's returns will be gradual, so you must give it your all. While it will be better to conduct business today, partnerships and joint ventures should be absolutely avoided. You'll feel disappointed and frustrated if you can't get people to support your current endeavor. Romance will flourish, and some lovers may even decide to get married.

OCTOBER 11 : Ganesha says women will experience great rewards during this time. Prosperity and luck will come your way if the stars are kind to you. Your living conditions and savings will improve with good financial flow. It will take some time before you are able to think clearly again if you become infatuated with the other sex. If you take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to you, your professional career is predicted to take a remarkable leap. There will be some worry about your parents' health but try not to worry too much.

OCTOBER 12 : Ganesha says your expenses will increase this day, 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 day, you will be happy and content with your accomplishments.

OCTOBER 13 : Ganesha says this day financial gains will be from several fronts but doubt over your relationship is likely to be one black area on your chart of success and achievements. Socializing, gatherings, and enjoyable outings will all be frequent and enjoyable. Wedding bells will ring for those eligible and others will find romance to keep them going. Do not trust others more than required. Time management and planning will be of immense importance.

OCTOBER 14 : Ganesha says a promotion or an increase in responsibilities on this day 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 15 : Ganesha says you'll have reasons to rejoice this day if you get a promotion or get more responsibility. Your resume will look more polished with new projects. There will be a better and more loving environment at home, which will result in prosperity and good health. Professionals seeking for a career overseas will be well received. Housewives will have to deal with the frequent appearance of visitors and family members. It is possible to journey to a far-off location for spiritual advancement.

OCTOBER 16 : Ganesha says you are skilled at making new connections, which helps you gain a lot of popularity and advantages. Through the new contacts you make this day, 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.

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Karwa Chauth

Karwa Chauth is considered to be a very special day in the life of a married woman. It is a one day festival in which married women observe fast from sunrise to moonrise with much fervor and gaiety. The day falls on the fourth day of Kartik month in Hindu calendar, about nine days before Diwali in the month of either October or November. On this day, the married women specially pray to Goddess Gauri (Parvati) seeking the well-being, prosperity and safety of their husband.

Origin

Karva is another word for 'pot' (a small earthen pot of water) and chauth means 'fourth' in Hindi (a reference to the fact that the festival falls on the fourth day of the dark-fortnight, or krishna paksh, of the month of Kartik).

The festival originated and came to be celebrated only in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. The hypothesis is that military campaigns were often conducted by Hindus who were defending India against Mughal invaders, they would often leave their wives and children to go off to war. Their wives would often pray and celebrate a day of socialising, with other women, by preparing special meals, and dressing up in their finest regalia, and having what would today be deemed as a romantic evening with their husband before he went off to war.

Women whose husbands had already gone off to war, join the fast to pray for the safety of their husbands at this time as they ventured away from home to defend India. The festival coincides with the wheat-sowing time (i.e., the beginning of the Rabi crop cycle). Big earthen pots in which wheat is stored are sometimes called Karvas, so the fast may have begun as a prayer for a good harvest in this predominantly wheat-eating region.

There is another story about the origin of this festival. Earlier, girls sometimes barely teenagers used to get married, go and live with their in-laws in very remote villages. Everyone would be a stranger there for the new bride. In case she had any problems with her husband or in-laws, she would have no one to talk to or seek support from. Her own parents and relatives would be quite far and unreachable. Telephones, buses and trains were not heard of in those days. People had to walk almost a whole day to go from one place to other. Once the girl left her parent's home for in-laws, she might not be back before long. Thus the custom started that, at the time of marriage, when bride would reach her in-laws, she would befriend another woman there who would be her friend (kangan-saheli) or sister (dharam-behn) for life. It would be similar to god-friends or god-sisters.

Their friendship would be sanctified through a small Hindu ceremony right during the marriage. The bride's friend would usually be of the same age (or slightly older), married into the same village (so that she would not go away) and not directly related to her in-laws (so there was no conflict of interest later).

Emotionally and psychologically, it would be very healthy and comforting for the bride to have her own 'relative' near her. Once the bride and this woman had become god-friends or god-sisters, they would recognize their relation as such. They would treat each other like real sisters. During any issues later in life, involving even the husband or in-laws, these women would be able to confidently talk or seek help from each other. Moreover, the bride's parents would treat her friend just like their own daughter. Thus Karwa Chauth started as a festival to celebrate this special bond of friendship between the brides and their god-friends. A few days before Karwa Chauth, married women would buy new karvas (spherical clay pots) -- 7"-9" in diameter and 2-3 litres capacity and paint them on the outside with beautiful designs. Inside they would put bangles and ribbons, home-made candy and sweets, make-up items, and small clothes. The women would then visit each other on the day of Karwa Chauth and exchange these karvas.

Rituals

Women begin preparing for Karwa Chauth a few days in advance, by buying cosmetics (shringar), traditional adornments or jewelry, and puja items, such as the Karva lamps, matthi, henna and the decorated puja thali (plate). Local bazaars take on a festive look as shopkeepers put their Karwa Chauth related products



Important information

Karwa Chauth 2022

Thursday, 13th October 2022.

Karwa Chauth Puja Muhurat : 05:54 PM to 07:09 PM

Karwa Chauth Vrat Time : 06:20 AM to 08:09 PM

Moonrise on Karwa Chauth Day : 08:09 PM

Chaturthi Tithi Begins - 13 October 2022 at 01:59 AM

Chaturthi Tithi Ends - 14 October 2022 at 03:08 AM

Begins: Fourth day of the waning moon fortnight (Krishna paksha) in the month of Kartik

on display. On the day of the fast, women from Punjab awake to eat and drink just before sunrise. In Uttar Pradesh, celebrants eat soot feni with milk in sugar on the eve of the festival. It is said that this helps them go without water the next day. In Punjab, sargi is an important part of this pre-dawn meal and always includes fenja. It is traditional for the sargi to be sent or given to the woman by her mother-in-law. If the mother-in-law lives with the woman, the pre-dawn meal is prepared by the mother-in-law.

The fast begins with dawn. Fasting women do not eat during the day. In traditional observances of the fast, the fasting woman does no housework. Women apply henna and other cosmetics to themselves and each other. The day passes in meeting friends and relatives. In some regions, it is customary to give and exchange painted clay pots filled with put bangles, ribbons, home-made candy, cosmetics and small cloth items (e.g., handkerchiefs). Since Karwa Chauth follows soon after the Kharif crop harvest in the rural areas, it is a good time for community festivities and gift exchanges. Parents often send gifts to their married daughters and their children.

In the evening, a community women-only ceremony is held. Participants dress in fine clothing and wear jewellery and henna, and (in some regions) dress in the complete finery of their wedding dresses. The dresses (saris or shalwars) are frequently red, gold or orange, which are considered auspicious colors. In Uttar Pradesh, women wear saris or lehngas. The fasters sit in a circle with their puja thalis. Depending on region and community, a version of the story of Karwa Chauth is narrated, with regular pauses. The storyteller is

usually an older woman or a priest, if one is present. In the pauses, the Karwa Chauth puja song is sung collectively the singers perform the feris (passing their thalis around in the circle).

The fera ceremony concluded, the women await the rising of the moon. Once the moon is visible, depending on the region and community, it is customary for a fasting woman, with her husband nearby, to view its reflection in a vessel filled with water, through a sieve, or through the cloth of a dupatta. Water is offered (arka) to the moon (som or chandra, the lunar deity) to secure its blessings. She then turns to her husband and views his face indirectly in the same manner. In some regions, the woman says a brief prayer asking for her husband's life. It is believed that at this stage, spiritually strengthened by her fast, the woman can successfully confront and defeat death (personified by Yama). In Rajasthan the women say "Like the gold necklace and the pearl bracelet, just like the moon may my suhaag always shine brightly."

The husband now takes the water from the thali and gives his wife her first sip and feeds her with the first morsel of the day (usually something sweet). The fast is now broken, and the woman has a complete meal.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1**Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress President Sonia Gandhi joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mandya**

Congress President Sonia Gandhi joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which resumed its journey in Pandavapura in Karnataka's Mandya district on Thursday, October 6, after a two-day Dasara break.

She joined the padayatra led by her son and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for some time after it left Bellale village in Mandya district on Thursday, October 6 morning. Several other party leaders including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D K Shivakumar walked alongside within a security ring thrown around her.

Ms. Gandhi has joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra for the first time since it began on September 7 and wound its way through parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala before entering Karnataka on September 30.

The morale of the Congress party in poll-bound Karnataka, which has been on a high ever since the yatra entered the State, has received a fresh boost with the entry of Ms. Gandhi, who arrived in Mysuru on Tuesday and spent the last two days at a forest resort in Kabini when the Bharat Jodo Yatra was on a two-day break for Dasara festival.

India expected to grow at a slowed down rate of 6.5% in FY22-23: World Bank

The Indian economy is expected to speed up to 7.0% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in

FY24-25

The World Bank has estimated that India will grow 6.5% in the current fiscal year (FY22-23), after having grown at 8.7% in the fiscal year ended March 31.

The estimate for the current year was revised downwards by one percentage point since June due to persistent pressures. The Indian economy is expected to speed up to 7.0% in the next fiscal year, before settling back down to 6.1% in FY24-25.

With Sri Lanka's economic crisis, the devastating floods in Pakistan, and recovery from the pandemic impacted by the war in Ukraine, recovery in the region will be uneven, with the economies that are more services-led (India, Nepal, and Maldives) expected to "maintain a reasonable recovery trend despite headwinds."

Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are more at risk and will see poverty increase in 2022.

The slowing in India's growth during the current fiscal year, relative to the previous one, was because most of the COVID recovery happened last year, the report said. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, global monetary tightening, high commodity prices and interest rates impacting domestic demand (especially private consumption in FY2023-24), contributing to this slowing. Manufacturing and services have been expanding in India since January and growing at a rate faster than the rest of the world. With a relaxing of COVID restrictions, economic activity had picked up, as had demand in contact-intensive sectors.

Output had grown at an estimated 13.5% (year on year) in the April -June period this year, a contraction however, relative to the preceding quarter.

Services and construction had expanded the fastest on the production side, the report said, and private demand had grown year on year, but this was largely

due to a low base effect from the second quarter of 2021 when the economy was reeling under the delta wave of Covid.

Although India growth estimates are above the South Asian average, there is weakness in employment and supply chains, the report says, with supply chain delays having improved only marginally since June this year. While India's economy-wide employment index is improving on a monthly basis, it is doing so at speeds slower than the rest of the world (barring Asia).

While private consumption in India increased overall in quarter 2 of 2022, the recovery across income groups has been uneven, as per the World Bank. High income households' consumption of contact-intensive services and consumer goods recovered, but for rural and low-income households, consumption was weak. Return of migrant workers to their places of work has also been slow, impacting household incomes in cases where migrants are sending money home.

"Pandemics, sudden swings in global liquidity and commodity prices, and extreme weather disasters were once tail-end risks. But all three have arrived in rapid succession over the past two years and are testing South Asia's economies," said Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for the South Asian region.

"In the face of these shocks, countries need to build stronger fiscal and monetary buffers, and reorient scarce resources towards strengthening resilience to protect their people," he said.

As a whole, South Asia, excluding Afghanistan, is forecast to grow at 5.8% for the current calendar year and the next two years, having grown at 7.8% in 2021. The Sri Lanka forecast is particularly severe - a contraction of 9.2% this calendar year and a contraction of 4.2% next year before it a growth forecast of 1% in 2024.

CONTD FROM PAGE 12**Experts call for 'pragmatic engagement' with Pakistan**

"There is also a need for acceptance within the Pakistani leadership that all of Pakistan's problems, especially terrorism and militancy, cannot be laid at the door of the US," it said.

Regarding security cooperation, the report said, "The US has long doubted Pakistan's commitment to act against militant extremist groups that operate from its soil, especially those that focus on India and Afghanistan."

Referring to Pakistan's presence on the grey list of the UN Financial Action Task Force (FATF), it says, "While it is likely that Pakistan will finally be taken off that list, some monitoring by the US and the international community will continue to be needed to assure Pakistan's compliance with FATF demands."

The report noted that Pakistan "continues to see relations with India as a zero-sum game" and that "the more US equities in India increase, the more Pakistan becomes apprehensive." Further, the authors of the report said while it should be clear that the US sees no role for itself as a mediator in Kashmir, yet it needs to remain engaged as "a major terrorist attack in India blamed on Pakistan-based militants, or some other type of precipitating event, could cause a wider conflict that has the potential to escalate to use of nuclear weapons".

The report said Pakistan "has a long history of curbing dissent, of impeding the work of civil society organizations and suppressing media freedoms. Unfortunately, in recent years that has only worsened."

It calls upon the US "to continue its support for Pakistan's civil society, media and press, academia and policy world. According to the report, Pakistan needs to guarantee rights to its own citizens, protect rights of its minorities.

"The US will need to keep an eye on terrorist groups, both domestic and global, and Pakistan too needs to deal less selectively in addressing the threats posed by its militant extremist groups," the reports said.

It also recommended that the US must continue efforts, including at multilateral forums, to remind Pakistan about the need to act against terrorist groups and individuals on its soil.

"Pakistan has long insisted that terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Muhammad or Lashkar-e-Taiba are too powerful and pervasive for the military establishment to challenge easily and that it needs time to act against them," the report said.

It added that the US should work behind the scenes and in subtle ways to pressure Pakistan to continue to crack down on these groups within its territory. "Gulf Arab countries, too, must be encouraged to pressure Pakistan in changing its direction," the report said.

Authors of the report include former US ambassadors to Pakistan, Ryan Crocker and Cameron Munter; former assistant secretary of state Robin Raphel; Kamran Bokhari, Director, Analytical Development, New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy; Toby Dalton, co-director and a senior fellow of the Nuclear Policy Programme at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Among other authors are Husain Haqqani, former Pakistan ambassador to the US and Director South and Central Asia, Hudson Institute; Elizabeth Threlkeld, Director, South Asia Programme, Stimson Center; Dr Harlan K Ullman, Senior Advisor, Atlantic Council; Dr Marvin Weinbaum, Scholar-in-Residence, Middle East Institute; and Uzair Younus, Director Pakistan Initiative, Atlantic Council.

CONTD FROM PAGE 13**Shreya Ghosal to celebrate her twenty years in Bollywood with an international music tour**

This is going to be the ultimate musical tour to celebrate twenty years of iconic singer Shreya Ghoshal which will bring back timeless tunes and memories from her singing journey to the music lovers. This special concert tour is organized by one of the biggest event organizers 'Intense Entertainment' owned by Manish Sood and Deepa Shahani Sood, both Indian-

born-US citizens now, who hosted more than 85 shows with every Bollywood renowned singer. This high-profile international large-scale live-music concert will be a seven-city tour across the US in the month of November 2022 and has been going to other parts of countries this whole year. The tour starts on the 4th Nov in New Jersey, followed by Dallas, Texas on the 5th Nov, Washington, DC on 11th Nov, Oakland, Bay Area on 12th Nov, Los Angeles on 13th Nov, Orlando, Florida on 18th Nov, and New York on the 19th November 2022. They promise to be the nights of coming together and enjoying their favorite singer's enthralling performances for the Indian diaspora and Bollywood music lovers in the US.

On being asked about the tour, Shreya Ghoshal excitedly said, "This US tour is very special for me as I am completing twenty years in Bollywood, and what a beautiful way to celebrate my journey with my fans. Coincidentally this is my first tour in the US after the unfortunate pandemic disruption. I am humbled to be a part of the concert and to be able to continue entertaining my fans. I always had an amazing experience performing for the warm crowd of the US and I am quite excited to perform there after three long years."

The fans in the US can expect a scintillating and energetic performance from the popular Bollywood songstress. With a beautiful versatile vocal range, Shreya will enthrall fans not only with her popular Bollywood hits but also with her famous love ballads, regional songs in different Indian languages, folk songs originating from different parts of India exhibiting the culture, raag-based songs as well as classical songs.

Talking about the event, Mr. Manish Sood said, "There is a certain excitement about attending a live concert and we can't be happier bringing back the symphonic singer Shreya who has given us glorious music. The idea behind Shreya Ghoshal's US Tour is to celebrate her journey as well as it will be a tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar Ji. We are ready to make new memories and cherish old ones on this tour."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Rameshwaram: The Bridge on the Indian Ocean

Rameshwaram is located on a beautiful island in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is separated by a small Pamban channel from Sri Lanka. According to Hindu mythology, this is the place where Lord Rama created a bridge across the sea to Sri Lanka.

Rameshwaram has the first sea bridge connecting the town of Mandapam with Pamban Island, and Rameswaram. Abandoned town of Dhanushkodi is also located on Pamban Island which was a bustling town until it got destroyed in 1964 by cyclone.

Renowned for its magnificent prakaras with massive sculptured pillars on either side, The Ramanathaswamy Temple houses the longest corridor in the world. Agniteertham is famous for its sacred waters and Pilgrims perform pujas in honour of their ancestors at this seashore. The five-faced Hanuman Temple holds the floating stone which was used to build the bridge between India and Sri Lanka.

Places To Visit

Rameshwaram Temple

A perfect blend of mind-boggling architecture and spiritual significance, Rameshwaram Temple, also known as Ramanathaswamy Temple of Tamil Nadu is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It also boasts of being one of the 12 Jyotirlinga temples of India. Not just spiritually, Rameshwaram Temple is appealing architecturally also. With the longest corridor of the world and immaculate carvings on pillars, it is definitely a treat for your eyes.

The lingam in the Rameshwaram Temple was installed by Lord Rama but, the construction was led by several rulers over the centuries. Inside the temple, there are two lingams-Ramalingam and Shivalingam. The latter is still worshipped first to preserve the words of Lord Rama. Besides daily Abhishkams and pujas performed with great zeal, there are absorbing festivals worth witnessing.

Dhanushkodi Temple and Beach

Dhanushkodi was until a few years ago a wonderful temple on the southern tip of India. However, due to a natural calamity, the cyclone, it got completely washed away.

It holds the advantage of being on an island and is exquisitely covered by waters on all the four sides of it. It is sandwiched between the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. When viewed from a birds eye, The seas are in the shape of bow and arrow. The arrow head is considered to be a sacred place for worship by the Hindus and people from far and wide come there to offer sacred prayers to the deity. Lord Rama has his pious foot marks in this temple and the whole story of Ramayana revolves around this temple island. It is a wonderful pilgrim place for the followers of Lord Rama. The place is an



approximate of 18 kms from Rameshwaram and one can easily travel by road.

Jatayu Tirtham

Jatayu tirtham is the holy temple constructed in the memory of Jatayu, who was the most loyal eagle of Rama and who helped lord Rama at various instances in getting herbs from the mountains.

It is said that this eagle lost its life in order to save the life of lord Rama and hence its sacrifice is always appreciated and it is worshiped as a deity even today. It was buried in the soil when it died and Jatayu temple has been created at the place of its burial. The whole of its pit was filled with vibhuti, which is the holy ash that is obtained after the yagnas. It is believed that it was buried in the soil whenafter death and Jatayu temple has been created at the place of its burial. The whole of its pit was filled with vibhuti, which is the holy ash that is obtained after the yagnas.

Agnitheertham

One of the 64 sacred baths in Rameshwaram, the Agniteertham is one of the most important theertham and receives a large number of tourists each day. Located on the beach side of Sri Ramanathaswamy temple, Agniteertham is the only theertham sited outside the temple complex.

In the Sanskrit language, the word agni means fire; while the word theertham means holy water. Agniteertham has been mentioned several times in the ancient texts and mythological legends as a pilgrimage of



significant importance among the Hindus. The devotees visiting the theertham offer their prayers to the deity and atone their sins by taking a dip in the holy waters.

Lakshmana Tirtham

Lakshmana Tirtham had been constructed in the loving memory of Lord Lakshman, brother of Lord Rama. In order to offer sacred prayers to lord Lakshmana, this temple has been constructed in Rameshwaram itself which indicates that Lord Lakshman had been given a valuable place in the dynasty of Lord Rama.

Several wonderful sculptures of Lord

Lakshmana have been carved out from marble and the temple has the statues of lord Rama and Goddess Sita too which signifies the spirit of unitedness that existed between them.

Villoondi Tirtham

Villoondi Tirtham is a beach which is also considered a sacred natural water body and a favourite amongst tourists. It also has a spring inside the sea which makes the attraction a unique one and is often associated with the Legend of Ramayana. It is believed that Lord Rama shot an arrow to create this spring to help his people with drinking water.

Source: Holidify.com

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MANCHESTER CITY AND CHELSEA SECURE EASY WINS, REAL MADRID EDGE PAST SHAKHTAR

Manchester City and Chelsea breezed past FC Copenhagen and AC Milan respectively in the UEFA Champions League on Wednesday, October 5.

Erling Haaland scored a brace for City as they continued their perfect start to the UCL campaign. The Norwegian striker scored in the seventh and 32nd minutes to continue his brilliant start to the season. Davit Khocholava's own goal in the 39th minute made it 3-0 before a Riyad Mahrez penalty and a Julain Alvarez goal rounded off a perfect day for Guardiola's men.

Chelsea secured a 3-0 win over reigning Serie A champions AC Milan at Stamford Bridge, thanks to goals from Wesley Fofana, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Reece James.

Graham Potter's team were on the front foot from the get-go and Fofana gave them the lead in the 24th minute. However, he was subbed off from the field due to an injury. Aubameyang scored against his former side in the 56th minute to make it 2-0 before James ended the game and ensured the Blues got all three points in the 62nd minute.

Champions League holders Real Madrid edged past Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1, courtesy of goals from Vinicius Jr. and Rodrygo. Oleksandr Zubkov pulled one back for Shakhtar as Madrid held their nerves to see off the Ukrainian team.

Shooting included in 2026 CWG but wrestling and archery miss out

MELBOURNE (TIP)

Shooting will return to the Commonwealth Games roster in the 2026 edition in Victoria, Australia, while wrestling has been dropped in a bitter-sweet turn of events for India.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the Commonwealth Games Australia on Wednesday unveiled the full sport programme for the Victoria 2026 CWG, featuring 20 sports and 26 disciplines, including nine fully integrated para sports.

The return of shooting, which was controversially dropped from the Birmingham CWG earlier this year, is a welcome development for India.

Shooting has been India's strongest sport in the Commonwealth Games with 135 medals (63 gold, 44 silver and 28 bronze) till now. Wrestling is in third spot with 114 (49 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze) medals.

In the 2018 Gold Coast edition, Indian shooters won 16 medals — 25 per cent of the country's total medals of 66 — with 7 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze.

The addition of para-shooting in the 2026 Games will also add to India's medal tally.

But the absence of wrestling which yielded the most number of medals — 12 (6 gold, 1 silver, 5 bronze) at the Birmingham Games is a big loss. The sport has been dropped after featuring in four successive Games since 2010.

Archery, on the other hand, has featured only twice in the CWG — in 1982 and 2010 — and India stands second in the all-time medal tally for the sport.

The dropping of wrestling is, however, not an unexpected line. Wrestling is not a sport that is very popular in Australia and the host nation usually picks sports where home athletes are expected to do well.

Shooting is a popular sport in Australia which finished second behind India in the 2018 CWG with nine medals (3 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze) from the sport.

However, the 2026 edition will not have full bore shooting events and will be competed in pistol, rifle and shotgun disciplines. This development will, however, have no impact on the medal prospects of the Indian shooters as they are not traditionally strong at full bore events.

"The shooting programme will include air pistol, air rifle, shooting para sport and shotgun trap. However, full bore are not included," according to an Australian shooting official.

"It is better for shooting to be on the programme in a reduced way than not at all."

The shooting programme in the 2018 Gold Coast CWG had disciplines on full bore, pistol, rifle and shotgun.

In April, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had written to the CGF to include shooting, wrestling and archery in the



2026 CWG, describing their dropping from the initial list of sports as "shocking".

Golf, 3x3 Basketball, 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball, Coastal Rowing, Shooting, Shooting Para Sport, BMX Racing, Mountain Bike Cross Country, Track Cycling and Para Cycling Track have been added to roster, while Coastal Rowing, Golf, and BMX will make a Commonwealth Games debut. "Victoria 2026 is also proposing to add in Para disciplines in Golf, Coastal Rowing and the Road Race and will work with the Commonwealth Games Federation and relevant international sporting federations to determine if this is possible," a CGF media release read.

It is estimated the Games will contribute more than USD 3 billion to Victoria's economy, creating more than 600 fulltime equivalent jobs before the Games, 3,900 jobs during the Games and a further 3,000 jobs beyond the Closing Ceremony.

CGF President Louise Martin said, The Games are set to be competitive and action-packed, featuring an extensive, fully integrated Para Sport Program, the debuts of Coastal Rowing, Golf and BMX, the return of Shooting and the scintillating 3x3 Basketball.

The Programme is rooted in the CGF's 2026-30 Strategic Roadmap, which provides hosts with greater flexibility to propose new sports, especially ones with specific local relevance that will enhance cultural showcasing and increase community engagement.

The 2026 CWG will be staged from March 17-29 in the Australian state of Victoria across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland. The Opening Ceremony will take place at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

India vs South Africa: Sanju Samson heroics in vain as India lose 1st ODI



Sanju Samson hit a fifty in the first ODI. (AP Photo)

A new-look India, led by Shikhar Dhawan, suffered a nine-run defeat at the hands of South Africa in the first ODI at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Thursday, October 6.

With the win, South Africa earned the crucial Super League points, which they desperately need to qualify for next year's World Cup in India.

India had a horrendous start while chasing the 250-run target. Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan, who resumed their opening partnership from tour of Zimbabwe, failed to make a mark in the opening ODI against South Africa. South Africa struck twice inside first six overs to remove Gill (3) and captain Dhawan (4). The new-look India's batting woes continued as Rituraj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan didn't last long, leaving the hosts at 51/4 after 17.4 overs.

Left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi got rid of Gaikwad (19), while left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj dismissed Kishan (20).

Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson tried to rebuild India's innings and took the side past the 100-run mark. But soon after completing his fifty, Iyer departed on a short ball by Lungi Ngidi. Samson and incoming Shardul Thakur kept India's hopes alive as they took the match deep.

But with the asking run rate creeping, Thakur perished (33) and Samson's (86 not out off 63) effort went in vain in the end.

Earlier, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen's unbeaten knocks lifted South Africa to 249/4 after rain delayed the start of the match. South Africa got off to a slow start, with Janneman Malan and Quinton de Kock struggling in the middle. *Source: India Today*



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