



WE WISH READERS A



China's US envoy Qin Gang is the country's new Foreign Minister



China's US envoy Qin Gang is the country's new Foreign Minister

DECEMBER 30, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): A close associate of President Xi Jinping, has been appointed as the new Foreign Minister of China, replacing Wang Yi who had served in the post for 10 years.

Chinese president Xi Jinping's chief protocol officer between 2014 and 2018, Qin Gang has had high-profile postings, including spokesman at the Foreign Ministry and at the Chinese embassy in Britain, besides a 17-month stint as the US envoy.

Wang was promoted to the politburo of the Chinese Communist Party in October and will play a bigger role in foreign policy instead of his predecessor Yang Jiechi, who has been dropped. Both Wang and Yang had crossed the retirement age of 68 for all leaders except for Xi.

In a recent article, he had said the US side must abide by the one-China principle and the provisions of the three Sino-US joint communiqués on

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PM Modi's mother Heeraben passes away; cremated in Gandhinagar



Prime Minister Modi with his mother Heeraben

File photo

DECEMBER 30, 2022

NEW DELHI (TIP): The mortal remains of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben, who passed away here early on Friday, December 30, were consigned to flames in Gandhinagar.

Heeraba passed away at UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Ahmedabad in the wee hours on Friday, December 30. She was 99 and was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday, December 28.

The hospital said in a statement that she breathed her last at 3.30 am during treatment at the institute. The PM's last meeting with his mother before she was

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King of Soccer, Pele, dies at 82



Pelé : Oct 23, 1940 - DEC 29, 2022

File photo

DECEMBER 30, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): The year 2022 seemed to have a sting in the tail. It took away the life of Pelé, the Brazilian king of soccer who won a record three World Cups and became one of the most commanding sports figures of the last century, died on Thursday, December 29. He was 82. The standard-bearer of "the beautiful game" had undergone treatment for colon cancer since 2021. He

was Knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 1997.

He visited Washington to help popularize the game in North America. It was the US President who stuck out his hand first. "My name is Ronald Reagan, I'm the president of the United States of America. But you don't need to introduce yourself because everyone knows who Pelé is," the host said.

He had been hospitalized for the last month with multiple ailments. His agent Joe Fraga confirmed his death. Widely regarded as one of soccer's greatest players, Pelé spent nearly two decades enchanting fans and dazzling opponents as the game's most prolific scorer with Brazilian club Santos and the Brazil national team. His grace, athleticism and mesmerizing moves transfixed players and fans. He orchestrated a fast, fluid style that revolutionized the sport - a samba-like flair that personified his country's elegance on the field.

Read Tribute on Page 90

Rishabh Pant hurt as car catches fire after crash in Haridwar, hospitalized

DECEMBER 30, 2022

NEW DELHI

(TIP): Star cricketer Rishabh Pant had a miraculous escape when his car crashed into a road divider and caught fire after he reportedly dozed off at the wheel on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours of Friday.

The 25-year-old, who was on his way to his hometown Roorkee to surprise his mother, suffered injuries on his head, back and feet, but is in a stable condition following the

accident at Manglaur in Uttarakhand's

CONTD ON PAGE 92



Star cricketer Rishabh Pant had a miraculous escape when his car crashed into a road divider and caught fire after he reportedly dozed off at the wheel on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours of Friday, December 30.

Instagram pic

Happy New Year 2023

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COMMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The famous British poet TS Eliot wrote in Four Quartets :

*"Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past".*

In fact, there is an eternity of time that is why they say history repeats itself. It is the past repeating itself now. It is now that will be repeating itself in future.

To us then our years, months, weeks days are just turnaround time .We are now sliding into 2023.We look back at 2022 and review the year. What we see in 2022 was in fact, present in 2021, and 2021 was probably present in 2020. So, we can say it is a repetition of the previous years, with the only differences that hues change. Just as we see a hue in the morning at the time of daybreak , and that hue undergoes changes through the day. And by the dusk it's a different hue . Similarly, it is the incidents, the evens

that may change but then by and large they are all dominated by a common factor, by common complexion. It is, therefore, important not to forget the past when we are looking at the present . It is, therefore, important to learn lessons from the past while living in the present. It is all too easy to say : Past is past, past is gone. But then our past is very much present in our present and our present is very much present in our future. We have to review our past and learn lessons from it.

The world has been full of conflicts. Wars, most of them were manmade. In fact, human world has suffered because of disease, because of poverty, because of ignorance, and most of these sufferings have been manmade. The question is why the repetition of the sufferings? Why the repetition of conflicts and wars? Why is hunger there? Why is ignorance there? All these are the questions that should bother us. We have seen how the governments in many countries have simply ignored vast masses of population and served as slaves to a few masters. It's not the question of one country only; it has happened in so many

countries, and it's happening in many countries around the world.

And in so many democratic countries where people are supposed to have equal rights and privileges, they have been denied their rights and privileges. They are still at a level at which they were centuries ago. Of course, there has been a marginal change in their conditions. We have an obligation as human beings to look into all these issues and do our bit to make sure that the world we are going to have in the new year and the years beyond is a world which is more hospitable and more livable for the underprivileged masses, to the vast numbers of people, to a major part of humanity on this earth.

We hope 2023 will do away with some of the undesirable situations that obtained in 2022. We hope the world will be a happier place to live in in 2023. We hope that oppressive regimes will reform themselves or be removed from power in 2023. We hope to see a world working together for the welfare of the people, for the common good of the people, for the happiness of the people.

Happy New Year!

GUEST COMMENT

Colossus of football : Pelé, the greatest among the greats, passes away

For six decades, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, was called simply the 'king'. The only footballer to win three World Cup crowns, he was the global face of the sport. He was the one man who embodied the delightful and wondrous Brazilian style of play - he termed it 'o jogo bonito', or 'the beautiful game' - which prized inventive and uninterrupted attack, underpinned by skillful ball control and precision in passing... and rare joie de vivre. The acme of the Brazilian method was seen at the 1970 World Cup, in which the irresistible waves of attacks by yellow-shirted, supremely talented men from South America took the watcher's breath away. It was the first World Cup that was televised live globally, that too

in color, and thereafter yellow became the color of beauty, Brazil the non-partisan's favorite team.

Brazil won the World Cup for the first time in 1958 when Pelé, just 17, made an impact the like of which has never been seen again - he scored six goals in the final three games, including a hat-trick in the semifinal and two in the final. He won a second World Cup medal in 1962, when he figured in two matches before being ruled out of the tournament due to an injury. He could well have won the third medal in 1966, but cynical attacks on his knees by opposition defenders left him hobbling. Embittered, he announced his retirement from international football. But in 1970, having changed his mind, he led possibly the most talented

set of footballers to the greatest glory in the sport. Pelé later caused a football craze in the USA when he played for New York Cosmos for three years.

Pelé's is the quintessential rags-to-riches story, peculiar to football - the field was his escape, on which he felt, as a journalist wrote in 1958, like a 'king'. He was merely 5ft 8in tall, but strong and incredibly athletic. Playing with gear that would be clunky by modern standards, and not benefiting from the sports science of our times, he did everything that the modern footballer does - sprint, leap, feint, dodge, score - with perhaps greater grace, and definitely with greater gaiety.

(Tribune, India)

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Message

I am happy to note that The Indian Panorama is publishing an illustrated special issue for the New year.

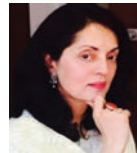
2. India-US relations have seen tremendous progress in the last year under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden. High level exchanges between the two countries saw continued momentum across various sectors such as trade & commerce, defence, finance, foreign affairs, healthcare, technology, clean energy and education, with substantive outcomes. In the coming year the two sides will strive to take bilateral relations to even greater heights for the good of our countries and for the world

3. The unique bond between India and the United States has been underpinned by the deep and multifaceted ties between the people of our two countries. Indian Diaspora has made us all proud of their achievements in diverse fields. The Indian Panorama has played an important role in highlighting these and the progress made in the India-US relations, keeping its readers apprised of important developments. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will continue to make greater advances in the year ahead.

4. I wish to take this opportunity to convey to the Indian Panorama and all its readers my best wishes for a healthy happy and prosperous new year 2023.

Taranjit S. Sandhu
(Taranjit Singh Sandhu)

Ruchira Kamboj



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्वामी प्रतिनिधि
न्यायांक
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

December 27, 2022

MESSAGE

May I extend my congratulations to the *Indian Panorama* in bringing out a special issue on the occasion of New Year 2023.

In the month of December 2022, India held the rotating Presidency of the UN Security Council, the second time in its present tenure as an elected member of the Security Council. Two signature events with the participation of Ministers from member countries of the Security Council marked our tenure, the one on "Reformed Multilateralism", and the second on forging a "Global Strategy for Countering Terrorism". The External Affairs Minister of India chaired both the signature events.

Particularly noteworthy during our tenure was unveiling of a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi at the prestigious North Lawn gardens of the United Nations, the very first time that this has been done. The bust now proudly adorns the North Lawn gardens of the UN. We also launched a Group of Friends to promote Accountability for Crimes against UN Peacekeepers, which will serve to keep the focus on the safety and security of our blue helmets on the ground, through a sharing of best practices amongst member states, as also in providing guidance to the UN Secretariat.

In follow-up to this very successful Presidency of December 2022, India will continue to work actively and energetically for the greater global good. Our G20 Presidency with the message "One Earth, One Family, One Future" will continue to shine the spotlight on India's leadership role within the Global South.

I take this opportunity to wish the *Indian Panorama* and its readers health, happiness and prosperity always.

Ruchira Kamboj
(Ruchira Kamboj)

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Manoj Kumar Mohapatra



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New Year Message

As 2022 draws to a close and we welcome 2023, I want to send a message of gratitude and best wishes to the readers of The Indian Panorama.

It is hard to believe nearly a year has passed since my arrival in Guatemala. I am pleased to share that in 2022, India's bilateral relations with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, further widened and deepened in all spheres, including political, commercial and cultural. 2022 was special for India-Guatemala relations as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. To mark this important occasion the Mission organized more than fifty major cultural and commercial programmes in 2022 across the length and breadth of Guatemala.

The highlight of 2022 was the largest ever Yoga Festival in Guatemala. On 12 November, Mission organized one of its kind, largest Yoga Festival in Central America, perhaps in Latin American region, with the participation of more than 2500 people, at Mariscal Zavala Military Brigade.

For 2023 too we have expansive agenda. In the middle of January 2023, we are looking forward to the visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi to Guatemala and Honduras.

On behalf of the Embassy of India and my personal behalf, I would like to express my heartfelt greetings to all the readers of the Indian Panorama on the occasion of the New Year. I wish you and your families a very happy new year with strong health, peace and prosperity.

Happy New Year!

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra

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MESSAGE

As we begin a New Year and as I finish my term serving as a Member of the United States Congress, let me wish the readers of The Indian Panorama a healthy, prosperous, and happy New Year!

I am so grateful for the honor of having served as a Member of Congress. It has given me the opportunity to do what I have always dreamed of doing - to help people, to build things, and to solve problems by working together with people of good faith in pursuit of the common good.

Thank you to my friends at The Indian Panorama for their good work and fair coverage over the years, and thank you to all of my friends in the Indian American community. I have tried to serve you well and I am grateful for your support and encouragement.

Happy New Year!

Tom Suozzi

Sant Chatwal
Padma Bhushan



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to write this message for the readers of The Indian Panorama.

We have had a difficult period of more than two years during which the normal American way of life was much disturbed because of COVID-19. Life appears to be limping back to normal. Hopefully, we will not be threatened again by a vicious virus.

The Ukraine conflict has been a matter of worry for the whole world, as during one year of stand off between Russia and Ukraine, much destruction of human life and property has taken place. We have seen how conflicts between nations cause immense misery, and we hope this unnecessary and avoidable misery will soon come to an end. We also hope there will be no recurrence of such conflicts to push the world in to anxiety and unhappiness.

I commend the work and services of Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, publisher and editor of The Indian Panorama who has upheld the finest traditions of journalism during the 16 years of the publication's life and ensured that the publication carries a diversity of opinions to enrich the readers' minds. I'm very happy that the Indian Panorama is bringing out the New Year special edition. I wish the publication a joyous ride for years to come.

Happy New Year.

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

December 22, 2022

MESSAGE

The year going by saw our resilience, perseverance and positive attitude help us wade through the challenges. As a community, we overcame the impediments posed by the pandemic and moved ahead on our respective paths with optimism and hope. We are soon to welcome New Year 2023. I hope the same sense of optimism will continue to strengthen us from within and from without, and the year ahead would herald peace, progress and prosperity for all.

I take this opportunity to wish a successful year ahead to all the readers of 'The Indian Panorama'. The newspaper has played an important role in binding the Indian-American community in the United States together and in connecting them with India. The Consulate stands ready to serve the community to the best of its ability. We look forward to the community's enthusiastic participation in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

I thank The Indian Panorama for its efforts to promote stronger India-US friendship. I, once again, wish all its readers a Happy New Year 2023!

(Signature)
(Randhir Jaiswal)

The Indian Panorama
New York

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28th December, 2022

MESSAGE TO THE READERS OF INDIAN PANORAMA

It gives me immense pleasure to wish the Indian Panorama, one of the most popular digital weekly newspapers, focusing on India, in the United States of America.

The Indian Panorama has contributed immensely to society by providing insight through information as well as articles for the Overseas Indians primarily in the USA. Its consistent quality writing has enabled Panorama to expand its base in newer areas of the US.

As we enter New Year, I am sure, the Indian Panorama will continue to excel in it's reporting. It is playing an important role in building partnership between India and US. In so many ways, it is bringing India closer to the four million Overseas Indians in the USA.

In the New Year, I wish the Indian Panorama a great success enabling it to serve its readership better.

(Signature)
(Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay)

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V.K. Raju, MD, FRCS,
FACS
President and
Founder, Eye
Foundation of America



MESSAGE

Each new year is a gift of learning, growth, and hope. May your mind and soul be enriched with these things and more, in the days to come.

I wish only one thing - "unity in India, real unity,". I am in Manipur in connection with a childhood vision project of Eye Foundation of America (world without childhood blindness).

Today is the last day and I was watching CNN before I leave for the airport and listened to talking heads discussing how China is trying to influence Africa (Xi Jinping announced that China would implement TV satellite programs for 10,000 African villages.) and about how US is struggling to compete with China in influencing Africa. (You may remember the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief program by US 20 years ago and Power Africa ten years ago).

I did not want to watch further. I switched off the TV and turned to my notes. While world powers are struggling for supremacy, all of us are aspiring for world peace. India, the largest democracy with its incredible accomplishments since 1991, is in a unique position to bring world peace. Look at what Arnold Toynbee said, decades ago- "It is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human raceAt this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way -Emperor Ashoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of nonviolence and Shri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions. Here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single Family - and in the atomic age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves."

Finally let me say this -In spite of the great accomplishments of India, there may be new tremors, working their way through the subsoil of our national life. It is only the character and dedication of the young generation that can ensure the survival of freedom. We can never forget the last words of Buddha to his disciples. "Look not for refuge to anyone besides yourselves". These words contain timeless wisdom.

Be wise. Don't be otherwise.

Happy new year!

(V.K. Raju)

डॉ. स्वाती वि. कुलकर्णी
Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni



भारत की प्रधान कौंसुल
अटलांटा
Consul General of India
5549 Glenridge Drive NE
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Atlanta 30342

December 22, 2022

MESSAGE



I am happy to learn that 'The Indian Panorama' will be publishing an illustrated New Year special issue on the digital platform. My warm felicitations and best wishes to all on this occasion.

The year 2022 was unique for India. India completed 75 years of its Independence on 15th August 2022. To commemorate this important landmark, India is celebrating the glorious history of progressive India as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM). The ongoing AKAM is dedicated to the people of India who have been instrumental in the development of the country and its evolutionary journey. It is an opportune time to remember our national heroes who liberated the nation from colonial rule and gave us a blueprint to rebuild it.

In addition, during the year 2022, we also celebrated 75 years of India-US diplomatic ties. The valuable services of 'The Indian Panorama' have strengthened India-US relations and everlasting friendship between our two peoples.

Since its inception, 'The Indian Panorama' has promoted effective journalism. It has provided a factual and balanced coverage of India and the Indian American community in their newspaper. I avail of this opportunity to welcome all of you at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas scheduled to be held from January 8-10, 2023, at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

I am confident that 'The Indian Panorama' would evolve a path on promoting more goodwill for India and Indians. I wish good luck and every success to 'The Indian Panorama' in this endeavor. I also wish all a happy and prosperous 2023.

(Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni)
Consul General

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON

December 28, 2022

Message

I am happy to know that *The Indian Panorama* is bringing out a special illustrated issue on the occasion of New Year. Since inception, *The Indian Panorama* has served as an important link with the Indian American community.

In the last twelve months we have organized various events and activities with multiple stakeholders to highlight the opportunities in the India-US partnership in areas including trade, investment, technology, healthcare, energy and education. The vibrant Indian American community in United States has been playing an instrumental role in building and strengthening relations between India and United States. We look forward to their continued support for our activities and initiatives to further deepen the multifaceted ties between both countries.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

(Aseem R. Mahajan)

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CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings to all the readers of 'Indian Panorama' on the occasion of New Year as we approach the Year 2023 with new hopes and aspirations.

India and US relations, as the largest and oldest democracies of the world have grown from strength-to-strength over the years more particularly in the last decade. The vibrant Indian Community in USA in general and on the West Coast in particular, has been instrumental in building and strengthening India-US relations across the spectrum. The Indian community has always played an important role in preserving and spreading India's ethos and culture. Indian Panorama has been playing a significant role in spreading the message of friendship across the community which has been excelling in various fields.

I take this opportunity to wish Indian Panorama continued success in its efforts in the New Year. I appreciate the initiative by Prof. Indrajit Saluja and wish all the readers of The Indian Panorama a very Happy New Year!

(Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
शिकागो



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
CHICAGO



MESSAGE

I wish the team of the Indian Panorama and its Readers health, happiness and prosperity through the New Year of 2023.

The effort of the Indian Panorama to keep the Indian American community updated on various developments between India and USA is laudable. This is particularly important as the Indian diaspora makes critical contribution in the development of this strategic bilateral relation.

Through their hard work, talent and urge to excel, Indian diaspora is enriching every field of their involvement – entrepreneurship, trade, economic and financial activities, innovation and education, science and technology, social services and myriad other activities. It is the goal of the Consulate to engage closely with the Indian diaspora in the Midwest region for promotion of bilateral relations and for leveraging the talent and expertise of diaspora for development of India.

I wish continued success of the Indian Panorama in the year 2023.

(Somnath Ghosh)
27 December 2022



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January 1, 2023

The Indian Panorama
124 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Friends,

Seasons greetings and best wishes to the readers of the Indian Panorama on the publication of its New Years Special Edition!

As we celebrate the holiday season and say goodbye to 2022, we look back on a year that saw our New York finally begin to get back on track after two years of pandemic lockdowns. Our children are now back in school and more and more workers are heading back to work. A brighter future lies ahead!

As always, the Indian Panorama was there through it all, bringing readers the latest news and important information so that our community can make informed choices and stay abreast of current events. Since the newspaper's inception in 2006, the Indian Panorama has rapidly come to occupy a central place for the South Asian community and serve as an essential resource in this multicultural, multi-religious contemporary American society.

As we enter 2023, we look forward to a year of continued recovery, and we look to chart a path forward so that we emerge a stronger community and a better New York for all. We will continue to remain vigilant and mindful of our responsibilities as New Yorkers and citizens of the world. As your New York State Legislator, and the Chair of the Committee on NYC Education, I will continue to push for public policies that improve the quality of our public education system, and commit to supporting programs and services that uplift our diverse communities in the new year and beyond.

Wishing you and your loved ones a most joyous and happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,

John C. Liu



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QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 1, 2023

Dear Friends and Readers:

Salutations and a very Happy New Year 2023 to the readers of *The Indian Panorama*. The start of a new year is always filled with good intentions and hopefulness.

The Editors of the Indian Panorama continue to chronicle the vibrant cultural and political achievements of members of the Indian diaspora. The great Borough of Queens is greatly enriched by the business contributions, political activism, and humanitarian efforts of your readers. Thank you for all that you do!

In the three years since I became District Attorney, there have been great challenges for all of us, but I am proud of the ways that the Borough of Queens and the Indian Americans in our community have consistently responded with generosity and solidarity.

My wish for 2023 and everyone reading this message is a sincere hope that you are blessed with good health, prosperity and an abundance of opportunities for the future.

From my family to yours, may your New Year's celebrations be safe, jubilant and auspicious.

In Friendship,

Melinda Katz
Melinda Katz
Queens District Attorney

Happy New Year 2023

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Seated (left to right):
Founders: Dr. Indravadan Shah,
Dr. Saroj Shah, Dr. Ram Pardeshi

Standing (left to right):
Dahya Bhai Patel, Dr. Hira Lal Patel, Dilip Tolat,
Lina Scacco, Rekha Tolat, Sujata Seth, Mukund
Mehta, Dr. Harshad Shah, Mohan Ramaswamy



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Happy New Year!

**Parker's
Medical & Nursing Staff**

Seated (left to right):
Neelam Chand, CNA, Satvir Kaur, RN HD,
Nurse Mgr. Harpreet Khahera, RN, Head
Nurse Anthony Auguste, RN, Rinsey George, CNA

Standing (left to right):
Dr. Sandeep Mehrishi Attending Pulmonologist, Colleen Ariola
Director of Nursing, RN, Dr. Arpan Phillip Assistant Director -
Medicine, Dr. Ram Pardeshi Attending Psychiatrist, Susan
Costello Clinical Dir Subacute & LTC, Dr. Igor Israel Medical Director,
Dr. Pushendra Sharma Attending Geriatrician, Dr. Vimalson Monickam
Attending Geriatrician, Verna Sinclair Clinical Director Staff Educator



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SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS TO WATCH OUT FOR



BY
DINESH C. SHARMA

IN INDIA, THE ROLLOUT OF THE NASAL VACCINE WILL BE KEENLY OBSERVED. IT HAS BEEN GIVEN 'EMERGENCY USE' APPROVAL AND INCLUDED AS AN ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR A BOOSTER DOSE. THE ROLLOUT IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE THE MUCH-NEEDED EFFICACY DATA OF THE NEW VACCINE. ANOTHER COVID-19 VACCINE TO WATCH DURING 2023 WILL BE THE HEAT-TOLERANT CANDIDATE.

"Among other science and technology developments that will be keenly watched during the next 12 months are the rollout of the 'digital Rupee' or the Central Bank Digital Currency, field trials of genetically modified mustard variety, science diplomacy initiative as part of India's presidency of G20 and new applications of Artificial Intelligence technologies. The launch of the digital rupee by the Reserve Bank of India could be a watershed moment in the growing digital payment ecosystem. The central bank has assured that its digital currency will have all the features of the physical currency such as trust, universality and finality. The degree of anonymity, however, is an open question since the digital rupee will leave a trail like any other digital transaction."

We are about to enter a new year. The feeling is somewhat similar to that in January this year. It was the looming threat of a new wave due to the emergence of the Omicron variant of coronavirus then. This time, too, there is anxiety about the virus in its new avatar hitting us, though both our bodies as well as the health systems appear better prepared for any likely assault. The bigger question in 2023 is not about a new wave emerging but whether the Covid-19 pandemic is going to end or not. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, is optimistic

that the organisation might declare an end to the global health emergency caused by Covid sometime in 2023. The subject will be discussed during the WHO's emergency committee meeting in January.

Even if the world body decides to end the status of Covid-19 as a global emergency, it would not mean an end to the threat posed by the virus. It will continue to circulate and exist alongside other respiratory ailments such as flu and influenza. As far as national health systems are concerned, they will be on the alert and will have to deal with it, while scientists will continue to focus on new vaccines and therapeutic remedies for it. In India, the rollout of the nasal vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech will be keenly observed. It has been given 'emergency use' approval and included as an additional option for a booster dose. The rollout is expected to generate the much-needed efficacy data of the new vaccine.

Another Covid-19 vaccine to watch during 2023 will be the heat-tolerant or warm vaccine candidate developed by scientists at the Indian Institute of Science and Mynvax, a startup incubated in the Bengaluru institute. In studies so far, the vaccine could trigger neutralizing antibodies against four current variants - Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. It has been tested at CSIR-IMTech in Chandigarh as well as at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness. The human clinical trials for this new vaccine could begin in 2023. The vaccine has raised hopes because it is stable at high temperatures also, which means it will not need a cold chain for transportation and storage.

A major scientific development slated for the year is the much-awaited launch of Aditya-L1, India's first dedicated space mission to study the Sun. The 400-kg satellite carrying an indigenously developed Visible Emission Line Coronagraph is scheduled to be launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL) in the first quarter of 2023 from Sriharikota. The mission has been in the making for over a decade and involves several scientific teams. The coronagraph, developed at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics, is expected to yield data critical for space weather studies. In addition, there will be six other payloads onboard Aditya L-1. It will be placed in the halo orbit around the first Lagrangian point (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, affording continuous viewing of the Sun without any occultation or eclipse.



The bigger question in 2023 is not about a new wave emerging but whether the pandemic is going to end or not.
Photo credit / ANI

The second important mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) during 2023 will be Chandrayaan-3. It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2, aimed at demonstrating the capabilities for safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. It will consist of a lander and a rover configuration and will be launched by GSLV Mark 3 from Sriharikota.

The space agency, however, will miss the deadline for its most ambitious mission - the manned human spaceflight called Gaganyaan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared during his Independence Day address in 2018 that "a son or a daughter of India will go to space from Indian soil by an Indian vehicle by 2022 or sooner." The Science and Technology Minister informed the Lok Sabha recently that human spaceflight is now targeted for the fourth quarter of 2024. One of the critical steps in the programme - a mission to demonstrate the performance of the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions - might take place in the last quarter of 2023. There will be another uncrewed mission in the second quarter of 2024. Astronaut candidates are currently undergoing training in Bengaluru after undergoing initial training in Russia.

In the field of atomic energy, some movement is likely in 2023 towards small modular reactors (SMRs) necessitated by clean energy imperatives and the changing energy dynamics globally due to the Ukraine war. Such reactors have a capacity of up to 300 megawatts and can be factory-built, unlike large

conventional reactors which are built on-site and have a long gestation period. Along with this shift in technology, the government has also been mulling over private sector participation in nuclear energy production.

Among other science and technology developments that will be keenly watched during the next 12 months are the rollout of the 'digital Rupee' or the Central Bank Digital Currency, field trials of genetically modified mustard variety, science diplomacy initiative as part of India's presidency of G20 and new applications of Artificial Intelligence technologies. The launch of the digital rupee by the Reserve Bank of India could be a watershed moment in the growing digital payment ecosystem. The central bank has assured that its digital currency will have all the features of the physical currency such as trust, universality and finality. The degree of anonymity, however, is an open question since the digital rupee will leave a trail like any other digital transaction.

The G20 summit and the events around it will provide an opportunity for India to showcase its science, technology and innovation (STI) prowess, and use science diplomacy to further ties with other members. A meeting of science ministers and a series of satellite events have been planned throughout the year in different places - Coimbatore, Lakshadweep, Agartala, Indore, Ranchi, Shimla, Diu, Itanagar and Dibrugarh. It is intriguing that none of the STI-related events will be held in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai or Ahmedabad, which are among the STI hubs of India.

In the new evolving world, India needs a new vision

THE FOUNDATION FOR THIS NEW VISION IS A HARMONIOUS AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY THAT EMBRACES INDIA'S UNIQUE PLURALITY; INCREMENTALISM USING EXISTING TOOLS, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES MAY NOT SUFFICE



BY
SHASHI THAROOR

AND



PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY



The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Kochi

Photo Credit: Thulasi Kakkat

The year 2022 can perhaps be best summarized by a quote by Vladimir Lenin: 'There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.'

The year began with the ostensible vanquishing of the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to the remarkable collective vaccination efforts of science, business and governments across the world. This significant accomplishment promised to restore normalcy in daily lives and rekindle the doused human spirit.

Alas, that was not meant to be. Just two months into the new year, the fallibility of the human mind reared its head in the form of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, throwing the world into disarray again. A global war, soon after a pandemic was both rare and unfathomable. Retaliatory economic sanctions and weaponization of trade dependencies have triggered woes of inflation, recession and gas shortage in winter, making lives miserable for millions.

'FOE TRADE' AND AN AGGRESSIVE CHINA

The era of innovative consumer technologies from America and Europe, mass produced in Taiwan, Korea and Japan, and consumed in China, Brazil and India, seems to be nearing its end. America is now championing trade restrictions against its enemies, promoting trading blocs among its allies and incentivizing domestic production through large financial assistance. Trusted free trade among nations has turned into distrustful 'foe trade', leading to formation of 'friend trade' groups and the glorification of 'economic nationalism'.

India's explosive exports growth over the last four decades has helped create millions of jobs, bring in valuable foreign reserves, and spurred domestic production and consumption. India stands to gain from the established trade order and can ill afford to get squeezed in the emerging bipolar world of western and Russia-China trading blocs.

In the midst of such profound global changes comes the sudden, and incomprehensible military aggression

by China against India. China's advances into Indian territory are both undeniable and unacceptable. The timing and rationale of China's military threat are intriguing and, purportedly, has a larger motive than just territorial interests across India's borders. China has managed to engineer a realignment of the world order through strategic use of debt diplomacy, economic power and a 'common enemy' doctrine. The Chinese threat is neither just a border dispute with India nor an isolated bilateral conflict. It marks a fundamental reshaping of global forces.

China's economic might as the factory of the world is what gives it the confidence and the power to indulge in such aggression. Knee-jerk reactions such as trade restrictions and economic sanctions against China by western powers are blunt measures that will backfire. The counter to a Sino-centric world order is an economically powerful India.

SOCIAL HARMONY IS A NECESSARY CONDITION

Factories employing millions of people producing billions of dollars of goods and services for the world in a thriving India is the strongest response to China. But social harmony is a necessary condition for India's rise as an economic power. Factories cannot afford to differentiate amongst people of multiple identities working together, sowing distrust and hatred on the basis of workers' religion, identity, caste or class. Ability is all that matters.

If we accept that India's economic power holds the key to its internal security, then it follows that India's social harmony is the foundation of its edifice. It is in this context that the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi is significant. Sadly, India's communal harmony is under threat, but of our own doing. There is a lurking danger of one stray communal incident erupting into large-scale violence and unrest. A communally divided India on tenterhooks is a gift to our enemies. Tormented sections of our society can be easy targets for a preying attacker. The yatra is a momentous effort to heal communal wounds and

strengthen the nation's social fabric to help surmount the geopolitical and economic challenges facing the nation and the world.

Cliched as it may sound, 2022 may go down in history as the year when the global equilibrium that lasted many decades and reaped tremendous benefits was disrupted. Seemingly rational pursuits of peace and prosperity are not the sole or even primary motivator for all nations and leaders. We must contest this 'no more shared rational pursuits' premise for the emerging new world order.

It is time to re-imagine India's overall strategy and re-evaluate our normative policy framework in this backdrop of an irrational world. We need a holistic military, diplomatic, social and economic strategy and not be afraid to challenge conventional wisdom.

There is an imminent need to modernize and augment our defense capabilities with state-of-the-art weaponry and not be held hostage to antiquated military purchase norms and processes.

A belligerent and hostile China will reaffirm who India's active friends are and who merely observes from the sidelines. The established foreign policy doctrine of non-alignment may now conflict with India's growing need for trade and market access in the new economic world order and may need to be re-envisioned. India needs a bolder geo-economic strategy to gain preferential access to unique technologies and capital from other nations in return for domestic market access.

India's politics will need to craft a new social contract with citizens, as the traditional tools of welfare and governance turn creaky and the gap between the haves and have-nots widens further. India's economic road map will have to factor in environmental concerns, move away from the monopolies model of private enterprise, carve a new inclusive, labor market focused economic development path of production, and not chase financialization-driven GDP growth that has lost relevance for the common person.

LOOK AT DECENTRALIZATION

India's political governance model calls for greater decentralization and federalism reforms to cater to widening divergence among States. Centralization played a critical role in holding together and building the republic in the first half a century after Independence. The time has now come to let go and move away from a 'one nation one policy' mindset. Stronger institutions are a necessary condition for greater decentralization. Reforming public institutions with more powers, autonomy, resources and accountability is essential.

In a nutshell, the nation needs a new vision in the new world. But the foundation for this new vision is a harmonious and inclusive society that embraces India's unique plurality. Incrementalism using existing tools, structures and processes may not suffice. It requires the collective efforts of all leaders across the political spectrum to come together and craft a new vision, for which the onus rests with the Prime Minister. We sincerely hope for the sake of our beloved country and its beautiful people that a new awakening awaits.

(Shashi Tharoor is a Congress Member of Parliament and former United Nations Under Secretary General. Praveen Chakravarty is a senior office bearer of the Congress party and a political economist.)

Looking Ahead : Punjab needs a big push

CHALLENGES, IF TAKEN SERIOUSLY, ARE OFTEN PRODUCTIVE AS THEY DETERMINE THE PATH OF PROGRESS. THE TURN OF THE YEAR IS THE TIME NOT ONLY TO LOOK BACK BUT ALSO TO SET NEW CHALLENGES AND TARGETS AHEAD.



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

Punjab, once the sword and sports arm of the country, is at a crossroads. Its economy is tottering at the brink. Problems of drug addiction, suicides, unemployment, continuous exodus of youth, gangsterism, pollution, diversification of agriculture and poor delivery of civic services are aggravating day by day. Though AAP, the new ruling party in the State, has been in the saddle for more than nine months, long standing problems continue to elude solutions. The State needs a perestroika to be back on its footing as a dynamic and prosperous leader.

The Bhagwant Mann Government in the State has been patting its back for a number of revolutionary decisions it has taken in the first nine months of its governance. These include "zeero electricity bills", start of 100 Mohalla clinics besides starting bus service to Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi from various district headquarters, it has taken in the first nine months. It is also claiming credit for introducing "single pension for MLAs", regulate supply of sand and gravel at affordable rates, control corruption in public offices and improving school education. The less said the better.

Intriguingly The State government was concerned more for wowing voters in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in its party fold than redress the chronic problems facing the State. Inserting full page advertisements in newspapers not



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

read in the State and on TV channels that have larger viewership outside the geographical terrains of the State have evoked severe criticisms, both from the political opponents as well as eminent social scientists. These extra ventures in far off "greener" pastures even failed to get the ruling party mileage it was expecting to get. The only gain, as it claims, has been in its status of becoming a national party with its nominees sitting in four Assemblies. The progress on the national political horizon may be commendable for a party that made its debut less than a decade ago. Still, it falls far short of expectations of the people who have been posing their electoral

trust in hoping it to be a harbinger of change in a country that has primarily been ruled by two parties - Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party - with brief spells of rule by alliances.

AAP may be working for a larger agenda as it has set its eyes to be a major political opponent to Narendra Modi's BJP. It has been preparing itself for its bigger political challenge, the 2024 general elections. To succeed, it has to keep its already acquired flock together. Punjab and Delhi will be its biggest testing grounds. It has additional challenges and issues confronting the State. Farmers are still up in arms. Industry is facing a plethora of problems.

Health care and basic civic infrastructure, including provision of safe potable water and disposal of solid garbage have been engaging the attention of the State but without much reprieve.

One of the major challenges facing the State is shortage of funds. It keeps looking towards the Centre for special packages rather than cutting down its wasteful expenditure, including its publicity budget besides rationalizing its security expenditure. Growing budget of subsidies and diminishing channels generating revenue coupled with rapidly increasing expenditure on maintenance of establishment, including the security of Chief Minister and other VIPs, are all contributing factors for the deteriorating fiscal health of the State.

Strong statesmanship and all-out effort to redress some of the chronic problems of the State are the minimum the people of the State expect from the incumbent government in the New Year. Looking for help from outside, including investments, is laudable but the State cannot be dependent upon others and the doles from the Centre. Punjab needs a hard and strong push as it will have to fight its own battle. Think more of Punjab than Delhi or Gujarat should be the motto of Bhagwant Mann government.

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visit probingeye.com or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye))

2022 stretched world to its margins and leaves solutions to 2023

Every year is unique in itself. If you love soccer and happen to be a fan of Argentina, the year 2022 could not have ended on a better note. The FIFA World Cup 2022, first mega soccer event to be held on Asian Arab soil, may have brought the world, riddled by factionalism and unending East-West rivalry, together but peace continues to elude the globe.

The world, even after two years, is still scarred by a possible revival of Corona pandemic in new attire. With economies shattered and inflation remaining uncontrollable, challenges of 2023 may shake humanity to its bones, with reliable quality health care remaining the biggest global challenge. Though the Russian President Putin has been quoted saying that he wants an immediate end to war in Ukraine, indications of the present conflicts make exit look remote. New Year 2023 will bring in new hopes, new challenges and a more complex and competitive

world to live in. International travel will be no more the same. With uncertainty over Covid pandemic travelling to the coming year, a new world order, especially the one opposed to mandates and lockdowns, may push the global economies into a new fix. With interest rates rising and the household going out of control with no visible signs of inflation remaining within reasonable limits, the socio-economic fabric of the world at large is set for a drastic change. Governance and politics will face unforeseen challenges to set new equations in global order based on fiscal health of nations, both developed and developing. While 2022 will be part of history by the end of the week, it would, as usual, be remembered for witnessing heightened strife, partial to major failure in controlling disease and human suffering, and emerging new icons of global power. If international air travel got a big hit in the beginning of the

year, air travel became a contentious issue with major airports presenting chaotic scenes with their inability to control rush as people wanted to enjoy freedom from shackles of state-induced mandates. Though the sports industry worth over 140 billion Euros started to vibrate again with major world sporting events, including FIFA World Cup, the 2022 Winter Olympic Games (boycotted by Political leaders of many nations, including the US and Canada), Commonwealth Games, T20 World Cup and US Open minus Novak Djokovic being held with spectators filling the stands, still many events, including the 2022 Asian Games, remained on hold. Russia and Belorussia continued to be on the hit list of both the IOC and the US-led lobby for its invasion of Ukraine, the world witnessed a number of nations, including Sri Lanka, crumbling under their fractured economies. Afghanistan landed in hands of the Taliban and the Chinese



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

aggression over its claim of Taiwan remained bullish. When the year 2022 started, no one would have imagined China, Russia and Pakistan getting on one side leaving the US red-faced. India surprised all with its neutral stand on Russian invasion of Ukraine besides taking over the Presidency of the G20 promising to work for ending global terrorism and restoring the right of dignified existence of smaller and less powerful nations. Welcome year 2023. Let it be a year of the common man and not those playing with human values and lives. Hope you, 2023, bring along solutions to problems - poverty, disease, unemployment and inflation - for which the current powers have no answers.

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THE INDIAN PANORAMA EDITOR INDRAJIT SALUJA INTERVIEWS AMBASSADOR RANDHIR KUMAR JAISWAL, CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA AT NEW YORK

Indian Community is attached to its roots

Consul General of India at New York Mr. Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, a few days after joining the present position on 19th July 2020 in an interview with The Indian Panorama, had spelt out in brief his priorities which included nourishing and strengthening the already strong bonds between India and US, and exploring new areas of cooperation and relationship in diverse fields of economy, trade, technology, and culture etc. Ambassador Jaiswal added that serving the Indian Diaspora remained the primary focused concern of the Consulate. The strengthening of multi-stake holders relationship will be another priority, he said.

The Indian Panorama interviewed him a couple of times, and each time, Mr. Jaiswal was forthcoming on all issues raised, and questions asked.

Three days to the end of the year 2022, Mr. Jaiswal agreed to sit with the editor of The Indian Panorama to share for the readers of the publication his thoughts. It was a long interview in which Ambassador Jaiswal touched upon all the aforementioned areas.

In the present part of the interview, we bring to readers Ambassador's perspective on community involvement in promotion of Indian arts, culture and values.

HERE ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW.

TIP: WE ARE JUST ABOUT THREE DAYS AWAY FROM THE END OF 2022. HOW DO YOU FEEL? HOW WAS 2022 WITH YOU AS CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA AT NEW YORK?

AMBASSADOR: Thank you. It is always my pleasure and our pleasure here in the consulate to engage with you, to converse with you and through you to speak to the community. The wider Indian diaspora which is part of a larger family I would say had its limitations in terms of pandemic but because of vaccinations that we were able to carry out in India, vaccination that happened here, we were able to, you know, take care of the pandemic. The highlight of course, for 2022 was that we celebrated 75 years of India's independence, like in the previous editions of India at 50, India and 60, which was celebrated in New York with great style. 75 years of India's freedom rang a special bell here because this is America, a democracy. There's so much of connect between India and the United States in terms of what we share with them, and also strong people to people ties we have with this great country. We had functions at Carnegie Hall. We have the best of Indian musicians, best of Indian art being displayed, and art and music was just a medium. The idea was to bring Indian ethos, Indian values, Indian civilizational wealth and progress as a modern nation to our friends here in America. We also had a huge India Day Parade, which is an annual affair here. But this time, it was a far grander scale because it was 75 years of India's independence Madison Avenue on 21st of August was packed to capacity. People from all walks of life, friends of India, the diversity of New York people from various quarters - they all participated in celebrating our independence.

In terms of delivering our services to our people, the consular services ran smoothly. We were able to do many things to the satisfaction of our people. We also carried out a lot of activities on trade side, technology side, tourism site, strengthening India- US economic partnership, technology partnership and all that. We were able to reach out to all our students here. We have a large number of students here in the universities. We also had good engaging conversation with our political stakeholders to further strengthen our Indo US friendship and ties specialties that we have. So overall



Serving the Indian Diaspora is the primary focused concern of the Consulate, says Ambassador Jaiswal Photo / Courtesy Anjali Sharma

2022, as we bid goodbye to the year, we have very nice things to remember, beautiful associations to remember. And I'm sure we will continue with the same positivity and hope in 2023 as well.

TIP: HOW WAS THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE IN PROMOTING THE VARIOUS PLANS, SCHEMES AND PROGRAMS THAT CAME FROM GOVERNMENT OF INDIA?

AMBASSADOR: So, you know, our idea here was to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, involving a community. That was very important. We got very strong response not just here in New York, but in all the 10 states that we cover. We had programs with community members in Albany, Vermont, Maine etc. We celebrated languages of India. Because through the languages we want to celebrate the diversity of India, and when you celebrate diversity of India here in this country, where diversity has a special meaning, I think Indian diversity, Indian colors, they flower even more. So, we had celebrations of Tamil language and literature, Sindhi language and literature, Malayalam language. We will soon be having a program in Kannada. So that is one track on which we seek the support of our community members.

The other thing which is very dear to all of us is, and we want to celebrate as to how New York or this part of the United States or United States in general was linked to Indian freedom struggle. There have been many Indians who played significant role in India's freedom and they were linked somehow to America. We paid tribute to them all, from the Gadar Party to Lala Lajpat Rai to Dr. B R Ambedkar to Jay Prakash Narayan, and many more. In fact, in April when we celebrated Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, we had the presence of honorable External Affairs Minister of India. He joined us to pay tribute and to pay our special respects and gratitude to Dr. Ambedkar for being the architect of India's constitution.

TIP: HAVE YOU BEEN TRYING TO PROMOTE VARIOUS INDIA BASED FAITHS ALSO?

AMBASSADOR: We have celebrated Indian diversity in all its forms. We have regular fairs and festivals, cutting across all faiths. You know we had programs on Guru Nanak Dev Ji. We have celebrated Holi, Diwali Christmas Eve. So, we are doing our best to promote Indian diversity in all its forms

TIP: AND HOW DO YOU RATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY IN PROMOTING CULTURE AND INDIAN VALUE SYSTEM HERE?

AMBASSADOR: I've seen that the community is pretty strong in terms of maintaining its roots. We have very accomplished singers here. We have very accomplished dancers of classical dances. In fact, with the Sikh community, I can say I was astonished, amazed to see the kind of Gatka performance that young children do here. There are several groups here and in New Jersey which focus on theater. They bring the best of theater. They perform the best of theatre here in the United States. We come from a very rich civilization and cultural history. So, it is natural that you will carry that identity, that cultural richness along with you, wherever, whichever part of the world you go to. But here in United States the kind of cultural richness that the people demonstrate, is very refreshing, is very soothing. In fact, when I travel across I see that people are teaching karate; people are teaching Gurmukhi to children; people are teaching other languages like Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and so on, so forth. So, all that you know, people in one way or the other, have left India but they all want to maintain and nourish their cultural, emotional and familiar roots with the Motherland.

To be continued next week

INDIAN AMERICAN RO KHANNA RENEWS CALLS FOR TERM LIMIT FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICES



Ro Khanna has renewed his call for term limits for Supreme Court justices. He had introduced a bill proposing an 18-year term for Justices in August 2021.

DECEMBER 27, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Rep. Ro Khanna, D-CA, has renewed his call for term limits for Supreme Court justices.

Khanna had introduced a bill proposing 18-year terms for Justices in August 2021.

The bill, Supreme Court Term Limits and Regular Appointments Act of 2021, was referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet in November.

The bill, which also proposes to limit the Senate's "advice and consent authority in relation to the appointment" of Supreme Court justices, "requires the President to appoint a Supreme Court Justice every two years."

The California Democrat renewed the call in a tweet on December 23:

"Why are Supreme Court justices appointed in the 1980s (sic) making decisions regarding women's bodies in 2022? We need 18-year term limits for Supreme Court Justices. The time for many justices would be up."

<https://twitter.com/RoKhanna/status/1606322993642225665>

He was referring to last June's Supreme Court decision, in the "Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization" case, overturned federal abortion rights guaranteed 50 years ago by the landmark Roe v. Wade.

After Twitter users pointed out that the oldest servicing justice, Conservative Clarence Thomas, was nominated in 1991, Khanna quickly corrected himself. "This should be 1990s."

In another tweet, Khanna referred to a bill he introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to end the lifetime appoint of Supreme Court justices:

"It's not just that this Supreme Court is ideological and extreme. It is out of town about how people are living in modern day America. 18-year term limits for justices. I have a bill. Let's pass it."

<https://twitter.com/RoKhanna/status/1606368543536185355>

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin scientist Parwinder Kaur named to STEM expert panel in Australia

DECEMBER 25, 2022

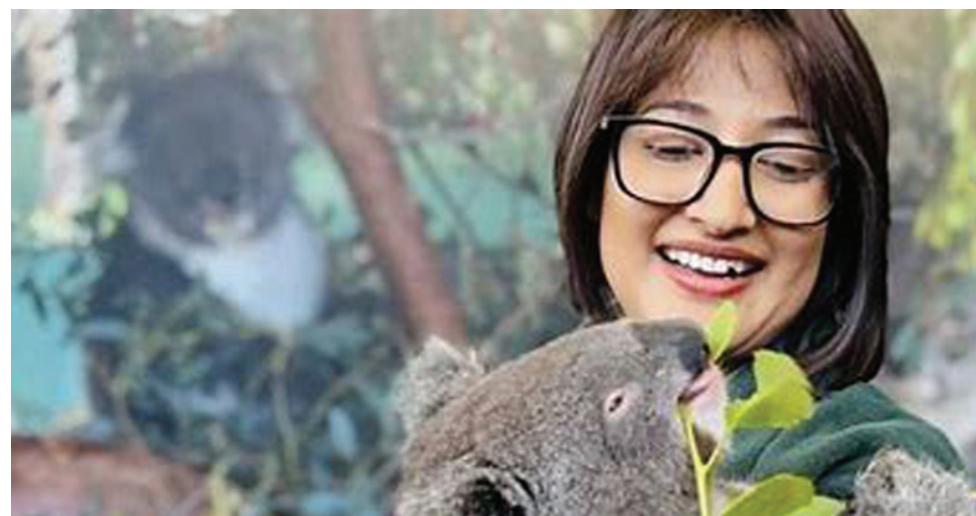
MELBOURNE (TIP): An Indian-origin biotechnologist has been appointed to the Australian government's expert panel to boost diversity and increase women's participation in STEM sectors.

Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur, a University of Western Australia Public Policy Institute Fellow, who hails from Nawanshahr, Punjab, will draw on years of experience as a scientist, academic and immigrant to support diversity in Australia's STEM sectors.

"Being a woman and immigrant navigating academia and industry I have deep lived experience of the biases and invisible hurdles that are out there which we all need to work on to not only increase participation in STEM but also retention," Kaur said in a University of Western Australia statement.

The three-member panel for the Pathway to Diversity in STEM Review has been appointed by Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic, and it will report its findings and make recommendations to the government in late 2023.

Kaur will serve alongside chair Sally-



Professor Parwinder Kaur has been appointed to the Australian government's expert panel to boost diversity and increase women's participation in STEM sectors.

Ann Williams, a leader in the technology and entrepreneurial space, and Mikaela Jade, a Cabrogal woman of the Dharug-speaking nations of Sydney.

Kaur, who is currently the Director of DNA Zoo Australia, also leads cross-disciplinary biotechnology research investigating Earth's biodiversity and natural environments to ensure sustainable futures.

She was recognized in 2013 for her substantial contributions to biotechnology and scientific excellence by the prestigious 'Science and Innovation Award' by the Australian Academy of Sciences.

In 2019, she won the Microsoft's AI for Earth award, and was a finalist in Western Australia's Innovator of the Year in 2022.

Indian American Professor Shree K Nayar wins Okawa Prize

DECEMBER 23, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Shree K Nayar, an Indian American professor at Columbia Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Okawa Prize from the Okawa Foundation of Japan for his seminal work on computer vision and computational imaging.

Nayar, the T C Chang Professor of Computer Science, is being recognized for "the invention of innovative imaging techniques and their widespread use in digital photography and computer vision."

He will receive the prize at a ceremony to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2023, according to a Columbia Engineering press release.

"I am grateful to the Okawa Foundation for this honor," said Nayar, who directs Columbia's Computational Imaging and Vision Laboratory. "Over the last three decades, I have had many close and productive collaborations with Japanese researchers and companies."

"These have enabled my laboratory to translate our results into imaging technologies that are currently being used in consumer devices and factory automation systems."

"These collaborations have led to personal and professional relationships with a number of gifted researchers in Japan that have had special meaning to me," Nayar added.



Shree K Nayar has been awarded the prestigious Okawa Prize from the Okawa Foundation of Japan for his seminal work on computer vision and computational imaging.

Nayar's work has changed the way visual information is captured and used by both machines and humans, the release said.

In the mid-1990s, he pioneered the field of computational imaging, which combines unconventional optics with advanced image processing algorithms to produce immersive and interactive visual information.

Based on this paradigm, Nayar and his collaborators developed novel cameras for omnidirectional imaging, depth imaging, giga-pixel imaging, and high-dynamic-range imaging.

Nayar's idea of creating assorted pixels for high-dynamic-range (HDR) imaging has enabled smartphone cameras to leapfrog in terms of the quality of the photos they capture.

It is estimated that more than one billion smartphone users worldwide are using his technology daily. In 2017, Popular Photography magazine published a profile of Nayar in which he was credited for "transforming the camera in your pocket."

A second major focus of Nayar's work is to understand how light interacts with the physical world. His models for surface reflection, interreflection, texture, and atmospheric scattering are used by both researchers and practitioners in computer vision, graphics, and other fields.

Nayar's inventions related to active illumination methods for measuring 3D shapes of objects are widely used for visual inspection and factory automation.

In recognition of his pioneering work on imaging and vision, Nayar was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2008, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011, the National Academy of Inventors in 2015, and the Indian National Academy of Engineering in 2022.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin lawyer Kudrat Dutta Chaudhary named Immigrant Rights Commissioner in San Francisco

DECEMBER 24, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):

Chandigarh-born lawyer Kudrat Dutta Chaudhary has become the first immigrant of Indian-origin to take oath as Commissioner to the Immigrant Rights Commission for the city and county of San Francisco.

The Immigrant Rights Commission guides the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on issues and policies that impact immigrants who live or work in San Francisco.

"I am very excited to be taking this role and am really looking forward to working for my community in San Francisco," Chaudhary wrote on her LinkedIn post.

Chaudhary is a gender, human rights, child rights, and conflict resolution



Kudrat Dutta Chaudhary has become the first immigrant of Indian-origin to take oath as Commissioner to the Immigrant Rights Commission for the city and county of San Francisco.

specialist.

In her role, she will deal with asylum applicants who have faced gender-based violence or persecution in their countries.

Prior to her new role, Chaudhary worked as an Asylum Law Clerk: Gender Specialist at the Law Office of Robert B. Jobe, according to her LinkedIn profile.

A law graduate from Punjab's Army Institute of Law, Chaudhary has also taken guest lectures on feminism, patriarchal violence and gender in international law at the Harvard Law School.

Also, a published author, her first book, "Laiza: Sometimes the End Is Only a Beginning", is about human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women in Nepal after the 2015 earthquake.

An LLM from The Fletcher School at Tufts University, in 2014 Chaudhary won a full scholarship to study Criminology and Criminal Justice at the King's College Summer School in London.

INDIAN AMERICAN RICHARD VERMA NOMINATED TO TOP DIPLOMATIC POST IN STATE DEPARTMENT



Biden announced his intent to nominate 54-year-old Verma to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources

DECEMBER 24, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) :

US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American lawyer diplomat Richard Verma, also a former US ambassador to India, to a top diplomatic position in the State Department, a move hailed by the Indian diaspora here as an "inspired choice". The White House in a statement on Friday, December 23, said that Biden announced his intent to nominate 54-year-old Verma to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. If confirmed by the US Senate, Verma would be the highest ranking Indian American in the State Department.

Currently Chief Legal Officer and Head of Global Public Policy at Mastercard, Verma, served as the US' Ambassador to India from January 16, 2015, to January 20, 2017.

During the Obama administration, Verma also served as Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs. Earlier in his career, Verma was National Security Advisor to United States Senator Harry Reid while he was a Democratic Whip, Minority Leader and then Majority Leader of the United States Senate.

He has served as Vice Chairman of The Asia Group, Partner and Senior Counsellor at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, and Senior Counsellor at the Albright Stonebridge Group. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served on active duty as a Judge Advocate. The Indian diaspora here welcomed the nomination of Verma to the top diplomatic position, saying Biden has made an "inspired choice".

"In nominating Verma to this very senior State Department role, President Biden and Secretary Antony Blinken have made an inspired choice," leading diaspora organization 'Indiaspora' said in a statement.

"Because of his ample high-level experience in the executive and legislative branches of government, his diplomatic vantage point as the 25th United States Ambassador to India, where he oversees one of the largest US Missions in the world including four consulates across India and nearly every agency. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

First Sikh Indian American Mikey Hothi elected unanimously for post of city mayor in California



Mikey Hothi, whose parents are from Punjab, has been unanimously elected as the mayor of Lodi city in northern California, becoming the first Sikh to hold the top position in the city's history.

PARMINDER SINGH AUJLA

DECEMBER 25, 2022

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Mikey Hothi, whose parents are from Punjab, has been unanimously elected as the mayor of Lodi city in northern California, becoming the first Sikh to hold the top position in the city's history.

Hothi was nominated by newly elected councilwoman Lisa Craig, who won election to mayor Mark Chandler's seat in November and was unanimously selected vice mayor during Wednesday's meeting.

He represents the council's fifth district and served as vice mayor this past year under mayor Chandler, who announced last summer he would not seek re-election.

"Honored to be sworn in as the 117th Mayor of the City of Lodi," Hothi tweeted on Friday.

His family was also instrumental in founding the Sikh temple on Armstrong Road, local newspaper The Lodi News-Sentinel reported.

"Our experience is similar to that of the Hispanic community that came before us, the Greek community, the Germans," Hothi was quoted as saying in the report. "Everyone came to Lodi because they realized it was a safe family town. (It has) great education, great people, great culture, great values, and just hard-working people in this town. I'm just proud to represent this community as its next mayor," it said.

Hothi, who graduated from Tokay High School in 2008, said that growing up in the city was a challenge, especially post-9/11, when many Muslims and Sikhs experienced unfair harassment.

But Hothi, whose parents are from Punjab, explained that his family not only survived but thrived in Lodi. Many became business owners and entrepreneurs who still manage successful companies today, the report said.

Indian American MIT scholar, VA Shiva Ayyadurai who 'invented email', applies for Twitter CEO post



VA Shiva Ayyadurai, who "invented email" when he was just 14, has expressed interest in taking up the position of Twitter CEO after Elon Musk said that he wishes to step down from the post.

DECEMBER 26, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP):

Indian American VA Shiva Ayyadurai, who "invented email" when he was just 14, has expressed interest in taking up the position of Twitter CEO after Elon Musk said that he wishes to step down from the post.

Mumbai-born Ayyadurai, 59, who holds four degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), including a PhD in biological engineering, took to his twitter to apply for the

position. "I am interested in the CEO position @Twitter. I have 4 degrees from MIT & have created 7 successful high-tech software companies. Kindly advise of the process to apply," Ayyadurai wrote in a tweet addressed to Musk.

Ayyadurai's tweet gained attention, with many users coming up with responses ranging from encouraging to sarcastic. "I've observed that degrees are one of the last things @elonmusk looks at when hiring (sic). (Though your education creds are indeed formidable.)," Greg Autry, a Twitter user wrote in response to Ayyadurai's Tweet. "Best of luck to you. I'd expect your application to be rejected because you mention your education," another Twitter user wrote in response.

Ayyadurai created a computer program in 1978, which he called "email". It replicated all the functions of the interoffice mail system: Inbox, Outbox, Folders, Memo, Attachments, Address Book, etc. The US government awarded him the first Copyright for Email in 1982, thus recognizing him officially as the inventor of email. Before Ayyadurai, YouTuber MrBeast expressed his interest in taking on one of the most vexing jobs in today's world, media reported earlier.

Earlier this week, a report said that Musk is actively searching for a new Twitter CEO after losing his own poll on whether he should quit as Twitter CEO or not.

His poll revealed that a whopping 57.5 per cent of people wanted him to quit as the CEO of the micro-blogging platform.

Thereafter, the billionaire said he will resign as Twitter's chief executive officer when he finds someone "foolish enough to take the job".

INDIAN AMERICAN EDITOR STEPS DOWN TO SAVE JOBS OF HIS STAFF MEMBERS FROM IMPENDING LAYOFFS



Peter Bhatia, 69, editor and vice president of Gannett-owned Detroit Free Press has announced his decision to step down next year to save the jobs of his staff members from impending companywide layoffs.

DECEMBER 26, 2022

DETROIT (TIP): An Indian American Pulitzer-winning editor of a prominent US publication has announced his decision to step down next year to save the jobs of his staff members from impending companywide layoffs.

Peter Bhatia, 69, editor and vice president of Gannett-owned Detroit Free Press, announced his decision at a staff meeting held last week after the company reported back-to-back quarterly losses.

"We're in a difficult period economically," Bhatia was quoted as saying in his newspaper, which employs a total of 110 people.

"The company is going through a layoff process, and I essentially made the decision to lay myself off in the interest of saving other jobs. I do have other opportunities that will probably come to work out at some point," he added.

"But if by getting my salary out of the budget it saves some jobs of people on the staff, I think that's the right thing for the Free Press," Bhatia, who will step down in January, said.

Bhatia, who hails from Lucknow, joined The Free Press in September 2017, after two years as editor and vice president of The Cincinnati Enquirer and cincinnati.com.

There are no reports of Bhatia's replacement yet but the deadline for the newspaper staffers to volunteer for layoffs is next week, the media reported.

The staff layoffs are tentatively set to take effect January 18, 2023, the paper reported.

Meanwhile, journalists who worked with Bhatia over the years, took to Twitter to say that he stood for "quality journalism" and his quitting is a "big loss" and a "sad day" for Detroit Free Press.

"Turns out you can be an amazing journalist, win Pulitzers and keep your principles after all. Peter is one of the absolute best," a reporter said.

Indian American Congressman Ami Bera loses bid to lead Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

DECEMBER 22, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The longest-serving Indian American Congressman, Ami Bera has lost his bid to lead the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee with incoming House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries choosing Rep. Suzan DelBene for the job.

Bera had thrown his hat in the ring last month saying his "skills and experiences" made him "the best choice" to lead the DCCC, "at this pivotal moment as we seek to win in 2024 and deliver for the American people."

Bera and Tony Cárdenas, both California representatives, were in the race for DCCC chair, but party leaders ultimately decided they needed to elevate a woman to the role, media reported citing unnamed sources.

The House Democratic caucus adopted an amendment during a closed-door meeting last month that allows the leader to appoint the chair of the DCCC instead of the position being an elected one. The amendment was originally proposed by DelBene, as well as Reps. Brad Schneider of Illinois and Mark



Congressman Ami Bera has lost his bid to lead the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

Pocan of Wisconsin.

DelBene's appointment will need to be ratified by the full Democratic caucus.

DelBene, who was first elected to Congress in 2012, is the outgoing chair of the New Democrat Coalition, made up mostly of pro-business Democrats, including lawmakers representing swing districts, according to media.

She succeeds New York Rep. Sean

Patrick Maloney, who lost reelection to his Lower Hudson Valley seat last month.

In a letter to his colleagues on Nov 14, Bera, who has represented California's 7th Congressional District since 2013, claimed House Democrats defied history in the 2020 election.

"Not only did our frontliners win close races, but we flipped several Red to Blue seats and we broadened and strengthened our base through historic turnout from young voters."

"As we head into 2024, the stakes could not be higher for the American people," wrote Bera who was Frontline Chair for the DCCC, responsible for overseeing the efforts to reelect Democratic Members of Congress in competitive seats.

However, Bera's candidacy also "came with some baggage" as his opponents resurfaced reports that his father had been sentenced in 2016 after prosecutors tracked "at least \$260,000 in illegal contributions funneled through donors but secretly paid by the elder Bera through multiple bank accounts used to further cover his tracks," according to media reports.

FOKANA launches Washington internship program



DECEMBER 23, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Federation of Kerala Associations in North America (FOKANA) has

launched a summer internship program for Malayalee American students currently enrolled in US colleges and universities. The program will allow selected students to work in congressional and other federal offices in Washington, DC, for several weeks, while earning credits. FOKANA will provide a stipend to the interns, according to a press release.

"Our goal is to develop a generation of leaders from the Malayalee community in the United States and equip them to serve the nation for decades to come," said Dr. Babu Stephen, President of FOKANA. "The interns will get an inside view of how the federal government works and they will get to serve alongside some of the finest minds in politics and public service." "Malayalees have made substantial contributions to the American society in a broad range of fields, including healthcare and technology," said Dr. Stephen, who was elected president of FOKANA last summer.

"However, the community has been behind in political engagement, compared to many other immigrant groups. As a result, we have been punching below our weight, politically," he said. "FOKANA, the oldest and most influential Malayalee group in North America, wants to fill the lacuna."

The Washington, DC-based entrepreneur said the internship is one of a series of measures that the organization will be undertaking during his two-year presidency to increase the political participation among members of the community.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

3 Indian Americans die after falling in Woods Canyon Lake in Arizona

DECEMBER 28, 2022

WASHINGTON (TIP): Three Indian nationals, including a woman, have drowned after they fell through the ice while walking on a frozen lake in the US state of Arizona.

The incident occurred on December 26 at 3.35 pm at Woods Canyon Lake in Coconino County, Arizona.

"The missing men are located deceased and identified as Narayana Muddana, 49, and Gokul Mediseti, 47. The female victim has been identified as Haritha Muddana (age unknown). The three victims resided in Chandler, Arizona, and are originally from India," Coconino County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) said in a statement on Tuesday.

Chandler is a suburb of Phoenix.

Officials said they were able to pull Haritha from the water soon after and administered life-saving measures but were unsuccessful and she died at the scene, it said.

Crews then began searching for Narayana and Mediseti, who had also fallen into the lake. The two men were found dead on Tuesday afternoon, the sheriff's office said.

All three bodies have been recovered.

According to a statement released by officials with CCSO, "deputies stationed at a substation in the area were called to the lake after two men and a woman were walking on the frozen lake and fell through the ice".

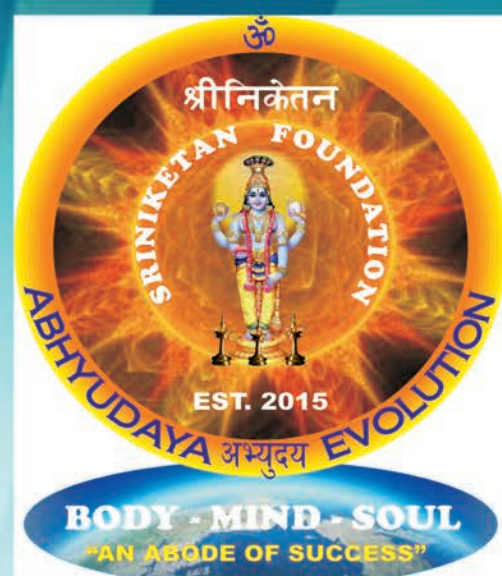


Indian origin Narayana Muddana, 49, Gokul Mediseti, 47 and Haritha Muddana who resided in Chandler, Arizona have drowned after they fell through the ice while walking on a frozen lake in the US state of Arizona. Photo for representation only



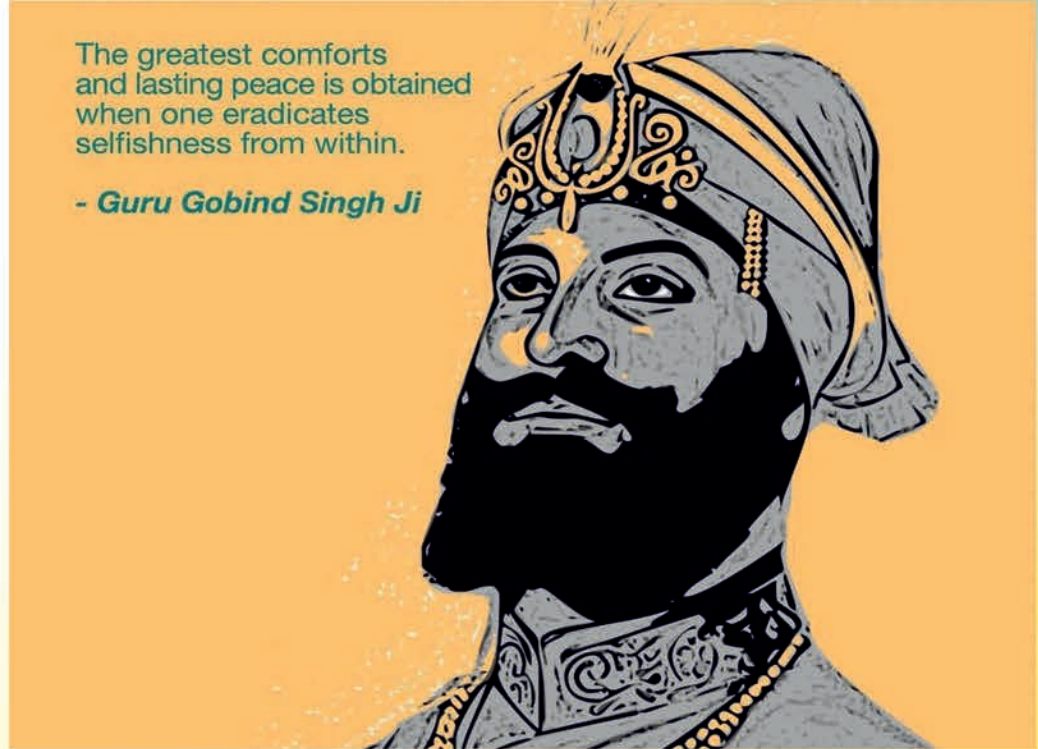
मनुर्भव
शिक्षायतन

And



Extend

**Heartiest Greetings on
Shri Guru Gobind Singh's
Prakash Divas (Birthday)
and A Happy New Year**



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Ukraine War, Chinese Protest, Imran Khan's Ouster; top global Events in 2022

The year 2022 has been a tumultuous one, with many uprisings, new faces coming to prominence and dictators losing hold of power. It has been a year of economic shockers, from the West to the East. Needless to say, it has been a year of clashes and of new alliances.

This year saw a significant rise of leaders like Ukraine President Zelensky, French President Macron and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. On the other hand, prominent international leaders, considered to have clout, including former US President Trump and Brazilian President Bolsonaro lost their power.

There were several prominent events which shaped 2022 in their own ways. To name a few, the Ukraine War, Sri Lankan Economic crisis and the unprecedented protests in China defined the year in their unusual ways.

UKRAINE WAR

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began earlier this year in February, has entered its 300th day this month, proving to be a tough challenge for both Russia and Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who began a blitzkrieg assault on Kyiv taking over the eastern and southern part of the country, is now facing challenge to keep the war going amid reports of ailing health and internal strife.

So far, over 100,000 Russian and 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or injured in the war in Ukraine. For the Ukrainians, this winter is going to be tough with Russian attacks on Ukrainian power plants and consecutive Russian missile attacks. However, the war has shaped the hero out of Ukraine's President Zelensky, who not only stood against the Russian aggression, but also managed to forge a western unity.

SRI LANKAN CRISIS

The Sri Lanka protests which started



So far, over 100,000 Russian and 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or injured in the war in Ukraine.

in April had led to the ouster of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and two-time President and former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Sri Lankan crisis, which started as a protest in Colombo, spread across the country with the people demanding reforms in the government.

Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President through a parliamentary vote, in which the Rajapaksas' party backed him in July.

The government blamed the Covid

pandemic, which badly affected Sri Lanka's tourist trade, and later led to a shortage of fuel and foreign dollars. However, many experts blame President Rajapaksa's poor economic mismanagement.

The country continues to remain under crisis with Colombo anticipating the IMF loan to secure the country's economy.

OUSTER OF IMRAN KHAN

Former Pakistan Prime Minister

Imran Khan, who came to power in 2018, is the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament earlier this year.

Khan was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan.

Since he lost the vote in Parliament, Khan has mobilized mass rallies across



Sri Lanka became the first country in the Asia Pacific in 20 years to default on foreign debt. Photo source: Getty Images



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who came to power in 2018, is the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

the country, whipping up crowds with claims that he was a victim of a conspiracy by his successor, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, and the United States.

IRAN PROTESTS

Iran has been rattled by protests over opposition to the mandatory hijab law as thousands of common citizens have taken to the streets.

Iran has been rocked by protests since September 16, with the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died after being detained by the morality police. The protests have since morphed into one of the most serious challenges to Iran's theocracy installed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

So far, the country's police have arrested renowned actresses, footballers, actors and influencers for supporting the protests. It has also executed two protestors for participation in the protests.

RARE PROTEST IN CHINA

China saw two major developments this year- Xi Jinping becoming President for the third time and rare protests weeks after against tough anti-Covid restrictions.

In November, thousands of people took to the streets in several major cities across China, including Beijing and Shanghai, to call for an end to lockdowns and greater political freedoms, in a wave of protests not seen since pro-democracy rallies in 1989 were crushed.

Despite heavy crackdown, surveillance and censorship, the protests expanded into calls for broader political freedom and left a major negative impact on the reputation of Xi and the Party.

US MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The midterm elections in the US, which is usually seen as a mandate against the ruling government, failed to make a Republican sweep as the Democrats gained razor-thin control of the Senate, while the Republicans got a narrow margin against the Dems in the House of Representatives.

However, the midterms were special in the sense that it rained down on the ambitions of former President Donald Trump, who was looking forward to run for the second term, his "Make America Great Again" movement and the broader



A portrait of Mahsa Amini at a demonstration in Istanbul, Turkey, held in solidarity with the protests in Iran. Photo source: Getty Images

Republican agenda.

A silver lining which came out of the midterm elections for the Republicans has been the victory of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. DeSantis is seen as the possible challenger to Trump and a possible source of revival for the GOP.

UK POLITICAL CRISIS

Surging inflation, ongoing strikes, economic crisis and war in Europe: the new UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces these major challenges. Sunak came to Power after his predecessor Truss resigned after just 44 days in power.

After 12 years in power, the Conservative party is more divided than ever. Earlier this year, Boris Johnson had resigned as PM in July after losing the confidence of some 60 ministers.

Sunak has become the fifth Tory prime minister since 2016 — following

David Cameron, Theresa May, Johnson and Truss. The challenges continue to mount for Sunak, who hopes to get his country out of the economic and political mess.

BOLSONARO'S EXIT

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, lost election in October in a nail-biting presidential vote count against Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Almost from the start of his controversial mandate in 2019, Bolsonaro racked up accusations and investigations for everything from spreading disinformation to crimes against humanity. He survived more than 150 impeachment bids — a record.

Most of these were over his flawed management of the coronavirus pandemic, which claimed the lives of more than 685,000 people in Brazil — the world's second-highest toll after the United States.

On January 1, 2023, Bolsonaro's arch-rival, leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will take over the reins once more and Bolsonaro loses his presidential immunity.

COP27 SUMMIT

The UN COP27 climate summit in Egypt had some success and some failures. While the summit achieved a landmark deal on funding to help vulnerable countries cope with devastating climate impacts, the talks stalled on key issues and failed to secure commitments to stop greenhouse gas emissions.

Though the participating nations agreed to contribute to the cost of the harm an overheated planet causes to developing nations, but they concluded the talks without doing anything more to address the burning of fossil fuels, which is the primary cause of these catastrophes.



Demonstrators against Covid restrictions hold blank sheets of paper during a protest in Beijing in the early hours of Monday, Nov. 28. Photo source: Getty Images



Rishi Sunak came to Power after his predecessor Truss resigned after just 44 days in power. Photo Source: Getty Images

Biggest political highlights of India in 2022

The year 2022 has been a roller coaster ride for people as we breath in almost a Covid-free world after facing 2 years of restrictions. The political corridor came to life as soon as Covid curbs were lifted. The calendar year 2022 is going to say goodbye but not before leaving several politically significant memories. The year began with election season in the politically high-stakes Uttar Pradesh assembly election and towards the end it was PM Modi's home state- Gujarat that witnessed BJP creating history with a massive win. Indian politics is known for full dramas, intense rhetoric and charged rallies/roadshows- the year 2022 was packed with all elements. Significantly, Central agencies- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) remained in the news as if it is a stakeholder in politics.

Elections 2022

In the year 2022, Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Delhi Municipal corporation (MCD) went to elections. Bharatiya Janta Party's dominance continues in 2022. The saffron party won 5 states- Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, while Congress received victory in only one state- Himachal Pradesh. The biggest surprise came from Punjab where Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emerged as victorious dislodging Congress. This was historic poll results in terms of AAP's political future. AAP got its first full-fledged state (Note-Delhi is not a full state, it's a UT). BJP's victories in UP and Gujarat were also record-breaking. In 37 years, the first time a ruling party returned to power in Uttar Pradesh. Narayan Dutt Tiwari was the last UP CM to win consecutive terms in 1985. In Gujarat, BJP broke its own record by winning 156 seats out of 182 forming government for the seventh time in the state. AAP first time breached Gujarat forte and won 5 seats. AAP also won the MCD ending BJP's dominance of 15 years in the civic body.

AAP Ministers

In the year 2022, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Ministers in Kejriwal Cabinet remained in news throughout the year but for the wrong reasons. Contrary to AAP's claim that it is a party of 'staunch honest leaders', Delhi Ministers- Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain landed in legal trouble on corruption charges. In fact, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has been in Jail since May 30 in a money laundering case and other cases. Just ahead of assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, an FIR was lodged by CBI against Sisodia and his residence was raided by the Central probe agency in connection with a liquor scam. These ED and CBI moves intensified the AAP vs BJP political battle. BJP launched serious of agitations against the AAP ministers, while Kejriwal's party successfully defended them which resulted in electoral success in MCD



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar with his deputy Tejashwi Yadav during their swearing-in ceremony. (PTI)



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Sonia Gandhi.

election and partially in Gujarat polls.

Congress president

Congress president election was big news because it was held after 25 years. The grand old party was being criticized for not conducting the internal election and favoring dynast politics. So, Congress finally conducted the election to shut critics. As it always happens with Congress, this internal election was also not controversy-free. Earlier, it was reported that Gandhis' loyalist Ashok Gehlot will contest but he denied to hand over his Rajasthan chief minster post to his junior Sachin Pilot. This triggered almost a revolt in Rajasthan. Somehow party managed to deal with it and finally, Mallikarjun Kharge, a de facto, representative of Gandhis, contested and the other side, Shashi Tharoor frayed who was also one of the G-23 members who sought radical reforms in the party. The election was held on October 17, and the counting of votes took place on October 19 in which Kharge won the election amassing 7,897 votes compared to 1,072 of Shashi Tharoor.

Nitish Kumar

The Year 2022 has been one of the turning points for Bihar Chief Minister

and Janta Dal United leader Nitish Kumar's political career as he took another U-turn by joining Mahagathbandhan. In August, he left the NDA and formed a government with the support of Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD). The latest U-turn laid the roadmap ahead of the crucial 2024 General Election. Recently, Nitish announced that he will run a campaign against Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and he would not contest any election. He indirectly declared Tejashwi Yadav as his successor. However, yearend brought severe criticism for him after 72 people died due to consuming spurious liquor in Chhapra. The deaths triggered massive outrage indicating a failure of the liquor ban in the state.

Shiv Sena

The Year 2022 was a nightmare for Uddhav Thakeray-led Shiv Sena as it split into two sections. In June, Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde led a revolt against his own party. He along with dozens of MLAs flew to Guwahati. An absolute filmy drama was staged by Shiv Sena leaders which ended with the collapse of the MVA government. Uddhav Thackeray had to resign from CM post. Shinde took oath as Maharashtra CM with the support of BJP. The matter of ownership of the

party is in Supreme Court. The development soured the political environment in the state. The arrest of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut added fuel to the fire. The states also witnessed several high-profile arrests, including former minister- Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik.

National Herald Case

National Herald Case haunted Gandhi family in 2022. This year then Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi, for the first time, appeared before Enforcement Directorate (ED) office. In July Sonia Gandhi whose health was not so sound due to Covid infection, appeared three times before ED. While Rahul Gandhi was grilled 5 times at ED offices. Congress registered strong reservations against ED's move. Grand old party leaders launched nationwide protests and once they held the 'Bharat Band'. However, they claimed the protests are against unemployment. These protests saw some violent incidents as well. Former Home Minister P Chidambaram was injured in the clash with police. He had a hairline fracture in his left rib. Congress hit headlines whenever Gandhis appeared before ED.

Central probe agencies

It was an unprecedented year for Central probe agencies- Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI). Throughout the year 2022, these agencies have been in news. Perhaps, it has been a year of raids and arrests. They grilled top leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Manish Sisodia, DK Shiva Kumar and several others. ED arrested Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, AAP Minister Satyendar Jain, and former Maharashtra Ministers- Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik.

The year of AAP

2022 was a red-letter year for the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). AAP become a national party after it got a huge vote share-13 per cent in PM Modi's home state Gujarat in the recently concluded assembly election. It also won 5 seats opening its account in the western state. AAP also got success to end the 15-year dominance of the BJP in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The success story does not end here, the 10-year-old party created history in Punjab. AAP formed a government in the state dislodging the Congress government.

Source: IndiaTv

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.

According to the Congress, the Bharat Jodo Yatra has been uniting people across the country and has proved that people want to live in peace and coexist in communal amity.

Rahul Gandhi maintains that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is not for any political or personal interest, but against the politics of hate, fear and violence.

The idea has rallied the Left liberal intelligentsia around him, for sure. From actor Swara Bhaskar to activist Medha Patkar and from lawyer Prashant Bhusan to author Tushar Gandhi—the list is impressive. The only drawback in this list is that it's drawn from Congress' extended eco-system. It's like preaching to the converted. That doesn't help the Congress expand its support base and breach the BJP's. When Bharat Jodo Yatra was conceptualised, it was meant to be a mass mobilisation programme to rejuvenate the party. It wasn't supposed to be Rahul Gandhi's tapasya or spiritual quest. He has made it truly apolitical so far as the Congress is concerned.

The Congress said that they started this movement to unite the country against the alleged "divisive politics" of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government at New Delhi. Launched by Gandhi and Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on September 7, 2022, its main objective is to fight against the politics of "fear, bigotry and prejudice" and the economics of livelihood destruction, increasing unemployment and growing inequalities. The presidential election of the party was held during the movement. The party also formed a government on its own for the first time in 4 years during the movement.

Background

The Congress party launched the logo, tagline, and website for Bharat Jodo Yatra at AICC headquarters on 23 August 2022. The march started from Kanyakumari on 7 September. It will be a 3,570-kilometre long, 150-day 'non-stop' march that will cover 12 states and two Union Territories from across the country in which Gandhi will meet people during the day and will sleep in makeshift accommodation in the night. Yatris are scheduled to cover a total of 23 kilometres everyday in 2 shifts. The march has as of December 2022 covered more than 3,000 kilometers. There are several parallels between the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and ex-prime minister of India Chandra Shekhar's nearly 4,260 kilometers-long Bharat Yatra in 1983.

Many grassroots movements have been joining or endorsing the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress has also appealed to citizens, organizations, and movements to join the Yatra. More than 200 civil society members have appealed people to support Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra.

(7-13 September)

Rahul Gandhi launches the yatra at Kanyakumari after paying tributes to his late father Rajiv Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, and the Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar on September 7. The Congress dubs the yatra as "India's biggest mass contact program" where the concerns of the people will reach Delhi.

(14-20 September)



The yatra reached Kollam on 14 September, as Rahul Gandhi paid his respects to Sri Narayana Guru. He met local cashew workers there and promised to bring up their grievances in the upcoming parliamentary session.[33] The yatra entered various cities such as Kollam, Alappuzha, and Kochi during this week.

(21-27 September)

Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Kochi on 22 September. BJP leaders falsely alleged the break on 23 September in the yatra was in solidarity with the PFI. Hollywood actor John Cusack expressed his solidarity with Rahul Gandhi. A plea to regulate the Bharat Jodo Yatra was dismissed by Kerala High Court. Yatra entered Thrissur and Malappuram before entering Gudalur in Tamil Nadu on 29 September.

On 30 September, it entered Karnataka with huge crowds. Police started cracking down on the PayCM campaign. Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. He also targeted the BJP on its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Karnataka.[Yatra took a break at Mandya on 4 October.

(5-11 October)

Sonia Gandhi joined the yatra on 6 October, despite being unwell. Late journalist Gauri Lankesh's family joined Bharat Jodo Yatra as it completed 30 days on the road. The yatra received an impressive response from the local public in Tumakuru district. It reached Chitradurga district on 11 October.

(11-17 October)

Rahul Gandhi met unemployed youth in Chitradurga district.[The Congress stressed the importance of the Kannada language and regional languages like it. The yatra entered Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh on 14 October, getting a large crowd. It reentered Karnataka the day later, completing 1000 kilometers in Bellary district.

(18-24 October)

The yatra reentered Andhra Pradesh via Kurnool district on October 18, before entering into Karnataka again on 21 October. The yatra entered Telangana on 23 October, followed by a 3-day Diwali break.

(25-31 October)

The yatra resumed in Telangana on

October 27 with massive crowds following the Diwali break. It passed through many major districts such as Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Sangareddy, and Ranga Reddy. On 29 October 2022, the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was joined by Tollywood actress Poonam Kaur during his walk towards Mahabubnagar district's Jadcherla town.

(1-7 November)

On 1 November 2022, Late Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula's mother joined to walk in Bharat Jodo Yatra along with Rahul Gandhi, en route to Hyderabad. Rahul Gandhi unfurled the national flag in front of the Charminar, over 32 years after his father and then party chief Rajiv Gandhi had started the Sadbhavna Yatra from the same spot in 19 October 1990. On 2 November 2022, actress and film maker Pooja Bhatt joined Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hyderabad on the 56th day of the yatra. On its 61st day, Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Maharashtra in evening of 7 November 2022.

(8-14 November)

On 10 November 2022, Bollywood actor Sushant Singh joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Nanded, Maharashtra. On 11 November 2022, Shiv Sena leader and former Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hingoli district. The Bharat Jodo Yatra entered its 65th day since its beginning in September this year and fifth day in Maharashtra.

(15-21 November)

On 16 November 2022, activist Medha Patkar joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Washim. On 17 November 2022, actress Riya Sen joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Akola, Maharashtra. Rahul Gandhi reiterated that Vinayak Damodar Savarkar had helped the British. On 18 November 2022, Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi and actress Mona Ambegaonkar joined Rahul during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Shegaon in Buldhana district. On the day of birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, actress Rashami Desai, Akanksha Puri and Nagma joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Buldhana district on 19 November 2022. Actor Amol Palekar joined Bharat Jodo Yatra on its last day in Maharashtra in Jalgaon Jamod on 20 November 2022.

(22-28 November)

On 24 November 2022, Priyanka Gandhi and her husband Robert Vadra joined

Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh. Rahul Gandhi said in Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh that the goal of the yatra was a march against the hatred, violence and fear that is being spread in India. During the meeting with banana plantations and powerloom workers, from Burhanpur region Gandhi opined about unemployment and farm issues. Former CM of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijaya Singh underplayed the electoral impact of the yatra.

(29 November-5 December)

Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Rajasthan on 4 December 2022, a Congress ruled state for the first time. Rahul Gandhi said that Bharat Jodo Yatra has taught him things that cannot be learnt while travelling in any mode of transport, be it an aeroplane, a helicopter or any other mode. Rahul Gandhi and his fellow travelers were given a warm welcome at Chanwli Chauraha about 40 kms from Jhalawar city in a traditional Rajasthani style. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath danced with tribal dancers.

(6-12 December)

On 9 December 2022, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh informed that Bharat Jodo Yatra will take a nine-day break on December 25 and resume on January 3, 2023. On 11 December 2022, actress Digangana Suryavanshi joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Bundi district.

(13-19 December)

On 13 December 2022, Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed from Jeenapur in Sawai Madhopur district, Rajasthan. On 14 December 2022, Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Sawai Madhopur district.

Bharat Jodo yatra which started from Meena High Court in Dausa District completed 100 days on 16 December 2022. Himanchal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Mukesh Agnihotri deputy CM, the Congress' chief of the state Pratibha Singh walked alongside Rahul Gandhi. The Padyatra covered eight states in 100 days - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Issues of common man have been highlighted through the yatra, which is its biggest achievement. Singer Sunidhi Chauhan performed at a concert marking the completion of 100 days of Bharat Jodo Yatra, at Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur on 16 December 2022. On 19 December 2022, while addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Alwar, Rahul Gandhi highlighted the importance of English language and said that around 1,700 English medium schools have been opened in Rajasthan.

(20-26 December)

Former Punjab Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi joined Bharat jodo yatra at Alwar in Rajasthan on 20 December. On 21 December 2022, Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Haryana from Mundaka border in Nuh district. Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed from Patan Udaipuri in Nuh, Haryana after the flag handover ceremony. On 23 December 2022, DMK MP Kanimozhi joined Bharat Jodo Yatra in Haryana.

Global leaders who are this year's biggest winners

The year 2022 was a tumultuous one for global politics. The war in Ukraine upended the global economy - still facing the effects of Covid-19 - and threatened global peace and stability.

Across the world, leaders had to adapt to the changing scenarios while resolving internal issues within their own countries.

Europe was nervous that it may face a situation akin to World War II, the US was cautious not to begin a new Cold War with Russia and China, countries in West Asia witnessed unrest and the UK saw three prime ministers in a span of a couple of months.

Some leaders managed to fight those adversities and lead their people, while others wilted in the face of challenges.

Here are 2022's top leaders whose actions gained global attention:

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a proactive approach to ensure cessation of hostilities in Ukraine.

In the initial phases of the war, when European and American leaders sided with Ukraine, PM Modi made sure India sided with peace and called Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and urged them to give diplomacy a chance - more than once.

Today's era is not an era of war, and I have spoken to you on the phone about this," PM Modi told Vladimir Putin - a remark that drew praise and was even adopted by the G20 members in their draft communique.

In 2023, the global focus on India as it hosts the G20 summit in New Delhi. PM Modi has promised the world that India will become a global factory and counter China's dominance of global trade and supply chains.

PM Modi said earlier in December that G20 offers the opportunity to India to showcase its capability to the world.

"Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together," PM Modi said.

Amid the chaos, PM Modi emerged as a global leader who united the world.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

When Zelensky ignored US' intelligence reports that Russia would invade Ukraine, he took a gamble.

He chose to trust his neighbour and Russian President Vladimir Putin, but on February 24, 2022, when Russia struck Kyiv with missiles he became a laughing stock for his detractors.

The US was quick to offer him a safe route and become a leader-in-exile, like the Allies did with French wartime leader Charles de Gaulle when Hitler's Nazi army invaded France and installed Vichy as the French president at the height of the second World War.



"The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride," Zelensky reportedly said. And 300 days later, he is still there, visiting frontlines, meeting old Ukrainian mothers whose sons and daughters are fighting a war, speaking to children and assuring them that he will be there, no matter what comes.

And it has boosted morale of the Ukrainian soldiers fighting Russian troops.

They know their leader was once an actor and a standup comedian and may know nothing about war but they know that their leader is doing what he does best - tell the world that Ukraine is under attack and get help.

And he got the help he wanted. He received weapons from the US and other allies which thwarted Russia's so-called 'special military operation' and Ukrainian forces are now planning to retake areas occupied by the Russian forces.

His achievements were recognised by the Time Magazine, which named him as its person of the year.

For the menacing tiger that is Vladimir Putin, Zelensky turned out to be a wily, guile porcupine.

UK PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK

When Rishi Sunak lost the elections to Liz Truss early September, he may have felt it was over.

But when the MP from Richmond (Yorks) became the prime minister seven weeks later - the first person of Indian descent to lead the country which colonised India for two centuries - he knew that he is the prime minister that the people of the UK needed and not the one that the Conservative Party of the UK wants.

But why shall the UK not want Rishi Sunak to lead, despite him being the most eligible candidate for the top job?

Take note - Rishi Sunak was not elected by the people of the UK but by his own party people.

The same party people who preferred Liz Truss - simply because she was white, English and more palatable to the right-leaning faction of the Conservative Party.

The Conservative Party felt that by electing Truss as Prime Minister they would have ticked the liberal checkbox by selecting the UK's second female prime minister after Margaret Thatcher, ignoring the remarkable work Sunak did as UK finance minister at the height of the pandemic by saving jobs and extending furloughs.

However, Truss ended up being the UK's shortest-serving former prime minister, resigning after seven weeks.

The same policies that Sunak warned against, Truss implemented, leading to her (and the UK economy's) fall.

Sunak stepped in and took over the reins of the country and is currently helping the UK wade through its cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation.

He was also there in Ukraine, standing next to Zelensky and assuring him of UK's support.

Sunak is also not sparing China, calling it the single-largest threat to democracy.

But closer home, unions and the NHS staff's strikes are posing fresh challenges, but even his critics know that the shy, soft-spoken Sunak has a plan.

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON

2022 was a record-setting year for Emmanuel Macron.

He was the fourth French President to be reelected to office and while his critics were unsure of his survival in French politics, but he joined the ranks of Charles de Gaulle, François Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac.

The liberals in Europe heaved a sigh of relief seeing far-right candidate Marine Le Pen defeated - for the moment, France is an emblem of democracy.

Macron did not rest on his laurels.

Macron understood that Europe should not just rely on the US for its own security, so he travelled to Kyiv and then to Moscow, to meet Putin and convince him to end his 'military operation'.

Macron in 2022 reminded people of former German chancellor Angela Merkel.

He emerged as one of Europe's tallest leaders, taking charge as neighbours grew wary of Putin and his ambitions.

"The job of a diplomat is to talk to everybody and particularly to the people we disagree with," Macron said, in response to criticism from his eastern European counterparts who were not happy when he said 'Russia should not be humiliated'.

"Independence doesn't mean equal treatment. The US are our allies. But we don't want to depend on them," Macron said and he also kept his word.

When he met US President Joe Biden, he ensured that his American counterpart knew that France was not happy with the AUKUS submarine deal.

He did not take the humiliation lying down and forced his American counterpart to accept that the US was 'clumsy'.

As for the other two leaders who participated in his humiliation, UK's Boris Johnson and Australia's Scott Morrison, one was ousted by his own ministers and the other was voted out.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT TSAI-ING WEN

Tsai Ing-wen is readying herself for a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan and she knows that the day will come.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has been clear - reunify Taiwan with the motherland, if required, forcibly and Tsai Ing-Wen is paying attention.

She has studied Volodymyr Zelensky closely and extended support to Ukraine because she knows that nothing angers autocrats more than flourishing democracies extending support to one another.

She also weathered the storm quite remarkably when China carried out war drills around Taiwan in reaction to former US House Speaker and Democrat Nancy Pelosi's visit.

According to several experts, the war



drills were nothing but a preparation for an invasion - that could come as soon as 2027.

But Tsai is not scared. Speaking to the Atlantic, she said that Taiwan may be unfortunate to have a big neighbour but that makes Taiwan stronger.

Tsai Ing-wen has been very clear regarding how the world should view Taiwan.

Taiwanese sovereignty does not need validation from other countries but what Taiwan needs is moral support from other democracies and assurance that they will help Taiwan face Xi Jinping's war machine from the very moment its engines start purring.

"We are an independent country already and we call ourselves the Republic of China (Taiwan), and we have our own system of running the country, and we do have a government and we have a military, and we have elections," Tsai told the BBC in an interview in 2020.

As Xi struts about Beijing, happy with how he decimated the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, Tsai Ing-Wen is readying herself and the people of her country for an invasion and silently making Taiwan economically and militarily resilient.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS

If the so-called 'woke mob' is bothering you, help is not far away and help has come in the form of Florida's Republican governor Ron DeSantis.

After grabbing the headlines by implementing the 'Don't Say Gay' Law which bars classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students, DeSantis emerged like a messiah for those who were looking for a more palatable version of Donald Trump.

His fans were overjoyed when he was reelected as Florida governor earlier as they chanted 'two more years'.

Yes, in two more years DeSantis could be the US President, defeating Joe Biden and the Democrats in the 2024 Presidential Elections.

"We fight the woke in the legislature. We fight the woke in the schools. We fight the woke in the corporations. We will never, ever surrender to the woke mob. Florida is where woke goes to die," DeSantis said in his speech, which was met with loud, raucous cheers.

But it is not the just his anti-woke stance that has won him admirers, his model of governance during the pandemic where he allowed individuals to decide whether they want to take the risk of venturing out and also allowed businesses to remain open, showed the world and the rest of the US that there was indeed a way out other than lockdowns. Florida's population grew, unemployment remained below national average and the education system improved.

He also took steps to restore America's Everglades, demonstrating his commitment towards saving the environment and fighting climate change. His anti-woke stance may fuel violence against the LGBTQIA+ communities, but Conservative America has found its new hero.

Source: News 18

From Lata Mangeshkar to Bappi Lahiri, celebs who left us this year

They say death is a bitter truth and sadly, the only certainty of life. And, people can't help but agree with this. In the year 2022, we lost many famous Indian celebrities. From iconic actors to musical legends including Lata Mangeshkar, a lot of celebrities have said goodbye to us. Now, as we are inching closer to a new year, we have decided to do a quick recap.

Lata Mangeshkar



Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar died from multiple organ dysfunction syndromes on February 6. She was 92. She tested positive for COVID-19 on January 8. People from all over the world paid tribute to the legendary singer. It is a void that the Indian Cinema will find hard to fill.

Bappi Lahiri



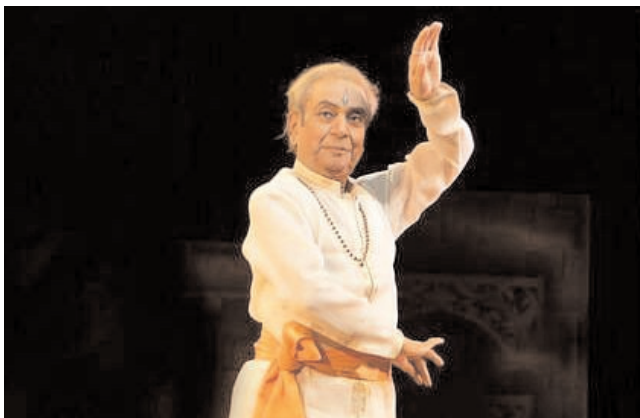
Singer and music composer Bappi Lahiri died of obstructive sleep apnea in Mumbai on February 15. Bappi Da was 69. Also known as the disco king, Bappi Lahiri had refined music for us. From Yaad Aa Raha Hai to Tune Maari Entry, Bappi Da has given us a lot to cherish.

KK

Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, passed away on May 31. The 53-year-old died hours after his performance at Nazrul Mancha in Kolkata. He died of cardiac arrest. KK's death grabbed a lot of attention and multiple PILs, in connection with his death, were filed in the Calcutta High Court.



Pandit Birju Maharaj



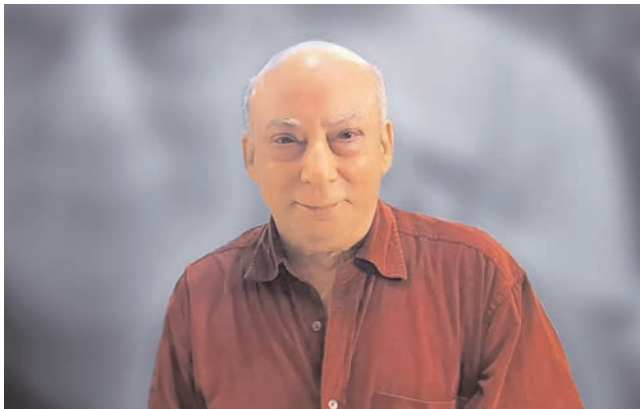
Legendary Kathak dancer, composer and singer, Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away on January 16 at his residence due to a heart attack. He breathed his last at the age of 83. He was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 1986.

Vikram Gokhale



Vikram Gokhale was known for his magnificent theatrical skills. He retired from stage acting in February 2016 following a diagnosis of a throat ailment. He passed away aged 76 on November 26 due to multiple organ failure.

Mithilesh Chaturvedi



Mithilesh Chaturvedi, during his career, featured in several films such as Koi... Mil Gaya, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Satya, Asoka, Taal, Fiza, Krrish and many others. He had started his career with the film Bhai Bhai in 1997.

Raju Srivastav

Born Satya Prakash Srivastav, the famous Indian comedian Raju Srivastav passed away on September 21 at AIIMS, Delhi. He was 58. He was hospitalised for more than a month following a cardiac arrest on August 10 while running on the treadmill in a gym. He became



a household name following his appearance in The Great Indian Laughter Challenge where he was the runner-up.

Vaishali Takkar



The 29-year-old actor, who rose to fame with her role in famous TV shows like Sasural Simar Ka and Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, was found hanging at her apartment in Indore on October 15, 2022. A suicide note was also recovered from the spot. Following Vaishali's death, her mother Anu Kaur Takkar claimed that her accused ex-boyfriend Rahul Navlani used to disturb her.

Arun Bali



Veteran Indian actor Arun Bali, died on October 7, 2022, due to a prolonged age-related illness. He was 79 years old. He appeared in several famous movies and TV shows such as 3 Idiots, PK, Kedarnath, Airlift and Panipat. He was last seen in Laal Singh Chaddha.

Tabassum Govil

Veteran Bollywood actress Tabassum Govil, passed away on November 18, 2022, due to a heart attack. The actress was 78. Notably, she was the sister-in-law of actor Arun Govil who is known for playing the role of Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan.



Remembering the celebrities we lost in 2022



Sidney Poitier, 94. He played roles of such dignity and intelligence that he transformed how Black people were portrayed on screen, becoming the first Black actor to win an Oscar for best lead performance and the first to be a top box-office draw. Jan. 6.



Bob Saget, 65. The actor-comedian known for his role as beloved single dad Danny Tanner on the sitcom "Full House" and as the wisecracking host of "America's Funniest Home Videos." Jan. 9.

Robert Durst, 78. The wealthy New York real estate heir and failed fugitive dogged for decades with suspicion in the disappearance and deaths of those around him before he was convicted last year of killing his best friend. Jan. 10.



Ronnie Spector, 78. The cat-eyed, beehived rock 'n' roll siren who sang such 1960s hits as "Be My Baby," "Baby I Love You" and "Walking in the Rain" as the leader of the girl group the Ronettes. Jan. 12.

André Leon Talley, 73. A towering and highly visible figure of the fashion world who made history as a rare Black editor in an overwhelmingly white industry. Jan. 18.



Meat Loaf, 74. The rock superstar loved by millions for his "Bat Out of Hell" album and for such theatrical, dark-hearted anthems as "Paradise By the Dashboard Light," "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad," and "I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)." Jan. 20.



Louie Anderson, 68. His four-decade career as a comedian and actor included his unlikely, Emmy-winning performance as mom to twin adult sons in the TV series "Baskets." Jan. 21.



Ivan Reitman, 75. The influential filmmaker and producer behind many of the most beloved comedies of the late 20th century, from "Animal House" to "Ghostbusters." Feb. 12.

Sally Kellerman, 84. The Oscar and Emmy nominated actor who played Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan in director Robert Altman's 1970 film "MASH." Feb. 24.

Emilio Delgado, 81. The actor and singer who for 45 years was a warm and familiar presence in children's lives and a rare Latino face on American television as fix-it shop owner Luis on "Sesame Street." March 10.

Traci Braxton, 50. A singer who was featured with her family in the reality

television series "Braxton Family Values." March 12.



William Hurt, 71. His laconic charisma and self-assured subtlety as an actor made him one of the 1980s foremost leading men in movies such as "Broadcast News," "Body Heat" and "The Big Chill." March 13.



Madeleine Albright, 84. A child refugee from Nazi- and then Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe who rose to become the first female secretary of state and a mentor to many current and former American statesmen and women. March 23.

Taylor Hawkins, 50. For 25 years, he was the drummer for Foo Fighters and best friend of frontman Dave Grohl. March 25.

Estelle Harris, 93. She hollered her way into TV history as George Costanza's short-fused mother on "Seinfeld" and voiced Mrs. Potato Head in the "Toy Story" franchise. April 2.

Bobby Rydell, 79. A pompadoured heartthrob of early rock 'n roll who was a star of radio, television and the movie musical "Bye Bye Birdie." April 5.

Gilbert Gottfried, 67. The actor and legendary standup comic known for his raw, scorched voice and crude jokes. April 12.

Liz Sheridan, 93. She played doting mom to Jerry Seinfeld on his hit sitcom. April 15.

Orrin G. Hatch, 88. The longest-serving Republican senator in history who was a fixture in Utah politics for more than four decades. April 23.

Naomi Judd, 76. Her family harmonies with daughter Wynonna turned them into the Grammy-winning country stars The Judds. April 30. Died by suicide.

Mickey Gilley, 86. A country singer whose namesake Texas honky-tonk inspired the 1980 film "Urban Cowboy" and a nationwide wave of Western-

themed nightspots. May 7.

Fred Ward, 79. A veteran actor who brought a gruff tenderness to tough-guy roles in such films as "The Right Stuff," "The Player" and "Tremors." May 8.

Bob Lanier, 73. The left-handed big man who muscled up beside the likes of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as one of the NBA's top players of the 1970s. May 10.

Vangelis, 79. The Greek electronic composer who wrote the unforgettable Academy Award-winning score for the film "Chariots of Fire" and music for dozens of other movies, documentaries and TV series. May 17.

Ray Liotta, 67. The actor best known for playing mobster Henry Hill in "Goodfellas" and baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson in "Field of Dreams." May 26.

Andy "Fletch" Fletcher, 60. Keyboardist for British synth pop giants Depeche Mode for more than 40 years. May 26.

Ann Turner Cook, 95. Her cherubic baby face was known the world over as the original Gerber baby. June 3.

Tony Siragusa, 55. The charismatic defensive tackle who was part of one of the most celebrated defenses in NFL history with the Baltimore Ravens. June 22.

James Caan, 82. The curly-haired tough guy known to movie fans as the hotheaded Sonny Corleone of "The Godfather" and to television audiences as both the dying football player in the classic weeper "Brian's Song" and the casino boss in "Las Vegas." July 6.



Ivana Trump, 73. A skier-turned-businesswoman who formed half of a publicity power couple in the 1980s as the first wife of former President Donald Trump and mother of his oldest children. July 14. Injuries suffered in an accident.

Anne Heche, 53. The Emmy-winning film and television actor whose dramatic Hollywood rise in the 1990s and accomplished career contrasted with personal chapters of turmoil. Aug. 14. Injuries suffered in a car crash.

Len Dawson, 87. The Hall of Fame quarterback whose unmistakable swagger in helping the Kansas City Chiefs to their first Super Bowl title earned him the nickname "Lenny the Cool." Aug. 24.

Bernard Shaw, 82. CNN's chief anchor for two decades and a pioneering Black broadcast journalist best remembered for calmly reporting the beginning of the Gulf War in 1991 as missiles flew around him in Baghdad. Sept. 7.

Political leaders who passed away this year

INDIA

The year 2022 has seen several ups and downs that be remembered for ages to come. Apart from the global pandemic and natural disasters, people mourned the demise of a number of revered political personalities. Indian politics suffered some serious setbacks as the following politicians breathed their last, leaving irreparable voids in the political landscape of India. Here is remembering them as the year comes to its end.

Mulayam Singh Yadav



Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav died at Gurugram's Medanta Hospital on October 10 due to multiple organ failure. He was 82. Yadav was hospitalised on August 22 and moved to the ICU on October 2 after his health condition deteriorated. Mulayam Singh Yadav, one of the most prominent leaders of Uttar Pradesh, served as the chief minister of the state thrice and also as India's defence minister. He was elected 10 times as a member of the assembly and seven times as a Lok Sabha member.

Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh



Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh, veteran politician from Maharashtra, passed away on December 2. Gadakh was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009. He represented the Ahmednagar constituency of Maharashtra.

Samresh Singh

Samresh Singh, veteran politician from Jharkhand, passed away on December 2. Singh, a five-time MLA from Bokaro, died at his home. He was 81 years old and was unwell for a while. He was the Vice President of Jharkhand



Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik). He was the first Science and Technology Minister of Jharkhand State Government.

Mukta Tilak



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Pune, Mukta Tilak, passed away on December 22 at a private hospital in Pune after a five-year-battle with cancer. She was 57. Tilak, who was a first-time legislator, represented the Kasba Assembly segment in Pune city. Before becoming an MLA in 2019, Tilak was also the mayor of Pune. She was a great-granddaughter-in-law of freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak.

Karnendu Bhattacharjee



Two-time Rajya Sabha MP from Assam and former Silchar MLA Karnendu Bhattacharjee passed away at a private hospital in Noida on December 23. He was 84. Bhattacharjee, who was regarded as one of the stalwarts of the Congress in the Barak Valley areas of Assam, served as the president of Silchar district Congress committee for almost 27 years.

WORLD

From Queen Elizabeth II to Shinzo Abe, leaders who died in 2022

This year, we have lost many renowned global personalities leaving millions of followers with a huge void in their hearts. From Queen Elizabeth II to the last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the following are some of 2022's most notable deaths:

Queen Elizabeth II

The longest-reigning queen of the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth the second passed away on September 07 at the age of 96, AFP reported

The queen had reduced her public appearances due to her bad health. Her health issues left her unable to stand and walk freely. She was at her Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

It had been 70 years since the queen succeeded her father King George VI in 1952. She celebrated her Platinum Jubilee this year.



Mikhail Gorbachev

The former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev passed away at the age of 91 on August 30. The leader was known who brought the Cold War to a peaceful end.

Gorbachev came to power in 1982 and introduced several reforms for the Soviet Union and the world as well.

His health had been deteriorating recently. Medical experts said that he had been suffering from a long and serious illness.



Shinzo Abe

Japan's former prime minister was shot dead on July 8 evening during election campaigns. The 67-year-old leader was one of the country's longest-serving prime ministers. He resigned from the position in 2020.

After being shot, he was flown to a hospital in a helicopter.

From US President Joe Biden to India's PM Narendra Modi, world leaders paid their tribute.



Vladimir Zhirinovsky

Russia's ultranationalist political leader passed away at the age of 75 on April 06 after he contracted coronavirus and died weeks after in hospital with pneumonia.

As per reports, the leader had eight COVID-19 vaccinations.

His death was confirmed by the parliament speaker Vyacheslav Volodin.

The leader in Dec 2021 predicted that Russia would invade Ukraine.

Before entering politics, he ran a Soviet state-approved Jewish cultural organisation.



Shireen Abu Akleh

Shireen a Palestinian-American journalist who worked for Al-Jazeera was killed on 11 May 2022.

As per reports, she was covering a raid by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in West Bank wearing a blue vest with "Press" written on it, and was shot and killed.



Shane Warne to Bill Russell — sportspersons who passed away in 2022

Sporting icons are considered immortals by their fans due to the indelible mark they make in their sporting careers. 2022 has been a year of several success stories, but this was also a year when several legendary sporting icons passed away. The sports world will always miss them.

Shane Warne

The Aussie leggie's death on March 4 shocked the cricket fraternity and fans. The 52-year-old was found unconscious in his Thailand resort. An autopsy later declared that he died of natural causes.

Andrew Symonds

Over two months after Warnie's death came the another shocker as another legendary cricketer from Down Under, Andrew Symonds, died on May 14. He was only 46. The former all-rounder was killed in a car crash.

Bill Russell

One of the greatest basketball players of all time played for Boston Celtics in the NBA during the civil unrest in the US. He won 11 championships in 13 seasons from 1957-69. He died on July 31, aged 88. As a civil rights activist, he had been a legend off the court also. Russell had marched with Martin Luther King jr, supported Muhammad Ali and had been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Asad Rauf

The former ICC panel elite umpire from Pakistan died due to a cardiac arrest in Lahore on September 14. He had officiated 64 Tests, 139 one-dayers and 28 T20Is throughout his career, which met a controversial end after he was named in the IPL spot-fixing scandal in 2013. In 2016, BCCI banned Rauf for five years on misconduct and corruption charges. Before becoming an umpire, he also played 71 first-class matches as a middle-order batsman.

Nick Bollettieri

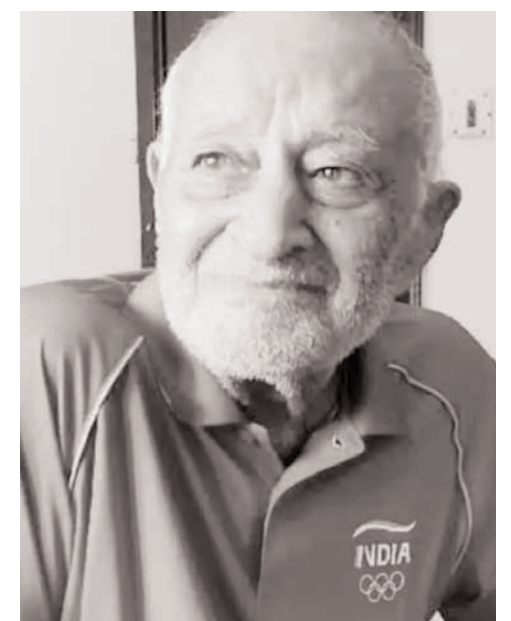
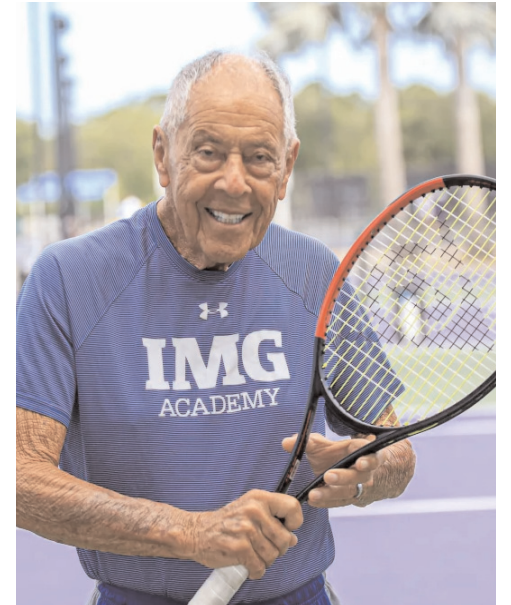
On December 4, Nick Bollettieri, one of the greatest tennis coaches passed away. He was 91. Bollettieri was considered the force behind players like Maria Sharapova, Andre Agassi and Monica Seles to become World No. 1. Also, according to the International Tennis Federation, six players whom Bollettieri coached have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Rod Marsh

The Australian cricket great was known as "Iron Gloves", who started his career in 1970 has played 92 ODIs. The southpaw was the first Australian to score a Test century against Pakistan in 1982. A comatose Marsh passed away in an Adelaide hospital on March 4, at the age of 74.

Rudi Koertzen

The South African umpire died on August 9 in a car crash when he was returning home after playing golf. It was reported that Koertzen was travelling



Charanjit Singh

The captain of the Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team in 1964, Charanjit Singh, passed away at the age of 90 on January 27, after suffering a heart attack. He was one of the most celebrated Indian sportspersons of his generation. Singh was also part of the silver medal-winning team in the 1960 Olympics. *Source: ABPlive*

with three others when their car had a head-on collision near the town of Riverdale in Western Cape province. His style of declaring a batter out was

popularly known as the "slow finger of death", where he would slowly raise his left arm with pointing finger at the batter.

Parameters that shaped the Indian Economy this year

The year 2022 has been challenging for India from various economic perspectives. While, on one hand the soaring inflation in India posed severe challenges to the masses, on the other hand, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left no stone unturned to address issues like falling foreign exchange (forex) reserves of the country and depreciating value of Rupee against US dollar.

Here are the top eight parameters that defined and shaped the Indian economy this year.

GDP growth rate

The latest GDP growth numbers for the September quarter raised eyebrows again as growth for Q2 stood at 6.3 per cent. Although, the RBI in the latest monetary policy announcement predicted GDP growth to be 6.8 per cent, yet the concern over the GDP continued. Although the year started with low GDP growth (4.1 per cent) but the quarter ending in June brought some respite as it surged to more than 13 per cent.

Forex Reserves

The RBI took several measures to cope up with the sky rocketing value of US Dollar against the Indian Rupee. One of the major measures included selling dollars, which led to the fall in the forex reserves. Then, the RBI tried to maximize foreign inflows to augment the forex reserves. After witnessing a downtrend since August, the forex reserves have surged by \$6.56 billion (for the week ending October 28) and recorded the highest jump in the past one year. India's forex reserves hit several lows in the past few months, including dropping to their lowest levels since July 2020.

Soaring Inflation

Inflation was one of the major factors that affected the Indian economy this year. The country's retail inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to an 11-month low of 5.88% in November 2022 after RBI raised the repo rates several times since April.

Concern grew as the RBI failed to bring down the inflation rate for a few months despite repeated rate hikes. The accepted rate of inflation is supposed to be at 6 per cent, but the limit was breached in January and spiked to 7.79 per cent in April.

USD-INR exchange rate

The rupee breached the 80 level versus the dollar for the first time on July 19, 2022, as crude oil prices rose in the international market on July 18. The average exchange value has mostly been around Rs 80.74 this year, although, it touched an all-time high of Rs 83.002 on October 22.

Import-Export

India's exports witnessed a massive fall this year, and the total export fell by more than 25 per cent between June and



October 2022. However, there was a slight rise in the numbers in November. Similarly, imports in India also faced a downtrend.

Monetary Policy rate

The central bank raised the repo rate by 225 basis points between April and December to cope up with the soaring inflation. While the repo rate hike brought some relief to those with investments in fixed deposits and other forms of deposits, it became a growing concern for loan borrowers.

Per capita income

This is one of the very few economic indicators that showed a positive trend this year. The per capita net national income, both in terms of constant price and current prices (calculated with the effect of price inflation), went up by more than 8 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. Although, it is yet to reach the pre-Covid level.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate rose by more than 1.4 per cent for India between January and November 2022. At nearly 10 per cent, the unemployment rate touched its highest in August this year.

Indian Rises to Become 5th Largest Economy

India became the fifth largest economy, leaving the UK behind in September this year. The size of the Indian economy with regards to 'nominal' cash was \$854.7 billion compared to UK's \$814 billion, claimed a Bloomberg report. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), during April-June 2022, India's gross value added (GVA), which is GDP minus net product taxes and reflects growth in supply, climbed 12.7 per cent. While India saw stable growth, the UK has been battling its highest inflation rate in several decades. According to a Bank of England prediction, the UK is already in a recession period that may last up to 2024.

Economic Growth



At a time when many major economies around the globe struggled due to the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, India showed signs of stability. The country's economy grew by an impressive 13.5 per cent in the June quarter of 2022 (Q4 of FY 22) even as the world's major economies US and UK witnessed contractions. In the September quarter, the country's economy registered a growth rate of 6.3 per cent.

Increased Purchasing Power

The impressive performance of the Indian economy was also indicated by a rising in purchasing power. As markets opened up and economic activities returned to full swing, the country saw a spike in the private consumption forecast by World Consumption. The country's private consumption is expected to make up 9.4 per cent of the GDP compared to 7.9 per cent. The imports are also predicted to drop to 15.4 per cent from 35.5 in FY 2022.

The World Bank, in a report titled Navigating the Storm, appreciated the country's policy measures and said that India was well positioned to weather global spillovers compared to most other emerging markets.

Central bank digital currency launch

The Reserve Bank of India on December 1 launched the first pilot for retail digital Rupee (e-R). The pilot would cover select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants. The e-R is a virtual token that can be used as a legal tender, according to the RBI. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued. It would be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks.

5G launch in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 1, inaugurated the sixth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC). PM Modi also launched 5G services in India on that day. Soon many telecom companies including Airtel and JIO have brought their 5G plans. At the end of year, Airtel 5G service is available in over 50 cities across the country.

Global economy faced steep challenges in 2022

For the global economy, 2022 brought forth several unforeseen challenges even as the world hoped to recover after two years of pandemic. Among the most powerful factors that hit the economy hard was the war in Ukraine. From triggering food and fuel shortage to creating an environment of uncertainty, the conflict - which even raised concerns of a nuclear threat - has kept the world on edge ever since it started on February 24. Amid the war, coupled with other factors, three largest economies - the United States, European Union and China - will continue to stall as we enter the next year, as per the IMF, as it warns that 2023 may feel like recession to many.

The Ukraine war and its impact

"Russia's invasion of Europe continues to destabilise the global economy," the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned in its Countering the Cost-Of-Living Crisis October 2022 report, adding that gas prices in Europe have surged four-fold since 2021 with Russia cutting the supply to 20 per cent as compared to 2021 levels. It also - as is widely known - pushed up the food prices in the global market, hitting low-income households and poorer nations hard.

Inflation

A cost-of-living crisis is said to have emerged following persistent and broadening inflation pressures, the UN agency further highlighted in its report, stressing that the inflation is expected to peak by the end of 2022. But it is likely to remain elevated for longer than expected period. "Global inflation is forecast to rise from 4.7 percent in 2021 to 8.8 percent in 2022 but to decline to 6.5 percent in 2023 and to 4.1 percent by 2024," the IMF report underlines. "Monetary policy should stay the course to restore price stability, and fiscal policy should aim to alleviate the cost-of-living pressures while maintaining a sufficiently tight stance aligned with monetary policy," it stresses. This year, many countries - including Japan, Australia among others - have registered record inflation. The central banks have been trying to strike a balance by hiking interest rates.

China Covid curbs and supply chain issues

2022 continued to see frequent lockdowns in China - as part of the Covid Zero policy - that took a toll on the economy worldwide. The property sector - which represents about one-fifth of economic activity in China - is rapidly weakening, the international body has underlined. "Given the size of China's economy and its importance for global supply chains, this will weigh heavily on global trade



and activity," it stressed. At the time, the report was published the country had reported two new deaths, sparking new fears.

The global growth is predicted to slow from 6.0 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent in 2022 and 2.7 percent in

2023. "This is the weakest growth profile since 2001 except for the global financial crisis and the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic," the IMF underlines in the latest report. "The global economy's future health rests critically on the successful calibration of monetary policy, the course of the war in Ukraine, and the possibility of further pandemic-related supply-side disruptions, for example, in China," it points out.

Big news that dominated the Biz world

Twitter Takeover Deal

In a rollercoaster saga unfolded throughout the year 2022, tech billionaire finally bought microblogging platform Twitter at a whopping cost of \$44 billion in October end. The deal remained clouded in uncertainty over Elon Musk's whims on whether to buy it or not. However, after some coercion and legal battle, he had got ready to buy it.

Tech lay offs -- Major lay offs in corporate world

The entire year passed with a grim reminder of imminent recession round the corner. The recovering economies around the globe faced multi-pronged challenges including Russia-Ukraine conflict, Supply-Chain constraint, more. Hence, many big tech companies laid off some portion of their workforce in order to cut cost and make themselves prepared for recession. Facebook, Meta, BYJU's, Disney, and Salesforce were some of them which cut 1% to 13% of their staff this year.

ChatGPT sensation on Internet

Artificial Intelligence-based new prototype chatbot 'ChatGPT' made the sensation this year in the world for its advanced capability of understanding natural language and responding in a natural language. The prototype based chatbox was developed by Artificial research company OpenAI.

FTX Fiasco

Crypto exchange FTX filed for US bankruptcy proceedings on November 11 and Sam Bankman-Fried stepped down as CEO, after a rapid liquidity crisis at the cryptocurrency group that has prompted intervention from regulators around the world. FTX's collapse also led to the spectacular fall in the fortune of its founder Bankman-Fried.

Major natural disasters that struck India in 2022

India recorded an extreme weather event on almost 90 per cent of the days in the first nine months of this year, according to a report of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

This means that "India has seen close to a disaster every day in the nine months of this year – from heat and cold waves, cyclones and lightning to heavy rains, floods and landslides," the report, "Extreme Weather Report 2022", stated.

These disasters have claimed 2,755 lives, affected 1.8 million hectare of crop area, destroyed over 416,667 houses and killed close to 70,000 livestock.

With an event every second day, Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of days with extreme weather events, but Himachal Pradesh saw the highest number of human fatalities -- 359 deaths. Madhya Pradesh and Assam witnessed 301 human deaths each. Assam reported the highest number of damaged houses and animal deaths.

Here's a look at the natural disasters that took place this year in India.

Amarnath floods

In one of the deadliest monsoon-related incidents this year, at least 16 people lost their lives and several were injured in a cloudburst near the Amarnath cave in Jammu and Kashmir on July 8, 2022.

Uttar Pradesh floods

Six people died in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh where over 1,300 villages in 18 districts were affected by floods. A total of 287 villages were affected by floods in Balrampur district, 129 villages in Siddharthnagar, 120 in Gorakhpur, 114 in Shravasti, 110 in Gonda, 102 in Bahraich, 86 in Lakhimpur Kheri and 82 in Barabanki district.

Manipur landslide

A landslide occurred in the Noney district of Manipur near the Tupul



railway construction site on the night of June 30, 2022. At least 58 people were killed in the incident. Twenty-nine Indian Army personnel and 29 civilians were among the deceased.

Cyclone Asani

Severe Cyclonic Storm Asani was a strong tropical cyclone that made landfall in India in May 2022. Cyclone Asani originated from a depression that the Indian Meteorological Department

first monitored on May 7. Conditions rapidly favored development as the system became a deep depression by that day before intensifying into a Cyclonic Storm. On the next day, it peaked and turned into a severe cyclonic storm, before making landfall as a deep depression system over Andhra Pradesh. It weakened into a well-marked low-pressure on May 12.

Uttarakhand avalanche

An avalanche hit the Draupadi Ka Danda peak in Uttarakhand on October 4.

Twenty-seven mountaineers in the Advanced Mountaineering Course of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering were killed due to the avalanche. The avalanche occurred at a height of 17,000 feet when a team of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) was returning after summiting Draupadi Ka Danda II peak in Uttarakhand.



Deadliest natural disasters that took place around the world

While the year 2022 is about to come to an end, it is indeed the right time to recall some major happenings that took place in the past 12 months. From global events to the deaths of some notable personalities and the Russia-Ukraine war, 2022 has seen it all. Besides, the year has also witnessed some horrific natural disasters showing the turn of events concerning the environment and climate changes. With historic storms, heat waves, forest fires, to hurricanes among many others, the year definitely kept everyone at the edge of their seats with questions in their mind about what is to come next.

Speaking of which, let's take a look at some of the major natural disasters of 2022 and the environmental impact they left on the planet.

Afghanistan earthquake and rainfall

While already struggling under the Taliban rule, Afghanistan also became a host to massive rains and an earthquake that wreaked havoc on the country. While it began with an earthquake of magnitude 5.9 that struck the eastern part of the country, the disaster led to the death of over 1,000 people. In less than two months after this, the country was again jolted by unseasonal rainfall for the entire month of August. As a result of this, around 182 Afghans lost their lives.

Africa drought

Another tragic event to strike a country this year was the drought situation in parts of East Africa. Following below-average rainfall for several seasons now, it left large swathes of East Africa in a dry state and thus faced the most prolonged drought in recent times. Surpassing the horrific drought of 2010-11 and 2016-17, the current situation has affected millions of people and is likely to deepen in the months ahead.

Brazil floods

With heavy rain across the country,



floods and mudslides were reported in several parts of Brazil. The devastating flood resulting from incessant rains gripped several major cities and has now left people in a challenging situation.

Indonesia earthquake

After a magnitude-5.6 earthquake jolted the entire town of Cianjur in Indonesia in November, it caused massive devastation in the region. The tremors were felt across several areas and further led to the death of around 334 people.

Heat waves across Europe

The 2022 summer broke all the records for sending shocking heat waves across European countries. While the UK alone recorded its hottest-ever temperature in July, it also led to the death of thousands of people in mid-June and mid-July. Besides, the condition also led to huge damage to agriculture and the functioning of power plants and hydropower generators.

Hurricane Ian in the United States

Considered as the deadliest hurricane to ever hit Florida since 1935, Hurricane Ian caused massive devastation in the United States. It affected millions of people and further led to damages worth

\$67 billion.

Floods in Pakistan

After Pakistan faced record-breaking rainfall between June and October, it led to a disastrous flood that washed away homes and further claimed the lives of thousands. The floods were also said to be the country's second-most expensive weather disaster on record.

Bomb Cyclone

US Bomb Cyclone in December: As of December 27, North America is in the grip of an intense snowstorm, also being called the 'blizzard of the century'.

Source: Firstpost



The Kashmir Files to Brahmastra, highest-grossing Bollywood movies

Bollywood films suffered a huge blow at the box office in the past two-three years due to COVID. But after the situation returned to normalcy, cinephiles rushed to theatres to watch their favourite stars on the big screen again. Kartik Aaryan's *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* became the first Bollywood film of 2022 to emerge as a hit at the box office.

It was followed by *The Kashmir Files* and Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt's *Brahmastra*. Ajay Devgn and Tabu's *Drishyam 2*, too, made it to the list of blockbuster films of the calendar year, as per a report by Box Office India. So, without further ado, let's take a look at some highest-grossing Hindi films of 2022:

The Kashmir Files

The film directed by Vivek Agnihotri stars Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher and Darshan Kumar in the lead roles. It earned Rs 246.91 crores, making it the highest-grossing Bollywood film at the Indian box office. The film portrays the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990s.

Brahmastra Part One - Shiva

Ayan Mukerji's magnum opus *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva* is the second top-grossing Hindi film that earned Rs 230.23 crores. The film starred Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, and Mouni Roy in pivotal roles. Shah Rukh Khan also made a cameo appearance in the film.

Drishyam 2

The film is a remake of a Malayalam hit of the same title. In it, Ajay Devgn, Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta and Mrunal Jadhav have reprised their roles while Tabu and Akshaye Khanna have joined the star cast. *Drishyam 2* turned out to be the third-highest grosser at the box office. The flick, directed by Abhishek Pathak, garnered Rs 209.86 crore in India.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2

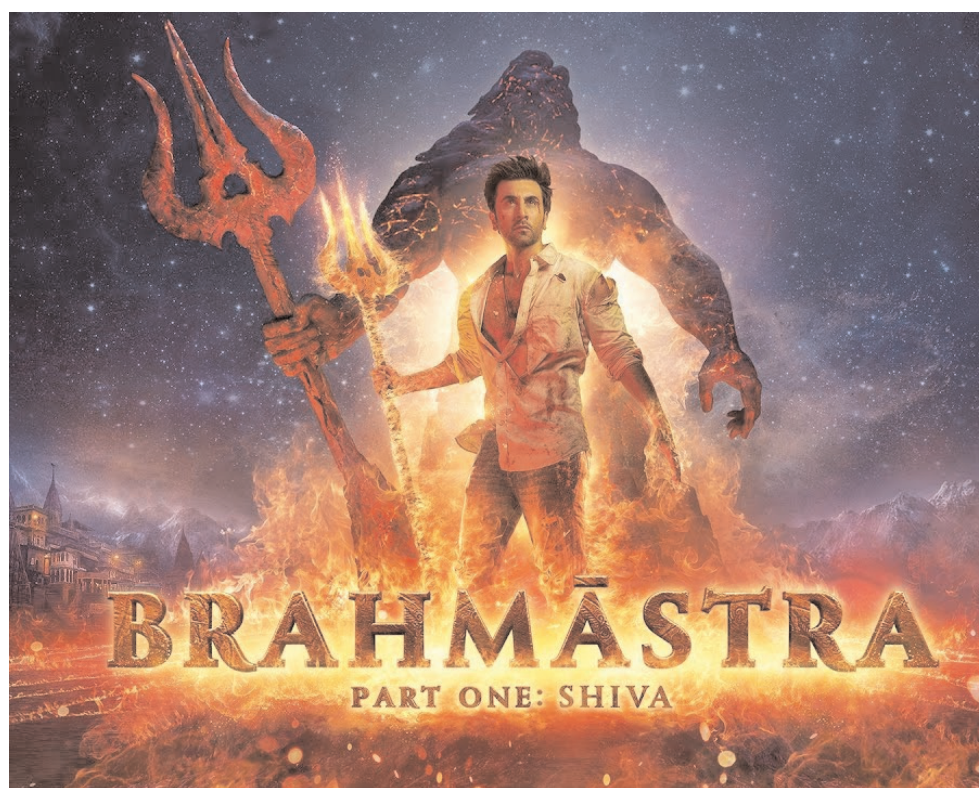
Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani-starrer *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* earned Rs 181.6 crore at the box office. The Bollywood film directed by Anees Bazmee is a horror-comedy that is a sequel to Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan's 2007 film of the same name.

Gangubai Kathiawadi

Gangubai Kathiawadi is a biographical film directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The Alia Bhatt-starrer garnered Rs 126.32 crores at the Indian box office and emerged as the fifth Bollywood film to be in the list of mega box office hits. It is based on the life of Gangubai Kathiawadi, a sex worker in Mumbai's Kamathipura who became a political leader of the area after overcoming a lot of struggles.

Celebrities Who Opted For Low-Key Intimate Wedding In 2022

2022 was filled with our favourite celebrities tying the knot, some



anticipated while others surprising. However, not all of these celebrities wanted a grand traditional wedding - some went for intimate weddings with only friends and family.

Farhan Akhtar and Shibani Dandekar

While all the usual mehendi and sangeet ceremonies took place, the couple ditched a traditional Indian wedding with saat pheras and exchanged vows in a beautiful outdoor wedding. They got married in February, at Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi's farmhouse in Khandala. The guest list was reserved for close friends and family, who the newlyweds celebrated with the entire evening.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt

Fans were awaiting and were delighted after finally receiving the news about one of the most loved B-town couples' wedding. Ranbir and Alia tied the knot in April, carrying out a simple and intimate wedding on their balcony, in the presence of their closest friends and family. Alia shared photos of the wedding through her Instagram, which broke the Internet for sure!

Vikrant Massey and Sheetal Thakur

After dating for seven years, actor Vikrant Massey and Sheetal Thakur got married privately in Sheetal Shahtali's ancestral home in Himachal Pradesh. What better day than Valentine's to commit yourself to each other anyways, so the couple officially registered their marriage on 14th February and got hitched on the 18th.

Mohit Raina and Aditi Sharma

This new year certainly came bearing good news as actor Mohit Raina announced that he tied the knot with long-term girlfriend Aditi Sharma on January 1, in Rajasthan. Close friends and family of the couple attended the wedding.

Sanah Kapur and Mayank Pahwa

Shahid Kapur's sister, Sanah Kapur and her beau Mayank Pahwa got hitched in March at Le Méridien, Mahabaleshwar in a close-knit simple wedding. The pre-wedding ceremonies were also quite intimate including mehendi, chooda ceremony and sangeet.

Shama Sikander and James Milliron

Popular TV and Bollywood actress Shama Sikander tied the knot with American beau and long-time boyfriend James Milliron in March this year. After getting engaged in 2015 and the pandemic delaying the wedding, the couple finally had a white destination close-knit ceremony in Goa.

Cyrus Sahukar and Vaishali Malahara

In April this year, well-known VJ and anchor Cyrus Sahukar married his long-time girlfriend Vaishali Malahara in Alibaug near Mumbai. The couple dated for over six years, before tying the knot.

The 10 biggest movies of 2022 at the global box office

With 2022 about to take its final bow, film fans look to the global box office to find out which films have been the year's biggest hitters.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the Top 10 is composed of sequels and big tentpole blockbusters, films which have become safe bets for studios and cinemas looking to get as many bums back in seats and to bounce back after the existential threat the Covid pandemic posed to the industry.

1) Top Gun: Maverick (\$1.489bn / approx. €1.4bn)



The critically acclaimed legacy sequel to Tony Scott's 1986 classic made the world re-enter the danger zone.

Its success could be attributed to several factors: the fact that Tom Cruise is Hollywood's last of the old-school A-listers and still box office Viagra; that the belated nature of the sequel rhymed with curious spectators hungry to see a beloved character on screen once more; or simply because audiences crave a good old-fashioned and exquisitely made action movie.

Whatever you attribute the enormous box office success of Maverick to, the film seems to have resonated with audiences and critics alike. The film even surpassed Mission: Impossible - Fallout (2018) to become Tom Cruise's highest-grossing film of all time at the worldwide box office.

Director Joseph Kosinski, who had previously worked with Tom Cruise on 2013's much-better-than-you-remember Oblivion, made Maverick a sincere drama and a thrilling ride that acknowledged that times had changed. It mercifully steered clear (for the most part) of the original's brazen military recruitment vibe and replaced it with a certain mournful style that presents a world that could be on the verge of rendering pilots (in this case) irrelevant.

2) Jurassic World: Dominion (\$1.003bn / approx. €940m)



Less praise for the final instalment of the Jurassic World saga, which did exceptionally well this year.

The Jurassic Park franchise became the tenth film franchise to gross \$6 billion with the release of Jurassic World Dominion. However, it remained a cynical, narratively barren cash grab with no soul and made you want to scream: "WHY DID YOU COME BACK, LAURA DERN? YOU DESERVE SO MUCH BETTER!"

It's depressing seeing how well this embarrassment of a film did and considering Dominion became the 50th film to gross \$1 billion worldwide, you can bet that the bean counters will ensure that we're not done with the dinosaurs just yet.

3) Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (\$955.8m / approx. €896m)



Marvel fans were disappointed – to say the least – with the MCU's Phase 4 and its overdose of TV shows and middling releases, leading even the staunchest of fans to admit that superhero fatigue was seriously kicking in this year. And Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness was partly responsible for this feeling; a trippy instalment from horror maestro Sam Raimi (the Evil Dead franchise, Drag Me To Hell) that wasn't strange, mad or multiverse-y enough. Worse, it ruined what the series WandaVision had established with regards to the character of Wanda aka: The Scarlet Witch.

4) Minions: The Rise of Gru (\$939.4m / approx. €880.9m)



Miniboss goes to San Papisco.

Flawed and not as charming as previous instalments, this still yielded some decent laughs. The minions are just getting started.

5) Avatar: The Way of Water (\$889m / approx. €833m... and counting)



As of writing, James Cameron's costly Avatar sequel is in fifth place, with global ticket sales since its 16 December release tallying \$889m.

It had the 11th-biggest global opening of all time and the third-biggest global opening for a film in the pandemic era behind Spider-Man: No Way Home and the aforementioned Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, earning \$441.7 million in its first week. Furthermore, with the release of The Way of Water, Disney led the studios in worldwide box office grosses and crossed the \$4 billion mark for the eighth year. Estimates put it as being on course to make double this over the course of the next month, which would see the film soar to second place.

6) Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (\$790m / approx. €740.8m)



If there was one redeeming film in this year's MCU offering, it was Ryan Coogler unwieldy but powerful sequel to the cultural juggernaut that was Black Panther. It worked best when embracing its main thematic thrust about the agony of loss and reckoning with legacy, referencing the untimely death of its lead star, the much-missed Chadwick Boseman.

7) The Batman (\$770.8m / approx. €722m)



Everyone went nuts for the inexplicably overrated Matt Reeves-

Robert Pattinson iteration of the Dark Knight. However, look closely enough (which, granted, isn't easy considering the tiresome stylistic trend that states that if things are serious, then the screen has to be as dark as possible) and it's an overlong and narratively creaky Chinatown / David Fincher rip-off with little-to-no soul of its own. And while there's nothing wrong about referencing past films, if you ape Fincher, you had better come correct.

8) Thor: Love and Thunder (\$761m /



approx. €713.6m)

This fourth solo MCU adventure for Thor was the worst offender this year for Marvel. And a surprising misfire, considering Taika Waititi was behind the camera once more after delivering what many felt was the perfect Thor film with 2017's Thor: Ragnarok. The jokes were naff, the stakes were non-existent and the imagination and charm were nowhere to be found.

9) Water Gate Bridge (also known as The Battle at Lake Changjin II) (\$626.5m / approx. €587.5m)



This Chinese war film and sequel to last year's The Battle at Lake Changjin commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party and is based on the historical fighting at Funchilin Pass during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. It was released on the Chinese New Year and grossed \$626.5 million in China, making it only with that domestic intake the ninth-highest-grossing film of 2022.

10) Moon Man (\$460.2m / approx. €431.5m)

Another Chinese film rounds off the Top 10, this time a sci-fi comedy that tells the story of Duguyue, who, after being left unexpectedly on the moon, becomes the last person in existence when an asteroid destroys the earth.

Source: Euronews

BrahMos, Agni, Prithvi II: Lethal missiles India tested amid twin border threats

With twin threats lurking at India's northern and western borders from China and Pakistan, the country in 2022 made giant strides in successfully testing a host of lethal and advanced missiles, including the Agni V that can strike targets about 5,500 km away.

In 2022, India tested a series of anti-ship, air-defence, ballistic, cruise, air-to-air, anti-missile systems and even the capability to hit targets in space.

India also put its name in the global map, being among four nations owning an Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) system. India is also one of the seven countries possessing an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), Agni V, which can travel a minimum distance of 5,500 km.

The year also saw the government pushing towards transforming India's military into an 'Aatmanirbhar' force, equipping the armed forces with state-of-the-art weapons and technologies manufactured indigenously.

The Ministry of Defence capped the year by approving the procurement of the indigenous short-range ballistic surface-to-surface (SRBM) missile Pralay, which would be deployed along the country's borders with China and Pakistan.

The development is a move towards creating India's own Rocket Force — a concept that was envisaged by former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat.

Here Are The Missiles Tested In 2022 By The Armed Forces:

Agni Series

The year saw India successfully testing several missiles under its Agni series.

In December, India successfully test fired the long-range surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile, Agni 5, which has a range of over 5,000 km. This was the ninth test-firing of the Agni 5, which was first tested in 2012. The missile can reach most cities in mainland China, including Beijing.

In November, a successful training launch of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni 3, was carried out. Earlier, in June, Agni 4 was tested. The missile has a range of over 3,500 km

BrahMos Extended Range Version Missile

In May, India successfully fired the Extended Range Version of BrahMos missile from the Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The missile achieved a direct hit on the designated target in the Bay of Bengal region.

Prithvi-II

Short-Range Ballistic Missile Prithvi-II was tested in June from Chandipur, Odisha. The missile is capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision.



Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile

INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) in October. INS Arihant is presently armed with K-15 SLBM with a range of 750 km.

Helina

In April, Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested twice at different high-altitude ranges from an indigenously-developed helicopter. The missile, which has been

developed for integration with choppers, has a maximum range of 7 km. The missile system has all-weather, day, and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.

Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile

Indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully fired from battle tank Arjun in June. The ATGM comes with a High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.

Naval Anti-Ship Missile

In May, DRDO and Indian Navy successfully tested indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile launched from a helicopter off Odisha coast. It was the first indigenous air launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy.

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile

The Indian Army completed six flight-tests of the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system in 2022. The tests were conducted against high-speed aerial targets mimicking various types of threats to evaluate the capability of the weapon systems under different scenarios.

Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

Two tests of the medium-range Surface-to-Air Missile were conducted in March. The weapon comprises a mobile launcher system and a multi-function radar.

Vertical Launch Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by DRDO and Indian Navy from a naval ship at Chandipur. The system will help the Navy neutralise various aerial threats at close ranges.

Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile

In January, DRDO successfully flight tested the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile. The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, fire and forget missile and can be launched from a portable launcher.

Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator

In July, the maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out successfully. Said to be the precursor to the future combat drones, such UAVs will be capable of launching missiles and precision-guided munitions.

Source: ABPlive

From Djokovic deportation to Messi Magic: Top sports events of 2022

It started with tennis superstar Novak Djokovic deported from Australia and ended with Lionel Messi lifting the World Cup in Qatar.

A look back on 10 of the top sports stories of 2022

Djokovic deported

Novak Djokovic flew to Melbourne in January hoping to capture a 10th Australian Open. However, the famously unvaccinated Serbian had his visa cancelled and was held in a hotel housing refugees before being deported on "health and good order" grounds.

Djokovic was also banned from travelling to the United States, ruling him out of the US Open but he managed to capture a seventh Wimbledon title in July.

Djokovic has been cleared to play in the 2023 Australian Open where he will be chasing a 22nd Grand Slam.

Valieva doping shame

Kamila Valieva was at the centre of a doping scandal at the Beijing Winter Olympics. The Russian, who was 15 at the time, became the first woman to land a quadruple jump in Olympic competition, helping Russia secure gold in the team event. It then emerged she had tested positive before the Games for trimetazidine, a drug used to treat angina but which is banned for athletes because it can boost endurance.

International sports court CAS allowed Valieva to continue competing at the Olympics, citing her young age, though without clearing her of doping. Valieva fell several times in the individual final and finished in fourth place.

Russia outcasts

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February saw them and allies Belarus become outcasts of world sport. Russia were kicked out of the football World Cup and world athletics championships while tennis players from both nations were banned from Wimbledon. However, Russian-born Elena Rybakina, representing Kazakhstan, won the women's singles title at the All England Club. Tensions were also evident at the US Open where Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk refused to shake hands with Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Champions League final chaos

The May 28 final at the Stade de France in Paris descended into chaos when thousands of Liverpool fans were unable to gain access to the ground for the match against Real Madrid. Ticket-holding fans, who were attacked with tear gas by police and fell victim to street crime, were initially accused of trying to enter the stadium illegally. These allegations were disproved and organisers and security chiefs damned for poor organisation.

A French Senate inquiry contradicted assertions by UEFA and the French government that Liverpool fans without proper tickets were mainly responsible



for the trouble. The inquiry instead cited a "string of dysfunctions" including a lack of preparation by authorities and UEFA, as well as poorly executed

security arrangements.

Swimming life-saver

When 25-year-old American artistic

swimmer Anita Alvarez passed out at the end of her solo routine at the World Championships in Budapest in June, her coach Andrea Fuentes plunged to the rescue. Dressed in shorts and a T-shirt, Fuentes dived to the bottom of the pool and dragged Alvarez to the surface. "I think she was at least two minutes without breathing because her lungs were full of water," said Fuentes. Alvarez quickly recovered but was prevented from competing again at the championships.

Golf split by LIV

Backed by the deep pockets of the Saudis, LIV Golf got underway in July, splitting the sport as it attracted major winners such as Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau with pledges of multi-million dollar purses for 54-hole, no-cut tournaments. The new circuit has been accused of "sportswashing" Saudi Arabia's human rights record, and the US tours responded by suspending any players who competed in LIV events.

Farewell Federer and Serena

Tennis said goodbye to two of its greatest stars. Roger Federer, unable to shake off a lingering knee injury, called it quits at the age of 41 in September after a career which yielded 20 Grand Slams - a figure now passed by Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Federer collected 103 titles and banked \$130 million in prize money.

Serena refused to use the word "retirement" when she played what was likely her final tournament at the US Open. Now 41, the American said she was "evolving" away from tennis. She won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, was number one for 319 weeks and, according to Forbes, was worth \$260 million in 2022.

Chess scandal

American grandmaster Hans Niemann was accused by Norwegian world champion Magnus Carlsen of cheating.

Niemann filed a law suit, seeking \$100 million in damages from Carlsen, his company Play Magnus Group, Danny Rensch of Chess.com, the world's leading online chess platform, and American grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura.

Carlsen publicly accused Niemann of cheating, and chess.com alleged in a report that the 19-year-old American has "probably cheated more than 100 times" in online games.

Messi's final fantasy

Lionel Messi led Argentina to World Cup glory with a penalty shootout triumph over France after an epic final in Doha finished 3-3 in extra-time. Messi's virtuoso performance sealed his status as one of the greatest players of all time, joining fellow icons Pele and Diego Maradona in an elite group. The final has gone down as a modern classic, coming at the conclusion of one of the most controversial tournaments ever staged.

Source: News18

2022: A year of many firsts for Indian sports

Neeraj Chopra claimed a historic win at the Diamond League Finals in Zurich, while the men's badminton team created India's badminton history by winning the Thomas Cup and Nikhat Zareen sizzled in the ring as she became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

A look at the Indian athletes' record-breaking achievements this year:

Neeraj sparkles at Diamond League

Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra continued his magical run with the javelin in 2022.

After a break, Neeraj roared back in the international circuit to win a silver medal and set a national record at the Paavo Nurmi Games. He had missed the first half of 2022 in order to restore his condition following a 10-month sabbatical after the Tokyo Olympics.

Neeraj claimed a silver medal at the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Oregon, giving India its best performance at the event to date. This was only India's second medal at the World Athletics since Anju Bobby George's bronze medal in the long jump at the 2003 edition of the event in Paris.

Neeraj achieved yet another historic feat in September, becoming the first Indian to win a prestigious Diamond League Finals title in Zurich.

The 24-year-old Indian superstar now holds the titles of Olympic champion, World Championships silver medallist and Diamond League champion -- all achieved in just 13 months.

The Diamond League Finals is considered the most prestigious competition after the Olympics and World Championships.

Neeraj had made a spectacular return from a one-month injury lay-off, winning the Lausanne-leg of the Diamond League series on August 26 and qualifying for the Finals.

He became the first Indian to clinch a Diamond League meet title in Lausanne with his third career-best throw of 89.08m.

He had missed the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (July 28 to August 8) due to a minor groin injury, suffered during his silver-winning performance in the World Championships in the United States in July.

Nikhat crowned World champion

Nikhat Zareen created history as she became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

She clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52 kg) division with a facile 5-0 win over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the final of the Women's World Championship in Istanbul in May.

Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018) Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) are the other pugilists who have won the world title.

Zareen had been in stellar form this year. She became the first Indian woman boxer to claim two gold medals at the



prestigious Strandja Memorial in February.

India's athletes shine bright at Birmingham Games

Despite shooting not being part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, India's athletes managed to claim 61 medals -- including 22 golds, 16 silvers, and 23 bronze.

While weightlifters, wrestlers, boxers, badminton and table tennis players lived up to expectations to finish with medals, there were also some surprise medallists.

Lawn Bowls finally a household name

in India with a superb performance at the Birmingham Games with the women's team winning gold, while the men's finished with a silver.

The track and field athletes also shone bright. Eldhose Paul won India's first triple jump gold after beating fellow countryman Abdulla Aboobacker to give the country its first-ever 1-2 finish at the Commonwealth Games. Murali Sreeshankar continued India's good showing on the track as he bagged the silver medal in the men's long jump.

The Indian hockey teams and the women's cricket teams also finished with medals in Birmingham.

Race walkers Priyanka Goswami and

Sandeep Kumar also earned a place on the podium, but the highlight was steeplechaser Avinash Sable, who kept pace with the Kenyans to claim a silver medal in the men's 3000m steeplechase.

India make badminton history at Thomas Cup

India's men created badminton history, shocking 14-time champions Indonesia 3-0 in the final to win the Thomas Cup for the first time, in Bangkok, in May.

Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and the doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty turned in superlative performances in their respective matches to earn the underdogs an unexpected, thumping victory.

It was a memorable triumph for India, who had previously never reached the final of the Thomas and Uber Cup in its 73-year history.

While Indonesia made the final with an unbeaten record, India lost just one match -- to Chinese Taipei -- in the group stage. If Indonesia disposed off mighty China and Japan in the knock-out stage, India went past five-time former champions Malaysia and 2016 winners Denmark.

In 30 Thomas Cup tournaments since 1948-1949, only five countries have won it. Indonesia is the most successful team, having won 14 times.

Indian men reached the Thomas Cup semi-finals in 1952, 1955 and 1979 while the women's team made it to the Uber Cup top-four in 2014 and 2016.

India women win inaugural FIH Nations Cup!

India women ended the year in style as they clinched the inaugural FIH Women's Nation's Cup title with a 1-0 win over Spain in the final in Valencia earlier this month.

Towards the end of the year, the women proved that the CWG bronze was not a fluke as they continued their upward graph under Dutch coach Janneke Schopman, defeating Spain 1-0 to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup in Valencia and qualify for 2023-24 FIH Pro League.

Hockey India announced Rs 2 lakh for each player and Rs 1 lakh for each support staff for winning the tournament.

While the men's team won silver, the women bagged a podium finish after 16 long years. The Indian women had won gold at the Manchester CWG in 2002 and silver at Melbourne four years later.

But the Indian men had their share of success as well. They began the year with a third-place finish in the Asia Cup in Jakarta and followed it up by winning the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s tournament in Lausanne, where they beat Poland 6-4 in the final.

In between, India also won the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup, an international men's under-21 tournament, beating Australia 4-5 on penalties after both teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

SOURCE: REDIFF.COM

From return of King Kohli to crowning of new king Surya Kumar Yadav

The year 2022 gave Indian cricket fans exhilarating moments of joy, coupled with individual brilliances that will stay fresh in the fans memories for a very long time. From Virat Kohli, shedding off his poor run of form to get back amongst runs, to the crowning of the new King SuryaKumar Yadav; from Ishan Kishan's ODI double ton in Chattogram to Jasprit Bumrah's 6-fer against England at the Oval, Indian cricket witness some special performances from some high class performers.

Ishan Kishan's record breaking 210 vs Bangladesh

With the series already lost to Bangladesh, India came into the dead rubber in Chattogram to salvage some pride. They did more than just save their honour as their replacement opener, Ishan Kishan, slammed his way into the record books. The diminutive opener slammed 210 runs in just 131 balls against a hapless Bangladeshi attack.

On the way to his double ton, he broke several records, the most prominent of which was the fastest double hundred in ODI history in just 126 balls. He became also the youngest batsman to score a double hundred in ODIs at just 24 years and 145 days and only the fourth Indian after Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma to enter the 200 club.

Virat Kohli's special drowns Pakistan at the MCG

The game was gone for all money when India was reduced to 31/4 in 6.1 overs chasing an improbable 160 runs to win against arch-rivals Pakistan. India's superman Virat Kohli was their only hope, and he didn't disappoint. Alongside Hardik Pandya, he took the game deep, and when 28 runs were required in the last eight balls, Kohli unleashed two outrageous sixes from nowhere off Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf to take the game into the last over.

As and when Ravichandran Ashwin lofted the ball over mid-off for a single, the whole MCG erupted, as did over a billion fans back home and around the world. Kohli, looking from the outside, shed a tear or two, signaling what this knock meant to him and the whole of India.

Suryakumar Yadav's 360* show in 2022

Indian batter SuryaKumar Yadav will not forget the year 2022 in a hurry. Right through the year, he played some breathtaking, jaw dropping, and scintillating knocks to keep the opposition and most of the times his teammates as well on the edge of their seats. In all, he scored 1164 runs from 31 innings, with the help of two tons and nine half-centuries to his name. His strike rate was in excess of 187, and most of his knocks produced victories for the Blues.

In the middle of the year, he smashed 117 runs against England in Nottingham, and by the time the T20 World Cup arrived, he scored runs at will. His



knocks against South Africa, Netherlands and Zimbabwe were pure masterclass in T20 format. He finished the year on a perfect note by smashing unbeaten 111 against the Kiwis in their backyard.

Hardik Pandya sinks Pakistan in Dubai, 2022 Asia Cup

First, he took three crucial wickets with the ball to restrict arch-rivals Pakistan to a respectable total of 147 in

Team India's opening encounter in the 2022 Asia Cup. Then with the bat, Hardik Pandya made his presence felt, as he scored an invaluable 33 runs off just 17 balls under immense pressure to take the Blues home. He kept his calm and fittingly smashed the winning six to take India past the winning line in the final over with just two balls to spare.

Virat Kohli's 72nd International Ton, goes past Ricky Ponting

Virat Kohli has scored so many hundreds that at times it is hard to keep a count of all of them. However, the one against Bangladesh in the 3rd ODI in Chattogram will be etched in the minds and hearts of Indian cricket fans forever. The match belonged to Ishan Kishan for his monumental double hundred, but Kohli made the occasion extra special by registering his 44th hundred in ODIs. This was his 72nd hundred in international cricket, and with it, he went past former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting's record of 71 tons. The only man ahead of him is his idol, Sachin Tendulkar, the lone man with 100 international hundreds.

Rishabh Pant's heroics in Manchester, Test tons in Birmingham & Cape Town

By the end of the year, Rishabh Pant struggled with form an injuries. However, at the start of 2022, his bat was scoring runs across formats, barring T20Is. Pant's standout knock has to be the one against England in Manchester ODI. With the series on the line, Pant saved his best for the last and smashed unbeaten 125 to take India to a famous 2-1 series win over England in their backyard.

As far as Test matches goes, Pant has had a fabulous year, averaging over 64 with the bat from 6 Tests. He scored two hundreds, both of which came in overseas conditions. The first of them against South Africa in Cape Town and that too in the 2nd innings. The next hundred came in the 5th rescheduled Test match against England in Birmingham. The southpaw smashed 146 runs in the 1st innings to go with 57 runs in the second innings. Unfortunately, India failed to register a win in both the Tests.

Ravindra Jadeja's 175 & 5-fer vs Sri Lanka, Mohali

Like Rishabh Pant, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja too had a fabulous run in Test cricket this year. His best performance in red ball cricket came against Sri Lanka in the 1st Test in Mohali in March this year. Jadeja, with the bat first scored a mammoth 175 runs batting at the number 7th position. Then with the ball, he bagged a 5-fer in Sri Lanka's first innings to go with another four wickets in the second. He became only the fourth Indian cricketer to achieve the unique record of scoring a ton and then bag a five-fer in a Test match. India won the test match by an innings and 222 runs.

Source: Insidesport

Nobel Prizes 2022

Every year in October, committees in Sweden and Norway award six Nobel Prizes, each recognizing a groundbreaking contribution by an individual or organization in a specific field.

Prizes are given for physiology or medicine, physics, chemistry, economic science, literature and peace work. Winners receive a diploma and a medal, and each prize is also awarded 10 million Swedish krona, or about \$900,000, which

is divided if there are multiple winners. During the pandemic, the Nobels made adjustments. In 2020 and 2021, some events were canceled in favor of a digital ceremony for the winners, and the Oslo ceremony for the peace prize was smaller

than in most years, with a limited audience. Fourteen laureates were awarded a Nobel Prize in 2022, for achievements that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022



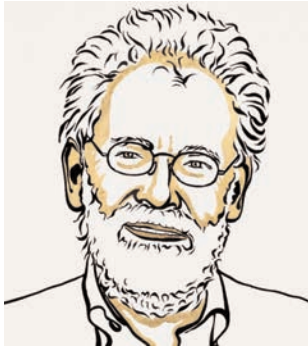
Alain Aspect

For experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science.



John F. Clauser

For experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science.



Anton Zeilinger

For experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022



Carolyn R. Bertozzi

“for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”



Morten Meldal

“for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”



K. Barry Sharpless

“for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2022

Svante Pääbo

“for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution”



The Nobel Prize in Literature 2022

Annie Ernaux

“for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots.”



Nobel Prize for Economics

Ben S. Bernanke

“for research on banks and financial crises”



Douglas W. Diamond

“for research on banks and financial crises”



The Nobel Peace Prize 2022



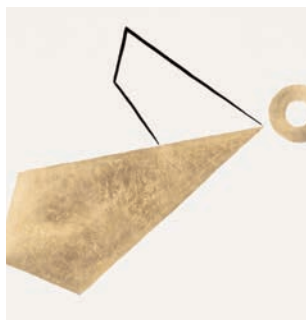
Ales Bialiatski

Ales Bialiatski has worked to promote democracy and human rights in Belarus since the 1980s. He has been called a beacon of light for these efforts throughout Eastern Europe.



Memorial

Memorial was founded in the former Soviet Union in 1987. The organisation documented the victims of the crimes committed during the Stalinist era.



Center for Civil Liberties

The organisation put pressure on the authorities to ensure that Ukraine developed into a full-fledged democracy and a state governed by the rule of law.

Philip H. Dybvig

“for research on banks and financial crises”



Top science, innovation and health stories of 2022

2022 was great for science, with historic space missions to archeological discoveries and plenty to learn in medicine.

January

The year 2022 started on a high note with the world waiting for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to reach its final position 1.5 million kilometers from Earth, which it did. And very soon we were able to see the universe like never before.

January also brought the best evidence so far that the common Epstein-Barr virus is the main cause of Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

For the first time, a person received a genetically modified heart from a pig. The hope is that one day more people will get organ transplants when they need one even if a human organ is unavailable. But in this first attempt the patient died two months later.

February

In February, it was announced that the International Space Station (ISS), a hallmark of space cooperation, peace and research would retire by 2031 and rest at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean when it returns to Earth.

March

March became an important month for aphasia awareness when it was announced that Bruce Willis had been diagnosed with the language disorder and as a result was ending a decades-long career in acting.

Also in March, a study estimated that the number of deaths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to be around 18 million globally. This was three times the number reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

And when the wreck of Shackleton's ship *Endurance* was discovered in Antarctica, it was hailed "one of the biggest achievements in polar history and polar science."

April

In April, research suggested human gene mutations could be strongly linked with the likelihood of a person developing schizophrenia. A further 120 genes were identified as playing a role as well.

Other research explained how psilocybin, a psychedelic compound found in magic mushrooms, could be effective in treating depression. But it's important that people do not "self-medicate": the psychoactive element was tested in a controlled setting.

May

In May, the Event Horizon Telescope team said it had captured the first image of a supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

Then we learned that seven hours of sleep are best for cognitive performance and good mental health, after results from a big study with 500,000



James Webb Space Telescope.



An illustration of NASA's DART spacecraft near asteroids Didymos and Dimorphos before impact. (NASA)

participants were released.

And with humanity still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic, the month of May was hit with yet another bit of viral news when monkeypox cases started to emerge internationally. The WHO has since changed the name of the virus to Mpox.

June

In June, researchers at Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute predicted "dramatic losses" of the Siberian tundra by the middle of the millennium due to global heating. They said the tundra may disappear.

Then, adding to the many amazing astronomy events this year, it was a particular treat when five planets — Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn — aligned with a crescent moon.

July

In July, DW's Science team looked at life as a LGBTQ scientist and the challenges and discrimination that people face.

There was exciting particle physics news: scientists working on the world's largest and most powerful collider, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC),

announced that they had discovered three new particles.

And then it was time for one of the most awaited moments of 2022 in science: scientists unveiled the first images from the JWST. The images revealed a deep look at the universe with unprecedented detail and signs of water vapor on a planet 1,150 light-years from Earth.

August

In August, a study suggested that milk consumption might not be the reason why ancient humans evolved the capacity to digest lactose as adults.

We got a better understanding of long COVID with the findings from a study with 1.2 million patients conducted over a two-year period.

For almost 120 years, the writing system known as "Linear Elamite" was considered unreadable. But that changed when a team of archaeologists said they had partially deciphered the writing system.

September

In September, space scientists achieved something almost sci-fi, with humanity's first attempt to nudge an



A technician inside the preamplifier support structure of the National Ignition Facility of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California.

asteroid's trajectory by hitting it really hard with an automated spacecraft. That was NASA's DART mission, a test to see how we might one day defend Earth from asteroid impacts.

October

October started as ever with the Nobel Prize announcements. These were the winners in science:

Medicine was awarded to Svante Paabo for research into how human beings evolved.

Physics was awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger for their work on quantum mechanics.

And Chemistry was awarded to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, K. Barry Sharpless and Morten Meldal for developing a way of snapping molecules together.

Also in October, we learned that dating archeological objects based on the Earth's magnetic field could help pinpoint the dates of biblical military campaigns.

And this year's World Polio Day came with a reminder that the disease was present in two countries and vaccine-derived forms had been reported in UK and US wastewater.

November

Our understanding of human history took a step forward with findings that early humans cooked food as early as 780,000 years ago and not only 170,000 years ago as was previously thought.

On November 16, Artemis I, an uncrewed mission to the moon finally launched after numerous scrubbed attempts earlier in the year. The Artemis program's goal is to take humans back to the moon, build a base there and travel on to Mars.

December

And finally, in December, the US National Ignition Facility (NIF) announced that researchers there had made a breakthrough in fusion energy. Nuclear fusion is what powers the sun and scientists hope it will become part of future, sustainable energy sources. But there is a long way to go yet.

Source: HT

Guru Gobind Singh: A Saint warrior

Guru Gobind Rai, who later became Guru Gobind Singh, is the tenth and last Sikh Guru, a spiritual leader, philosopher, poet and a great warrior. He emerged as tenth Sikh Guru at age nine after his father Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was beheaded publicly by orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb as he refused to convert to Islam. Such atrocity led Guru Gobind Singh to found the Sikh warrior community called Khalsa that marked a significant event in the history of Sikhism. He also introduced the five articles famous as the Five Ks and commanded the Khalsa Sikhs to wear at all times. Other contributions of the Guru includes writing important texts on Sikhism and holding Guru Granth Sahib, the religious scripture of Sikhism, as the eternal living guru of the Sikhs.

Childhood & Early Life

He was born Gobind Rai on January 5, 1666 in Patna Sahib, Bihar, India in the Sodhi Khatri family of the ninth Sikh guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur and his wife Mata Gujri. The first Maharaja of Sikh Empire Ranjit Singh later built the Gurdwara Takht Sri Patna Sahib in the site of the house where Guru Gobind Singh was born and lived for the first four years of his life. The Guru returned to Punjab with his family in 1670 and later relocated with them to Chakk Nanaki on the edge of Shivalik Hills in March 1672 where he did his schooling. In 1675, the Kashmiri Pandits approached Guru Tegh Bahadur to protect them from oppression of the Islamic satrap of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb called Iftikar Khan. According to the composition Bachittar Natak written by Guru Gobind Singh, his father promised to protect the Kashmiri Pandits and was summoned to Delhi on a pretext by Aurangzeb and on his arrival, Tegh Bahadur was asked to convert to Islam. Tegh Bahadur was arrested along with his associates after he refused and was beheaded in public on November 11, 1675, in Chandni Chowk, Delhi. Such execution only toughened determination of the Sikhs to fight against atrocities of the Muslims in safeguarding their human rights and identity as Sikhs.

The martyrdom of his father led the Sikhs to formally install the nine year old Gobind Rai as the tenth Sikh Guru on March 29, 1676, on Vaisakhi. He continued with his education which apart from reading and writing also included archery, horse riding and other martial arts. Till 1685 he stayed in Paonta.

Personal Life

The Guru had three wives. On June 21, 1677, he married Mata Jito at Basantga?h. Together they had three sons Jujhar Singh born on 1691, Zorawar Singh born on 1696 and Fateh Singh born on 1699. He married his second wife Mata Sundari on April 4, 1684 at Anandpur with whom he had a son called Ajit Singh born on 1687. His third wife was Mata Sahib Devan whom he married at Anandpur on April 15, 1700. They had no children. Mata Sahib Devan played an instrumental role in Sikhism and was proclaimed as Mother of the Khalsa by the Guru.

Introducing the Khalsa & the Five K's Tradition

In 1699, the Guru asked the Sikhs to



assemble at Anandpur on Vaisakhi. The Guru with a sword in hand called for a volunteer from among the crowd who is ready to sacrifice his head. On his third call one Sikh named Daya Ram (later called Bhai Daya Singh) came forward. The Guru took him in a tent and returned alone to the crowd with blood dripping from his sword. Another volunteer was called by the Guru who was again taken inside the tent and after some time the Guru returned alone with the bloody sword. He continued the process with three more volunteers but after the fifth volunteer went inside the tent, the Guru came out with all the five volunteers unharmed. The Guru blessed the five volunteers namely Bhai Daya Singh, Bhai Dharam Singh, Bhai Sahib Singh, Bhai Mohkam Singh and Bhai Himmat Singh and called them the Panj Pyare (the five beloved ones) and the first Khalsa in the Sikh tradition. The Guru then took an iron bowl and prepared a solution of water and sugar stirring it with a double-edged sword calling it Amrit (nectar). The five volunteers then received the nectar from the Guru amidst recitations from the Adi Granth. With this the khande ka pahul (baptization ceremony) of the warrior community of Khalsa was initiated. A new surname of "Singh" meaning lion was given to them by the Guru. The Guru then asked the five baptized Sikhs to baptize him as a Khalsa and with this the Guru became the sixth Khalsa and from this time he came to be known as Guru Gobind Singh.

The Guru commanded the Sikhs to wear five items all the time which included Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a comb made of wood), Kara (a bracelet

made of iron), Kachera (a tieable undergarment made of 100% cotton) and Kirpan (a large iron dagger for self-defense). A code of discipline was introduced by him for the Khalsa warriors. These included prohibition of tobacco, eating 'halal' meat that is slaughtered as per Muslim ritual, fornication and adultery. The Khalsas consented never to communicate with followers of the rivals or their successors. The principle of equality was institutionalised in Sikhism with initiation of both men and women from different castes as Khalsas. The Guru played an instrumental role by institutionalising Khalsa in Sikhism thus strengthening the Sikhs in their resistance on the continuous persecution of the Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb. He came up with different concepts that posed indirect challenge to the biased tax system of the Islamic authorities.

The Sikhs had a system of Masands before the Khalsa was initiated. In this system the Masands were the representatives and tithe collectors in Sikhism who led the local Sikh communities and temples, and accepted donations and wealth for the Sikh cause. The Guru concluded that the Masands system had corrupted with time and abolished it while initiating a centralised system which would be directly supervised by him. The new developments however gave rise to disagreements within the Sikh community during the 18th century, especially between the Nanakpanthis and the Khalsas.

Guru Granth Sahib & other Sikh Scriptures

Adi Granth, the first official edition of the Sikh scripture was compiled by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan. It contained hymns of previous Gurus and of other saints. Adi Granth was eventually expanded into the Guru Granth Sahib. In 1706, Guru Gobind Singh released the second rendition of the religious scripture with addition of one salok, dohra mahala 9 ang, 1429 and all the 115 hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The rendition came to be known as Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The Guru Granth Sahib composed by Guru Nanak Dev and other Sikh Gurus including Guru Arjan Dev, Guru Ram Das, Guru Angad Dev, Guru Amar Das, Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh and also containing traditions and teachings of Indian sants (saints), like Namdev and Kabir as also two Muslim Sufi saints Sheikh Farid and Bhagat Bhikan was declared as the eternal living guru for Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh.

Many of the texts of the religious text Dasam Granth are traditionally attributed to Guru Gobind Singh. Considered an important religious scripture of the Sikhs after the Guru Granth Sahib, it includes compositions like Benti Chaupai, Tav-Prasad Savaiye and Jaap Sahib that form part of daily prayers (Nitnem) as also part of the baptism ceremony (Khande di Pahul or Amrit Sanchar).

The voluminous scripture Sarbloh Granth that encompass over 6,500 poetic stanzas also includes writings of the Guru.

Sikh-Muslim Conflicts & the Zafarnama

Hostility between the Sikhs and the Muslims increased following execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Guru Gobind Singh believed in a Dharam Yudh that is to fight to defend righteousness and fought thirteen wars against the Mughal Empire and the kings of Siwalik Hills but never held captive or destroyed place of worship of other religions. Among the conflicts, the Second Battle of Anandpur (1704) witnessed a fierce battle and towards its end Aurangzeb offered a safe passage out of Anandpur for the Guru, his family and followers which the Guru accepted. However the two batches of the Sikhs were attacked while they were leaving Anandpur and the one including the Guru's mother Mata Gujari and his two sons Zorawar Singh aged 8 and Fateh Singh aged 5 was captured. The two sons died after they were buried live into a wall when they refused to convert to Islam while Mata Gujri died hearing her grandsons' death. The Guru lost two of his other sons Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, along with other Sikh soldiers during the Battle of Chamkaur (1704).

In 1705 following the Battle of Chamkaur where Aurangzeb and his army betrayed after making a promise the Guru wrote a defiant letter to Aurangzeb in Persian language titled Zafarnama (literally, "epistle of victory"). In the letter the Guru sternly censured and accused Aurangzeb and his commanders for being immoral, both in governing and in war conduct and predicted end of Mughal Empire in near future due to its immorality, persecution and untruthfulness.



and A Happy New Year



Sardar Ajit Singh Subhanpur & Family



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VEER BAAL DIWAS CELEBRATED WITH ENTHUSIASM IN THE US

REPORTS OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE MAIDEN VEER BAAL DIWAS ON DECEMBER 26 HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON D.C. AND NEW YORK. THE INDIAN PANORAMA UNDERSTANDS THE DAY HAS BEEN CELEBRATED AT ALL THE MISSIONS IN THE US AND AT ALL MISSIONS ABROAD. WE WILL BRING OUR READERS THE REPORTS AS AND WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO GATHER THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. -EDITOR

'Veer Baal Diwas' Celebrated at the Indian Embassy in Washington



Sahibzades Baba Ajit Singh Ji, Baba Jujhaar Singh Ji, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji



Charge d'Affaires Ms. Sripriya Ranganathan highlighted the various initiatives implemented by the Government of India which have facilitated commemoration of sacred festivals of Sikhism

DECEMBER 26, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): 'Veer Baal Diwas' was observed in the Embassy of India in Washington DC on 26 December 2022 in presence of Indian Diaspora and students.



A view of the gathering

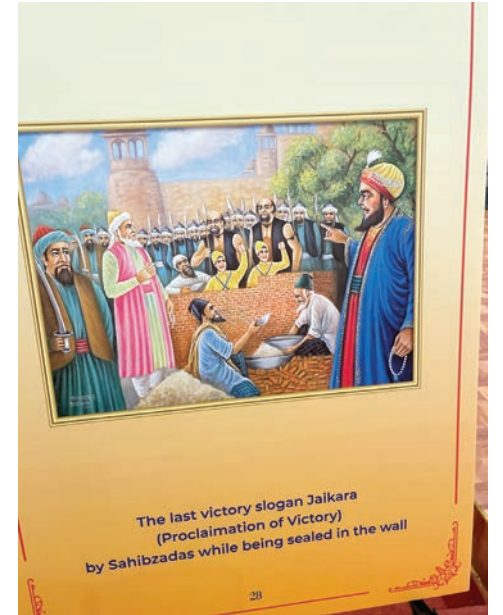
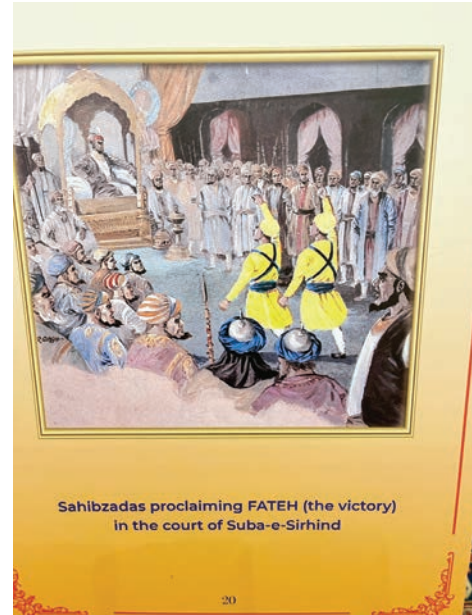
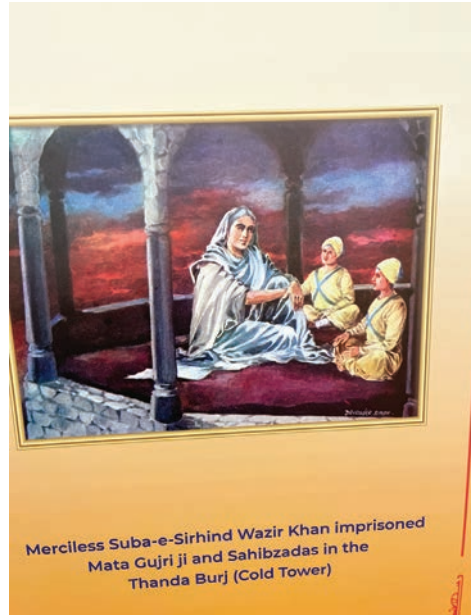
All attendees paid tributes to the unparalleled sacrifices made by Sahibzade- the beloved sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. A digital exhibition on the lives of Sahibzades, Baba Ajit Singh Ji, Baba Jujhaar Singh Ji, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji was also mounted on this occasion.

Speaking at the event, Charge d'Affaires Ms. Sripriya Ranganathan highlighted the various initiatives implemented by the Government of India which have facilitated commemoration of sacred festivals of Sikhism- including opening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor; celebration of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji across the world; the commemoration of 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur ji - with a special commemorative coin and postage stamp being released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to mark Guru Teg Bahadur's 400th Prakash Purab; and bringing back three 'Holy Swarups' of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji from Afghanistan with full honor in August last year.

The inaugural commemoration of 'Veer Baal Diwas' is taking place in India and across the world, as the country celebrates the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav signifying 75 years of India's independence. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had announced on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji on 9th January 2022 that 26th December will be observed as 'Veer Baal Diwas' every year.

Veer Baal Diwas Celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York

AN IMPRESSIVE EXHIBITION OF PICTURES NARRATING THE STORY OF MARTYRDOM OF CHHOTE SAHIBZADAS IMPRESSED VISITORS



A few pictures at the Exhibition

DECEMBER 26, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): The Consulate General of India, New York marked Veer Bal Diwas on 26 December 2022 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Day was celebrated to pay homage to the courage and sacrifice of Sahibzade Baba Fateh Singh and Baba Zorawar Singh - the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru of Sikhs. An exhibition narrating the story of the sacrifice was showcased at the Consulate. It was on 26 December in 1704 that the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji, then aged 7 and 9 years, achieved martyrdom. They were captured and produced before the Nawab of Sirhind who gave them the option to either convert to Islam or face death. The Sahibzades chose to die in honor. This unparalleled sacrifice of young Baba Fateh Singh and Baba Zorawar Singh occupies a place of great pride and honor in Sikh history and remains an everlasting font of inspiration for all Indians. Earlier in the year on 9th

January, on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh ji, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had announced that the nation would henceforth mark Veer Bal Diwas on 26th December each year. Accordingly, the Diwas was celebrated in India and across the world.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Consul General Shri Randhir Jaiswal explained the significance of the day. He underlined the importance of keeping alive historical memories of struggle. Members of the diaspora participated in the exhibition with enthusiasm and deeply appreciated the effort of the Government to celebrate Veer Baal Diwas worldwide.

Several prominent members of the Sikh community addressed the gathering. Participation of children was particularly encouraging.



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal addressing the gathering



Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja speaking on the occasion

Speaking on the occasion, Prof.

Indrajit Saluja, publisher/ editor of The Indian Panorama lauded the Consul General for his effort in

A number of community organizations and Gurdwaras



Community representatives with Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

putting up an exhibition of pictures which depicted so well the story of the bravery and martyrdom of the Chhote Sahibzadas Baba Zoravar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. He appealed to the Consul General to speak with the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations to host an exhibition of the pictures at the United Nations in order to familiarize the diplomats from all across the world with the glorious chapter of the Sikh history.

Sher-e-Punjab editor Baldev Singh Grewal played an audio of a moving poem in Punjabi on the martyrdom of the elder Sahibzadas - Baba Ajit Singh Ji and Baba Jujhaar Singh Ji.

expressed interest in displaying the exhibits in their premises in the coming weeks. Earlier, on 23 December 2022, Consul General Shri Randhir Jaiswal gave interview to ITV Gold and Heramb Studio and explained the history and significance of the Day.

On 24 December 2022, the Consul General appeared in Punjabi language programme 'Ji Aayan Nu' on Radio Zindagi and encouraged members of diaspora to participate in the exhibition in the Consulate.

Wishing
Everyone

Happy Holidays

&

a Prosperous

2023

*With Best
Compliments from*



Anil & Kumud Bansal

“Shed not recklessly
the blood of another
with thy sword,

Lest the Sword on
High falls upon thy neck.”

- **Guru Gobind Singh,**
Zafarnama



Heartiest Greetings on Shri Guru Gobind Singh's Prakash Divas (Birthday) and A Happy New Year



Simarjeet Singh Gilzian
718-501-0004



Baldev Singh Gilzian
516-805-3870
Former President, Gurdwara Baba
Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center



Jaspreet Singh Gilzian
718-496-7545



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US Vice-President Kamala Harris names Indian-American to National Space Council Advisory Group



Rajeev Badyal, vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG) on December 16.

DECEMBER 29, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris has named Indian American Rajeev Badyal to a key national space advisory group, which is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations, the White House has said.

Badyal, vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG) on December 16.

Harris had named US Air Force Rtd General Lester Lyles as chair of the

UAG.

Project Kuiper is a long-term initiative to launch a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites that will provide low-latency, high-speed broadband connectivity to unserved and underserved communities around the world.

Previously he was the vice president of satellites at SpaceX.

He has a Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Oregon State University.

The UAG will provide the National Space Council advice and recommendations on matters related to space policy and strategy, including but not limited to, government

policies, laws, regulations, treaties, international instruments, programs, and practices across the civil, commercial, international, and national security space sectors, the White House said in a statement.

The 30 members named to UAG represent a cross-section of companies and organizations that support the United States' large and highly skilled space workforce; users of space services, including climate scientists and agriculture providers; individuals focused on developing the next generation of space professionals; and leading experts in space, it added.

(Source: PTI)

The 2023 AAPI Global Health Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam, India

DECEMBER 27, 2022

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The 16th edition of the Global Healthcare Summit, one of the flagships India events of the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin, will be held in Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, from January 6 to 8.

The theme of the summit will be "True and Total Health is the Wellbeing of Mind, Body, and Spirit" and it will focus on mental health, infant and maternal mortality as well as various other medical specialty updates, medical jeopardy, and research poster presentations by medical students, AAPI said in a press release.

Nearly 400 physicians are expected to attend the event.

The event offers a unique opportunity for Indian American physicians and their counterparts from India to come together, it added.

"AAPI has been engaged in harnessing the power of Indian diaspora to bring the most innovative, efficient, cost-effective healthcare solutions to India," said Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI.

Other highlights of the summit will be "advocacy to dismantle the stigma of mental illness and suicide prevention," he added.

"This conference will focus on bringing the highest caliber of internationally acclaimed faculty and will develop a very robust agenda in collaboration with leading experts from India," Dr. V. Ranga, chair of AAPI's board of trustees said. "The enhanced focus on conducting skills enhancement workshops, hands on experience with advanced techniques."

There will also be continuing medical education sessions with U.S. academics that will offer opportunities for Indian "medical staff and healthcare professionals to advance leanings and



provide the best possible care for the people of India."

"The scientific program and workshops of [the summit] is developed by leading experts with contributions from the Scientific Advisory Board and the International Scientific Committee," said Dr. Prasad Chalasani, chair of AAPI Global Health Summit-USA. "The workshops will be led by world-famous physicians on topics relevant to the needs of the time."

"AAPI has plans to collaborate with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to initiate a very ambitious program to address mental health and wellness of all the students in the high schools in AP," said Dr. Ravi Raju, chair of Global Health Summit-India.

Dr. Sampath Shivangi, AAPI Legislative Committee chair said, "We are collaborating with senior leaders from leading healthcare organizations including pharmaceuticals, device and medical equipment manufacturers and major medical teaching institutions, hospitals, and the Ministries of Health,

External/Overseas Affairs and regulatory bodies to attend and coordinate with AAPI with an ultimate goal to providing accessible and affordable high-quality healthcare to all people of India."

Dr. Manoj Jain, chair of the Collaboration to Eliminate TB in India initiative, which is supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Agency for International Development will lead comprehensive discussions on the project, with tangible goals achieved and the plan for the future.

CME sessions in psychiatry, ophthalmology, pediatrics, gastroenterology, neurology and oncology will be held, said the release. "In our efforts to realize the core mission of AAPI, which is to share the best from leading experts from around the world, to collaborate on clinical challenges, the GHS in Visakhapatnam will have clinical tracks that are of vital to healthcare in India," said CME Chair Dr. Sreeni Gangasani.

Dr. Lokesh Edara and Dr. Brahma Sharma, who are the co-chairs of International medical education, will conduct a panel discussion featuring prominent international medical education experts, including CEOs of ECFMG, WFMC, and National Medical Council officials.

Dr. B K Kishore, an academic expert, will lead discussions on research methodology and scientific writings.

A CEO forum focusing on equity, ethics and physician burnout issues and a women's forum focusing empowerment, gender bias and leadership, will be held as part of the summit.

Walkathon on the beach will be held to challenge mental health stigma and promotion of healthy lifestyle changes and stress management of and several other initiatives also will be announced including effective treatment modalities on non-communicable medical diseases, reducing the infant and maternal mortality and HPV vaccination.

A research competition for Indian medical students and post-graduate students.

"With the changing trends and statistics in healthcare, both in India and the U.S., we are refocusing our mission and vision of [the summit], and AAPI would like to make a positive and meaningful impact on the healthcare in India," Dr. Kolli said. "In our quest to fulfill the mission of AAPI, we are proud to share best practices and experiences from leading experts in the world and develop actionable plans and projects that enable access to affordable and quality healthcare for all people. To help accomplish this mission, please join us at the GHS 2023."

For more information: www.summit.aapiusa.org and www.GHS2023.com

(Based on AAPI Press release)

UCCA hosts Grand Musical Christmas Banquet in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): A glittering evening replete with stirring melodious carols, dance presentations, inspiring remarks and uplifting yuletide sermonette marked the Grand Christmas Banquet celebrations organized by United Christian Cultural Association [UCCA] on Friday, December 16, 2022 at the Cotillion Banquet in Palatine, Illinois that drew a large gathering of families illustrating the spirit of Christmas with interludes of beautiful strains of Christmas carols presented by Tollywood's blockbuster music director Anup Reuben that elevated the festive merriment.

This Grand Christmas celebration was strikingly enhanced by the presence of Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India who was joined by a host of community/business leaders representing all major faiths complemented by a large presence of families who converged to celebrate the grand pre-Christmas banquet.

The evening encompassed mesmerizing musical performances presented by Tollywood's blockbuster music director Anup Reuben and his ensemble who enthralled the guests with uplifting Christmas carols and musical hits. He presented a new genre of music, a fusion of the traditional Christmas songs transposed with upbeat melodies. Anup Reuben energized the entire evening with his zestful music and was later collectively honored and blessed by the clergy.

The evening celebrations set off with the inter-faith lighting of the Christmas Candles led by Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India - who in



Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India with community and business leaders

his remarks - said

Christmas festival manifests joy, peace and fosters fellowship with each other in the spirit of goodwill and love. Ambassador Somnath Ghosh outlined the history and applauded the role of Christians in contributing to help build modern India. Ambassador Somnath Ghosh expressed his profound appreciation to the UCCA leaders for inviting him to the Christmas celebration program and complimented them for hosting such a grand festivity.

Dr. Heyer Devarapalli, Founder Chair of UCCA welcomed the gathering and said UCCA has been in the forefront taking initiatives in hosting medical camps, charitable drives and other humanitarian work to help fellow human beings - which he said represents the spirit of Christmas and Christianity. Dr. Paul Heyer Devarapalli acknowledged

and thanked the fellow board and directors for their unstinted cooperation in hosting this grand Christmas banquet and showcasing the community's strength of unity and its growing significance.

Earlier, Keerthi Kumar Ravoori welcomed the gathering and introduced the chief guest Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India and later joined by UCCA leaders honored the ambassador by presenting a silk shawl and flower bouquet by UCCA's women leaders.

Raju Enoch Pasumarthi, UCCA President thanked the gathering of the families by unitedly celebrating Christmas and added that UCCA is geared up to announce an exciting series of summer programs for the community. Emmanuel Neela, UCCA Vice President recognized some of the prominent telugu

community leaders. While Vasanth Charles proposed a vote of thanks. Satish Dadepogu unveiled UCCA's plans for hosting a summer cricket tournament in partnership with the Illinois Cricket Association. Pastor Zadda Chakravorthy delivered a Christmas sermonette. Youth presented a Christmas Nativity play directed by Deena Pasumarthi and performed by Tina Devarapalli and Sharon Dadepogu. Ms. Angel Varghese gave a special dance performance.

The Christmas candlelight ceremony was led by Havilah Devarapalli, Margaret Charles, Saritha Pasumarthi, Ujwala Neela and Persis Dadepogu. The event was eloquently emceed by Margaret Charles. Several community leaders were acknowledged at the evening including Ajeet Singh, Madan Pamulpati, Sreenivas Bopanna, Nick Verma, Subbu Iyer, Mahesh Kakarla, Sheshu Reddy, Hemachandra, Ramakrishna Nuna, Naresh, Khurram Syed, Nageshwari Cherikonda, Malati Domaraju, Vijay Ravoori, Rahul Viratapu.

In closing UCCA President Raju Pasumarthi honored, Chicago community's pastors Rev. Dr. David Vidyasagar, Rajamani Gounu, Mrs. Subhadra Vipparthi, Victor Omega, Mathew Vattiprolu, Zadda Chakravorthy and Madhukar Bushi.

The evening celebrations concluded with the entire hall luminous with candlelights while singing the traditional carol "Silent Night" which was followed by the serving of the festive dinner.

(Photograph by Asian Media USA ; Press release by Staff writer)

Women empowerment at Federation of Indian Associations (FIA)-Chicago



FIA Team, Sunil Shah (Founder President and Chairman), Vinita Gulabani (President), Executive Board, Directors and Advisory Board

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) organized its Annual Board Meeting and Diwali Celebration on November 13th at Big Suchir Restaurant, Downers Grove IL. The meeting was attended by the 100 strong FIA team as well as the advisory board members.

FIA TEAM 2023 will be spearheaded by Incoming President Vinita Gulabani strongly supported by 100+ members (each one a leader) composed of Executive

Board Members, Directors & Advisory Board Members. The event was presided by Chairman Sunil Shah and Founding Members Neil Khot, Mukesh Shah, Dhitu Bhagwakar and Current President Hitesh Gandhi.

Richa Chand, General Secretary, outlined the achievements of the FIA in the year 2022 and thanked the team for its efforts. She then asked Founder President and Chairman Sunil Shah to address the

gathering. Founder President Sunil Shah took the stage and outlined the successes behind the year 2022, listing the events conducted by the FIA and its team - The Republic Day Celebration, The Partnership with the Chicago Bulls - India Heritage Night, The Holi Celebration, Mother Day Celebration, International Yoga Day and the biggest FIA event to date - Celebration of the 75th India Independence Day with a concert with Javid Ali a prominent singer from Bollywood. He thanked the outgoing team for its hard work in putting together and conducting various India centric and Charitable events during the year. He also took the opportunity to welcome new members to team FIA.

Current President Hitesh Gandhi took the stage thanking the founding board, and the team 2022 for all the work put in to make the year a resounding success.

Founding Members Neil Khot, Mukesh Shah, Dhitu Bhagwakar took the stage thanking team 2022 and praising the work of the team in making the year a flashy success.

Former Vice President of FIA Mrs. Rita Shah congratulated President Hitesh Gandhi and his team for the outstanding year and welcomed Vinita Gulabani as the incoming President. She felicitated Executive Vice President Shital Daftari, Director Ganesh Kar, General Secretary Richa Chand, and Treasurer Vaishal Talati for their achievements & dedication.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

COURT IN MYANMAR AGAIN FINDS SUU KYI GUILTY OF CORRUPTION, SENTENCES HER TO 7 YEARS

DECEMBER 30

BANGKOK (TIP): A court in military-ruled Myanmar on December 30 convicted the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption, sentencing her to seven years in prison in the last of a string of criminal cases against her, a legal official said.

The court's action leaves her with a total of 33 years to serve in prison following a series of politically tinged prosecutions since the army toppled her elected government in February 2021.

She has also been convicted of several other offences, which previously gave her a total of 26 years' imprisonment. Her supporters and independent analysts say the charges against her are an attempt to legitimise the military's seizure of power while eliminating her from politics before an election it has promised for next year.

December 30 verdict in the purpose-built courtroom in the main prison on the outskirts of the capital, Naypyitaw, was made known by a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities.

The trial was closed to the media, diplomats and spectators, and her lawyers were barred by a gag order from talking about it. (AP)

Pakistan government convenes NSC meeting; resolves to defeat recent 'wave of terrorism'

DECEMBER 30

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Top civil and military leaders of Pakistan on December 30 vowed to defeat the recent "wave of terrorism" in the country and warned that nobody will be allowed to harm the key concept of national security.

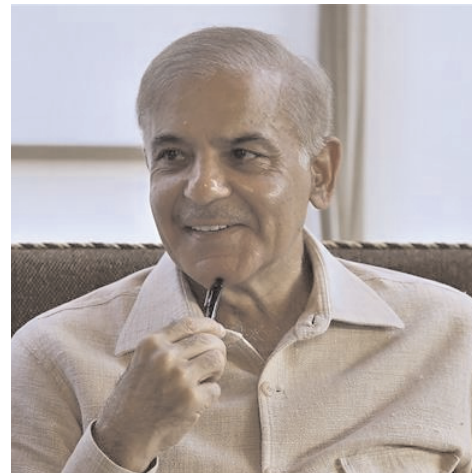
The decision to convene the meeting of the NSC, the nation's highest security decision-making body, was taken during a meeting between Prime Minister Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir on Thursday.

The NSC meeting discussed the modalities to counter the latest threat by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group which has carried out several attacks since November when it officially called off a ceasefire with the government of Pakistan.

The NSC meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sharif, was attended by all the service chiefs, key cabinet ministers, and other high officials and discussed the overall situation of peace and security in the country.

"The Intelligence agencies presented a detailed briefing on the overall situation of peace and security in the country and factors behind the recent wave of terrorism and steps to curb them," said the statement issued by the Pakistani government.

During the security meeting, the participants expressed an unequivocal



opinion that Pakistan's national interests will not be compromised and nobody will be allowed to harm the key concept of national security.

The meeting expressed that "militants are enemies of Pakistan" and it resolved that the "the entire nation is united on one narrative against terrorism and terrorists and those who challenge Pakistan will get a full-force response", the statement said.

The NSC expressed the commitment that the fundamental interests of Pakistan's survival, security, and development will be safeguarded with utmost courage, consistency and perseverance.

The meeting also reviewed the country's economy and law and order

situation in detail.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar briefed the participants about the economic situation and challenges confronting the country as well as economic strategy and measures taken by the government.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar apprised the forum about Pakistan's interactions with the interim government of Afghanistan.

The meeting also paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

The meeting between the prime minister and the Army chief took place a day after the corps commanders' conference at the General Headquarters where the top military brass vowed to defeat terrorism.

The Army said that after the corps commanders' moot that a comprehensive review of professional and organisational matters of the Army was undertaken by the commanders.

"It was resolved to fight against terrorists without any distinction and eliminate this menace as per the aspirations of people of Pakistan," the Army said in a separate statement.

Earlier it was said that the NSC would also look into the situation in Afghanistan in the wake of the failure of the interim Taliban government to eliminate the use of its soil for terrorist activities across the Afghan borders. (PTI)

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' takes oath as Nepal's new Prime Minister



DECEMBER 26

KATHMANDU (TIP): Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" was on December 26 sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for a third time, a day after the former guerrilla leader dramatically walked out of the pre-poll alliance led by the Nepali Congress and joined hands with opposition leader K P Sharma Oli.

The 68-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre chairman was appointed as the country's new prime minister on Sunday after he submitted a letter to President Bidya Devi

Bhandari showing the support of 169 members in the 275-member House of Representatives.

Prachanda took the oath of office and secrecy from President Bhandari at an official ceremony at Shital Niwas on Monday.

President Bhandari also administered the oath to other Cabinet members of the new coalition government. The new Cabinet has three deputy prime ministers - Bishnu Paudel from Oli's CPN-UML, Narayan Kaji Shrestha from CPN-Maoist Centre and Rabi Lamichhane from Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

Paudel has been assigned Finance ministry, while Shrestha got Physical Infrastructure and Transport and Lamichhane Home Ministry.

Jwala Kumari Sah, Damodar Bhandari and Rajendra Kumar Rai -- all three from Oli's CPN-UML -- have been made ministers. Janamat Party's Abdul Khan was also appointed as a minister.

Despite getting appointed prime minister with an overwhelming majority, Prachanda will now have to win a vote of trust from the lower house within 30 days. (PTI)

3 NGOs suspend work in Afghanistan post ban on women



DECEMBER 25

KABUL (TIP): Three major international aid groups on December 25 suspended their operations in Afghanistan following a decision by the country's Taliban rulers to ban women from working at non-governmental organisations.

Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE said they cannot effectively reach children, women and men in desperate need in Afghanistan without the women in their

workforces.

The three NGOs provide healthcare, education, child protection and nutrition services and support amid plummeting humanitarian conditions. The NGO ban was introduced a day earlier.

The US warned that the NGO ban will disrupt vital and life-saving assistance to millions. The Taliban takeover sent Afghanistan's economy into a tailspin and transformed the country, driving millions into poverty and hunger. — AP

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India in history this Week

DECEMBER 30, 2022, TO JANUARY 5, 2023

30 DECEMBER

1975 Death of Hindi poet and ghazalkar Dushyant Kumar.



1971 Renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai died in Trivandrum.

1943 Freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose waved India's independence flag at Port Blair.

1706 Martin, the founder of Puducherry and the first Governor General of the French colony in India, died.

1803 Britain's East India Company controlled Delhi, Agra and Bharuch.

1906 The All India Muslim League was established in Dhaka (now Bangladesh).

31 DECEMBER

1925 Hindi writer Shrilal Shukla was born.



1984 Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister and Congress President for the first time.

1802 The Maratha ruler Peshwa Bajirao II came under the protection of the British.

1866 Chief Minister of Bihar and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahai was born.

1926 Renowned Indian writer, historian, best orator and scholar Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade died.

1929 Congress workers led by Mahatma Gandhi started the movement for complete self-rule in Lahore.

01 JANUARY

2001 Calcutta was officially named Kolkata.



1971 Broadcasting of cigarette advertisements on television was banned.

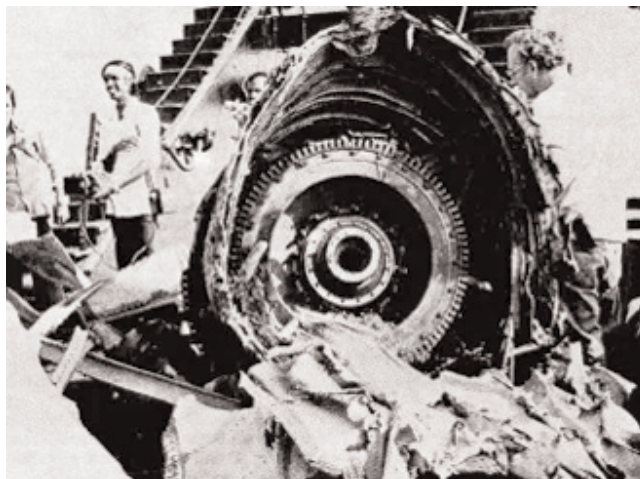
1950 Rahat Indouri, famous Urdu poet and lyricist was born.



2020 India's first Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat, who took charge (CDS) on 1 January, 2020

02 JANUARY

1978 Air India Boeing 747 crash. All 213 people aboard this plane were killed.



1757 British troops captured the city of Calcutta (now Kolkata) in India.

1954 Bharat Ratna Award was started.

03 JANUARY

1894 Ravindra Nath Tagore inaugurated the 'Pausha Mela' at Shanti Niketan.



2009 Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot won the trust vote in the Vidhan Sabha.

2005 USA announces Rs 6.2 crore assistance to provide clean drinking water to tsunami victims in

Tamil Nadu.

2000 Calcutta was officially named Kolkata.

1995 360 people died in a fierce fire in a school in Dabwali, Haryana.

1968 Launch of 'Maneka', the country's first meteorological rocket.

1943 For the first time, information about missing people was broadcast on television.

1929 Mahatma Gandhi met Lord Irwin.

1901 Brahmacharya Ashram opened in Shanti Niketan.

1998 Bangladesh refused to hand over India to ULFA general secretary Anoop Chetia.

04 JANUARY

1994 Rahul Dev Burman (RD Burman) famous music composer of Hindi films passed away.



1972 Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science inaugurated in New Delhi.

1966 India-Pakistan Conference between Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri and General Ayub Khan of Pakistan begins.

1966 Indo-Pak talks between Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri and President of Pakistan General Ayub Khan in Tashkent.

05 JANUARY

2014 Indian communication satellite GSAT-14 was successfully placed into orbit.



2009 Omar Abdullah sworn in as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

2006 India and Nepal extend the duration of the transit treaty by 3 months.

1957 Central Sales Tax Act comes into effect.

1955 Birth of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1941 Birth of cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi in Bhopal.

1934 Birth of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Murli Manohar Joshi.

1890 Advocate Gyanendra Mohan Tagore died.

1671 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured the Salhar region from the Mughals.

1659 Aurangzeb defeated Shah Shuja in the Battle of Khajwah.

'In Maa, i've always felt that trinity': PM Modi's moving tribute to his mother

Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted a moving tribute to his mother Heeraben Modi who died in the early hours of Friday, December 30, at the age of 99. "A glorious century rests at the feet of God... In Maa I have always felt that trinity, which contains the journey of an ascetic, the symbol of a selfless Karmayogi and a life committed to values," the Prime Minister tweeted this morning informing his mother's death.

Sharing a photo of her, he recalled what she told him when he met her on her 100th birthday in June.

"When I met her on her 100th birthday, she said one thing, which is always remembered that work with intelligence, live life with purity, that is, work with intelligence and live life with purity," said the Prime Minister who attended her last rites in Gandhinagar.

The UN Mehta hospital in Ahmedabad where she was admitted on Tuesday night said in a statement that she died at 3.30 am. Her body was later taken to Gandhinagar.

Heeraben used to live with Pankaj Modi, the Prime Minister's younger brother, at Raysan village near Gandhinagar. PM Modi used to visit her during most of his trips to Gujarat.

Heeraben was born on June 18, 1923, in an ordinary family in Gujarat's Visanagar as Heeraben Damodardas Modi. She lost her mother at an early age and her growing-up years were full of struggles.

Heeraben after marriage lived in a tiny house in Vadnagar with her family, including her husband, Prime Minister Modi and his five siblings.

To help with the family's income, she would wash utensils at a few homes and also spun the charkha.

In an emotional blog post earlier on Heeraben's 99th birthday, Prime Minister Modi said she has always led a simple life and has no assets in her name. Heeraben was a dutiful citizen and despite her age she was often seen casting her vote on the day of elections. She was also famously seen joining the queue outside a bank when the Prime Minister had declared demonetisation in the country in 2016.

Even during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was some hesitation among many regarding vaccinations, Heeraben set an example by taking the vaccine.

Condolences started pouring in from across the world after the demise of the mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was one of the first world leaders to offer condolences to PM Narendra Modi over the passing away of his mother, Heeraben Modi.

Mr Kishida tweeted, "PM Modi @narendramodi, I would like to express my deepest condolences for the passing of your beloved mother. May her soul rest in peace."

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' also expressed sadness over the death of PM Modi's mother.



In a tweet, Nepal PM stated, "I'm deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Smt. Heeraben Modi, loving mother of Prime Minister @PMOIndia At this hour of grief, I express heartfelt condolences to PM Modi ji and the family members and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul."

Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa condoled the death of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother. He tweeted, "Deeply saddened to hear of the demise of Smt. Heeraben Modi. My heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister @narendramodi ji on the loss of his beloved mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with the PM and his family in this hour of grief."

Former Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba expressed condolences over the passing away of Heeraben He tweeted, "My heartfelt condolences to Shri @narendramodi ji and his family at the passing away of his venerable Mother Heeraben Modi. May her eternal soul attain Moksha."

Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov offered condolences to PM Modi over the death of his mother. He tweeted, "My heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji on the biggest loss. My heart breaks for you Om Shanti."

German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann tweeted, "Deepest and sincere condolences to honorable Prime Minister @narendramodi. We join him and his family in mourning their loss."

United States President Joe Biden on Saturday offered "heartfelt" condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his mother's demise. "Jill and I send our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister @narendramodi on the loss of his mother, Heeraben Modi. Our prayers are with the Prime Minister and his family at this difficult time," Biden's



tweet read.

Apart from Biden, several other global leaders also sent their condolences after PM Modi's mother passed away in Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

"There is no greater loss than losing one's mother," Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted adding "my condolences to Prime Minister @narendramodi on the passing away of his mother".

"Saddened to hear the news about Indian PM @narendramodi's mother, Hiraben Modi, passing away. My thoughts and prayers are with PM Modi and his family during this time of mourning," Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih tweeted.

West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee took to Twitter to say, "Condolences to PM Narendra Modi on the passing away of his mother, Heeraben Modi. I pray that her soul rests in peace. In this hour

of grief, I hope that he and his family members find strength."

Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu tweeted: "My deepest condolences to Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi on the sad demise of his beloved mother, Smt. Heeraben Modi."

"I am deeply pained by the passing away of Hira Ba, mother of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi. The death of a mother leaves such a void in one's life that is impossible to fill. I express my condolences to the Prime Minister and his entire family in this hour of grief. Om Shanti!" Rajnath Singh said in a tweet in Hindi.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati said, "Extremely saddened by the news of the demise of Mrs. Heeraben, mother of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. My deepest condolences to his entire family. May nature give him and all his loved ones the strength to bear this loss."

Gujarat: Bus Crashes Into SUV After Driver Suffers Heart Attack, 9 Dead

Nine people died and 28 were injured in a horrific crash between a bus and an SUV car in Gujarat's Navsari district early on Saturday, December 31, morning. A bus full of people returning from the Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav event from Surat rammed into a Toyota Fortuner car on the Navsari national highway number 48 after the driver suffered a heart attack and lost control of the vehicle. He was taken to a hospital for treatment, where he died.

Eight of the nine occupants of the car died, and 28 people in the bus were injured. 11 were taken to a private hospital. The luxury bus was going from Surat to Valsad.

The accident occurred near Vesma village, while the SUV was coming from the opposite direction, Navsari Superintendent of Police (SP) Rushikesh Upadhyay said.

Those travelling in the SUV were residents of Ankleshwar in Gujarat, and they were on their way back to their hometown from Valsad, Mr Upadhyay said, adding that the passengers of the bus were from Valsad.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah condoled the deaths in a Twitter post.

"The road accident in Gujarat's Navsari is heartbreaking. My condolences to those who have lost their families in this tragedy. May God give them the strength to bear the pain. The local administration is giving immediate treatment to the injured, praying for their speedy recovery," he tweeted in Gujarati.

The crash led to traffic disruption on the highway, after which the police got the bus removed from the road using a crane and traffic resumed as usual.

India makes negative Covid report mandatory for flyers from China, 5 other places

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Passengers arriving from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand - the countries that have reported massive surge in Covid cases might require mandatory negative RT-PCR tests from next week, news agency PTI reported.

As the Centre has stepped up surveillance and asked the states to be alert in view of the global spike in Covid cases, at least 39 international travellers arriving in India have tested positive during the random tests being carried at airports." 39 international passengers were found positive for Covid-19 out of the 6,000 tested on arrival in the last two days," official sources told PTI.

This comes at a time when Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya is set to visit New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport tomorrow to review the arrangements made to screen foreign travellers.

Health experts have predicted that India will see a Covid surge in January. Cases are projected to rise especially in the next 40 days. The alert has been sounded based on the previous year's readings.

Following the surge, India has begun to maintain a close watch on the pandemic ahead of New Year. The Centre or the states have not imposed any restriction on celebrations, but urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. Hospitals across the country conducted a mock drill to ensure readiness to deal with any eventuality related to Covid-19.

With only 27 per cent of the eligible adult population having taken the precaution



dose, government officials have appealed to those due for it to take it.

India recorded 226 new cases of the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours. According to the data shared by the Union Health Ministry today (December 31), the total recovery rate reached at around 98.80 per cent and total recoveries data reached to 4,41,44,029.

The total active cases of COVID-19 in India have increased to 3,653, the health ministry data showed on Saturday. Yesterday, the registered active cases were around 3,609.

An increase of total 44 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, the ministry said.

The total death toll in the country is now at 5,30,702. In India, the first death due to the COVID pandemic was reported in March 2020. According to the health ministry's website, 220.10 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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

The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore on June 23, 2021 and four crore on January 25 this year.

Congress, JD-S dynastic, corrupt parties: Shah

BENGALURU (TIP)

Hitting the ground running in poll-bound Karnataka, Union Home Minister Amit Shah called both the Congress and JD(S) as 'parivaarvadi' (dynastic politics) and corrupt and urged the people of Mandya and Old Mysuru region to support the BJP and bring it to power with a majority in the state.

The BJP is considered to be weak in the Vokkaliga-dominated Old Mysuru region, and is focusing on this belt to gain complete majority in 2023 Assembly polls.

"Enough of JD(S)-Congress, Congress-JD(S) this time Mandya, the Mysuru region should make BJP win with full majority. Congress and JD(S) are both parivaarvadi (dynastic politics) parties, they are corrupt pirates," Shah said.

Addressing a massive public meeting as part of the ongoing 'Janasankalpa Yatre' of the state BJP, he said, "We have seen administration of both parties, when Congress comes, Karnataka will become Delhi's ATM and when JD(S) comes it becomes ATM for a family. Repeatedly these two parties have through corruption have stopped Karnataka's progress."

Stating that the time has come to get free from 'parivaarvad' and corruption, Shah asked people to give BJP an opportunity to form the government with full majority once, and bring a "double engine" government.

"In the next five years under the leadership of Modi we will take Karnataka much forward in the path of progress," he said, accusing both Congress and JD(S) of being "corrupt, communal and also protectors of criminals".

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, state BJP chief Nalin Kumar Kateel, party's national General Secretary C T Ravi among other leaders were present at the event.

Reminding that he had begun campaigning for the 2018 Assembly polls from Mandya, he said, the people of Karnataka gave the BJP an opportunity to form the government making us the single largest party.

Then again in 2019 Lok Sabha polls under the leadership of Modi with 52 per cent vote-share, Karnataka got 25 out of 28 seats for the BJP, he added.

Source: PTI



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI



Rahul Gandhi Opposition's PM face in 2024 polls, says Kamal Nath

Congress leader Kamal Nath said on Friday, December 30, that Rahul Gandhi would be the Opposition's PM candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In an email interview, he lauded Rahul for leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying he was not doing politics for power, but for the common people of the country.

Nath also said no one in the history of the world had undertaken such a long padayatra. The former Madhya Pradesh CM is the lone leader to have come forward in favor of Rahul's candidature for the 2024 polls.

Asked if there was any chance of Jyotiraditya Scindia's return to the party in the future, Nath said, "There is no place for those who betrayed the party." *Source: PTI*

11 chargesheeted in PFI conspiracy case

The NIA today said it had filed a chargesheet against 11 persons accused of being involved in organising terrorist training camps and recruiting youngsters for the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in Telangana's Nizamabad district.

The chargesheet was filed before the NIA Special Court in Hyderabad on Thursday, the agency said in a statement.

Those named are Abdul Khader, Abdul Ahad, Abdul Saleem, Shaik Shadullah, Feroz Khan, Mohammad Osman, Syed Yahiya Sameer, Shaik Imran alias "Imran Qureshi", Mohd Abdul Mubeen and Mohammad Irfan, all of Telangana, and Shaik Iliyas Ahmed of Andhra Pradesh, it said.

"Investigations revealed the accused were radicalising gullible Muslim youth and recruiting them into the PFI through speeches filled with hatred against the government of India as well as other organisations," statement read.

The NIA on Friday arrested a lawyer in a case related to unlawful and violent activities by the PFI in Kerala. Mohammed Mubarak AI, a resident of Ernakulam district, is the 14th person arrested in the case following searches in the state on Thursday.

Will not compromise on national security for good relations with neighbours: Rajnath Singh

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday, December 30, said India wants to have and maintain friendly relations with its neighbours, but it will not be done at the cost of national security.

Speaking at the 90th annual pilgrimage of Sivagiri Mutt here, Singh recalled former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's remark that we can change friends but not our neighbours.

"Therefore, we need good and friendly relations with our neighbours. However, we will not compromise on national security to maintain good relations. We do not want good relations with anyone at the cost of our national security," the Defence Minister said.

Singh also spoke about Kerala-based social reformer Sree Narayana Guru's teachings, like 'prosperity through industry' which is the basis of the Indian's government's 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' policy.

As a result of the same, the country is considered as one of the top five economies in the world and our military is seen as a force to be reckoned with, he contended.

"His preaching of prosperity through industry is the basis of the Government of India's resolution of 'Self-reliant India'. Today, India is one of the largest economies of the world because of its hard work and enterprise. Today, India has become one of the top five economies of the world." "The world today recognises India as military power to be reckoned with, due to the government's pitching for 'Self-reliant India' which is based on 'Prosperity through industry' preaching of Sree Narayana Guru," the Defence Minister said.

Singh said that self-reliance has been an intrinsic part of India's culture and Sree Narayana Guru spread this message in the public through his teachings, and Sivagiri Mutt was also working to take it forward continuously.

He further said that while he was working to protect the "body"—boundaries—of India with the help of the armed forces and under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the saints of the math were working to protect the soul of the country.

"I appreciate the work you are doing. We can survive as a nation only when both the body and soul are safe," Singh said and expressed confidence that this year's annual pilgrimage would also be a success.

In January 1928, Vallabhasserry Govindan Vaidyar and T K Kittan jointly requested Guru to have a Sivagiri pilgrimage as all the higher classes and others had their own pilgrim centres, but 'avarnas' had nowhere to go, according to the math website.

Guru gave his consent to the proposal and fixed a date of first of



January of every year for the pilgrimage, prior to which pilgrims have to maintain a 10-day long austere life and wear only yellow clothes, the website said.

The Defence Minister, at the event, also condoled the death of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother—Hiraben.

Singh said that when he learned about the tragic news he was contemplating returning to Delhi, but the Prime Minister told everyone that all should fulfill their official commitments before coming back.

"So on behalf of everyone here, the Sivagiri Mutt and myself, I would like to pay tribute to Ma Hiraben," he said.

Thereafter, a one-minute silence was observed by everyone present there.

Earlier, in his speech, he said many allege liberty, equality and fraternity are not part of Indian tradition and ideologies and that it reached us through the French Revolution.

"However, that is incorrect. Sources of liberty, equality, fraternity and world peace can be seen in Indian culture. In fact, the concept of human equality can be seen in our ancient texts and the preaching and literary works of saints, philosophers and poets of the 'Bhakti' period." *Source:PTI*

Doesn't hold patents on Ram, Hanuman: Uma Bharti's stinging remark on BJP

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti said her party does not "hold patents" on Lord Ram, Hanuman or the Hindu religion and anybody can have faith in them. In a series of tweets, Uma Bharti said it was not the BJP which inculcated in her the faith in Ram, the Tricolour, Ganga and cow, but it was "already within" her.

"The BJP does not hold patents on Ram and Hanuman or the Hindu religion. Anyone can have faith in them. The difference is that our faith is beyond political gains," she said.

Bharti also questioned the purpose of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra while highlighting the BJP-led government's decision to abrogate Article 370 to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. "But where is Bharat breaking? We have abrogated Article 370. What was breaking the country was Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Rahul Gandhi should take this yatra to PoK," she said.



Her stinging statement on the BJP came days after she courted trouble for her party by telling the Lodhi community that they were free to vote for any party by taking their own interest into account.

Speaking at a convention of marriageable boys and girls of her community, Bharti said she was loyal soldier of the BJP but the people of her community should take a decision on the basis of their own interests.

"I will come, I will come on the platform of my party, I will ask for votes. I never say that if you are a Lodhi then vote for the BJP. I tell everyone to vote for the BJP because I am a loyal soldier of my party. But I will expect a little from you that you will be a loyal soldier of the party," she said.

"You have to see the surroundings and look for your interests. If you are not a party worker or a party voter, you have to decide for yourself. We are in the bond of love but from my side, you are completely free from the political bonding." *Source: HT*

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“
Fruitful is the entire life
of those, who feel hunger
for the Name of the Lord
in their minds.
”

GURU GOBIND SINGH

The Indian EXPRESS

Heartiest Greetings on Shri Guru Gobind Singh's Prakash Divas (Birthday) and A Happy New Year



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RAGAMALA DANCE CONTINUES 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Ashwini Ramaswamy with dancers

Photo / Courtesy ragamaladance.org

BY MABEL PAIS

Ashwini Ramaswamy & Kevork Mourad's 'Invisible Cities,' world premiere, will be presented both livestream and in-person on January 27 & 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Cowles Center's Goodale Theater, 528 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN. This two-night engagement is part of Ragamala Dance Company's 30th Anniversary Season. The event is a collaborative presentation of The Great Northern Festival, The Cowles Center, and Northrop.

Bharatanatyam choreographer and dancer Ashwini Ramaswamy (Ragamala Dance Company), deepens a choreographic methodology she began in 2019 with 'Let the Crows Come' - named a "Best of the Year" in The Washington Post and a critic's pick in The New York Times. 'Invisible Cities' is a collaborative reimagining of Italo Calvino's metaphysical novel, interweaving cultural perspectives with a dynamic group of dance artists - Raneer and Aparna Ramaswamy (Bharatanatyam); Berit Ahlgren (Gaga), Alanna Morris (Modern), and Joseph Tran (Breaking), and visual artist Kevork Mourad, who creates 'Invisible Cities' interactive, immersive projections in real time. Raneer and Aparna join Ashwini as guest choreographers and performers on this work.

TICKETS

For more Information & Tickets,

visit thecowlescenter.org/2023/invisible-cities

CHOREOGRAPH YOUR CLASSIC EVENT

'Choreograph Your Classic' event takes place on January 19, 2023, at Magers & Quinn Booksellers. Ashwini Ramaswamy, lead choreographer of Invisible Cities, and Will McGrath (author, Everything Lost is Found Again, Farewell Transmission) discuss her process of adapting Italo Calvino's book as a multi-faceted dance performance (premieres January 27 and 28, 2023). Long an inspiration for artists of many disciplines, Calvino's 1973 novel is a meditation on the environments all around us. The 'Invisible Cities' performance will evoke the book's themes through movement communicated via four dance traditions: Bharatanatyam (Classical Indian), Modern/African Diasporic, Breaking, and Gaga, as Syrian-American digital artist Kevork Mourad fills the space with live illustrations. Ramaswamy and the other lead choreographers Alanna Morris, Berit Ahlgren, and Joseph 'MN Joe' Tran will describe their process of finding cohesion and harmony among the myriad perspectives they bring to their work.

RAGAMALA DANCE COMPANY

Ragamala Dance Company was founded in 1992 by Raneer Ramaswamy and is under the leadership of Artistic



'Sleeping Beauty' dancers.

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Directors Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, and Choreographic Associate Ashwini Ramaswamy (respectively, mother and daughters). Their guru, the legendary Bharatanatyam artist Alarmel Valli of Chennai, India, has guided their training for almost 40 years, imparting her rare combination of aesthetic brilliance, emotive depth, and physical rigor. Raneer and Aparna have ushered this lineage into their own imaginative ecosystems, infusing it with their personal experiences as diasporic artists. Ragamala has become the standard bearer for Bharatanatyam dance in the United States, and has been called "soulful, imaginative, and rhythmically contagious" (The New York Times) and "a wholly magnificent piece of live art" (The Chicago Tribune). We are a pioneering, intergenerational, family-run organization committed to the idea that while history is time bound, the stories we share are timeless. Ragamala engages in a collaborative practice with myriad artists and aesthetics and is rooted in the idea of Bharatanatyam as a dynamic living tradition.

Raneer Ramaswamy (mother of Aparna & Ashwini) serves on the National Council on the Arts, appointed by President Barack Obama. Among her recent awards and honors are a Guggenheim Fellowship, Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship (Italy), Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Research Fellowship (Italy), United States Artists Fellowship, and McKnight

Distinguished Artist Award.

Aparna is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship (Italy), Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Research Fellowship (Italy), Joyce Award, and Bush Fellowship for Choreography, among others, and has been selected as one of Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch for 2010.

Ashwini is the lead choreographer and director of 'Invisible Cities'. Her work has been commissioned by The Liquid Music Series, The American Dance Platform, Macalester College, and The Great Northern Festival, among others.

Learn more at ragamaladance.org

THE GREAT NORTHERN

To more information on The Great Northern, visit the greatnorthernfestival.com or follow along on social media

@TheGreatNorthernFestival on Facebook and Instagram and @greatnorthern on Twitter.

THE COWLES CENTER

Learn more at thecowlescenter.org/2023/invisible-cities or follow @thecowlescenter on Facebook and Instagram.

NORTHROP

For more information, visit npnweb.org

WORLD'S BELOVED BALLET COMES TO LIFE AT NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

SLEEPING BEAUTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023 @ 6PM @ PRUDENTIAL HALL

Sleeping Beauty is one of the world's most beloved ballets and one of Tchaikovsky's most captivating masterpieces. The tale of a princess cursed to sleep for

100 years comes to life with The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine, who perform dazzling choreography adapted from the legendary Marius Petipa. Tchaikovsky himself declared Sleeping Beauty his best work, and audiences of all ages will enjoy the colorful costumes, festive music and charming fairytale love story.

TICKETS

For Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/sleeping-beauty-the-state-ballet-theatre-of-ukraine

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

OSCAR CONTENDERS

BY MABEL PAIS

FEATURES

RRR

DIR/WRIT: S.S. RAJAMOULI L 2022 L INDIA L TELUGU W/ENG SUBS L 3H 2M



'RRR,' dance scene

Photo / Courtesy 'RRR.'

'RRR,' from writer-director S. S. Rajamouli (Baahubali) is the international blockbuster that has enchanted movie audiences of all ages with its jaw-dropping action sequences, swooning romantic intrigue, infectious musical numbers- including the sensation "Naatu Naatu"- and rousing central friendship between two pre-Independence revolutionaries, played by Telugu-language megastars Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao, Jr. (better known as Jr. NTR).

From an original story by V. Vijayendra Prasad, the historical action epic RRR (short for Rise, Roar, Revolt) follows the fictionalized paths of real-life freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju (Charan) and Komaram Bheem (Rama Rao) as they come together in 1920s Delhi to battle the nefarious British Raj for the rescue of a kidnapped girl from Bheem's tribe.

Watch the trailer - player.vimeo.com/video/709590385?autoplay=1&h=a79303822a

Opening: Check local listings for re-release dates.

HIDDEN LETTERS

DIRS: VIOLET DU FENG & QING ZHAO L 2022 L CHINA/USA/NORWAY/GERMANY L

1H 26M

Women in China were historically forced into oppressive marriages and forbidden to read or write by their households for thousands of years. To cope, they developed and shared a secret language among themselves called Nushu. Written in poems or songs with bamboo pens on paper-folded fans and handkerchiefs, these hidden letters bonded generations of Chinese women in a clandestine support system of sisterhood, hope and survival. Spanning between past and present, from sunken rice fields and rural villages to bustling metropolitan cities, 'Hidden Letters' follows two millennial Chinese women who are connected by their fascination with Nushu and their desire to protect its legacy.

In Jiangyong, Hu Xin works as a Nushu museum guide and aspires to master the ancient script following the breakup of her marriage. In Shanghai, Simu is passionate about music and Nushu, but marital expectations threaten

to end her pursuit of both. Influenced by Nushu's legacy of female solidarity, the two women struggle to find balance as they forge their own paths in a patriarchal culture steeped in female subservience to men. Learn more at hiddenlettersfilm.com

Opening: Watch on major streaming platforms.

ALL IN: MIRACLE AT ST. BERNARD'S

DIRS: GREGG BACKER & EVAN KANEW L 2022 L USA L 1H 35M

'All In: Miracle at St. Bernard's' is about faith, family and football. This documentary chronicles a tiny, 100-year-old Catholic school in Fitchburg, Massachusetts struggling with insolvency yet defying the odds at a time when the Church was shuttering similar institutions nationwide.

It's the underdog story of a working-class community and the state's smallest football program rallying in pursuit of an impossible goal: to save their school from closure by the Church.

The Bernardians faithful needed a miracle. So they set about creating one. All In follows the dramatic campaigns to raise money and enrollment as well as a magical football season that together saved a beloved institution.

Opening: Watch on Prime Video

DOC SHORTS



'Barefoot Empress,' Amma in class

Photo / Courtesy 'Barefoot Empress.'

BAREFOOT EMPRESS

DIR: VIKAS KHANNA L 2022 L USA L 15M

'Barefoot Empress' follows the remarkable journey of 96-year-old Karthyayani Amma as she joins a first grade class, realizing her lifelong dream of receiving an education. Amma went to school for the first time at 96 and became the top of her class. In the trailer she can be seen soaking up a lesson amidst a classroom of girls a tenth of her age. "I'm not ashamed to be sitting in a classroom with students of my great-grandchildren's age," she says.

Watch the trailer: youtu.be/7LZ1w8KvD_U

The film is Executive Produced by world-renowned speaker and author, Dr. Deepak Chopra, directed by Michelin Star Chef and social impact filmmaker Vikas Khanna, and produced by Academy Award nominated Doug Roland.

Inspired by Vikas Khanna's own grandmother who was not given an opportunity at an education, Khanna has partnered with non-profit Leap to Shine to use the film to

raise funds in service of providing high quality education for girls in underserved communities in India. To date, 'Barefoot Empress' has helped rehabilitate eleven classrooms in India, with many more on the way. Speaking about the film, Dr. Chopra said, "Barefoot Empress' carries a universal message of hope and perseverance that has the power to move viewers, and the momentum to impact the lives of thousands of girls in India." Learn more at barefootempress.com

FAVORITE DAUGHTER

DIR: DANA REILLY L 2022 L USA L 19M

WINNER - AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST DOCU SHORT - SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL

"Favorite Daughter,' is an endearing, funny, and poignant look at aging, sex, cooking, finding love, and of course the mother-daughter bond." - Tribeca Citizen

'Favorite Daughter' is an intimate portrait of the director's grandmother Sylvia Weinstock and mother Janet Isa, sheltering in place together in a lower Manhattan apartment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sylvia was living alone for the first time in her life when after her partner of 69 years, (the director's grandpa), Ben, passed away. Then her youngest daughter, Janet, moved in.

This short documentary is both raw and charming, melancholy and funny - a portrait of two women with vastly different experiences coming together and supporting one another through the uncertainty of spending the next chapters of their lives "alone," without a partner.

View the trailer: player.vimeo.com/video/711406850

Opening: Running on Paramount+.

HOLDING MOSES

DIRS: RIVKAH BETH MEDOW & JEN RAININ L 2022 L USA L ENGLISH L 17M

WORLD PREMIERE - 2022 San Francisco International Film Festival

SFFILM Festival 2022 - Winner - Golden Gate Award

SF Jewish Film Festival 2022 - Winner - Best Short Documentary

'Holding Moses' focuses on Randi, who studied Butoh dance in Japan before performing in the show 'Stomp,' forging a deep connection with movement and her body. Randi is visually striking, with close-cropped salt and pepper hair, and presents as very masculine of center, defying most people's image of a mother. Birthing her son felt triumphant, then confusing as he was whisked away to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) . When doctors shared that Moses was profoundly disabled and faced a tenuous future, Randi fell into a well of grief before unearthing a new language by which to learn and love her son - one born and honed in the body. Learn more at franklyspeakingfilms.com/projects/holding-moses

Opening: Streaming on the New Yorker Documentary

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



Founders of SAH : (Left to Right) - Jitin Hingorani, Monika Samtani, Rohi Mirza Pandya & Kirtana Banskota. Photo / Satwic Mudigulam

SOUTH ASIAN HOUSE PARTNERS WITH SXSW @ 2023 FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

South Asian House (SAH), for the first time, partners with South By South West® (SXSW®) Film Fest 2023, a Festival held for 37 years. SAH will convene at Fourth and Co. in the iconic Warehouse District of downtown Austin, six blocks from SXSW® event headquarters. There will be two full days of programming on

March 11 and 12, 2023 of this innovative initiative to highlight, recognize, and appreciate South Asians from seven countries - India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives - as well as accomplished members of the diaspora.

Programs will range from panel discussions on women in film, business tech, and climate change to curated sets of live and electronic music to a Reel Deal session, Comedy Hour, Industry Leadership Sessions, Mental Health Corner, Queer/Dalit Visual Art NFTs, and Desi Drag Brunch to a red carpet, awards ceremony on Oscar® Sunday recognizing South Asian Trailblazers in

Cinema.

The initiative is the brainchild of veteran producers, curators, and programmers Rohi Mirza Pandya (Box Office Guru Media & Desipina), Monika Samtani (Ms. Media & The Fem Word), Jitin Hingorani (Jingo Media & DFW South Asian Film Festival), and Kirtana Banskota (Banskota Productions & Nepal America Film Society).

Follow @southasianhouse on Instagram or sign up to receive updates through the website, southasianhouse.com.

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



India release of Pakistani film 'The Legend of Maula Jatt' pushed indefinitely

The release of Pakistani film 'The Legend of Maula Jatt', starring Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan, in Indian theatres has been postponed, an INOX official said.

The action drama, which was released in Pakistan on October 13, was set to hit the theatres in India on Friday. No further date has been locked for the India release.

"We have been informed by the distributors that the release of the film has been postponed. We were told this two-three days ago. No further date has been shared," an official from multiplex chain INOX told PTI.

Directed by Bilal Lashari, 'The Legend of Maula Jatt' is an adaptation of the 1979 cult classic 'Maula Jatt' and producers have said it is neither a remake nor a sequel. It has become the highest-grossing Pakistani film of all time amassing \$10 million.

Earlier this week, multiplex chain PVR Cinemas had shared the India release date of the film on its official Instagram page but deleted it soon after.

Source: PTI

CBFC asks makers of Pathaan to implement changes in film

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has advised the makers of Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone's upcoming film Pathaan to implement certain changes in the film, including in its songs, and submit a revised version, chairperson Praseon Joshi has said.

The film recently reached the CBFC examination committee for certification and went through the due examination process as per the board's guidelines.

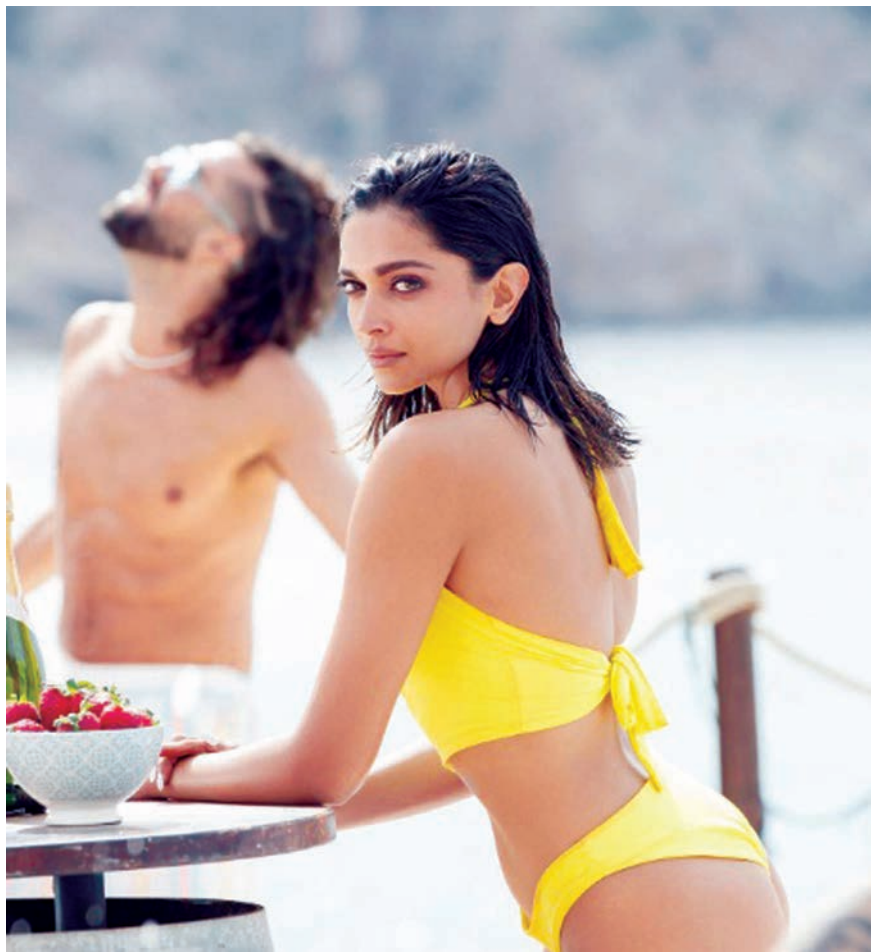
Helmed by Siddharth Anand, Pathaan is scheduled for theatrical release in January in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. One of its songs Besharam Rang courted controversy over the orange-coloured bikini sported by Deepika Padukone.

CBFC chairperson, Praseon Joshi said, "Pathaan went through the due and thorough examining process as per the CBFC guidelines. The committee has guided the makers to implement the advised changes in the film including the songs and submit the revised version prior to theatrical release. Joshi said that "CBFC is always committed to find the right balance between creative expression and sensibility of the audience and believe that we can always find solution through meaningful dialogue between all stakeholders."

"Whilst the process is getting duly followed and implemented I must reiterate that our culture and faith is glorious, intricate and nuanced. And we have to be careful that it does not get defined by trivia which takes the focus away from the real and the true. And like I have said earlier as well, that the trust between creators and audience is most important to protect and the creators should keep working towards it."

Besharam Rang dropped online on December 12, and soon it became the talk of the town. Several people found the song objectionable over the use of saffron and green costumes.

Source: ANI



Alia Bhatt shines bright in her latest pictures on Instagram, fans call her 'santoor mummy'

Actor Alia Bhatt posted new pictures on her Instagram handle and fans can't stop praising her. Alia recently attended a lavish party with husband, actor Ranbir Kapoor, which was hosted at businessman Mukesh Ambani's Mumbai residence Antilia to celebrate the engagement of his younger son Anant Ambani with Radhika Merchant. On Friday, she shared close up pictures of her look from the event.

For the party, Alia wore a mint green blazer kurta with sharara. It came adorned with intricate beaded details. The actor paired it with her signature glowy makeup. She left her hair untied and finished off with her wedding ring and earrings as her only accessories.

Sharing the pictures, Alia ditched caption and added only a snowflake emoji. All of the pictures seemed to be clicked at Alia and Ranbir's house. Reacting to them, a fan wrote, "Wearing wedding ring after a long time." "Kaun bolega ye ek bacchi ki maa hai (who's going to believe she has a kid)," added another one. Many also called her 'Santoor mummy' relating to the popular soap ad which talked about beauty of a mother.

On Thursday night, Alia stepped out with Ranbir Kapoor. This was their first party together after the birth of their baby girl Raha in November. Besides the couple, celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Janhvi Kapoor and Ranveer Singh among others were also present at the party.

Alia and Ranbir had recently celebrated their first Christmas after tying the knot and also becoming parents. They visited Alia's mother, actor Soni Razdan's residence for Christmas dinner. Alia wore a red dress and clicked several pictures with sister Shaheen Bhatt and others. Soni had shared pictures from their family time.

Source: HT



Hrithik Roshan says being a star is burden

Hrithik Roshan recently pointed out how he feels about being termed a star versus being called an actor. He said while one term makes him comfortable and relaxed, the other one felt like a 'burden' to me. Hrithik added he is thankful for his stardom.

Hrithik Roshan's last outing was Vikram Vedha with Saif Ali Khan. Directed by Pushkar-Gayatri, Vikram Vedha is a Hindi remake of the filmmakers' 2017 hit Tamil film of the same name. The original featured R Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi. While the Tamil film was a hit, the Hindi version failed to do the same kind of business at the box office.

In a recent interview, Hrithik opened up about his films and told Galatta Plus, "Every time there's a Vedha, Super 30 life actually becomes very easy because all you have to do, is your job as an actor. When you do films like Bang Bang, War or Fighter then you have the whole weight of being a star. And, you have to get the aesthetics right, all the expectations, look at certain way, that really can sap you. That is very very difficult process. For me, doing a film like Super 30, Kaabil is a joy because all I have to focus on is being real, feeling my lines."



Avatar crosses \$1 billion in 14 days

James Cameron's Avatar: The Way of Water has crossed the \$1 billion mark at the global box office within 14 days of its release. It has now become the fastest movie this year to hit the milestone within such a short span, and the 6th fastest film ever to arrive at that mark, along with Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom, which also hit \$1 billion in 2018 within 14 days.

Currently the James Cameron film is the third highest-grossing film released during the pandemic era, having taken over the numbers that Doctor Strange And The Multiverse of Madness collected, and it is all set to cross the collection of Jurassic World: Dominion to aim for the 2nd position. The first position is held by Spider-Man: No Way Home, which is still the highest-grossing film of the pandemic era at \$1.91 billion. Avatar: The Way of Water is also the fastest to cross the \$1 billion mark since Spider-Man: No Way Home, which took 12 days. The original Avatar, which was released in 2009 still maintains the position as the highest-grossing film of all time with a worldwide collection of \$2.97 billion.

Source: HT

Kate Hudson jokes she only had cucumber ahead of filming bikini scenes in 'Knives Out 2'

Actress Kate Hudson joked that she stuck to a diet of cucumbers while filming her bikini scenes in 'Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery'.

Hudson made the gag on ITV's 'This Morning' show on Wednesday, while discussing her poolside scene where she wears an orange two-piece. She said about abstaining from booze being drunk by other cast members to keep her figure, "When everybody was having aperol spritz, I was waiting for that scene to be shot. So, I was like, 'I'll just have that cucumber'," reports aceshowbiz.com.

Hudson added about getting involved in the film, which also stars Daniel Craig as detective Benoit Blanc: "When we found out they were doing a second one ('Knives Out'), I was like gonna barrel (director) Rian Johnson's door down. I was like, 'I want in.' We were really locked down together because of COVID."

"It was right at the peak of Delta (the COVID variant) so we couldn't go anywhere. We'd rent out a bar, do murder mysteries and then have parties. That's how we kept entertained."

Hudson, who plays Birdie Jay in the 'Knives Out' sequel, previously told 'Today' about the cast enjoying wild parties during filming due to lockdown, "We had so much fun. It was at the height of Delta and we were in Belgrade, Serbia so the producer was like, 'You are not leaving this hotel.'"

"Which is kind of like as nightmare in itself but they would rent the bar upstairs and we would just, you know, the circus got up there and we just started drinking. And when the circus starts drinking, things get weird and we had a blast."

Source: IANS



Kim Kardashian doesn't rule out getting married again

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian would like to get married for a fourth time and she hasn't ruled out having more children.

The 42-year-old reality TV star, who has been married three times, said that she still holds out some hope that she will find true love but said that she is happy to be single for a while, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Kim told Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop podcast: "I feel, honestly, my last marriage was my first real. The first one, I just don't know what was happening. The second one, I felt like I wanted to be married so badly because all my friends were at that place and that's where I should have been. I didn't accept that that just wasn't where I was."

"Now I feel like I will definitely take my time. I would be okay (with) a forever partnership as well. I'm taking my time. I really do want to be single for a few years. I think I would definitely want a marriage, but I'm so happy to take my time. I'm on a good solo mission right now. I have either sisters or friends [who are] all in the same place, and that feels so good and fun."



Lily Collins 'Loves' Being Compared To Sarah Jessica Parker On 'Emily In Paris'

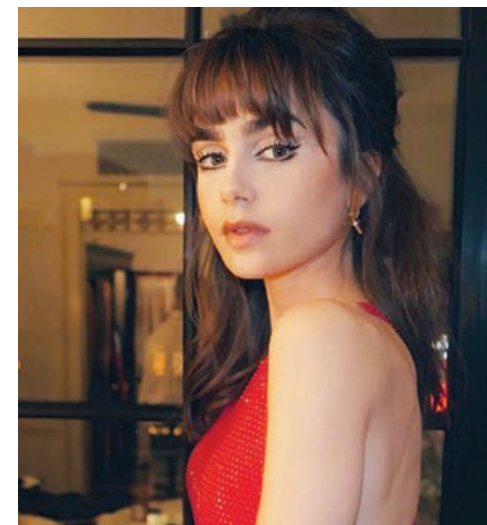
Actress Lily Collins "loves" being compared to Sarah Jessica Parker on the Netflix show, 'Emily in Paris'.

The 33-year-old actress takes on the title role of Emily in the Netflix hit about an ambitious marketing executive who relocates from Chicago to the French capital and said that her role is like that of stylish New York columnist Carrie Bradshaw, who was played by Sarah Jessica Parker, 57, in the cult 1990s series 'Sex and the City' as well as its spin-off 'And Just Like That', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Lily told E! News: "That is one that I will always take with utter love. I just love Carrie Bradshaw. I love Sarah Jessica. We both are very much fashion shows and they celebrate the cities in which they film, Paris and New York. They're characters unto themselves, the fashion and the city."

Meanwhile, the 'Les Miserables' actress recently revealed she was determined to develop her understanding of "French culture" with her starring role in the series.

Asked what she most enjoyed about



her character's journey during season three of the show, Lily explained: "For me, I was excited to ground myself more in the French culture, whether that be the language, the fashion, or just feeling a deeper sense of home within the city. And I was excited that the show, itself, leans more into the comedy among the characters, as opposed to all being about Emily's fish-out-of-water experience."

7 DEAD IN TURKISH RESTAURANT GAS CANISTER BLAST

DECEMBER 30

ISTANBUL (TIP): A gas canister explosion at a restaurant in western Turkey killed seven people on December 30, officials said.

The blast injured five others in the Nazilli district of Aydin province, Gov. Huseyin Aksoy tweeted.

One of the injured was in critical condition and intubated, with burns over 80 per cent of the person's body, and was being transferred to western Izmir province for treatment, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted.

The blast occurred at around 3.30 pm as a gas canister was being changed at a Turkish doner kebab shop, the Nazilli public prosecutor's office said. The statement said there were detention warrants out for five people.

Earlier, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan tweeted that one person who is "alleged to have caused the explosion" was detained and three prosecutors were investigating.

Media reported that there was a fire following the explosion at the restaurant, which is located on a busy street. Footage showed fire trucks and ambulances at the scene. AP

NETANYAHU SEALS COMEBACK DEAL WITH HARD-RIGHT CABINET

DECEMBER 29

JERUSALEM (TIP): Benjamin Netanyahu (73) sealed a comeback as Israeli Prime Minister said on December 31 as his hard-right Cabinet was sworn in with promises to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The veteran leader who is on trial for graft charges, which he denies, has sought to calm concerns about the fate of civil rights and diplomacy since his bloc of nationalist and religious parties secured a parliamentary majority in a November 1 election.

His allies include the Religious Zionism and Jewish Power parties, which oppose Palestinian statehood and whose leaders have in the past agitated against Israel's justice system and LGBT rights.

Netanyahu's appointments include Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was convicted in 2007 of incitement against Arabs and support for a Jewish militant group, as minister for police.

Netanyahu has repeatedly pledged to promote tolerance and pursue peace. — Reuters

North Korea fires 3 missiles amid tensions over drone flights

DECEMBER 31

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea fired three short-range ballistic missiles towards its eastern waters in its latest weapons display on December 31, a day after rival South Korea launched a solid-fuelled rocket as part of its efforts to build a space-based surveillance capability to better monitor the North.

Tensions between the rival Koreas rose earlier this week when South Korea accused North Korea of flying five drones across the rivals' tense border for the first time in five years and responded by sending its own drones towards the North.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it detected the three launches from an inland area south of Pyongyang, the North's capital, on Saturday morning. It said the three missiles travelled about 350 kilometres (220 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. The estimated range suggests the missiles tested target South Korea.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff called the launches "a grave provocation" that undermines international peace. It said



South Korea closely monitors North Korean moves in coordination with the United States and maintains a readiness to "overwhelmingly" deter any provocation by North Korea.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said the launches highlight "the destabilising

impact" of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs and that the US commitments to the defence of South Korea and Japan "remain ironclad." Earlier on Saturday, Japan's Defence Ministry also reported suspected ballistic missile firings by North Korea. (AP)

Putin, Jinping vow closer ties amid geopolitical tensions

DECEMBER 30

KYIV (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping vowed on December 30 to deepen their bilateral cooperation against the backdrop of Moscow's 10-month war in Ukraine, which weathered another night of drone and rocket attacks following a massive missile bombardment.

Putin and Xi made no direct mention of Ukraine in their opening remarks via video conference, which were broadcast publicly, before going into private talks.

But they hailed strengthening ties between Moscow and Beijing amid what they called "geopolitical tensions" and a "difficult international situation," with Putin expressing his wish to extend military collaboration.

"IN THE FACE OF INCREASING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RUSSIAN-CHINESE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IS GROWING AS A STABILISING FACTOR," SAID PUTIN.

The Russian leader said he expected Xi to visit Moscow in the spring. Such a



Kyiv striving to provoke regional conflict: Belarus

It was "unlikely" that a Ukrainian missile entered Belarusian airspace by accident, said Minsk officials
"Kyiv is striving to provoke a regional conflict," the Belarusian security council secretary said
The Kremlin said it was concerned about the anti-aircraft missile entering airspace of ally

trip "will demonstrate to the whole world the strength of the Russian-Chinese ties on key issues, will become the main political event of the year in bilateral relations," he said.

Putin said the Kremlin aimed to "strengthen the cooperation between the armed forces of Russia and China." Xi, in turn, said that "in the face of a difficult and far from straightforward international situation," Beijing was ready "to increase strategic cooperation with Russia, provide each other with development opportunities, be global partners for the benefit of the peoples of our countries and in the interests of stability around the world".

Ties between Moscow and Beijing have grown stronger since Putin sent his troops into Ukraine. Last week, Moscow and Beijing held joint naval drills in the East China Sea. — AP

South Korea's unannounced rocket launch causes UFO scare

DECEMBER 30

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea's military confirmed it test-fired a solid-fuelled rocket on December 30 after its unannounced launch triggered brief public scare of a suspected UFO appearance or a North Korean missile launch.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement that the rocket launch was part of its efforts to build a space-based surveillance capability and bolster its defence posture.

It said it didn't notify the general public of the launch in advance because it involved sensitive military security issues.

A twisty tendril of vapour in white-to-red ombre could be seen snaking behind a bright white light in parts of South Korea's sky on Friday evening.

South Korean social media and internet sites were abuzz with messages by citizens who said they saw a soaring object, rainbow-coloured vapour trail or other mysterious lights. Some also posted photos and videos.

"What is this? Is this a UFO? I'm scared," said one Twitter user.

Another said they suspected it was a North Korean missile launch and worried about a war, while a third said they believed a North Korean spy operating in South Korea was sending a signal back to the North.

Others suspected it was a supernatural phenomenon.

South Korean emergency offices and police received hundreds of citizens' reports of witnessing of a suspicious flying object and mysterious lights



across the country, according to local media. The South Korean rocket launch came four days after the South accused the North of flying five drones across the rivals' border on Monday for the first time in five years.

South Korea's military detected the drones but failed to shoot them down, causing security concerns about its air defense network. The military later offered a rare apology for that.

South Korean officials said they plan to use a solid-fuelled rocket to put the nation's first spy satellite into orbit. In March, South Korea conducted its first successful launch of a solid-fuel rocket.

Solid-fuel rockets reduce launch

times, have simpler structures and are cheaper to develop and manufacture than liquid-fuel rockets, South Korean officials said.

The Defence Ministry said Friday's launch was a follow-up test of the March launch.

North Korea is also pushing to develop its first military surveillance satellite and other high-tech weapons systems to cope with what it calls US hostility.

Earlier this year, North Korea performed a record number of missile tests in what experts call a bid to perfect its nuclear weapons technology and boost its leverage in future dealings with the United States. (AP)

VLADIMIR PUTIN BANS CRUDE OIL EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES IMPOSING PRICE CAP

DECEMBER 27

MOSCOW (TIP): President Vladimir Putin on December 27 delivered Russia's long-awaited response to a Western price cap, signing a decree that bans the supply of crude oil and oil products from February 1 for five months to nations that impose the cap.

The Group of Seven major powers, the European Union and Australia agreed this month to a \$60-per-barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil effective from December 5 over Moscow's "special military operation" in Ukraine.

The decree, published on a government portal and the Kremlin website, was presented as a direct response to "actions that are unfriendly and contradictory to international law by the US and foreign states and international organisations joining them".

"Deliveries of Russian oil and oil products to foreign entities and individuals are banned, on the condition that in the contracts for these supplies, the use of a maximum price fixing mechanism is directly or indirectly envisaged," the decree stated, referring specifically to the US and other foreign states that have imposed the price cap.

The decree stated: "This...comes into force on February 1, 2023, and applies until July 1, 2023." Crude oil exports will be banned from February 1, but the date for the oil products ban will be determined by the Russian government. — Reuters

Attack kills 10 in Syria, Kurdish forces arrest 52 militants

DECEMBER 30

BEIRUT (TIP): A militant rocket attack in eastern Syria on December 30 targeted a bus with oil industry employees, killing at least 10, the government said. To the north, Syrian Kurdish-led forces announced they arrested 52 militants in an operation against the Islamic State group's sleeper cells.

According to Syria's petroleum ministry, the rocket struck in the Al-Taym gas field in eastern Deir el-Zour province. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitoring group, said IS was behind the attack.

The Observatory also reported a higher death toll from the rocket attack, saying at least 12 workers were killed.

Also Friday, the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said their raids had reportedly thwarted an attack planned for New Year's Eve. The IS militants were hiding in residential areas and farms, a statement



from the forces said.

The years long US-backed campaign had succeeded in crushing the militants' territorial control in Iraq and Syria, but IS fighters maintain sleeper

cells and have staged attacks that have killed scores of Iraqis and Syrians in the past months.

On Thursday, the Syrian Kurdish-led forces announced their operation, citing

a surge in IS attacks and saying that "Operation Al-Jazeera Thunderbolt" aims to target sleeper cells in al-Hol and nearby Tal Hamis areas.

Since 2011, Syria has been mired in a bloody civil war that has drawn in regional and global powers. Syrian President Bashar Assad has mostly regained control of the country, but parts of its north remain under the control of rebels, as well as Turkish and Syrian Kurdish forces.

Also, some 900 US troops in Syria support the Kurdish-led forces' fight against IS and have frequently targeted IS militants, mostly in parts of northeastern Syria under Kurdish control.

The US Central Command on Thursday reported conducting some 313 operations against IS in 2022 in Syria and Iraq, mostly in cooperation with Kurdish-led forces. According to a CENTCOM statement, 215 militants from the Islamic State group were arrested and 466 were killed in Syria. AP

Sikh History This Week

DECEMBER 30, 2022, TO JANUARY 5, 2023

30th December



1734 Mata Sahib Kaur sent a Hukamnama for Bhai Mann Singh Ji.

1922 Second meeting of Babbar at Jassowal, Dec. 20-31, to decide the reformation of the Jholichuks.

31st December



1612 Guru Hargobind left Amritsar for Delhi where he was taken into and sent to Gwalior.

1925 Haji Mohamad Maskeen offered a "Choor" for Sri Darbar Sahib.

1929 Congress Convention at Amritsar ignored by the Sikhs.

1958 Gurudwara Amendment Bill passed.

1st January



1806 Maharaja Ranjit Singh, under the advise of Kapurthala's Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluwalia, signed a friendship treaty with the British. The signatories to this treaty were Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Fateh Singh, and Lord Lake. Under the treaty Maharaja Ranjit Singh accepted not to help Holkar and British agreed to respect territories of Lahore Darbar. Jaswant Rao Holkar left Amritsar disappointed.

1806 The Marathas and the Sikhs were the only people who offered stiff resistance to the British and the Afghans. While the Maharaja Ranjeet Singh was consolidating his powers, many political events were taking place around him. On the one hand he had to mediate a quarrel between the chiefs of Patiala and Nabha and on the other hand he had to save the face of Jawant Rao Holkar, the Maratha (Marhatta) chief, who had set his sights on whole India.

The British had clashed with the Marathas and had inflicted heavy defeats upon them. They had first taken over Delhi and Agra, defeated Scindia (a Marhatta chief), and driven out the remaining Marhatta chief Jaswant Rao Holkar.

Holkar and his Rohilla ally, Amir Khan, after having failed to obtain any support from the Malwa chiefs, moved to Amritsar. They were being followed by the British commandar, Lord Lake. He had been persuading Holkar and encamped himself on the banks of Beas. While Holkar appealed to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh for help in driving the British back, the British commander made it known to the Maharaja that doing so would extend the Anglo-Marathan hostilities to his domain (Punjab). It created a big problem for the Maharaja. The Sikh Maharaja could not afford to make his state the theatre of war between the Marhattas and the British. That is why he offered to mediate in this treaty.

The Sikh signatories guaranteed that the Holkar's army would leave and they will have nothing to do with them. They allowed Holkar to take whatever possessions he had and recross the Sutlej without being harrassed.

This was a smart political move on the part of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. It saved his kingdom from unnecessary bloodshed. It also saved the British face. They really did not want to fight the Sikh ruler.

2nd January

1741 Sukha Singh of Mari Kambo and Mehtab Singh of Mirankot entered Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar. They were disguised as Muslims. While Sukha Singh kept guard, Mehtab Singh beheaded Massa Raangadh and escaped together. Massa Rangadh had committed the heinous crime of converting Harimandir Sahib into a dancing hall where he smoked and wine. He was the garrison commander of Madiyala. He took control of Sri Harmandir Sahib as the land was prior property of Rangadhs. Mehtab Singh was later arrested and crushed to death after unspeakable torture on wheels.

SRI DARBAR SAHIB also known as Harminder Sahib and Golden Temple was constructed by Guru Arjun in the middle of an sacred water tank (sarowar).

In sunmat 1621, with Guru Amar Das's permission, Guru Ram Das started the digging of a tank (Taal) near villages Tugh, Gumtala, and Sultanwind. This digging was completed by Guru Arjun Dev in sunmat 1645 and named "Santoksar".

Simultaneously, with Guru Amar Das's permission, a village was established nearby and named "Guru Ka Chaak". Guru Sahib's residence in this village were popularly known as "Guru Kae Mahal". To the west of these residences, next to the tree known as "DukhBhanjani Baeri", the digging of a tank was started in 1634. However, this digging remained incomplete and was eventually completed by Guru Arjun Dev after he ascended to the Gur

Gadhi. Guru Arjun Dev vigorously pushed all of the projects initiated by Guru Ram Das. He invited business people, scholars, and skilled people from all over, to come and settle around this area and establish new markets. As a result this area came to known as "Ramdas Pur". Bhai Sallo is especially noted for his hard work in establishing and populating this area. His contributions are extremely noteworthy.

In sunmat 1643, the construction of permanent sarowar began and its name changed to "Amritsar". As a result the surrounding city also adopted the "Amritsar" name. On magh 1, sunmat 1645, Guru Arjun Dev Patshah asked Sain Mian Meer to lay the foundation stone of Harminder Sahib. The foundation stone was laid right in the middle of the sarowar and upon completion of its construction, Sri Guru Granth Sahib's prakash was established in sunmat 1661.

3rd January



1961 Master Tara Singh was released from jail, where he was confined in connection with Punjabi Suba agitation. Master Tara Singh was born on 24 June, 1885, in Haryal in Rawalpindi district of North Western Province of undivided India. His mother, Moolan Devi, was a pious lady and his father, Bakshi Gopi Chand, was a patwari of the village and was a well known and respected person. Tara Singh's original name was Nanak Chand. In 1902 Nanak Chand embraced Sikhism and came to be called Tara Singh.

4th January

1909 Baba Ratta Singh Ji Nirankari passed away. Barsi celebrations are observed every year.

NIRANKARI: a particular branch of GurSikh faith, established by Bhai Dayal Singh Ji. A Saehajdhari Sikh resident of Peshwar, GurSahai Ji, had a son named RamSahai Ji who married Ladhaki, daughter of Vasakha Singh (treasurer for the tenth Guru). Bhai Dayal Singh was born from this marriage on 15 Vaisakh sunmat 1840 (1783).

5th January

Prakash Utsav (birthday), Tenth Patshah, Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

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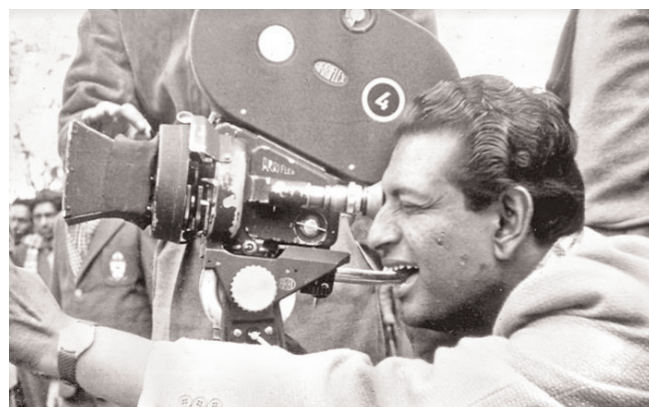
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75 Years of Indian Cinema: A Walk Down the Memory Lane



By Murtaza Ali Khan

Coinciding with 75 years of Independence, noted film critic Murtaza Ali Khan scanned for The Indian Panorama the 75 years of Indian Cinema. The article here will give readers a fairly good idea of the beginnings and the growth of Indian Cinema, the impact of government policies, the contribution of the Indian Diaspora, the influence of the NRI film makers, the difference the rise of web and the OTT platforms made to mainstream Indian Cinema, and the contribution of certain film makers. The author has also dwelt on the historical phases in the Indian cinema's 75-year journey. Please send in your comments to murtaza.jmi@gmail.com -- EDITOR



Satyajit Ray behind the camera.
Photo / courtesy Ray Society

Storytelling is undeniably one of the most powerful tools known to mankind. It also happens to be one of the oldest art forms. Storytelling is not merely a means of indulgence but also a great source of learning. Since times immemorial, storytellers have spun yarns with the hope of delighting mankind. Be it the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer, the Jataka tales, the Mahabharata of Vyasa, the One Thousand and One Nights, or the plays of Shakespeare, each of these sprawling sagas, above all, has proven to be a consummate manifestation of the human expression. Storytelling shares an intimate relationship with performing arts. As far as India is concerned, the history of performing arts can be traced back to Bharatmuni's Natya Shastra, which describes art as the search for truth. Human life too is a pursuit for truth and happiness. It is this connection that makes life and art inseparable. While discussing art in the context of the 20th and the 21st centuries, it is essential to explore cinema as a mass medium of storytelling that's often looked upon as the definitive art form that seamlessly combines elements of storytelling, performing arts, and science.

Post-Independence, Indian cinema started evolving at a breakneck pace. While the film industry did suffer huge losses in terms of actors, writers, and technicians who decided to move to Pakistan, the industry greatly gained from the nation building campaigns helmed by Jawaharlal Nehru. For, many of these campaigns revolved around film stars whose mass appeal was leveraged upon by Nehru to give impetus to what came to be known as the Nehruvian idea of India. There is no denying that we have come a long way as a nation over the last 75 years: from bullock carts to jeeps to airplanes

to space to the internet. As far as cinematic storytelling is concerned, OTT is the new buzz word, even as the jury is still out on whether cinema the way we know it would survive or not. So, let's take a look at the journey of cinema since independence.

The origins of the cinematic medium

At the turn of the 19th century, cinema became a phenomenon across Europe thanks to the exploits of the Lumière brothers who conducted private screenings of projected motion pictures in the world's major cities such as Paris, London, New York, Montreal, and Buenos Aires. It was in July 1896 that the Lumière films finally got screened in Bombay (now Mumbai). A couple of years later, an Indian photographer named Hiralal Sen made India's first short film, A Dancing Scene, from the scenes of a stage show, The Flower of Persia. It was followed up by H S Bhatavdekar's The Wrestlers (1899) - a recording of a wrestling match at the Hanging Gardens in Mumbai - which was also India's first documentary film. In 1912, Dadasaheb Torne made a silent film titled Shree Pundalik - a photographic recording of a popular Marathi play.

A year later in 1913, Dadasaheb Phalke made India's first feature-length motion picture - a silent film in Marathi titled Raja Harishchandra. Phalke, who is often referred to as the Father of Indian Cinema, had mastered the art of integrating centuries old narrative techniques, borrowed from the indigenous epics, with the emerging technique of making motion pictures. In 1916, R Nataraja Mudaliar made Keechaka Vadham, the first silent film in Tamil. Bangla motion pictures soon followed. The year 1931 proved to be a landmark for Indian cinema as it marked the end of the silent era with Ardeshir Irani making India's first sound film Alam Ara, made in Hindi/Urdu.



A Still from India's First Feature Film Raja Harishchandra.

Unfortunately, there is no surviving print of the same. And that's what brings to me to this wonderful documentary by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur called Celluloid Man about the erstwhile director of the Nation Film Archive of India (NFAI), P K Nair who devoting his life collecting and preserving films. Of course, in the documentary we learn how Ardeshir Irani's son disposed off the Alam Ara reels himself, after extracting silver from them. It would be due to the efforts of Nair that prints of Raja Harishchandra could be retrieved from Phalke's daughter kept in Phalke's Nasik house in a wooden box. Sometimes Nair would look for films in cowsheds and godowns. Of course, now we are becoming more aware about the importance of film preservation. The National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) was inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19th January, 2019 at the Films Division Complex, Pedder Road, Mumbai. The Museum is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday (11 AM to 6 PM) and is closed on Mondays and Public Holidays. It is housed in two buildings - the New Museum Building and the 19th century heritage building, Gulshan Mahal. The Museum showcases

history of India Cinema and has ample artefacts, digital elements including kiosks, interactive digital screens, information-based screen interfaces, etc. It is frequently visited by leading personalities from the world of cinema. Film properties and costumes, vintage equipment, posters, copies of important films, promotional leaflets, soundtracks, trailers, transparencies, old cinema magazines, statistics covering film making & distribution etc. are displayed in a systematic manner depicting the history of Indian cinema in a chronological manner. NMIC not only provides a store house of information to the laymen, but also help filmmakers, students, enthusiasts and critics to know and evaluate the development of cinema as a medium of artistic expression.

Independence and further

On 15 August 1947 India became independent from the British Empire. The early commercial success of Phalke's films not only paved the way for more such motion pictures but also set the ball rolling for cinema as a commercial art form. In the years to come, cinema in India evolved further as a potent art form capable of mirroring socio-political and economic issues plaguing India with films like Achhut Kanya (1936) and Sujata (1959). Hindi cinema gained international visibility with Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar (1946) and Bimal Roy's Do Bigha Zamin (1953), which won the Grand Prix and Prix International awards at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946 and 1954, respectively.

Nehruvian socialism and post-independence Hindi cinema



:(L to R): Madhubala, Nargis, and Meena Kumari.

National Award-winning film critic, M K Raghavendra, highlights in his book, The Politics of Hindi Cinema in the New Millennium: Bollywood and the Anglophone Indian Nation, how Hindi cinema, post-independence, played a big part in helping Indians imagine themselves as an entity binding them together - the Indian nation. Evidently, the first couple of decades after independence saw the influence of Nehruvian socialism on Hindi cinema. It is sometimes argued that popular films of the 1950s failed to capture the prevalent reality of the times owing to the filmmakers' compulsion to fortify the nationalistic myths created by the newly appointed Jawaharlal Nehru government. However, if one tries to closely examine some of the most important films made during this period such as Raj Kapoor's Awaara (1951), Bimal Roy's Do Bigha Zamin (1953), Mehboob Khan's Mother India (1957), and Guru Dutt's Pyaasa (1957), it becomes evident that the Hindi films of this period were not always in harmony with Nehru's vision of India. But, it is also true that other important films from this era like Andaz (1949), Naya Daur (1957), and Howrah Bridge (1958) did succeed in depicting the dichotomy associated with Nehru's ideals of modern India - the good side of modernity shown through the doctors, engineers, etc. and the bad side through the caricatures of the gamblers, cabaret dancers, etc.

Continued on Page 63

Continued on Page 62

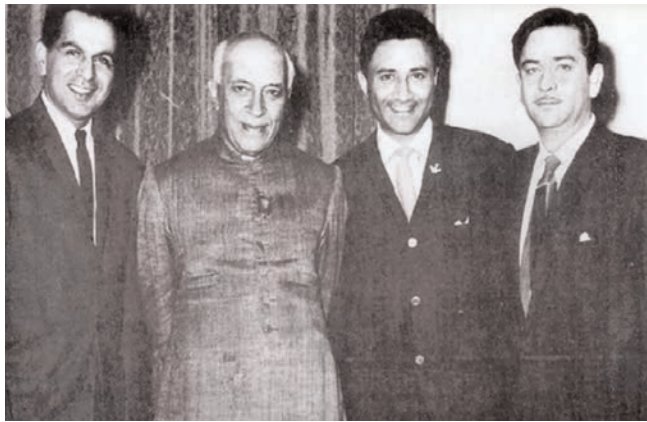
Guru Dutt

Vasanth Kumar Shivashankar Padukone, better known as Guru Dutt, is lauded for his artistry, notably his usage of close-up shots, lighting, and depictions of melancholia. He is often referred to as the Orson Welles of Indian cinema. He directed a total of 8 Hindi films, several of which have gained a cult following internationally. This includes *Pyaasa* (1957), which made its way onto Time magazine's 100 Greatest Movies list, as well as *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (1959), *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* (1960), and *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* (1962), all of which are frequently listed among the greatest films in Hindi cinema.

Raj Kapoor

Raj Kapoor is often described as the Charlie Chaplin of Indian cinema. He was greatly inspired by Charlie Chaplin and played characters based on *The Tramp* in films such as *Awaara* (1951) and *Shree 420* (1955). The song 'Awaraz Hoon' (which translates to I am a Vagabond/Tramp) from his movie *Awaara* becoming an anthem for protest against oppression in so many places across the globe: In China, in Soviet Union, in Middle East. Its popularity led to creation of localized versions of the songs in Greece, Turkey, Romania, Soviet Union, and China. It is still considered a timeless song in South Asia, Balkans, Russia, and Central Asia.

Speaking of the leading ladies, Suraiya, Madhubala, Meena Kumari, Nargis, Wahida Rehman, Vyjayanthimala, Nanda, Nutan, Hema Malini, Rekha, Sridevi, Madhuri Dixit, Kajol, Aishwarya Rai, Vidya Balan, Deepika Padukone, Kangana Ranaut, and Alia Bhatt are amongst the most important Bollywood actresses to have graced the silver screen.



Indian cinema's leading men Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, and Dev Anand with India's First Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Indian cinema beyond Nehru

While these trends continued, Hindi cinema never eschewed from capturing the nerve of the important historical events in post-colonial India such as highlighting the gloomy reality of the Sino-Indian war, the euphoria associated with green revolution of the mid-1960s, Indira Gandhi's meteoric rise in the late 1960s, her growing populism in the 1970s and her crushing defeat in the 1977 general elections following the 21 dark months of Emergency, emergence of regional conflicts during the 1980s like the Khalistan movement, and the economic liberalization during the early 1990s under the prime minister ship of P V Narasimha Rao, ushering in a new era of globalization.

Satyajit Ray and Indian Neo-Realism

Bengali filmmaker Satyajit Ray, the father of Indian neo-realistic cinema, is widely regarded as one of the greatest auteurs of the 20th century. It wouldn't be a hyperbole to call Satyajit Ray the most consummate filmmaker of all time, for when it came to the different aspects of filmmaking, he himself practically took care of everything: be it casting, scripting, direction, music, cinematography, art direction, editing, or marketing and publicity. An alumnus of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan, Ray was born in a Calcutta based Bengali family noted for their long legacy of art and literature. It was in Santiniketan that Ray, under great painters like Nandalal Bose and Benode Behari Mukherjee, fell in love with the Oriental art. However, Satyajit Ray's love for cinema and indie filmmaking was sparked by his interaction with the legendary French filmmaker

Jean Renoir who had come to Calcutta to scout locations for his forthcoming movie. After establishing Calcutta Film Society in 1947, Ray embarked on a six-month-long trip to Europe, as part of his job assignment in an advertising agency, during which he religiously explored the different facets of cinema, watching as many as 100 international films including Vittorio de Sica's neorealistic masterpiece *Bicycle Thieves* (1948). Greatly inspired by the concept of realistic cinema that promoted a whole new degree of realism through the use of an amateur cast in place of a professionally trained one and real shooting locations instead of the custom-built sets and studios, Ray was more determined than ever to start a new chapter in Indian Cinema.

After facing many hardships including a major financial crunch, Ray finally managed to complete his adaptation of Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's celebrated novel *Pather Panchali* in 1955. The movie was presented with several international awards, including Best Human Documentary at the 1956 Cannes film festival. Just like Akira Kurosawa had managed with *Rashomon* in 1950, Ray succeeded in introducing the Indian Cinema to the whole world with *Pather Panchali*. *Pather Panchali* is the first part of Ray's now world renowned *The Apu Trilogy*-the other two being *Aparajito* [*The Unvanquished*, 1956] and *Apur Sansar* [*The World of Apu*, 1959]-that chronicles the troubled, poverty-stricken life (from childhood to maturity) of the movie's protagonist, Apu, in the backdrop of the early 20th century Bengal. During the next few decades, Satyajit Ray continued with his merry ways making influential movies like *Jalsaghar* [*The Music Room*, 1958], *Postmaster* (1961), *Abhijan* [*The Expedition*, 1962], *Mahanagar* [*The Big City*, 1963], *Charulata* (1964), *Days and Nights in the Forest* (1969), and *Pikoo* [*Pikoo's Diary, Short*, 1980] that dealt with the cultural, religious and socio-economic ambiguities of the Indian middle class. In the 70s, Ray went on to make the Calcutta trilogy: *Pratidwandi* [*The Adversary*, 1970], *Seemabaddha* [*Company Limited*, 1971] and *Jana Aranya* [*The Middleman*, 1975]. In 1977, Ray made his first Hindi film named *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* [*The Chess Players*], an adaptation of a story by the famous Hindi novelist Munshi Premchand. In 1980, Satyajit Ray made *Hirok Rajar Deshe* [*The Kingdom of Diamonds*], a political allegory written in the backdrop of Emergency to castigate the totalitarian political regime under Mrs. Indira Gandhi. During his long and illustrious career, Ray was a beneficiary of a multitude of meritorious awards, national and international, including the Bharat Ratna (Republic of India's highest civilian award) and an Academy Honorary Award (an Oscar for his lifetime contribution to cinema) in 1992. Such has been the extent of influence of Ray's multifaceted humanistic works that even today the global audience relates to the Indian Cinema mostly through the means of his oeuvre.

Ritwik Ghatak

Satyajit Ray's contemporary, Ritwik Ghatak is best known for his films such as *Nagarik* (1952), *Ajantrik* (1955), *Madhumati* (1958), *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), *Subarnarekha* (1965), and *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam* (1973), among others.

Ghatak's cinema is primarily remembered for its meticulous depiction of social reality, partition and feminism. Ghatak moved briefly to Pune in 1966, where he taught at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). His students included filmmakers Mani Kaul, Kumar Shahani, Adoor Gopalkrishnan, Saeed Akhtar Mirza, and John Abraham. Although his stint teaching film at FTII was brief, his students who would go on to become noted filmmaker themselves such as Mani Kaul, John Abraham, and especially Kumar Shahani, carried Ghatak's ideas and theories, which were elaborated upon in his book 'Cinema and I', which was described by Satyajit Ray as a book that covers all aspects of filmmaking. As opposed to Ray who succeeded in creating an audience outside India during their lifetime, Ghatak and his films were appreciated primarily within India. But, it has changed in the recent decades as Ghatak's work continues to get discovered globally.

Mrinal Sen

Along with Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal

Sen pioneered the parallel cinema movement in India, as a counterpoint to the mainstream fare of Hindi cinema. Sen's cinema is primarily known for its artistic depiction of social reality.

Sen is one of the very few filmmakers to have won an award or recognition at all the major cinematic forums. In addition to a barrage of National Awards, Mrinal Sen's immensely thought-provoking films have been recognized at Cannes Film Festival (Jury Prize for *Kharij*, 1983), Berlin International Film Festival (Grand Jury Prize for *Akaler Sandhane*, 1981), Venice Film Festival (Honourable Mention for *Ek Din Achanak*, 1989), Montreal World Film Festival (Special Prize of the Jury for *Khandhar*, 1984), Moscow International Film Festival (Silver Prize for *Chorus*, 1975), Cairo International Film Festival (Silver Pyramid for Best Director for *Aamaar Bhuvan*, 2002), Chicago International Film Festival (Gold Hugo for *Khandhar*, 1984), etc.

In 1981, the Government of India awarded him with the Padma Bhushan. In 1985, President Francois Mitterrand, the President of France awarded him the Commandeur de Ordre des Arts et des Lettres the highest civilian honor conferred by that country. In 2005, he was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. In 2000, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian federation honored him with the Order of Friendship.

Regarded by many as Sen's greatest film, *Bhuvan Shome*'s sardonic humor and its realistic depiction of rural India made it a landmark of Indian cinema. In his Calcutta trilogy, Sen explored the civil unrest in contemporary Calcutta through stylistic experiments and fragmented narratives. Sen examined middle-class morality in his films *Ek Din Pratinidin* and *Kharij*.

A recipient of countless national and international film awards, Sen was instrumental in drawing youth to theatre as a member of the Indian People's Theatre Association. Unlike his contemporaries, Sen succeeded in breaking the language barrier by making films in languages other than Bangla. Some of his prominent films are in Oriya and Telugu, as well as in Hindi. Sen is regarded as the pioneer of political cinema in India. Before Sen, filmmakers usually stayed away from politics, thinking it to be a taboo subject. But Sen never eschewed from depicting the unrest, angst and deprivation of the Indian society. And perhaps that's what inspired his successors to make films heavily laced with socio-political commentary.

Tapan Sinha

Tapan Sinha was one of the most prominent Indian film directors of his time forming a legendary quartet with Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen. He was primarily a Bengali filmmaker who worked both in Hindi cinema and Bengali cinema, directing films like *Kabuliwala* (1957), *Louha-Kapat*, *Sagina Mahato* (1970), *Apanjan* (1968), *Kshudhita Pashan* and children's film *Safed Haathi* (1978) and *Aaj Ka Robinhood*.

Amitabh Bachchan and the Rise of the Angry Young Man



Amitabh Bachchan in a still from Yash Chopra's *Deewaar*.

While during the late '60s and early '70s Hindi cinema witnessed the dominance of romantic movies with actors like Dev Anand, Rajesh Khanna, Shashi Kapoor, Dharmendra and actresses like Sharmila Tagore and Asha Parekh becoming household names, by the mid-1970s a new kind of hero emerged who was not identified by his chocolate boy image but by his rugged machismo. Popularly described as the 'Angry Young Man', this new protagonist actually represented the anger and frustration of an entire generation exploited

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by those in power. For, this was a period of political, social, and economic upheaval in India with the issues of poverty, unemployment, and political violence plaguing the common man more than ever.

While Amitabh Bachchan made this character his own (with the grand success of films like Zanjeer, Deewaar, and Sholay) through the '70s and the '80s, actors like Anil Kapoor and Sunny Deol carried the mantle forward into the '90s. The '70s and '80s also marked the advent of the Indian New Wave or Parallel Cinema with films like Ankur (1973), Nishant (1975), Manthan (1976), and Saaransh (1984). Mrinal Sen's Bhuvan Shome (1969) is widely considered as the starting point of this movement. Shyam Benegal, Mani Kaul, Ketan Mehta, and Govind Nihalani are some of the prominent names of the Indian New Wave.

The '90s and the Khan Trio



Kajol and Shah Rukh Khan in Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge.

The late '80s and the '90s witnessed commercial Hindi cinema go from strength to strength with blockbusters like Mr. India (1987), Tezaab (1988), Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak (1988), Maine Pyar Kiya (1989), Khiladi (1992), Darr (1993), Mohra (1994), Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994), Karan Arjun (1995), Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Raja Hindustani (1996), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Kuch Hota Hai (1998), Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha (1998), and Mann (1999) setting new box office records. Many of these films starred Anil Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Aamir Khan, Ajay Devgan, Madhuri Dixit, Karisma Kapoor, and Kajol.



Kangana Ranaut and R. Madhavan in Anand L. Rai's Tanu Weds Manu.

At the turn of the 21st century, parallel cinema underwent a revival of sorts with the arrival of filmmakers like Ram Gopal Varma, Madhur Bhandarkar, and Anurag Kashyap, whose cinema mainly dealt with depiction of organized crime. The success of Satya (1998), Chandni Bar (2001), Company (2002), Black Friday (2004), and Sarkar (2005) proves beyond doubt the changing tastes of the Hindi film

audiences during this phase.

The growing influence of the Indian Diaspora on Bollywood filmmakers

If we study Hindi cinema closely, we observe that the 1990s proved to be the tipping point with Nehruvian socialism making way for economic liberalization in India. As the Indian economy gradually opened up to the world, the Hindi cinema underwent an Anglicization of sorts owing to the growing influence of the Indian Diaspora - a trend that is best demonstrated by films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Pardes (1997), Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), and Namaste London (2007). During this period, Bollywood started catering more and more to the English-speaking Indians. The trend perpetuated with the multiplex boom.

Subsequently, filmmakers like Vishal Bhardwaj, Anurag Kashyap, and Tigmanshu Dhulia made efforts to bring about a change to this trend by making films such as Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola (2013), Gangs of Wasseypur (2012), Paan Singh Tomar (2012), etc.

Bollywood and the 100 Crore Club

During this phase, Hindi cinema continued to take new leaps in terms of revenue generation but there appeared to be a stagnation of sorts in terms of creative thinking. The success of a Hindi film started depending on whether it entered the '100 Crore Club' or not. Even the most successful films would run only for a few weeks as opposed to the 'Jubilee Era', when success was measured in terms of the number of weeks a movie ran in the theatres: 25 weeks (Silver Jubilee), 50 weeks (Golden Jubilee), or 75 weeks (Platinum Jubilee).

Hindi cinema and the Hindi heartland



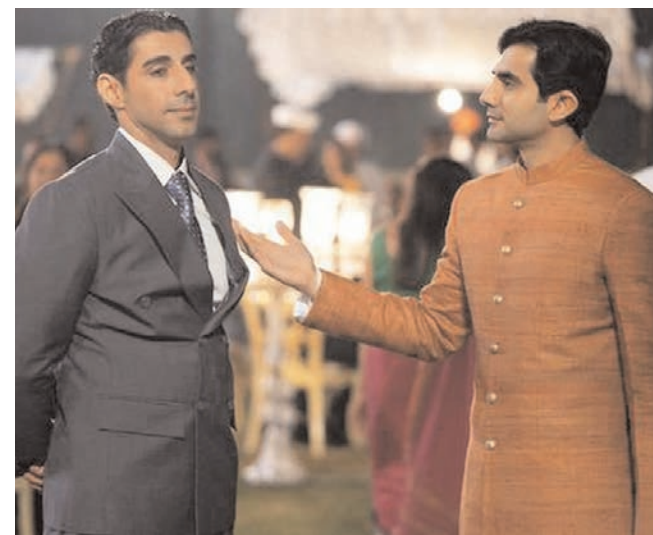
Manoj Bajpayee as Bhikhu Mhatre in Ram Gopal Varma's Satya.

Building on the trend that was started by the likes of Anurag Kashyap, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Anand L. Rai, Hindi films subsequently started focusing consciously on stories based in the Hindi heartland. The diaspora no longer remained the primary target of Hindi filmmakers and as a result as the industry witnessed a surge in the number of films that are set in north-central India which enjoys a Hindi-speaking majority. But, a lot of the mainstream Hindi films since Lagaan (2001) seemed to lack the impetus needed to march in the global arena. It is true that there have been Hindi films like Miss Lovely (2012), Titli (2014), and Masaan (2015) which have made it to the Un Certain Regard Section at Cannes.

The rise of web and the OTT platforms

Speaking of the audiences, the rise of various OTT platforms has had a dramatic impact on the nature of content produced. Today, we have audiences with such diverse tastes that content creators are forced to create content targeted at different segments of audiences. The COVID-19 pandemic has further given a fillip to OTT platforms. With cinemas indefinitely shut down more and more viewers are forced to shift to one or more of these platforms for their daily dose of entertainment. This has also given rise to what is

described as binge-watching. But before we try and examine this in detail, it is first important to decipher the nuances of binge-watching. For the uninitiated, binge-watching is a way of consuming content all in one go as opposed to consuming it in serialized weekly installments. It's an effective way to watch plot-heavy shows. Now that we have a basic understanding of this novelty we will try and analyze its various aspects. For years cinema has been enjoying an undisputed status over its poor cousin television. While one agrees with the classification of cinema and television as two different mediums it cannot be denied that with the advent of new age content the line between the two is fast fading. In fact, today we can easily look at the majority of binge-worthy international television / web series as 8 or 10 hour films and that's primarily because of the topnotch production values and the cinematic grammar associated with them.



A still from SonyLiv show Rocket Boys.

The advent of streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime has given rise to Indian original shows like Delhi Crime, The Family Man, Special Ops, Sacred Games, Scam 1992, Rocket Boys, Mirzapur, Aghar, Inside Edge, Panchayat, Undekhi, Aashram, and Kota Factory, among others. The rapid emergence of binge-worthy content is proving to be a real game changer for the Indian entertainment industry at large. This is in stark contrast to some of the daily soaps we have grown accustomed to watching on Indian television over the years. But there is an interesting flip side to this trend. Often the viewer is in such a hurry to finish off a season that he / she often ends up overlooking some important details. Perhaps, this is a price that most viewers are willing to pay.

The emergence of binge culture is not just impacting the end consumers it is also pushing the artists to expand their horizons. The rise of binge culture poses a big challenge for the artists to make themselves platform agnostic. Putting together an 8 to 10 hours of quality content for every season requires a different level of creative commitment. However, at the same time, it provides them with a wonderful opportunity to reinvent themselves as per the changing needs of time. Now, India's entertainment industry has a great scope for embracing new trends, the rise of binge culture is bound to have a strong impact on cinema viewing in the longer run once normalcy returns post-pandemic. While the opinions surrounding binge culture may widely vary, even the staunchest critics wouldn't deny that the rise of new platforms like Netflix has led to greater accessibility, reach, and creative freedom.

The contribution of NRI filmmakers to Indian cinema

While discussing Indian cinema post-independence one would be remiss to overlook the contributions of NRI filmmakers whose multifaceted work offers a unique blend of cinema that binds the Indian Diaspora with the general populace. Emmy-nominated Indian-American filmmaker Tirthlok Malik is best known for making films about Indian immigrants in the US. Malik's filmmaking journey started with his pioneering work Lonely in America (1990) which he wrote and produced while also acting in it. The film was shown in over 70 countries and screened at several leading festivals all across the globe. Since then he has made several other films about issues pertaining to the

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A still from Tirlok Malik's Khushiyaan.

Indian diaspora such as Love Lust and Marriage, On Golden Years, and Khushiyaan which he shot in India with an ensemble cast that featured the likes of Jasbir Jassi, Tisca Chopra, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, and Rama Vij. Many internationally acclaimed filmmakers have also contributed wholeheartedly to the growth and development of Indian cinema in the global arena-most notably Mira Nair (Salaam Bombay!, Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love, Monsoon Wedding, The Namesake, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, A Suitable Boy), Deepa Mehta (Fire, Earth, Midnight's Children, Leila), and Gurinder Chadha (Bend it Like Beckham, Bride and Prejudice, Viceroy's House, Beecham House). Also, filmmakers Raj & DK deserve a special mention here as they too started their filmmaking journey outside India with their 2003 film Flavors about Indian immigrants living in America. In the recent years, Raj & DK have emerged as two of the most sought-after filmmakers in India. Their Amazon Prime Video web show The Family Man starring Manoj Bajpayee in the role of an Indian intelligence officer named Srikant Tiwari has emerged one of the most popular shows in the Indian web space.

The journey of Indian cinema since 1947 has had its

share of ebbs and flows and the path forward is laden with difficulties and challenges. While there are opportunities galore, there are also many obstacles. Amit Khanna, the writer, director, and producer who has been an integral part of the Hindi film industry for the last five decades, recalls how he convinced his filmmaker friends to join him for a meeting he had set up with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) during the early '90s which proved to be instrumental in helping Bollywood get an industry status. "After our studio system got dismantled around WWII, it took us almost five decades to once again get a little organized and corporatize things. I remember when I took my close friends such as Yash Chopra, Manmohan Shetty, Ramesh Sippy and others to a meeting with FICCI they all questioned the rationale behind it. Then over time the people realized the importance of the corporate connect. Back then I was the lone voice pushing for institutional financing and recognition as an industry. Through repeated representations with the government and relentless efforts we finally succeeded in securing the industry status that paved the way for the entry of the larger corporate players while some of the smaller ones also

started getting institutionalized as funding became a lot more transparent," explains Khanna who began his career as an executive producer with actor-producer Dev Anand's Navketan Films in 1971. "In the '70s the video came in and kind of disturbed the equilibrium. There was a lot of resistance from producers and distributors against video. Also, there was a video piracy which continued well into the '80s. From a peak cinema screen count of 13,000 the number went down drastically by the '90s to less than 9,000. It was only towards the end of the 90s with the multiplex boom that things changed," recalls Khanna.

Award-winning filmmaker and author Dr. Bhuvan Lal feels that the rich diversity that the Indian cinema continues to enjoy is seen nowhere else in the world. "A healthy cinema culture with regional flavors can only exist in a democratic setup where the artists are free to speak. India is a striking example of the largest producer of content on earth today. There is no denying that despite all the problems that we face as a country, our film industry is totally secular, totally based on Indian ethos, and capable of producing a vast array of content ranging from realism to fantasy. Here people love to say what they want to say. In any other country this is not possible as the population size doesn't allow it. At the end of the day, you need to have a market for such diverse content and most countries in the world don't enjoy the same luxury," explains Lal.

Noted Indian critic Ajit Rai, however, feels that European audiences need to know more about Indian cinema, especially beyond the works of Satyajit Ray. In the past, most of our commercial films to have tasted global success outside of the Indian Diaspora actually had a strong melodramatic appeal which greatly worked to their advantage," opines Rai whose book on the Hinduja Family and the Indian Cinema titled 'Hindujas and Bollywood,' which tells the untold story of the global journey of over 1200 Hindi films as undertaken by the Hinduja brothers, starting with the 1950s, establishing Bollywood as a global brand, was launched in London, back in July 2022.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering the world of entertainment for over 10 years. He tweets at @MurtazaCritic and can be mailed at: murtaza.jmi@gmail.com).

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Every year EFA grows and expands its impact. We continue to empower people through education and service. Our founder, Dr. Raju, always says that while there have been incredible improvements in medical care in India over the last 30 years, there needs to be an increased focus on prevention and primary care rather than just tertiary care.

The staff and volunteers at Goutami Eye Institute travel to the surrounding towns to seek out those who cannot afford healthcare. They help provide exceptional care to all patients, including those below the poverty line. Saving the vision of someone in need, especially a child, and what it might mean to their family's future is priceless.



2022 Impact Snapshot

415 Outreach Camps were performed this year to screen and treat patients below the poverty line.

51,350

Over fifty thousand patients in the mandals of India received an eye exam.

608

Six hundred-eight patients receive glasses. A small thing that makes a huge impact.

5,095

More than five thousand patients were gifted sight through a vision-saving surgery.

4,785

The GEM-ROP program examined just under five thousand babies who received preventative screening for a potentially blinding disorder.

474

Four hundred-seventy four premature babies received ROP treatment. A single injection that will last a lifetime.

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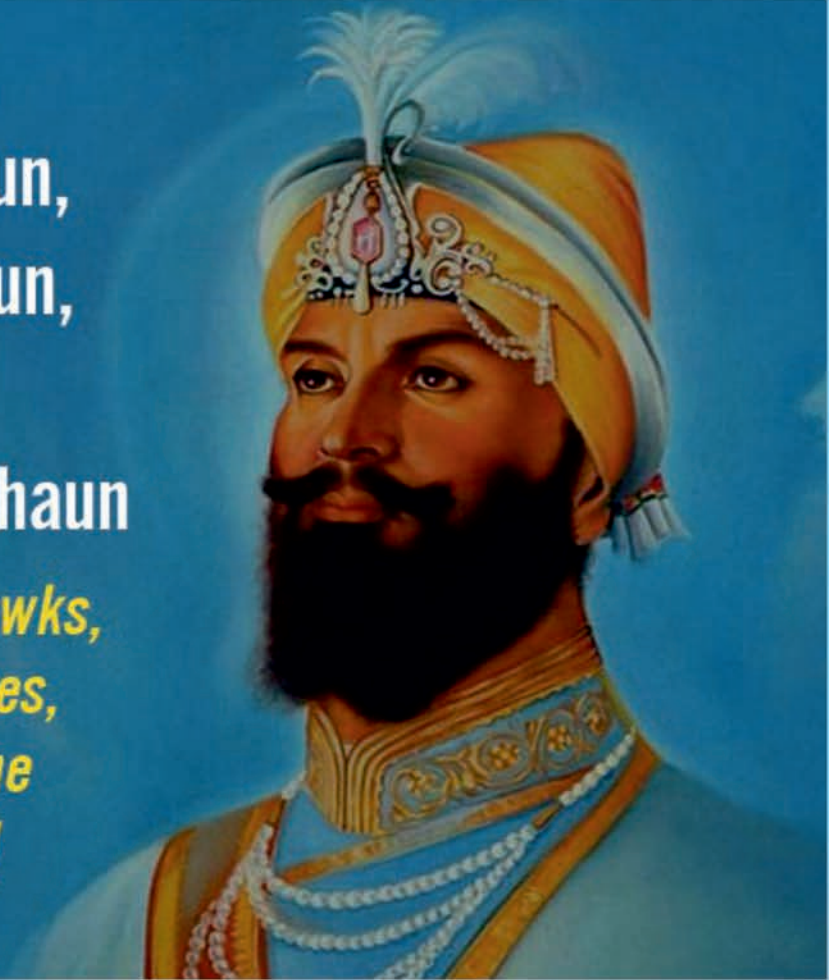
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Chidiyan te mein Baaz tudaun,
Gid dran toh mein sher banaun,
Sawa lakh se ek ladaun,
Tabe Gobind Singh Naam kahaun

*It is when I make sparrow fight hawks,
it is when I make lions out of wolves,
it is when I make one fight with one
hundred thousand that I am called
Gobind Singh*



Heartiest Greetings on Shri Guru Gobind Singh's Prakash Divas (Birthday) and A Happy New Year

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Beauty benefits of banana

This humble fruit can do much more than you think! From treating acne to anti-ageing benefits, this genius fruit needs to be part of your beauty regime. Here's top benefits of banana.

Natural moisturiser

Banana is rich in potassium, which makes it a great moisturiser for your skin. All you need to do is mash half a banana and use it as mask to reveal soft and supple skin. For extreme dry skin, you can also add honey to make the mask more effective.

Acne control

Banana peels is as useful as banana; it's rich in antioxidant properties and does wonder to your skin too. For acne solution, you can rub the white part of the peel on acne affected areas till the peel turns brown. Like this the active nutrients on your skin will do its magic. You can do this twice a week to reduce acne and even the scars.

Reduce puffy eyes

For instant DIY solution; you can use banana mash to reduce puffy eyes. Use the mash bananas on the affected area for about 15-20 minutes and rinse with cold water. This will help to reduce the swelling.

Foot care

Just like your face, you can use banana mash on your feet too. Use banana mask on your feet as a foot mask for 15 minutes and wash them with lukewarm water to get smoother and softer feet.

Hair mask

For anti-hair loss treatment, make a paste of yoghurt and banana. Use this pack on your hair for 15 minutes and rinse with cold water. While for dry hair, you can use honey and banana combo to get luscious locks!

Skincare tips before going to bed

Your skin at night goes through a renewal process. Thus, caring for it before you go off to sleep is essential. Not only does it help your skin looking youthful, but it also ensures that your skin remains smooth.



Face wash with salicylic acid

Make sure to wash your face with a face wash that contains salicylic acid. It ensures that your skin is smooth and free from acne and blemishes.

Use a mild scrub

Though you must scrub your face on a regular basis, but using a mild scrub at night will remove the dead skin cells from your skin pores and will allow the new cells to resurface.

Apply moisturising cleansing milk

The application of moisturising cleansing milk before bedtime hydrates your skin for the night and allows your skin to breathe.

Toner for smooth skin

After you've applied the cleansing milk, complete the ritual by applying a toner that suits your skin type.

Use a hydrating moisturiser

Last but not the least, apply a hydrating moisturiser which has aloe vera, before you go off to bed at night.

FOOD

Gajar Ka Halwa

One of the most popular Indian desserts, 'Gajar ka Halwa' is known to have originated in Punjab. It is a delicious delight during the winter months. Prepare this delicious dessert for special occasions.

Ingredients

- 1 Kg Carrot
- 1/2 litre Milk
- 8 Green cardamoms
- 5-7 tbsp Ghee
- 5-7 tbsp Sugar
- 2 tbsp Raisins
- 1 tbsp Almonds, shredded
- 2 tbsp Dates, chopped

Method

- Peel and grate the carrots.
- Simmer in milk with the cardamom until liquid evaporates.
- Heat ghee in a heavy pan and add the carrot mixture.
- Cook over a gentle flame for 10-15 minutes.
- Stir in sugar and continue cooking until the halwa turns deep reddish color.
- Stir in dried fruit and serve.



Reasons why you should drink coffee everyday

Most people will tell you that coffee is bad for you. Yet there isn't a complete consensus around whether your cup of coffee is good or bad. Here we bring some happy news for coffee lovers - based on popular researches, we bring you reasons you must have it.

Coffee makes you smarter

The active ingredient in coffee is caffeine. Caffeine provides a stimulus-barrier benefit. This means that if you are working in a noisy and chaotic environment, coffee can significantly help you concentrate by lowering your sensory sensitivity to distractions.

Coffee helps you burn fat

You must have heard of people having black coffee before a workout. Sipping coffee before a workout is believed to help your body burn more calories and fat. Caffeine is also believed to improve athletic performance by mobilizing fatty acids from fat tissues.

Coffee lowers risk of diabetes

In observational studies, coffee has been repeatedly associated with a lower risk of diabetes. The reduction in risk ranges from 23 per cent all the way up to 67 per cent.



Coffee lowers your risk of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's

Alzheimer's disease is the most common neurodegenerative disorder in the world and a leading cause of Dementia. Certain researches claim that coffee may play a role in protecting your brain in old age.

Coffee may be extremely good for your liver

Do you have alcoholic drinks often? Coffee may come to your rescue. Liver is extremely sensitive to modern abuse such as excessive consumption of alcohol and fructose. Multiple studies have shown that coffee can lower the risk of liver cirrhosis by as much as 80 per cent.

Coffee may decrease your risk of premature death

Several studies have shown that when people drink coffee, they have a lower risk of dying from a range of serious diseases.

Coffee is loaded with nutrients and antioxidants

While many of the nutrients in coffee beans do make it into the final drink, you must know that coffee contains Vitamin B5, Vitamin B2, Niacin B3, Thiamine B1, potassium and manganese. This isn't all. It also contains a big amount of antioxidants.

Coffee aroma has stress-busting qualities

Not only in protecting your brain, coffee may also be helping reduce emotional and physical stress. Its effect on neurotransmitters may help your body fight off symptoms of stress and stress-related diseases.

Fatty liver disease adversely affects brain health: Study

Scientists at the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology, affiliated with King's College London and the University of Lausanne, discovered in a study examining the link between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and brain dysfunction that an accumulation of fat in the liver causes a decrease in oxygen to the brain and inflammation to brain tissue - both of which have been proven to lead to the onset of severe brain diseases.

NAFLD affects approximately 25% of the population and more than 80% of morbidly obese people. Several studies have reported the negative effects of an unhealthy diet and obesity can have on brain function however this is believed to be the first study that clearly links NAFLD with brain deterioration and identifies a potential therapeutic target.

The research, conducted in collaboration with Inserm (the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research) and the University of Poitiers in France, involved feeding two different diets to mice. Half of the mice consumed a diet with no more than 10% fat in their calorie intake, while the other half's calorie intake contained 55% fat; intended to resemble a diet of processed foods and sugary drinks.

After 16 weeks researchers conducted a series of tests to compare the effects of these diets on the body and more specifically, on the liver and the brain. They found that all mice consuming the higher levels of fat were considered obese, and developed NAFLD, insulin resistance and brain dysfunction.

The study which was funded by the University of Lausanne and Foundation for Liver Research, also showed that the brain of mice with NAFLD suffered from lower oxygen levels. This is because the disease affects the number and thickness of the brain blood vessels, which deliver less oxygen to the tissue, but also due to specific cells consuming more oxygen while the



brain is becoming inflamed. These mice were also more anxious and showed signs of depression.

By comparison, the mice consuming the healthy diet did not develop NAFLD or insulin resistance, they behaved normally, and their brain was completely healthy.

"It is very concerning to see the effect that fat accumulation in the liver can have on the brain, especially because it often starts off mild and can exist silently for many years without people knowing they have it," said lead author Dr Anna Hadjihambi, sub-team lead in the Liver-Brain Axis group at the Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology and honorary lecturer at King's College London. To try and combat the dangerous effect that NAFLD has on the brain, the scientists bred mice with lower levels of a whole-body protein known as Monocarboxylate Transporter 1 (MCT1) - a protein specialised in the transport of energy substrates used by various cells for their normal function.

Source: ANI



How receptors treat chronic gut pain: Research

It may soon be possible to treat chronic pain linked to gastrointestinal conditions like irritable bowel syndrome by specifically targeting a receptor that regulates our sensation of touch and warmth, which researchers have now discovered to be present in our colon.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Neuron.

A team examining the colon, led by Professor Hongzhen Hu at Washington University and Professor Nick Spencer at Flinders University, identified the presence of Piezo2, the subject of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, now known to be responsible for sensing light touch on our skin.

"In discovering that this receptor is also in our gut, there's the potential that selectively targeting these channels could be used for long-term silencing of pain sensations from internal organs, without the need for frequent consumption of opiate pain medications," says Professor Spencer, a Matthew Flinders Professor in the College of Medicine and Public Health.

"Chronic pain from internal organs, such as the gut or bladder, is notoriously difficult to treat. Opiates, including morphine and their derivatives have been commonly used to treat a variety of types of pain but visceral pain doesn't respond well to the treatment and the drugs are highly addictive with a multitude of side effects."

The authors say the availability of selective pain medications for the gut has been hindered by a lack of understanding about how sensory nerves communicate pain sensations from the gut to the brain.

"It was previously known that many different ion channels are located on the 'pain-sensing' neurons that communicate from the gut to the brain, but our study, has now identified the major ion channel in the colon that responds to mechanical stimulation leading to the sensation of pain," said Professor Spencer.

"Furthermore, we have discovered that the major ion channel that responds to this mechanical pain is a member of the Piezo ion channel, specifically Piezo2.

Source: ANI

Omicron BF.7 scare: Tips to boost immunity amid global rise in Covid cases

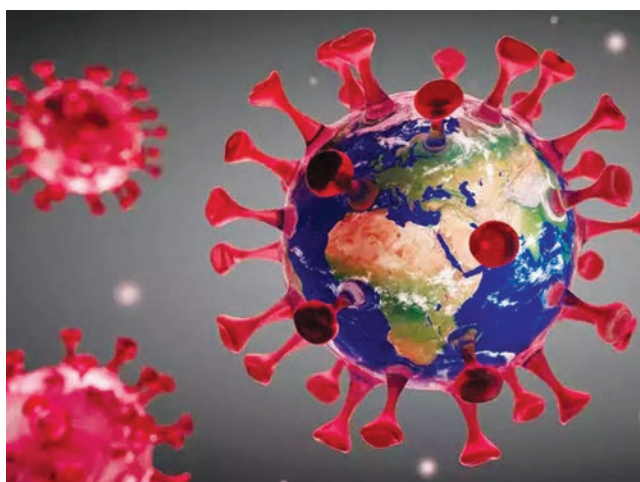
Get vaccinated

Your immune system is smart, but vaccines train it to be even smarter — helping it learn how to recognise and fight off certain disease-causing illnesses. It's much safer for your immune system to learn via vaccination than through infection with these harmful germs.

Eat a healthy diet

Avoid intake of too much salt, processed foods, junk foods. Take 3 vegetables and 2 fruits every day. One half of your plate should comprise fruits and vegetables, leafy vegetables, roots and tubers and other vegetables. A quarter plate should be cereals/millet and the remaining quarter plate should consist of protein-rich foods such as pulses, legumes, eggs, flesh foods and nuts; followed by moderate amounts of varieties of vegetable oils/fats. A glass of milk or milk products such as curd, paneer etc. should accompany the plate.

All the minerals and vitamins is advised instead of using human-made supplements to fill the gap. For an excellent immune system, studies have shown that the body should have minimum levels of Vitamin A, B, C, D and E along with minerals like iron, zinc, selenium, copper etc and phytonutrients, amino acids, fatty acids are necessary for optimal immune function. All should be taken from natural sources rather than pills. These nutrients are critical for the function of T cells, B cells, killer cells, macrophages, neutrophils/granulocytes that are involved in the killing and elimination of



infectious microbes.

Regular physical activity

Physical activity not only builds muscles but produces positive hormones which helps you de stress. It's also an important part of being healthy and supporting a healthy immune system. It also contributes to keeping the blood sugar levels in control, improving the functionality and lung capacity of a person, keeping cardiovascular conditions at bay and strengthening bones.

Source: HT

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New metabolite that can detect liver cancer by urine test discovered

A metabolite, that has never been found in mammals before, and may allow urine tests to detect a type of liver cancer, has been discovered by scientists. Currently, there is no definitive urine test for any type of cancer. The majority of patients are diagnosed through surgery, ultrasound scans, or blood tests, which necessitate a hospital visit.

Researchers at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Scotland now have discovered a metabolite in mice that could lead to the development of a new urine test to detect the beta-catenin mutated form of liver cancer, reports BBC.

Dr Saverio Tardito, the lead researcher on the project, said the number of people with liver cancer was expected to rise and new tools to detect and treat it earlier were needed. "We were excited to discover this new metabolite which had never been described before in mammals," Tardito was quoted as saying.

"It is a good candidate for diagnostic testing as it's specific to a particular type of liver cancer, can be easily detected in urine, and could potentially be used as a marker to monitor the growth of tumours," he added. A team studying glutamine synthetase, a protein known to be prevalent in liver cancer, discovered the potential for the test, according to the report. It discovered a new metabolite not previously identified in mammals while studying this enzyme in normal liver tissue from mice.

The metabolite, N5-methylglutamine, was also found in urine when the cancer-promoting mutation of the gene beta-catenin was present, suggesting that it could be used to identify patients with this type of cancer, the report added.

"We now plan further studies to investigate how early in liver cancer the metabolite appears, to identify how early a urine test could reliably diagnose the disease," said Tardito.

Source: IANS

Not everything we call AI is actually 'artificial intelligence'. Here's what you need to know

In August 1955, a group of scientists made a funding request for USD 13,500 to host a summer workshop at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire. The field they proposed to explore was artificial intelligence (AI).

While the funding request was humble, the conjecture of the researchers was not: "every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it".

Since these humble beginnings, movies and media have romanticised AI or cast it as a villain. Yet for most people, AI has remained as a point of discussion and not part of a conscious lived experience.

AI has arrived in our lives

Late last month, AI, in the form of ChatGPT, broke free from the sci-fi speculations and research labs and onto the desktops and phones of the general public. It's what's known as a "generative AI" – suddenly, a cleverly worded prompt can produce an essay or put together a recipe and shopping list, or create a poem in the style of Elvis Presley.

While ChatGPT has been the most dramatic entrant in a year of generative AI success, similar systems have shown even wider potential to create new content, with text-to-image prompts used to create vibrant images that have even won art competitions.

AI may not yet have a living consciousness or a theory of mind popular in sci-fi movies and novels, but it is getting closer to at least disrupting what we think artificial intelligence systems can do.

Researchers working closely with these systems have swooned under the prospect of sentience, as in the case with Google's large language



model (LLM) LaMDA. An LLM is a model that has been trained to process and generate natural language.

Generative AI has also produced worries about plagiarism, exploitation of original content used to create models, ethics of information manipulation and abuse of trust, and even "the end of programming".

At the centre of all this is the question that has been growing in urgency since the Dartmouth summer workshop: does AI differ from human intelligence?

What does 'AI' actually mean?

To qualify as AI, a system must exhibit some level of learning and adapting. For this reason, decision-making systems, automation, and statistics are not AI.

AI is broadly defined in two categories: Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). To date, AGI does not exist.

The key challenge for creating a

general AI is to adequately model the world with all the entirety of knowledge, in a consistent and useful manner. That's a massive undertaking, to say the least.

Most of what we know as AI today has narrow intelligence – where a particular system addresses a particular problem. Unlike human intelligence, such narrow AI intelligence is effective only in the area in which it has been trained: fraud detection, facial recognition or social recommendations, for example. AGI, however, would function as humans do. For now, the most notable example of trying to achieve this is the use of neural networks and "deep learning" trained on vast amounts of data.

Neural networks are inspired by the way human brains work. Unlike most machine learning models that run calculations on the training data, neural networks work by feeding each data point one by one through an interconnected network, each time adjusting the parameters.

Source: PTI

Extend life of your old iPhone with these simple tricks

While Apple releases a new iPhone every year, you can actually get the most out of your existing smartphone with a just software update. While some features could be limited to the latest models, regular users can continue to use an iPhone for at least three years without missing out on any major feature. If you have an older iPhone, here is how you can get the most out of it and make it work seamlessly with all the latest apps and services. Follow these simple little tricks to extend the lifespan of your iPhone and get the most out of your Apple device.

Always install the latest software update: Apple is known for adding newer features with a software updates. An iPhone will receive at least four major iOS updates, which will keep the iPhone secure and up-to-date. With the latest iOS



16.2 update, Apple enabled 5G networking on iPhone 12 and the iPhone 13 series.

Along with new features, the software also offers critical security fixes and fixes an existing software bug in the previous build. Hence, it is always recommended to install the latest software update on your iPhone to keep it up and running.

Go to Settings > General > Software Update to install the latest available iOS version on your iPhone and make sure to

have at least 60 per cent battery and a stable internet connection before attempting a software update.

Replace the battery?

Bought an iPhone a few years before, and it's no longer lasting all day. While this could be one of the good reasons to get the latest iPhone, you can fix this issue by replacing the battery on your iPhone for a fraction of the cost.

Again, get the battery replaced by an official service centre, ensuring a genuine component. Batteries tend to wear out over time, and it's best to get a new battery rather than getting a brand-new iPhone.

Go to Settings > Battery > Battery health and charging and check the maximum capacity. It is recommended to change the iPhone if the maximum capacity of the battery is less than 80 per cent. Apple charges \$69 or Rs 5,699 for the

battery replacement of iPhone 13 and older models. Similarly, the company charges \$99 or Rs 8,177 for the battery replacement of iPhone 14 and the newer models.

Reset the iPhone once a year: Running out of storage and the iPhone is feeling sluggish? You could solve these issues in some cases by just factory reset your iPhone. Factory resetting will remove all the cache and temp files from the device, freeing up the internal storage and the device resources, which will make the iPhone feel fast.

Make sure to have at least a couple of GBs of free internal space, which will be essential for downloading and installing software updates on Apple iPhones. On top of that, you can also take a backup of your content on Apple iCloud to free up internal storage.

Core sector output rises 5.4% in Nov

Production of eight infrastructure sectors increased by 5.4% in November against a 3.2% growth in the same month last year on a better show by coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments, according to the official data released on Friday.

Crude oil, natural gas and refinery products, however, recorded negative growth in November this year. The production growth of eight key sectors slowed down to 0.9% in October.

The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — stood at 8% in April-November this fiscal as against 13.9% during the same period last fiscal.

The production of coal rose by 12.3%, fertiliser by 6.4%, steel by 10.8%, cement by 28.6% and electricity by 12.1% in November 2022 compared to a year ago.

Core sectors industries, which have 40.27% weight in the overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP), would also have a bearing on industrial production data.

The IIP data for November is expected to be released by the government in the second week of January 2023. *Source: PTI*

China economic activity worsens in December as Covid spreads

BEIJING (TIP)

China's economic activity contracted at a steeper tempo in December as the nation all of the sudden reversed its Covid Zero coverage and the virus swept via main cities, inflicting folks to remain house and companies to close.

The official manufacturing buying managers index fell to 47 this month from November's 48, the National Bureau of Statistics stated Saturday. That was worse than an estimate of 47.8 in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

The non-manufacturing index, which measures activity in the development and companies sectors, declined to 41.6 from 46.7 in November, decrease than the consensus estimate of 45. A studying beneath 50 signifies contraction, whereas something above suggests growth. Both readings have been the bottom degree since February 2020.

The December information displays the month when the world's second-largest financial system lastly ditched its lengthy-held Covid Zero coverage in an abrupt reversal.

High-frequency information prompt that economic activity was pushed off a cliff as surging instances led folks to remain house and keep away from outlets, whereas manufacturing unit manufacturing was capped. There was even some disruption to authorities operations.

"Manufacturing and consumption both declined as Covid situation brought relatively big impact to enterprises, personnel on duty and logistics," the statistics bureau stated in a press release accompanying the information launch.

Manufacturing PMI gauges measuring output, new orders and employment all contracted in December at a quicker tempo than the month earlier than. A sub-index measuring suppliers' supply occasions additionally fell additional, an indication of provide disruptions.

The coverage shift and the unfold of Covid might create extra



snags for the financial system via the primary quarter of 2023, with a possible journey rush through the upcoming Lunar New Year vacation doubtlessly exacerbating the scenario.

China's financial system was faltering earlier than the pivot from Covid Zero as curbs to forestall the unfold of an infection depressed economic activity and stored the nation remoted from the remaining of the world. A persistent property market stoop, sluggish shopper demand and waning abroad urge for food for Chinese items contributed to the downturn, and gross home product is more likely to develop simply 3% in 2022.

Economists see an rising risk for a quicker and stronger rebound later in 2023. After the doubtless gradual begin in the January-to-March interval, development is projected to choose as much as 4.8% for the yr, in keeping with the median estimate of economists surveyed by Bloomberg.

Adani buys Roys' 27.26% stake in NDTV for Rs 602 cr

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Adani Group on Friday, December 30, acquired 27.26% equity stake in NDTV from its founders Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy for Rs 602.3 crore.

"RRPR, an indirect subsidiary of the company and member of the

promoter/promoter group of NDTV, has acquired a 27.26% equity stake in NDTV from Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy by way of inter-se transfer. The acquisition was completed on December 30, 2022 on the block," said an Adani Enterprises' regulatory filing to the bourses.

"Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (an indirect subsidiary of the company) holds 8.27% equity stake in NDTV and RRPR (prior to the present acquisition) held 29.18% equity stake in NDTV. Consequent to the present acquisition, RRPR will hold 56.45%," it added.

The Roys sold their equity at Rs 342.65 per share, which is 17% higher than what was offered to other shareholders in the open offer that closed on December 5. This premium may attract the attention of SEBI as such a difference in payouts is not allowed unless the selling company (RRPR) is part of the group offloading the shares. Roys had given up on December 23 when they announced their decision to sell off 27.26% of their holding while retaining 5% of the shares.



Govt hikes interest rates on NSC, post office deposits; no change in PPF rate

MUMBAI (TIP)

The government on Friday, December 30, hiked the interest rates on small deposits -- including post office term deposits, NSC and senior citizen savings scheme -- by up to 1.1 percentage points from January 1, in line with firming interest rates in the economy.

However, the interest rates on Public Provident Fund (PPF) and the girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi have not been changed.

National Savings Certificate (NSC) will yield a 7 per cent interest rate from January 1, compared to 6.8 per cent at present. Similarly, the senior citizen savings scheme will give 8 per cent interest against 7.6 per cent currently.

Interest rates on post office term deposit schemes of duration 1 to 5 years will rise by up to 1.1 percentage points.

The monthly income scheme, too, will yield 7.1 per cent interest, up from 6.7 per cent.

Revised Interest Rates On Small Savings Schemes For January-March 2023:

- 1-Year Post Office Time Deposits: 6.5 per cent
- 2-Year Post Office Time Deposits: 6.8 per cent
- 3-Year Post Office Time Deposits: 6.9 per cent
- 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits: 7.0 per cent
- National Saving Certificates (NSC): 7.0 per cent
- Kisan Vikas Patra: 7.2 per cent
- Public Provident Fund: 7.1 per cent
- Sukanya Samriddhi Account: 7.6 per cent
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme: 8.0 per cent
- Monthly Income Account: 7.1 per cent.

Since May this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the key repo rate by 225 basis points, prompting banks to raise interest rates on



deposits as well. On December 7, the RBI increased the repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25 per cent, the fifth-time increase in a row. The repo rate is the interest rate at which the RBI lends to the commercial bank.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

Horoscope for the month of Jan 2023

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES : Ganesha says the people of Aries will have a lot of need to manage their money and time in the month of January. Along with this, you have to control your speech and behavior as well. At the beginning of the month,

there will be a need for more hard work in the workplace. During this time, you will get fewer results in proportion to your hard work. There will be a slight improvement in the situation in the second week of the month. With the help of friends and relatives, some stalled work will be completed during this period. Livelihood business will increase. Time will be normal in terms of health, but in the middle of the month, you will need to pay attention to both your health and your relationship. During this, avoid getting misled by anyone and take decisions with your wisdom and discretion. At the same time, pay special attention to food and your daily routine. Avoid investing money in any such place where there is a possibility of even the slightest risk. During this, there can be a dispute with your relatives. A trustworthy person can betray you in time. During this time money-related problems will also remain. This month you need to be very careful in your love affairs. There can be a rift with your love partner regarding something. In such a situation, avoid arguing with him excessively. Avoid ignoring the feelings of your spouse for a happy married life. Take care of your father's health.



TAURUS : Ganesha says this month is going to bring more auspiciousness and success for the people of Taurus. At the beginning of the month, you will get praise from the boss in your workplace and respect will increase in society. During this, you will get desired progress and profit in your career and business. In such a situation, try to complete your important tasks in the month itself. For those who are unmarried, there may be some obstacles in their marriage in the middle of the month. You will have to face all kinds of problems even in love relations. During this, use your mind along with your heart while taking any decision. Only after working hard in the month there will be chances of success in a particular work. During this, pay full attention to your luggage and health during the journey. Do not disclose before the implementation of your plans in the workplace, otherwise, opponents may put obstacles in it. People working abroad will get unexpected success and profit in the middle of the month. There will be full support from parents amidst the ups and downs of life.

GEMINI : Ganesha says the month of January has brought auspiciousness and good fortune to the people of Gemini. This month you will be able to attract you through your speech and behavior. At the beginning of the month, the journey done in relation to your career or business will give you great success and profit. However, during the journey, you should take special care of things related to food and drink. Jobs will become an additional source of income for the people. The economic condition will be stronger. In the



middle of the month, good news related to a dear person can be heard. During this, there will be chances to complete religious work at home. There will be full cooperation and support from siblings while taking any major decision. The wish to buy and sell land buildings, vehicles, etc. will be fulfilled. Students engaged in the preparation of examination competitions will be able to get the desired success. This month is also auspicious from the point of view of a love affair. If you are already in a love relationship, then it is possible that your relatives may accept your love and put a seal of marriage on it. Sweetness will remain in married life.



CANCER : Ganesha says the second half of the month of January is going to be more favorable for Cancerians than the first half. At the beginning of the month, avoid getting misled by anyone and take any decision very carefully. During this time, due to not getting the desired cooperation from relatives and close friends, the mind will be a little upset. You may have to travel long or short distances with family in the second week of the month. During this time, you will have to make extra efforts and hard work to get desired financial benefits in business. In any case, maintain your strength and patience and avoid laziness. In case of confusion, do not forget to take the advice of a loved one or a well-wisher. In the first half of the month, things may not go according to your wish, but in the second half, you will get full support of good luck. There will be a possibility of benefit from working together with friends. This time will be normal in terms of health. The economic condition will be strong and businesses will get the desired profit. However, avoid investing money in any risky scheme and take a decision keeping your circumstances in mind while spending money. There will be strength in the love relationship and there will be opportunities to spend quality time with the love partner. Married life will remain happy.

LEO : Ganesha says at the beginning of the month of January, the natives of the Leo zodiac will get full support from friends and family, etc. and during this, the desired work will be completed on time. Working together with siblings will increase auspiciousness and profit. A plan will be made for the purchase and sale of land and buildings. There will be a need to take more careful decisions while doing any important work in the middle of the month. During this, there will be a possibility of making a big mistake in haste. Opponents in the workplace may try to distract you from your goal or obstruct your work. During this time there may be some ideological differences between best friends. In such a situation, avoid giving weight to small things. In the second half of the month, the situation will be seen changing, and once again your work will start getting back on track, and misunderstandings with best friends will also be removed. During this, there will be success in the love affair. There will be opportunities to spend time happily with the spouse and health will also be normal.



VIRGO : Ganesha says the month of January will be full of ups and downs for the people of Virgo. This month you will sometimes see happiness and sometimes sadness. At the beginning of the month, where you will get the full support of seniors and juniors in the workplace and your work will be completed easily, whereas, in the



second week of the month, some obstacles related to the workplace will be a cause of great concern for you. During this time, do not force people to act according to your feelings, otherwise, it may spoil your personal relations. Avoid unnecessary arguments with anyone. Whether it is family or co-workers associated with the workplace, only if everyone works together, there will be a chance of getting the desired success. In the second half of the month, you will need to pay more attention to your health along with your relationship. During this, take full care of food and drink and if you are on any kind of medicine, then take it on time and do not make the mistake of ignoring health-related problems. During this, you will need to manage your time and money and walk. Avoid interfering excessively in the life of the love partner to deepen the love relationship.

LIBRA : Ganesha says the people of the Libra zodiac should be careful in the month of January, always keeping in mind the mantra of accidents. The month of January is going to be mixed for you. There will be chances of success in work only after working hard. The workload will remain in the workplace. Avoid unnecessary arguments both at home and outside. To maintain better relations with best friends, it would be better to ignore small things. In terms of health, you need to be very cautious this month. Take full care of food and routine. Economically, this month will not be very positive. Avoid making unnecessary expenses and manage money, otherwise, by the end of the month, you may have to borrow money. In the second half of the month, you will see some relief. During this time new sources of income will be created with the help of an influential person. Businesses will also see improvement. If you are already having a love affair, then be honest about it, otherwise, things may get spoiled. To keep married life happy, do not ignore the feelings of your life partner. Take special care of your health.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says the month of January will bring more auspiciousness and success in the second half than in the first half for the Scorpio zodiac. At the beginning of the month, you will get mixed results. During this, you will need to be very careful in money-related transactions. Be it home, family or workplace, avoid imposing your views on others, otherwise, your reputation may decrease. At the beginning of the month, the mind may remain a little upset due to not getting the desired help from best friends and associates. During this, health can also remain a little soft. There may be some stomach problems in particular. In such a situation, pay full attention to food and routine. Financial problems may have to be faced in the second week of the month. During this, sudden big expenses will be a big cause of your worry. From home repair to material comforts, more money can be spent out of pocket. The second half of the month will be better in terms of career and business. During this, employed people can get promoted or transferred to the desired place. There will be unexpected profit in business as well. Relations with family members will be strong. However, you have to avoid showing your love, otherwise, you will have to face unnecessary problems. Due to the busy schedule, it will be a bit difficult to find time for the spouse.



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Horoscope for the month of Jan 2023

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 74



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says for the people of Sagittarius, the month of January has brought auspiciousness and good luck. If you manage your time and money this month, then you can earn more success and profit than you expected.

At the beginning of the month itself, you will heave a sigh of relief when major disputes related to land and buildings are resolved or the target of its purchase and sale is met. During this time, you will be able to take many big and beneficial decisions with courage and determination. Women's mind is more engaged in worship. Long or short distance pilgrimage with family is also possible. In the second half of the month, while taking any big decision related to family, you will get the support and cooperation of parents and all the family members. During this, desired progress will be seen in career and business. People engaged in the preparation for examination competitions can get some good news. For those who are already having a love affair, their relationship with their love partner will be strong. Whereas there can be the entry of a love partner in the life of single people. Sweetness will remain in married life and there will be opportunities to spend moments of laughter and happiness with the spouse.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says the month of January can prove to be a bit volatile for the people of Capricorn. This month, you will have to leave the habit of postponing your work and trying to complete it on

time. This month you will have to try your best to avoid insults and pride. In such a situation, be polite while controlling your speech and behavior, and be very careful of those people who may try to obstruct your work or insult you. In the month of January, the people of Capricorn will need to work extra hard for success in their work. At the same time, unnecessary arguments in the workplace will also have to be avoided. There will be chances of short journeys this month but take special care of your health and belongings during the journey. Take special care in money transactions in the middle of the month. During this time, do not invest money in any such scheme where there is any possibility of risk. Avoid flirting with anyone this month, otherwise, you may have to give and take. If you are already in a love relationship, be honest with him and avoid interfering excessively in his personal life. To make married life sweet, do not make the mistake of ignoring the feelings and needs of your spouse.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says for the people of Aquarius, the month of January is going to be sometimes happy and sometimes sad. This month, you will sometimes see things getting easier and sometimes getting worse. However, you have to maintain equanimity in all situations. If you wish, you will be able to achieve every goal with your own intelligence and hard work. If you do any work in partnership or are thinking of doing it, then keep the accounts correct and proceed only after clearing things. In terms of health, you will need to pay more attention in the latter part of the month of January than in the first half. During this time any of your old diseases can emerge once

again. During this, be careful with your opponents in your workplace and do not disclose or glorify any plan before its implementation. During this, avoid unnecessary argumentative situations and do not make the mistake of taking any big decision by getting carried away by emotions or in haste. If you find yourself in a state of confusion while taking decisions related to career and business, do not forget to take the advice of your well-wishers. Increase the ping in a love relationship only after thinking, otherwise, you may have to face all the problems unnecessarily. Relations with the spouse will be normal with sour disputes.



Pisces

PISCES : Ganesha says the people of Pisces will have to avoid taking any decisions in haste or getting carried away in the month of January. At the beginning of the month, some big problems related to family and home can come to the fore. It

would be better to solve those with the help of relatives. During this time, instead of relying on luck, you will need extra hard work and effort for success in your work. Success in important tasks will be achieved only by working in a planned manner. In the middle of the month, students' minds can be filled with studies and during this time they will spend more time having fun. Your opponents may become active in the second half of January. In such a situation, be completely careful of your known and unknown opponents and enemies. During this, you must control your anger and avoid taking any wrong steps under someone's provocation. Obstacles in a love affair will be a big reason for your worry. A female friend of yours can prove to be helpful in clearing any kind of misunderstanding with the love partner. In difficult times of life, the life partner will stand by your side like a shadow and will provide you with support. The health of an elderly person in the house can be a cause of concern for you.

HOROSCOPE FOR THE YEAR 2023

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

ARIES : Ganesha says that this year is bringing auspicious results for the people of Aries. This year is going to be better for them as compared to the last several years. Work in the workplace will give auspicious results. More hard work will have to be done in the job business, which will also get proper benefits. You will get cooperation and respect from colleagues and officers. You will be interested in religious works. Take special care of your health during the year 2023. There is a possibility of misunderstanding in the matter of business, so work cautiously.

TAURUS : Ganesha says that from this year the planetary transit will be auspicious for you in many respects. Your interest in religion-work and spirituality will increase. Old relations and old friends will come close to you once again. You can also undertake religious journeys this year. In terms of health, you have to pay attention this year. Time is favorable for progress in the job business. Efforts made in the economic sector will also be successful this year. With the auspicious effect of the zodiac lord Venus, this year will be wonderful for you.

GEMINI : Ganesha says this year can be full of ups and downs for you. You may have to do a lot of running around this year. You have to take care in terms of health. Be careful while traveling, there is a possibility of an accident. The time after June will be somewhat auspicious for you. During this time, the situation in jobs and business will improve. May the whole year be good for you. Efforts to change jobs will also be successful during this time. You will get financial benefits. This is a good time for Gemini people to express love.

CANCER : Ganesha says that this year will be mixed for Cancer people. This year, efforts for promotion in the job will be successful. Health will generally be favorable. There can be minor problems in family life. The months of April to June are going to be auspicious for you. There will be progress in the economic sector during this period. You

will also get a lot of benefits of position and prestige. There is a need to be health conscious in the year 2023. Try not to ignore any issues in the year 2023.

LEO : Ganesha says this year is going to be better for you than the previous years. This year is auspicious for you. The coming time of the year will be good for you. There will be progress in economic matters. There will be a favorable change in the workplace. Luck will be in full support and the opponents will be defeated. The planetary change will increase your anxiety; there will be some mental problems in family life. This year will be beneficial in terms of business and money. In matters of married life and love, you will get good results in the year 2023.

VIRGO : Ganesha says that this year is bringing a message of relief for the people of Virgo. This year, the people of Virgo will remain free from the inauspicious effects of the planet. In general, you will be healthy throughout the year and there will be mutual harmony in family life. Relations with relatives will be favorable. The year will be progressive for the students; there will be interest in reading and writing. Efforts made in the job business will be successful. This time will be important from April to June.

LIBRA : Ganesha says this year will be fluctuating for the people of Libra sign of Venus. You have to be a little careful in terms of health. There may be conflicts and tensions in family life. There will be more hard work and running in the job business. This year will have to be careful in financial matters. Keep unnecessary expenses under control. Control anger and speech, otherwise there will be an inauspicious effect on relationships. If you are married then the year 2023 is likely to give mixed results in your married life.

SCORPIO : Ganesha says that the end of the year of the Scorpio zodiac will be full of ups and downs. Mental problems will increase and there will be a possibility of accidents. There will be mutual cooperation in family life.

Position-prestige and economic benefits will increase job business. Money will be spent on religious work this year. This is a good time for new work. Apart from improving your health, this year can also give you relief from many stomach-related problems.

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says for the people of Sagittarius, this year will be a sour-sweet experience. You will have to work hard, but you will also get its benefits, due to which you will feel happy when the time comes. Your interest in religious work and spiritual work will increase and you can go on pilgrimage. Your health will be normal this year. There will be some tension in the job business. In this year 2023, you will also get success in your financial life.

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says that this year is not more beneficial for Capricorns than the previous year. The end of the year is not positive for you. Hard work will give financial benefits to the position of planets. Expenditure will increase in comparison to income. You may have to travel abroad for work and family matters. Health has to be taken care of. The influence of opponents will increase. Restraint has to be exercised on speech and behavior; otherwise, there may be differences with loved ones.

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says for the people of Aquarius, this year will bring some changes in jobs, businesses, and other areas of life. There will be ups and downs in health this year. There is also the possibility of an accident, so do not take the risk. Financial expenditure will increase, so work should be done keeping in mind the budget. Luck is getting less support this whole year; so hard work will have to be done more. Avoid VAT disputes with any family member.

PISCES : Ganesha says this year is going to be generally pleasant for the people of Pisces. The position of the planets is unfavorable for you this year. Luck will be with you in these situations. There will be progress in the job / business. Money-related problems will also bother you less this year. If you keep a balance between food and living, then you will generally remain healthy. You will get cooperation and benefits from friends and relatives. Maintain balance in family life and take care that there are no mutual differences.

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 - JANUARY 2 TO JANUARY 8, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says, there are rewards and a walk on the schedule for this week. You will select the best options when generating judgments at business. Your business component will grow this week, which might conflict with your schedule because you won't have enough of it. You will become connected to your romantic interest by engaging in a straightforward endeavor together. While accusations are not yet on the topic, you two will develop communication, which will help you communicate your emotions more clearly. Eat only home-cooked dishes and stay away from unhealthy foods and frozen cuisine. Ensure that you get good care of your gastrointestinal issues this week.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, this week, external pressure to produce quick results will impede your thoughts, yet you should keep your composure with coworkers. You'll start to see results from your prior commitments this week. This week, the hospitality company will generate a significant amount of revenue. Your love life will demand forbearance this week. Individuals who are wedded will enjoy one other's company, while those in new connections may quarrel over somebody else's advice. Take care of oneself this week since you will exaggerate your health issues, which are actually sensitivities.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, if you operate in marketing or promotion, your imaginative approaches will be praised. You may put your funds into suitable projects in the works. You will squander all you have if you are hungry for rapid money. You can decide to invest some precious time with your partner while planning a treat for them. Jupiter will help you overcome any psychological barriers that exist between you and your partner. You'll feel smarter once you understand how your companion believes about you. This week, you'll receive a lot of health advice, and you must abide by it. It won't be simple for you to deal with your worry this week, but mindfulness may be able to assist.



CANCER : Ganesha says, you will gain the help of somebody this week that will open doors for you ahead. Considerable wise judgments will need to be made this week but being overly definite will make your conversation difficult. This week, Venus will be in an adverse attitude, so be certain to take the required measures. You will meet somebody at cultural occasions and business activities this week with whom you will communicate deeply, but maturity will be a problem for you. You'll need to be more grounded this week. You won't need to worry about

your wellness this week since everything will be Alright. Ensure that you adhere to the exercise programmed you've created.



LEO : Ganesha says, this week, you won't be allowed to assign responsibilities to others, and if you tried to handle things on your own, your work might be less productive. It's a terrific week to launch a venture in the leisure and tourism sector. You will have a really tough time in your romantic life. This week, your partner will doubt your loyalty, so you'll need to defend oneself. You'll be capable of maintaining discipline in your marital relationships. Your wellness will suffer this week as a result of uneven resting patterns that will disturb your calmness. Dear Leo natives, exercise cautious.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, you will pay close attention to every little aspect of your work this week. You'll be prepared to implement a tenacious approach that will let you close the holes in your objectives. Be cautious not to generate too many forecasts this week if you purchase shares. You'll commit the mistake of picturing your partnership too much on your own this week, which will result in uncomfortable arguments among you and your partner. Traveling should be prevented at all expenses this week since it is an elevated week for accidents. This week, be sure you're not terrified of cliffs.



LIBRA : Ganesha says this week is a great time to make significant investments in component shares. Consider creating a corporation this week and obtain the counsel of a skilled economic professional rather. A mortgage for a home or a company will be authorized this week. Keep clear of the financial markets this week. It is always too late to prevent a decent guy from leaving. You will be possible to reestablish contact with your beloved throughout this week. If one chooses to maintain silence about small concerns, this week's marital appearances will also hold strong. Take a brisk walk this week and practice breathing. Keeping close to the outdoors can assist you to unwind this week.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, you will be joining the workforce this week, and networking with a few influential people will present you with fresh opportunities. These days, if you operate alone, you may earn a comfortable income. The share marketplace is not a terrific place to trade this week. You will encounter somebody this week, but you will mistakenly evaluate them too quickly. This week, ensure you're in control of your thoughts. The ideal time to preserve your vitality is during this week. this week,

practice meditation and good sleep. This week don't worry over slight matters.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says you may need to postpone a few of your projects this week due to a technical gap in your personnel. It's a great week to bring in new employees. Avoid engaging in immoral conduct if you operate for a partnership firm because you could find yourself embroiled in a conflict this week. Your charming demeanor will act as a gateway to a more substantial collaboration this week. You will surely meet new people this week and make new friends, but it would be premature to have high expectations. If you have an optimistic outlook, you'll be able to continue. You'll feel anxious in the afternoons this week, so look after oneself.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, this week, your bosses will motivate you. You'll also do a review of the fatalities in your present line of work. This week, you'll be capable of maintaining a significant degree of esteem at the workplace. You will also benefit from the fortunate arrangement of factors in your 6th sector. Your partner will be able to tell that you are worried about them. Your relationship will be guided in the right direction this week. You'll be able to maintain a strong marital stance this week. A daily walk will help you a lot this week. You'll experience a change in your mental well-being this week.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be fairly forthright about your goals since you were raised with desire; others will trust you owing to the conviction in your words, which will be a benefit on its own. Businesspersons must avoid the financial markets this week. This is the perfect time of the week to confess to somebody your secret admiration for their sincere feelings. You'll need to be a little harsh with your partner in order to get them to realize their mistake. You should travel very carefully this week. Ask your kids to prevent consuming excessive amounts of liquid and to prevent going into unsafe situations.



PISCES : Ganesha says, your present expenditure will be impacted by high inflation for the goods and resources you need to operate your business. Avoid starting any intimate connections this week. Additionally, you will act very frequently if you have a vocation. You can squander a jewel of a personality if you don't take care of your connection. They've started to think that this connection is ending, therefore you need to act right away. You'll be compelled to establish fresh, beneficial behaviors this week. The aim for this week is to stop bad habits.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JANUARY 2 TO JANUARY 8, 2023
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JANUARY 2 : Ganesha says as the economy improves, you benefit from your day. You would be better off financially if you started new projects and plans. You would be proud of the accomplishments of your kids. You'd feel relieved knowing that any pending legal concerns would be resolved successfully. Patients who have a chronic condition would need to take special care of them. The benefits of yoga and meditation are enormous. Your financial commitments will increase and generate healthy returns.

JANUARY 3 : Ganesha says your financial situation will get better if you find new sources of income. New agreements will be very advantageous. You will make frequent, fruitful excursions that will yield the desired outcomes. You'll priorities receiving blessings from a spiritual being or visiting a holy site. Gaining favors and benefits from influential individuals will be a result of your outgoing personality. During this time, it is likely that there will be a real estate transaction or a vehicle purchase.

JANUARY 4 : Ganesha says you're urged not to put too much faith in other people this time , especially when it comes to significant matters. It will not be in your best advantage to divulge private

and confidential information. Your life will experience a stunning alteration as a result of a spiritual person's sudden influence. In addition to offering you love and attention, your spouse and family will be sympathetic to your worries. For some people, long distance travel may even take them abroad. You will need to handle crucial tasks with higher responsibility due to the workplace environment.

JANUARY 5 : Ganesha says today should be one to remember, filled with success and luck. Women will benefit from this time since there will be fresh opportunities to advance their job prospects. The family's elders and young ones will need a lot of your attention. Your spouse's health may give you cause for worry and concern. Students must focus on their schoolwork and make plans for the future. For the single, romance and new connections are conceivable.

JANUARY 6 : Ganesha says success today means that whatever you do will make you pleased. You will receive attractive returns on previous investments, and long-pending legal problems will be resolved in your favor. You will have unexpected financial and in-kind donations from family and friends throughout the time. There may be some small

health issues as a result of stress and strain. You will become more spiritually connected and this will have a profound impact on how you think and behave.

JANUARY 7 : Ganesha says it appears that this day will bring awards and acclaim for women working in the advertising and marketing industries as well as for scientists, lawyers, and authors. As the day goes on, your financial advantages will grow, causing you to spend more on comforts and luxuries. Do not disregard medical advice when necessary because health issues will raise concerns. Your family will be happier, more peaceful, and more prosperous if you and your family members can communicate better.

JANUARY 8 : Ganesha says it's the ideal time to implement significant changes and make decisive choices today. We will settle issues involving real estate, partnerships, and new businesses. Some positive news from children is anticipated. Today key highlights will include remodeling, building, and socializing. Growth and success will come about on their own if you focus on your efforts. Opportunities for both business and leisure travel abroad will present themselves. Gains can be realized through selective speculating.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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AMITA SINGH

Happy New Year

As the world recovered post Covid, a realization definitely set in about the frailty of life and appreciation of being blessed. Gratitude and love!!! Through all of life's trials and

tribulations, surviving and overcoming are great motivations. I discovered new levels of my strength and resilience as a single woman that I never dreamt I was capable of. I had enough opportunities to be happy in my own company, reflect on my journey as a learning tool.

As 2023 is round the corner, I am more thoughtful than in the years past, of my role in life and what I would like to give back to society in general and my dear

ones personally. I still dream and pray like everyone wishing for world peace and our responsibility on this planet, for women's liberation and empowerment. Personally, I want to spend my precious time with those I cherish, laugh a little more and hold hands with those I can help and support. Work excites me and my friends are my existence. I am who I am because of the love of family and friends that surround me.

As I wish a very happy new year to everyone, my one message is to please love and treat others as you would like to be treated. Be humble and if you can make a positive difference even in one soul, you are a winner.

Let's collectively make 2023 our best one yet.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

(Amita Singh is a mom and owner of Daminis, a retail clothing store in Edison, NJ)



ANIL BANSAL

The world has changed, but then it is always changing

In 2022, we continued with COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and a call for freedom in Iran. The global

pandemic has proven to be one of the most challenging events in our modern history. The pandemic which started in 2020 was supposed to be over.

The sudden rise in inflation due to the energy cost and disruption of products around the world were unexpected additional challenges thrown at us. But then, the world has proven again to be resilient. Despite all the negatives, we have learned so much, changed our work habits, focused on family, and learned to

work remotely, live with less, and be happy.

2023, we really expect it to be rather difficult. Finally, with the Chinese being exposed to the virus, there will be a high loss of life but immunity will be built up all around the world. This will lead to the path of stability. We also expect more treaties and meaningful action on climate control. The ability to hire employees anywhere in the world will distribute more income to educated

workers all over the world.

The world has changed, but then it is always changing.

Anil Bansal

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(Anil Bansal is the President of First National Realty Management, which owns and manages commercial properties throughout the United States. He is very active in the community and serves on the boards of several corporations and charity organizations)



ARISH SAHANI

On New Year ...

On this new year, promise yourself, I will live like a HUMAN. And promote and follow "LIVE and let LIVE."

Ask yourself these questions and find the answers.

Am I a body or a soul?

Every life depends on the laws of karma.

What about my rebirth?

Now start watching your life events.

Why some time you win and some time you lose?

Why in your own family some are successful and others are not?

Check how many years are left in your

life now.

Look back and watch how you spent your last few years.

Note, in your life you have only 15-20 yrs. productive, 1/3 wasted in sleep. First 20-25 in education last 15-20 years as old age as retirement.

Every new year brings new hope for many and for many new targets to achieve.

We are all human but many do not know how to live like a human.

Take time out to find how one should live and help others to change for good.

Human life is very precious but shame our world leaders, many are not caring for human the way it is required.

You should feel lucky if you are living in a secular and free nations vs countries ruled based on religion or on communism.

Every human has a right to live long and healthy. Nature provides us with all we need but some greedy leaders with laws control supplies and make many suffer.

God has provided for all, only if we have right kind of leaders to control.

Living in free world, if you are not using your vote power you are making mistake.

You have a responsibility to choose honest caring and nationalist leaders, if you are not part of choosing, you are putting your future generation in trouble and committing a bad act.

It's time to find your roots.

You had no choice when born in a family but look for your roots and ancestors.

You have right to change yourself and change this world.

We are all looking for wealth to make and accumulate but forget you came with nothing and take nothing when die.

Consider using your wealth wisely before you die.

Note, you will be remembered only if you did something for humanity.

For family even animals do.

This is the 21st century era of information.

Mother earth is the only place where you can live and enjoy.

There is no Heaven and Hell outside the earth.

If you are living a rotten life, poor, in fear you are in Hell now.

If you are living a rich life and have freedom you are in Heaven.

Arish k. Sahani

A human for human.

The world is one big family.



ASHOK OJHA

The unrealized dream of peace

The year 2022 launched with many hopes, most of them are unrealized as it comes to an end. We hoped that the booster shots would kick out the pandemic. We hoped that the war between Russia and Ukraine will end quickly. We hoped that poverty, violence, and civil unrest wouldn't drive people away from their ho-melands and will

force them to be refugees in other countries. We hoped that the Southern border of USA will not be closed for migrants. We hoped there will be peace in the world.

As the year comes to an end, none of the above happened. The world has become more brutal. Billions of dollars are being spent on the war machine. The USA is poised to open more fronts to fight beyond its border. Russian fire power is mercilessly devastating people's lives in Ukraine. More nations in the world are forced to bear the brunt of war, poverty and disease. And the

pandemic caused by COVID-19 is back amidst us even after a series of vaccine shots. It continues to kills people in the USA and beyond.

The year 2022 is leaving behind a lot of unsolved puzzles. We continue to fight a never-ending war on poverty, disease and natural disasters. Tens of thousands of refugee seekers are waiting to enter the USA on its Southern border for a better living. The line of refugees at the Southern border of the USA is growing even larger.

As a person of Indian origin, it is natural for me to look at my native

where the politics seems is murkier than ever. The ruling party claims to have built modern resources while the opposition parties cry over the sufferings of the common man. War may erupt at India's Northern border at any time to come,

Welcome to 2023!

A new year with more challenges than hopes.

(Ashok Ojha, president, Yuva Hindi Sansthan and Hindi Sangam Foundation, is a New Jersey based language teacher and journalist. He is a recipient of the Ful-bright-Hays Award 2022 by the US Department of Education. He may be reached by email: aojha2008@gmail.com)

WE WISH READERS A



Zafar Iqbal and his wife Nuzaira Azam

ZAFAR IQBAL

Hope for better days ahead

We experienced many joys and sorrows in the year 2022. The Covid-19 pandemic is almost over. The James Webb Space Telescope, which was launched on 25 December 2021 arrived at its destination in January 2022. It was a pleasure to know that an Indian lady astrophysicist played a key role in this project. We are seeing a slow but steady decline in nationalist propaganda in the USA. Many people-centric policies have been successfully passed by Congress. Let's hope for better days ahead.

ZAFAR IQBAL, Ph.D. : Retired Scientific Advisor at the US Department of Veterans Administration.



ASHOK VYAS

Year to Year : Optimistic and Hopeful

Impressions of any person, place or period are made of two parts. One relates to external circumstances, as we come to know of through media, another part is the internal response mechanism to any development or event.

Looking at 2022, I would begin on an optimistic note, overall, we saw the world coming out of the clutches of the threat of Covid 19. We still have lingering effects of the epidemic and more apprehensions about its possible return with reports from China.

This year also showed how quick our

collective memories function in terms of forgetting the lessons of an unprecedented challenge faced by us as human race in recent times. The war between Russia and Ukraine captured our attention more intensely, gradually, less news but the challenge of war and destruction of a beautiful country as well as loss of innocent lives continues. The world order seems to be changing, the perception that USA's support has helped Ukraine put on a brave fight against mighty Russia is gaining more ground with the recent visit of Ukraine president to the Whitehouse.

India played a key role on the world scene in terms of successfully establishing its stand on several issues, including the stand adopted regarding its dealings with Russia. The Indian foreign minister showed on several forums that with calm mannerism and simple words, the strength of a nation can be expressed. Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi continued to be the central figure in Indian politics as well as Global diplomacy. The only leader, who openly and directly conveyed to Russian President Putin, that this is not the age of war. India didn't stop buying Oil from Russia and while cornered, made it clear that Indian purchase is much less than the European nations. While the world economy has taken a hit after covid, the financial situation of the UK resulted in quick change of its prime minister. As we move towards 2023, Britisher with Indian roots Rishi Sunak, the first Hindu is leading the Great Britain.

My expectations in 2023 are empowered by my hope and prayers. I believe we learn lessons but take time in implementing them, I look forward to the new year with greater awareness of taking care of the environment, leading a healthy life, building harmony and realizing the glory

of being human. In addition to International day of Yoga, India gets the credit of drawing the attention of the world towards the significance of 'Millet'. Welcome to 'The international year of Millet 2023 as declared by the United Nations in support of India's initiative. We will have impactful impressions of India with creative and constructive insight under India leads G20 as president. While saw massive layoffs, especially in the tech sector in the last few months of 2022 and the big news of twitter takeover by Elon Musk. I hope things would settle down and we will have a healthy, wealthy and growth oriented peaceful new year.

ASHOK VYAS : (Poet, Hindu priest, author, program director with ITVGOLD for 25 years, founder of Heramba Art and Culture center with youtube channel 'HerambaStudio'. President of Insight for Creativity LLC. Ashok has been working on three books for a few years, all are due to be published in 2023. (insightashok@Yahoo.com)



ASHOOK RAMSARAN

Impact of Year 2021 and Expectations in 2023

Most impactful in 2022: The adverse global economic stress on costs, supplies, employment and affordability as countries emerged from 3 years of Covid-19; election of Indian origin prime minister Rishi Sunak in UK (among others: Ireland, Mauritius, Seychelles, Suriname and

Guyana); continuing devastating effects of climate change globally while token steps internationally and by individual countries; gradual improvement in energy storage and use of non-fossil fuels; disastrous flood waters due to extraordinary rainfall and rising tides on coastal area; devastating continuation of the war in Ukraine; continuing global impact of political and cultural divisiveness with underlying misinformation; little improvement of effective and humanitarian care of seniors in convalescent facilities; shortages of skilled, unskilled, educators and medical workers worldwide; informed electorates opted for political stability over

authoritarian regimes; a changing economy requiring variations of needed skills. Expectations in 2023: Alarming sharp rise in Covid-19 and variants resulting in reduced migration, travel, trade and economic growth; less than anticipated attendance at PBD2023 in India; political stability due to more informed and active electorates in USA, Europe, Europe and Pacific region, while potential for conflicts in the Middle East; potential for resolution of the war in Ukraine; conflicts between China and Taiwan, and others; continuing increase in military spending worldwide; Europe and US interest in tapping Africa's natural and mineral resources; continuing devastating effects of

climate change globally; world population growth a strain on food, medical, housing, energy supplies, increasing pollution and climate change; continuing rise in migrants at US southern border; rapid advances in robotics and artificial intelligence impacting everyday life; severe shortages of workers in developed nations impacting food and medical supplies, and services; continuing dominance of multinational corporations and wealthy nations; struggles for health, wellbeing and improvement in the lives of poor and working people.; continued youthful optimism and enthusiasm.

ASHOOK RAMSARAN : (President, Indian Diaspora Council International, New York, USA)



BINA SABAPATHY

A Faith Renewed: A Reflection Upon 2022 and Hopes for 2023

God sometimes takes us into troubled waters not to drown us, but to cleanse us." This quote, told to me by a dear friend Ratna Bhalla, has been my mantra for this past year. Like many people, 2022 has been full of tribulations yet as the new year approaches, I would like to take a moment

to reflect upon what this past year has taught me and what my hopes are for the next one.

This past year had me questioning more than any year thus far. Shortly after the start of my second term as President of IALI, I found myself being challenged left and right. My excitement to faithfully serve my community for another term - a triumphant first in IALI history - was quickly tested and almost dissipated when every event, from my own induction ceremony to the most recent gala event, was threatened with boycotts. It was incredibly difficult to make it through. There was a time when truly thought I could not handle anymore and said, "God please give me the strength." As I drew

support from my mom and my religion, I trudged onward trying my best to execute the very best of events and not spare any amount of effort.

It is easy to get stuck upon the unanticipated events of the past year, to the point that we may find our faith shaken and sense of self questioned. Even to the point that we may be frightened of the uncertainty that lies ahead. Yet, much like the dawning of the new year - it is all about perspective. Water has the power to drown us, just as much as it has the power to cleanse us. What can make us anxious in one moment, such as the passing of another year, can also shift into a sense of possibility. The events of the past year,

while difficult, have also solidified my commitment to IALI and served as a reminder of my capabilities. It is with this in mind that I hope to leave the troubles of 2022 in the past and embark upon 2023 with a renewed vigor and commitment to IALI. In 2023 I hope to have the honor of elevating IALI even further.

Bina Sabapathy

(Bina Sabapathy is currently serving her second term as President of India Association of Long Island. Bina was born and brought up in Udupi, a holy place in the southern part of India's Karnataka State, before migrating to the United States in the 80s. Since moving 37 years ago she quickly began involving herself with a host of organizations that she still continues to be an active part of, alongside being a hobbyist gardener and singer.)



GEORGE ABRAHAM

Looking for peace and tranquility

I look forward to a New Year with the usual hopes and aspirations; however, the reality around us is inescapable. ! I hope we will have a new year when Russia and Ukraine sit around a table and resolve that conflict amicably. It may not be in the best interests of the deep state in Washington, who were having a field day waging a proxy war with the blood and sweat of Ukrainians and to the utter destruction of their homeland. The

Washington Elites, who would never send their sons and daughters to war, have no qualms about Russians and Ukrainians fighting it out till the end, thereby achieving their so-called 'strategic objective'. I also look forward to a New Year when some common sense prevails regarding this administration's so-called energy policies. Fossil fuel deposits are wealth this country is blessed with. Renewable energy is always welcome, and nobody is against a cleaner environment. However, what is the point of a cleaner earth where people die of cold due to the unaffordability of heating oil or gas or are out of work due to nonsensical policies out of Washington where those in power are making deals with Beijing and ready to

transfer more wealth to a totalitarian regime! The fanatical climate extremism of a minority is busy driving the American middle class into poverty.

I am also looking forward to a New Year when our Children are no more confused about their gender and teachers are more focused on teaching kids reading and writing and Math and Science instead of engaging in social engineering. The pandemic has set our children back years with lost learning and let us promote more sensible policies in crises instead of allowing the politicians, bureaucrats, and teacher's union to accumulate more power!

Finally, I look forward to more peaceful neighborhoods where the government will keep its obligation to provide safety and

security to its law-abiding citizens and punish those who willfully violate them. A civilized society will not survive the onslaught of criminality that goes unchecked. I can't wait to travel in subways without looking over my shoulder, shuddering in fear that I could be the next one tossed onto the track of an incoming train.

Without peace and tranquility, no nation could progress, and those elements which are indulged in spreading hatred, bigotry, and religious nationalism to polarize the communities should be utterly rejected as we herald the New Year in the spirit of truth and harmony!

GEORGE ABRAHAM : (George Abraham is a former Chief Technology Officer , United Nations)



INDU JAISWAL

As we approach the end of 2022 and are looking forward to New Year 2023, we are still going to face tremendous challenges. We hope that the year 2023 will be better than 2022. We are still facing lots of challenges in our daily lives. > COVID -19. Continues to be

all over the world however Vaccine and Booster shots are providing better hope in times to come. Start of New Year is a chance for leaving the old year behind so one can look ahead to improve the overall Quality of Life. Another factor is to hope for better environment, address Global warming so we do not have to face extreme weather. This is also a time to make New Year Resolutions. Let us draw everyone together and be inspired by the bonds of world brotherhood. The upcoming New

Year 2023 symbolizes another opportunity for everyone once again to succeed instead of failing. We must respect everyone's feeling and recognize the significance of your life. We all must be positive in our thoughts, we should continue to protect environment and let 2023 be progressive and peaceful., and we continue to Salute out Frontline workers who continue to work tirelessly in providing us Quality health care and save our lives. We also want to Salute members of All armed

forces and police officers for protecting our everyday lives. We want to congratulate the team of Indian Panorama and Dr Indrajit Saluja and their staff for excellence in journalism.. On behalf of The Indian America Forum Members of Board of Trustees and Executive members we wish all of you Happy and Healthy New Year 2023. Let this new year be of brilliant brotherhood.

Indu Jaiswal RDN CDN
(Indu Jaiswal is Chair IAF)



JAY MANDAL

More worried today than in last 50 years

(As told by Jay Mandal to Priyanka Khanna)

Asked to put my thoughts together about India, my home country, and global affairs - I simply could not get myself to see the silver lining.

Those who know me, know that I am rarely downcast. And when I managed to circumvent the world on a rickety bicycle, traversing the length and breadth of 154 countries back in 1970s and 1980s, I developed a deep sense of hopefulness for the human race. So often I had no place to sleep in the 17 years that I rode my cycle solo but somehow, I always found food and

water to sustain me even in God forsaken places.

And I did grow more hopeful than most people when I was helped by perfect strangers on countless occasions, survived accidents, even facing wild elephants in southern Africa that few feel were survivable, besides facing the full fury of nature during my cycling days. So, when I ended my tour and began covering Indian and global affairs from my base in New York, I did so through my lenses and with the heart of a survivor.

But after spending the year 2021 waiting for the promised recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2022 made me truly sad. Starting from revelations of how deep corruption is steeped in the State where I come from - West Bengal - to Russia's war on Ukraine, the state of women in Afghanistan, Iran and so many other places, to the lack of specific actions against Climate Change - which is already

a reality and not a possibility - left me wondering if I have seen any similarly bad phase while chronologizing global and Indian affairs over the last five decades.

I have covered the UN and the White House here in the US just as well as I have witnessed history in the making at 7 Racecourse in Lutyens' Delhi for half-a-century, but I haven't heard so much collective bad news from all corners of the world in such a short time.

What bewilders me more is that the pandemic showed us the importance of working together swiftly to contain a contagious pathogen. Yet, the hope that coming out of 2020 we will learn lessons and work more closely together seems dashed. Yes, there is a lot of good that is happening as well but on the whole I feel this year we had more misses than hits.

Beyond the more obvious attention-grabbing headlines, this year saw collapse of entire economies right at India's

southern Island Nation of Sri Lanka as well as global tensions raising over Algeria, Belarus, Morocco, Turkey, Taiwan, South China Sea, Korean peninsula, Gaza, Iran's nuclear programme, the opening up of Arctic routes, the escalation of tensions in India's own backyard with Pakistan and China and of course the ongoing global trade wars.

While India has actually done very well on many fronts in 2022, did well on Sri Lanka front, is now on at the helms of the influential G20 and is set to become the most populous country in the world in 2023, I am entering 2023 worrisome and apprehensive. My only hope really is that this too shall pass so I end by wishing for more consensus in Indian and global affairs.

(Jay Mandal is a Veteran photo-journalist and world Traveler)



KISHOR SATWICK, FCA

A look back at the amazing last few years of MODI Government

It is really difficult to single out the achievements of 2022 without taking into consideration all the achievements of Modi government so far since the election of BJP government in 2014.

Two of the most prominent domestic policy achievements so far are "Demonetization" and "Abrogation of Article 370".

Long plagued by scourge of black money and counterfeits, Modi government, by demonetizing Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 notes, has brought transparency to all the

monetary transactions. This has allowed to India to create its own position in the international forum.

The second achievement - a paramount achievement - was the abrogation of Article 370 and (35) A, which had granted a special status to union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. By abrogating Article 370, Modi government has brought them in mainstream. The government also announced the split of the state into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Not only the policy achievements, but the handling of crises that arose was also awe inspiring.

Faced a Herculean task in combating COVID, Modi government not only managed the containment, but also developed two indigenous vaccines and vaccinated almost all of its population of 1.4 billion people. In the process, it also lent a helping hand to its neighbours.

It also launched "Ayushman Bharat" - a scheme for low-income earners under which around 22 crore people have registered.

On the international front, it really did shine through starting from Afghanistan, which saw India rescuing around 700 people when Taliban took power.

In Ukraine, not only Modi government managed to rescue Indians but also rescued citizens of neighbouring countries."

The surgical strikes at Balakot, and clashes at Galwan and Tawang, have showed the enemy that it is resolute in the defence of India and is ready to inflict massive costs on the enemy.

But there was also a notable policy setback regarding Farm Laws which was introduced for the betterment of the farmers but was later withdrawn in the interest of the nation due to ferocious

pressure tactics of vested interests, foreign media and local leftist activists.

Despite negative narratives being periodically built by the Western Media and their stooges in India, the future for India is bright. There are also the remaining tasks like CAA, NRC, Population Control Bill, Anti-Conversion Bill which need to be fulfilled. Just like Abrogation of Article 370, these tasks too would be fulfilled.

Regarding economy, IMF and WB have already acknowledged that India would be the fastest growing economy from 2022 onwards despite recessionary trends experienced by the Western Nations.

The Presidency and hosting of the G20 Summit in 2023 is a testament of the growing stature and power of India in the international arena.

KISHOR SATWICK, FCA : (The author is a practicing Chartered Accountant in Mumbai, India)



MABEL PAIS

MY THOUGHTS ON 2022 & HOPE FOR 2023

2022 has been a year of consequential events: a year of Omicron variants paired with the emergence of Covid lifestyles, the "forever" war in Ukraine; the January 6 Committee gave us mountains of evidence; the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade; the midterm elections; inflation hit a 40-year high; the inflation reduction act if not inflation reduction

at least gave us the biggest climate action bill ever; Eric Adams became New York city's mayor; Elon Musk bought Twitter; influx of asylum seekers; labor flexed its muscles in the private sector from Amazon to The New York Times; historic changes of government in Brazil to the left, in Israel further to the right; Rishi Sunak, the first Brit of Indian origin, became Prime Minister; Iran has begun executing women's rights activists, Afghanistan has barred girls from higher education or women working in humanitarian relief organizations forcing 'CARE' & 'Save The Children' to pull out of the country; China eased its Zero Covid policy, the list goes on.

My wish for all of us to stay healthy and focused in 2023 and live productive lives is to develop a healthy immune system that will NOT get impacted by any deadly virus. I think this can happen if we live as a co-existent, interdependent human society where we look out for one another. Nobel Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the South African Anglican bishop, theologian, and peace activist brings home the message: "I am, who I am....because.... we are, who we are." "I am... because.... you are." - Ubuntu thoughts. Our survival and our thriving are inextricably connected. Treading in the footsteps of another Nobel Prize laureate Nelson Mandela, Archbishop

Desmond Tutu and other peace seekers, it is fitting to accept this co-existence and inter-dependence of us humans as absolutely vital to our survival and prosperity, if we wish to continue to thrive on Mother Earth. Mother Earth is our home. We cannot abuse our Mother who nurtures us and allows us to live and flourish day by day. Would we abuse our human mother? I doubt it. Let's treat Mother Earth with the respect and caring she has bestowed on us for millennia. Let's stop the abuse of nature: the flora and fauna with which we have been gifted from birth.

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



MUKESH KASHIWALA

"Be the change you want to see in this world".

The harmony, unity, and peace of our earth -so called our world is crumbling. Whether we are talking about the political, religious, social, or humanitarian stature. There is more division, more distance, more hatred, and more disputes. Whether we are talking about the situation in China, India, Russia,

North Korea, and etc. Whether we are adding, and in some instances multiplying more and more gadgets, our so-called "Toys", we are creating more distance among our own families. There has been an extraction and processing of raw materials, which is now impacting the environment and resulting in water and food shortages. These shortages have a detrimental effect on our ecosystem and have been accelerating global warming. The snowstorms, tornados, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tsunamis, and hurricanes are causing havoc and destruction on a large scale.

If we engage to provide more and more

aid (in terms of weapons) for war, we are creating more danger; maybe we really are on the verge of something even worse. Is the world as we know it ending?! Would you even know until it was too late, until it was actually over?! The world of social media we live in, with Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Tick-Tock, YouTube; the constant need to post, tweet, text. We are constantly surrounded by negativity - about War, world democracy, violence, inflation, crypto collapse, and the rate of inflation.

So, what's the goal for 2023? This world needs more spiritual leaders, artists, young thinkers, and scientists. How do

we get a hold on the world population to help sustain the world and mother nature. How do we navigate in preventing further damage to our ecosystem and minimizing the effects of global warming? How do we reduce poverty by recognizing humanity and helping others? We need to promote a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development; we need to be more generous. We need to provide access to a fair justice system for all. We need to conserve water and energy, and possibly drive less. And at the end "Be the change you want to see in this world".

Mukesh K. Kashiwala.



NAVINDER OBEROI

The year 2022 was the year of tiger according to Chinese calendar. Very sharp and aggressive with lots of ups and downs like roller coaster rides

The circle of 365 (2022)days is just about to complete and very soon we will see the beginning of the first point of another cycle of the year 2023 with great hopes of prosperity and good health

around the globe.

How comfortable we all were in 2022 and where do we want to see ourselves in 2023 ?

Expectations and disappointments are the most important characteristics of human nature but how we take this, that's more important. The economy, stock market, jobs, real estate, banking industry , health sector, education etc.. Were the major issues we been fighting with throughout the year in 2022 because right after the pandemic two year of suspension of our life, almost every

public and private sector destroyed and many people lost their job but again life always rotates on our personal predictions and I am not a economist who can predict but based on my personal experience in my opinion I can't see any major breakthrough in the year 2023 in any sector but like always real estate sector is the biggest shareholder because this sector alone provide jobs to many manufacturing sectors but the success of this sector is dependent upon banking interests rates if the mortgage rates remain same or going up and up in

2023 then I can't see any difference in 2023. I am not the one who decides the fate of billions of people it is the government who decides every moment of our life that how we are going to live in coming year

We can learn so many lessons from past year failures but can also improve ourselves by not repeating those mistakes in the coming year and I wish all readers a very Happy New Year 2023 .

NAVINDER OBEROI

(Navinder Oberoi is a businessman based in Abbotsford, Canada)



PAUL CHHABRA

High Inflation, supply chain and Interest rate increases have continued to cause economic uncertainty over the past year.

Global pandemic has proven to be one of the most challenging in the past. With Covid moving in and out of the spotlight there were many other moments that caught our attention- from royals to

reality. Whether dining in and dining out taught us that food has meaning that goes well beyond calories and comfort. It was a good year for our organizational efforts but there are many reasons to be skeptical. The war in Ukraine drone strikes in Afghanistan, covid lock downs, the Beijing Olympics, the death of queen Elizabeth, these were among the biggest global stories of the last year. late in the year and late in the launch, NASA's Artemis 1 moon mission rocket blasted off and completed its mission, putting the state's Kennedy Space Center

back in headlines. The past year has seen no shortage of disruptive cyber-attacks targeted governments, hospitals, cryptocurrency firms, and many other organizations with impunity.

As the new year approaches, economic cheer is scarce on the ground amid a darkening outlook marked by recession and persistent inflation. Investors will have to remain cautious and look for the silver linings in 2023 as the world economy slows down. The housing market will crash or it will correct itself from the double-digit percentage seen in

home prices last year. The market may continue to face choppiness in 2023 as investors navigate potentially declining earnings and rates high for longer than expected. I believe it's most likely that the market won't experience a significant downtrend or uptrend for the year and may instead follow a sideways path. 2023 could be a fairly decent year for the capital market. If the economy avoids a recession, there could be a good-sized snapback in stocks".

(Paul Chhabra is a restauranter based in Virginia)



SUKHVINDER RANU, MD

The year 2022 was one of the most challenging years for all of us. Let us be thankful that we are happy and safe and

all set to enter 2023. The turn of the calendar is the perfect time to reflect on how you grew the previous year and plan your goals for the next. Life's not about expecting, hoping, and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming. Celebrate what you want to see more of.

With the new year comes a sense of

renewal, an opportunity to bring out the best in ourselves, moving forward with positivity and purpose. I hope that 2023 holds success and good fortune in any endeavor you pursue. As we celebrate New Year, let us not forget to thank the Almighty for keeping us and our loved ones safe during continued challenges

from coronavirus pandemic and other respiratory illnesses. Warm wishes on New Year to you.

Sukhvinder Ranu, MD & Family

(Sukhvinder Ranu is a New York based physician)



DR. RENEE MEHRRRA

Wishing all a blessed, joyful 2023

Change starts with each one of us. We all are accountable for a healthy planet. My

expectations for 2023 are to recalibrate our expectations, program our mind to live life of surrender to the higher self and do service to humanity with no reward or agenda in mind.

When we have no expectations from others, we will harbor less anger, hostility and anxiety. Such a mindset will propel us to a life that is more fulfilling, a life of peace, quietude, gratitude and inner joy.

Wishing all a blessed, joyful 2023

Renee Mehrra
www.reneemehrra.com

SUSMITA GHOSH

Overall impressions of 2022, anticipation for 2023

The promising developments of 2022 will bear fruit in 2023. The businesses that have weathered the storms of late and those that continue to do so are using their strengthened resolve to propel them in future. The year 2023 is pivotal for many companies as they will see a return strategy.

There were many wars in 2022. Throughout the world, markets and investors have felt these wars' effects. The three significant conflicts stand out in 2022 like -

(1) The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has polarized the world's strategic powers and threatens to undo the post-USSR expansion of international trade and commerce. (2) The fight waged by central banks to combat the multi-decade high inflation brought on by the massive

monetary easing and fiscal incentives implemented in response to the Covid pandemic. (3) China's ongoing fight against the Coronavirus has caused widespread illness in the country. In the current trend in global equities markets, financial markets could persist beyond 2023. Equity prices in developed markets and industrial commodities may continue to be volatile and under duress in 2023.

As commodity prices fall due to demand destruction, emerging markets driven by commodities may experience extreme volatility with a negative skew. There is hope for the future of rising markets driven by services and manufacturing in the upcoming year. In the future, it's possible that metal and energy prices may continue to fall. A sharp uptick in bond prices and a decline in gold prices could result in weaker global growth.

New allotments should be held off until a more favorable investment time has come along. Until 2023, the current difficulties in the macro environment may remain.

There is a great deal of promise in these forthcoming chapters in 2023. The recent events may inspire companies to devote more resources to social justice initiatives.

I tell the truth;
listen everyone.
Only those who have
Loved, will realise the Lord

Guru Gobind Singh



**Heartiest Greetings on Shri Guru Gobind Singh's
Prakash Divas (Birthday) and A Happy New Year**



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The Wisdom of Isa Upanishad

The Isa Upanishad or Isavasya Upanishad is found in the 40th chapter of the Vajasaneya Samhita of the Yajurveda. Isa means the Lord of the Universe and vasya means enveloped or covered. The Upanishad is about God and our roles and responsibilities in ensuring order and regularity of the world and our own liberation in the end.

The Upanishad explains very briefly, why human beings should live responsibly doing their duties, without pursuing wrong methods of knowledge and worship, so that they can attain liberation by going to the immortal world of Brahman. Good deeds are important. Truthfulness is important. One must perform all the ordained duties assigned by God to realize the four aims of human life and do justification for one's birth and existence in the world owned by God. Although the Upanishad has only 18 verses, they sum up the essential beliefs and practices of Hinduism. In fact, spiritually and for the purpose of leading a divine centered life, the 18 verses are as important as the 18 chapters of the Bhagavadgita.

The Upanishad contains some important concepts of Hinduism which are also found in the Bhagavadgita. They are explained below. The Bhagavadgita has eighteen chapters and the Isa Upanishad has 18 verses. In many ways, the eighteen verses are as significant as the 18 chapters. In eighteen verses, the Upanishad sums up the significance and purpose of human life and with what attitude one should live here upon earth and depart from their bodies.

God is the true owner of and supporter of everything. The whole creation is inhabited and enveloped by God. He is also its supporter and sustainer. Creation is an extension or manifestation of Brahman. According to some it is a super imposition. Whatever may be the nature of creation, the Upanishad affirms that Brahman is the Supreme Lord of the universe and He is responsible for all movements and actions. He has apportioned duties and responsibilities for all beings in creation.

The Upanishad also describes the nature of Self and the consequences of indulging in self-destructive actions. The Self is all pervading, faster than the senses and the mind. It is everywhere and present in everyone. Those who indulge in evil actions and harm their spiritual welfare go to the sunless worlds of utter darkness. However those who realize the Self feel no hatred or ill will.

- Duty must be performed with detachment, without claiming ownership and doership. Ownership and doership arise from attachment. The Isa Upanishad declares that since Brahman is the Lord of the universe, we should not covet the wealth that truly belongs to God and with this thought in our minds we should wish to live here performing actions with detachment. This is the only way to avoid karma and sin even when we perform actions. The third verse of the Upanishad is a direct reference to the yoga of action (karmayoga) and the justification for its practice.
- One must pursue both ritual knowledge and spiritual knowledge. The Upanishad deals with the yoga of knowledge in verses 9-11. True knowledge consists of both ritual knowledge (avidya) and spiritual knowledge. Both types of knowledge are essential for human beings to perform their obligatory duties. Those who take up householder's life should ignore neither the sacrifices nor spiritual practices. Both are required to fulfill the four aims of human life, namely righteousness, wealth, pleasure and renunciation. Ritual knowledge and sacrifices should be pursued as a student and householder. In the later stages, during retirement and the life of renunciation, one should focus solely upon self-knowledge, abandoning all desires and attachments. Those who pursue either of the two types of knowledge, incur the sin of neglecting their obligatory duties. In the end, they enter the darkest hells.
- One must worship both manifested and unmanifested aspects of creation. The yoga of devotion is suggested in verses 12-14. Worldly



people who take up householder's duties should worship both the manifested and unmanifested aspects of Brahman. This is a continuation of the previous idea. The gods are the manifested aspects of Brahman. They should be worshipped through rituals and sacrifices as part of one's obligation towards them and to maintain order and regularity of the worlds. The Supreme Self and the individual Self are the unmanifested aspects of Brahman because they are eternal and immutable. They should be worshipped internally through meditation, concentration and self-absorption. According to the Upanishad, the householders have an obligation to practice devotion by practicing both methods of worship. If they follow one or the other they will enter the darkest hells.

- One must lead a dutiful and truthful life to qualify for immortal heaven. The importance of truthfulness and dutifulness (satyadharmadrista) are emphasized in verses 15, 17 and 18. These are similar to the divine qualities described in the Bhagavadgita. Only those who perform good deeds and practice their duties sincerely, abiding by truth, are qualified to reach the world of Brahman, travelling by the immortal path. Their journey is facilitated by Agni and made possible by Brahman, addressed in the Upanishad as Pusan, the deity hidden in the golden orb.
- One must pray to God at the time of death. The verses suggest that one's thoughts must be focused upon Brahman and remain detached from the mind and body. This idea is also emphasized clearly in the Bhagavadgita. The last three verses in the Upanishad are chanted when someone is nearing death. They are meant to facilitate a soul's journey to the world of Brahman through the last obligatory duty, which is sacrifice of the body as an offering to Agni. Detachment from the mind and body are suggested in the verse 17, where the departing soul makes an offering of the elemental body to fire, and requests the mind to remember the good deeds so that its journey to the immortal world is ensured.
- One must leave the body with good memories. The last three verses also signify the importance of keeping the mind in a positive state. One should remember Brahman constantly and remember all the good deeds performed. There must be an aspiration to reach

the highest heaven as the culmination of the good life one has led upon earth. The last three verses are in conformity with the declaration made in the Bhagavadgita that whatever a person remembers at the time of his death, that he attains. The three verses therefore urge us to remain positive and stay focused upon Brahman and His world while departing from here.

Thus in a very brief and straightforward manner, the Isa Upanishad puts forth some of the most fundamental aspects of Hinduism and sums neatly the importance of acknowledging God as the Lord of the universe, doing our duties, pursuing knowledge, practicing devotion and keeping our minds focused upon God at the time of our departure from this world. The emphasis is upon leading a balanced life, in which we should ignore neither our worldly duties and obligations nor our spiritual welfare. We should make use of the human birth we have attained, which is a rare opportunity, to escape from the cycle of births and deaths. If the Bhagavadgita is the song of God, Isa Upanishad is the teaching of Isa, the Lord of the Universe.

Source: Hinduwebsite.com

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

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

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



Wishing you all a very
Happy & Prosperous
Guru
Gobind Singh
Jayanti

and A Happy New Year



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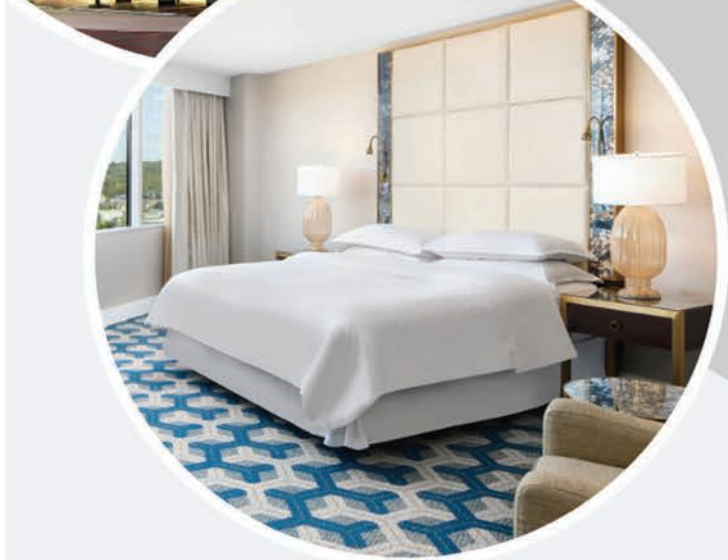


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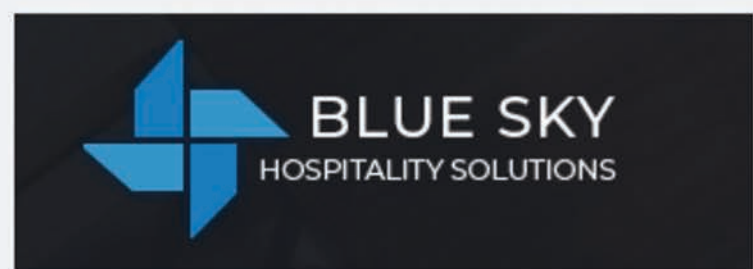
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Kolkata: The city of Joy

Kolkata, India's second biggest city, is a perpetually ongoing festival of human existence, concurrently luxurious and squalid, refined and frantic, pointedly futuristic, while beautifully in decay. A vibrant 350-year-old metropolis located on India's Eastern Coast, the capital of West Bengal thrives on contradictions and imposing spectacles; nothing is commonplace in this city. Famously known as the City of Joy, Kolkata is, in every sense, the artistic, cultural and intellectual capital of the country. Kolkata's streets are vivid, hectic, chaotic, and yet, brimming with life and creativity. Driven by the indomitable spirit of the self-made middle class, the city has created a beautiful juxtaposition of the old colonial-era charm with the nascent upcoming hipster culture that thrives amongst the city's millennial residents.

Starting from admiring the flourishing art scene in the city to going on rewarding gastronomical explorations to wandering amidst the countless bazaars to sitting by the banks of the Hooghly and enjoying a peaceful sunset, Kolkata is soaked in layers and layers of heritage and culture, and peeling off each layer to look beneath the hood is a very rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience. As the famous quote goes, "If you want a city with a soul, come to Calcutta".

Formerly the capital of the British empire before the government was shifted to Delhi, Kolkata has a distinct tinge of its royal past lingering in every nook and cranny of the city. If you want to soak in some of the city's regal past, take a walk along the streets of North Kolkata, which houses some of the oldest mansions in the city, swathed with vines and a persistent sense of aristocratic pride. Kolkata is home to Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral house, which has now been converted into a museum and houses a staggering collection of family portraits and paintings. There are plenty of ghats all over the city where you can sit and enjoy a sunset while sipping on tea, one of the most noted of these being the Prinsep Ghat, which offers stunning views of the Vidyasagar Setu in the backdrop. Close by is Millennium Park, which is a beautified waterfront park from where you can avail boat rides and cruises.

Kolkata has a very lively nightlife, and the entire stretch along Park Street houses innumerable bars and pubs where you can party the night away. Kolkata's street food is famous all across the country, and the city is lined with eateries and food stalls at every corner, where you can savour local Bengali food, or try out local snacks such as Jhalmuri, or Ghugni Chaat.

Victoria Memorial

Another relic of the British Raj in India, the Victoria Memorial is located in the heart of Kolkata, in West Bengal. This white marbled opulent structure was built in memory of Queen Victoria to celebrate her 25 years of rule over India and is almost a replica of the Victoria Memorial in London. Victoria Memorial is an iconic structure that is synonymous with the city of joy!

The memorial is surrounded by a lush green and well-maintained garden,



which spreads over 64 acres and has numerous statues and sculptures in it. A sixteen-foot tall bronze statue of victory, mounted on ball bearings at the top of the memorial, serves to heighten the overall appeal and grandeur of the entire complex. Victoria Memorial is breathtaking and marvellous, especially at night, when it is illuminated. The Sound and Light shows that take place in the evening are an added delight, and a must watch. All in all, the place is a must visit for people to wish to relive the essence of the Victorian era in the modern day world.

Fort William

The mighty edifice of Fort William is situated in the city of Kolkata, on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River. Built in the year 1696, the fort is named after King William III and was the first stronghold of the British in the country. The magnificent structure is spread over 70.9 acres and is embellished with hundreds of arched windows that overlook lush green gardens. Meticulous stonework adorns the surface of the building and it took as long as took ten years to reach completion. However, it was soon realized that the building had a few loopholes, and a new octagonal building was constructed whose foundation was laid by Sir Robert Clive.

Howrah Bridge

An iconic landmark of Kolkata,



Howrah Bridge is a massive steel bridge constructed over the Hooghly River. It is considered to be among the longest cantilever bridges in the world. Also known as Rabindra Setu, it connects Howrah and Kolkata. It carries daily traffic of over 100,000 vehicles and countless pedestrians and is as historic as it is grand. The opulence of the bridge, however, comes alive in the night time as it is all lit up. You can also take a ferry ride as it runs between Kolkata and Howrah, from the launch ghat. The view of the city from the ferry, especially in the night, is priceless, to say the least.

Howrah Bridge was the third-longest cantilever bridge at the time of its

construction, but now it is the sixth-longest one of its types. It was renamed as Rabindra Setu on June 14, 1965, after the name of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. It spreads about 1500 ft over the Hooghly River and is 71 ft wide. There is a total of 8 lanes of strand road, bicycles, and pedestrians. What makes this bridge unique is the fact that it was built without a single nut or bolt and is held together by rivets.

Birla Planetarium

Situated at the famous Chowringhee Road right in the proximity of Victoria Memorial and St. Paul's Cathedral Birla planetarium is the largest planetarium in Asia and the second largest in the world! Situated in the city of joy - Kolkata, Birla Planetarium is a magnificent edifice set up by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 2nd July 1963. It is one of the three planetariums present in India. Also known as Taramandal, the Birla Planetarium regularly holds many shows and programs are in various languages including Hindi, English, Bengali, and other regional languages. In addition to being a planetarium, Birla Planetarium also has an electronics laboratory and an astronomy gallery that has a collection of paintings and astronomical models.

Indian Museum

The ninth oldest museum of the world and largest in India, the Indian Museum is located in the city of joy - Kolkata. The foundation stone of the Indian Museum was laid down in the year 1814 and has been a centre of multidisciplinary activities ever since. Popularly known as 'Jadughar', it has the finest collection of contemporary paintings, sacred relics of Buddha, Egyptian mummies and ancient sculptures. In addition to these, the Indian Museum boasts of some of the most exquisite collections of ornaments, fossils, skeletons, antiques, armours, and stunning Mughal paintings.

Presently, the museum has 35 galleries which have been divided into six categories namely Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Economic Botany. For those inquisitive about history, there is also a library and bookshop present within the museum premises. Indian Museum recently celebrated its bicentennial anniversary with great fervour in February 2014. With its splendid collection, the museum takes you back in time to witness our fascinating past.

Belur Math

Belur Math in Kolkata is the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. Sprawling over forty acres of land on the west bank of the Hooghly River, it is visited by people from all over the world, irrespective of their religious beliefs. The temple is known for its distinctive architecture, which fuses Hindu, Christian and Islamic motifs as a symbol of unity of all religions. Founded by Swami Vivekananda, the chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the temple is at the heart of the Ramakrishna Movement. The temple complex also houses a museum and several other affiliated educational institutions.

Source: Holidify



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Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik is a leading voice for Indian American cinema



BY
MURTAZA ALI KHAN

New York-based Emmy-nominated Indian-American actor and filmmaker Tirlok Malik, who has been a leading voice for Indian American cinema, has made many important films about the Indian diaspora right from *Lonely In America* to *Love lust and Marriage* to *Khushiyaan* to *On Golden years*. He has been a part of many big stars films as a line producer such as with actors Rajnikanth, Surya, Kamal Hassan, Sanjay Dutt, Sunny Deol, and Anupam Kher, Kangana Ranaut, Manisha Koirala, Deepti Naval, among others. He attended the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa last month.

In an interview with the Indian public broadcaster Doordarshan at the festival, Malik spoke about his films as well as about the experience of attending the film festival. "Coming to IFFI is always very special as one gets to meet fellow filmmakers and so it's always very stimulating for the mind. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of visiting the biggest film festivals in the US, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. And I wouldn't be exaggerating if I tell you that visiting IFFI this year has been one of my best festival experiences ever," rejoices Malik.

The Indian-American film industry has undergone a lot of changes since Malik made *Lonely in America*. "When I made *Lonely in America* there were hardly any films about Indian immigrants. But the film's success opened up new horizons for young filmmakers who wanted to touch upon similar issues," recalls Malik who



Tirlok Malik at International Film Festival of India in Goa, India



Tirlok Malik at Maharashtra Film Festival in Goa



Tirlok Malik is interviewed by Doordarshan in Goa

feels that the Indian-American film industry needs greater support from the Indian-American audience. "I have always felt that filmmaking is one area that Indians living in the USA need to make a bigger mark. There is a lot of talent and hopefully they will get a

chance to shine. In times to come I see it growing into a much bigger film industry," opines Malik.

Malik offers a very interesting assessment of films and filmmaking in India "The filmmaking is great in India. It caters to more than a billion viewers worldwide. Films are still a major source of entertainment for Indian audience," Malik explains. He further adds, "Hollywood can make a lot more films with Indian themes as well as films shot in India more often. There is a lot of scope for this. Also, Indian filmmakers can also make films in India for International market as well. However, many Indian film makers, especially the big ones seem to be happy just doing Indian films for the Indians and have a safe market. But, some do take the risk of making independent films with artistic approach."

Malik strongly believes that a lot more can be done. "India has talent, lots of talent in all aspects of filmmaking. I have seen the talent while working as a line producer in New York on films with Kamal Haasan, Rajnikanth, Surya,

Sunny Deol, Kangna Ranaut, Mammootty, Sanjay Dutt, Anupam Kher and many more. The tech crews from India are really great. Filmmaking trends are improving and changing, new talent is experimenting with content and style," rejoices Malik.

Piracy is one of the major challenges faced by the film industry. Despite all the efforts to keep it under check, it has continued to plague the filmmaking world. Malik feels that piracy is a byproduct of technology. "Piracy will not go away no matter what, for it comes with advantages and disadvantages of technology. That's why we need to work more on the accessibility of the content. If good content is made available to the audiences at affordable rates and in a timely manner the viewers would themselves be encouraged to abstain from engaging in piracy," opines Malik.

Malik, whose last outing was a short film titled 'To New India with Love,' is currently developing two projects. "One is Hollywood film like *Lonely in America* having a mix of Indian and international cast. The film will be made in the English language and it will be for the worldwide market. It will have actors from India and from USA. The film will have some Bollywood musical songs and American music as well. It's a romantic musical love drama with a unique story. The other project is to be done in India. It's a children's film in English for worldwide market promoting Indian spiritual values," reveals Malik who is looking forward to welcoming 2023 and wishing everyone health, happiness and prosperity.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering the world of entertainment for over 10 years. He tweets at @MurtazaCritic and can be mailed at: murtaza.jmi@gmail.com).



A Still from Malik's *On Golden Years*. The film celebrated old age

"चिड़ियों से मैं बाज तड़ाऊं
सवा लाख से एक तड़ाऊं तभी
गोबिंद सिंह नाम कहाऊं"

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PELE: LONG LIVE THE KING!



BY
ALBERT BALDEO

Pele, born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, is to football (soccer), as Muhammad Ali is to boxing, Mario Andretti to motor sports, Tom Brady to American Football, Neil Armstrong to space, Patton to WW2, Albert Einstein to physics, Michael Jordan to basketball, Gary Sobers to cricket, Tiger Woods to golf, Usain Bolt to sprinting, Serena Williams to lawn tennis, and other heroes. Or what Thomas Edison is to science, the icon he was named after. These are all worthy icons, who transcend human achievement and life, each in his own domain.

Who is an icon? An "icon" is much more known than a celebrity and is accorded to someone who leaves an indelible mark on media's history, commanding strong significance, as well as achievement and reverence. They are persons who are unusually well known, and who people look up to, icons who, like Michel Platini, one of the greatest footballers of all time, and a player who would know, said, that "to play like Pele is to play like God." Or as Pele settled this issue as to who was a greater soccer player, with another worthy contender, Diego Maradona, "But I score with right, left and head. And you not."

One of the greatest players of all time and accorded "the greatest" by FIFA, Pele was in the highest tier of the successful and popular sports figures of the 20th century. He is the only player to win three FIFA World Cups: 1958, 1962 and 1970. In 1999, he was named Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee and was included in the Time list of the 100 most important people of the 20th century. In 2000, he was voted World Player of the Century by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS) and was one of the two joint winners of the FIFA Player of the Century. His 1,279 goals in 1,363 games, which includes friendlies, is recognized as a Guinness World Record.

Fittingly, Pele has a street named after him-Rua Edson Arantes do Nascimento in the city of Três Corações in Minas Gerais state in Brazil, where he was born in 1940. A statue of him is also prominently placed in a plaza near the city's downtown. "The King of Football" (O Rei do Futebol), "The King Pelé" (O Rei Pelé) or simply "The King" (O Rei) is how he is known by. In 2014, the city of Santos inaugurated the Museu Pelé, or Pelé Museum, a display of 2,400 pieces collection of priceless Pele memorabilia, which cost approximately cost \$22 million and was so large it had to be housed in a 19th-century mansion.

Among his contemporaries, Dutch star Johan Cruyff, who played against him, stated, "Pele was the only footballer who surpassed the boundaries of logic." Carlos Alberto Torres Brazil's 1970 World



Pele, one of the greatest footballers of all time, died December 29 at the age of 82.

Photo credit/ ABC News

Cup-winning captain, reiterated, "His great secret was improvisation. Those things he did were in one moment. He had an extraordinary perception of the game," while a mesmerized Tostão, his strike partner at the 1970 World Cup echoed, "Pelé was the greatest- he was simply flawless. And off the pitch he is always smiling and upbeat. You never see him bad-tempered. He loves being Pele."

His Brazilian teammate Clodoaldo confirmed the adulation he witnessed, "In some countries they wanted to touch him, in some they wanted to kiss him. In others they even kissed the ground he walked on." Franz Beckenbauer, West Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning captain, and a great player in his own right, said, "Pele is the greatest player of all time. He reigned supreme for 20 years. There's no one to compare with him."

Pele's greatness and uniqueness lay in the fact that he was the world's first black sports icon and weaved an aura of mystique and bewilderment. After the semifinal against France in 1958, in which a teenage 17-year-old Pele scored a hat trick in a 5-2 Brazil win, the French goalkeeper, reeling from Pele's glorious skills, lamented, "I would rather play against 10 Germans than one Brazilian (Pele)."

After all, who else but Pele could have stopped a Civil War in Nigeria for two days in 1969, so both fighting sides could watch him play, at an exhibition match? These sagas of immortality, coupled with his humble beginnings from being born in a slum, and reared on dirt fields in Brazil, playing barefoot with a soccer ball made of rags, accredits him Biblical relevance to the King and Savior of the World who was similarly born in humble beginnings, a manger.

Pele's early footballs were made of stuffing a sock with old newspapers held together with strings. Even grapefruits were used. Pele, the oldest of two children, supplemented his parents inadequate income by working in tea

shops, and cleaning shoes at the local train station, until 1956. When his youth coach took him to Santos for a tryout at age 15, his world, and soccer, changed dramatically, so much so, that, at his death, NASA marked "the passing of the legendary Pele, known to many as the king of the "beautiful game." This image of a spiral galaxy in the constellation Sculptor shows the colors of Brazil."

His greatness lay to a large extent to his adeptness at dribbling the ball as if it was attached by an invisible string to his boots, explosively striking the ball with either foot, his speed and the uncanny ability to turn, accelerate and decelerate on a dime, in addition to anticipating his opponents' movements on the field moves ahead, like a chess grandmaster. Little wonder he averaged almost a goal per game throughout his career.

Pele was a unique athlete. Medical tests revealed that his heart used to beat 56 to 58 times a minute, rather than the average 90 to 95 times a minute. His aerobic capacity was such that he could repeat a 'great effort within 45 to 60 seconds' and his peripheral vision was 30 per cent greater than an average athlete.

In the early 1970s, medical experts studied Pele's body structure-the parallel feet, and the strong bones in his heels which helped his speed and acted as shock absorbers after a jump or a kick. For weeks, the New York Times added, they examined him, attached wires to his head for readings and measured his muscles before declaring: "Whatever this man might have decided to do in any physical or mental endeavor, he would have been a genius."

Brazilian soccer star Neymar said, "Pele changed everything. He turned football into art, into entertainment. He gave a voice to the poor, to black people and especially. Gave visibility to Brazil. Football and Brazil have raised their status thanks to the King! He is gone, but his magic will remain. Pele is ETERNAL!!!"

Another great, Cristiano Ronaldo, said, "A mere 'goodbye' to the eternal King Pele will never be enough to express the pain that currently embraces the entire world of football. An inspiration for so many millions, a reference from yesterday, today, forever. The affection he always showed for me was reciprocal in every moment we shared, even from a distance. He will never be forgotten and his memory will last forever in each of us football lovers. Rest in peace, King Pele. His legacy transcends generations. And that's how he will live on. Today and always, we will celebrate you."

On 1 June 2022, Pelé published an open letter to the President of Russia Vladimir Putin on his Instagram account, in which he made a public plea to stop the "evil" and "unjustified" 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, an act that raises his profile even higher.

Pele sparked the growth of interest and participation in soccer in the United States by playing for the New York Cosmos in the North American Soccer League late in his career and must be credited for the popularity and development of the sport in the USA. His legacy extends to the entire world, who treasure human endeavor and excellence in whatever form.

These stars will fade away into legend and myth, but never die. And someday people will speak of these humans and their accomplishments and be met with skepticism for who would believe that such men and women really existed. RIP, and Thank You for the memories, King Pele. Rest assured that, because you will never be forgotten, your immortality will reign supreme in your field, and you are never really gone.

(Albert Baldeo is the District Leader of Richmond Hill, NY, USA, President of the Richmond Hill Democratic Club, Asian American Labor Alliance, Chairman of the Liberty Justice Center and Baldeo Foundation, a community organization dedicated to the fight for community improvement, justice, equal rights, public safety, dignity and inclusion in the decision-making process. (718) 529-2300)



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2022 a remarkable and historic year for India-US relations



DECEMBER 28, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The year 2022 has been a remarkable and historic year for the India-US relationship, top diplomats and experts from both sides feel and are confident that 2023 would be a momentous year for the ties between the world's largest and oldest democracies that will determine the future of technology and innovation.

During the year, President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice - first on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Tokyo in May and second on the margins of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken here in September and held productive discussions on the entire gamut of Indo-US relations and the way forward.

"2022 saw further consolidation of the India-US bilateral partnership in the direction and vision set by Prime Minister Modi and President Biden," India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, told PTI as the year comes to an end.

The intensity of high-level engagements continued in the form of Quad and Bilateral Summits in Tokyo,

the 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, and visits by senior members of the Cabinet in both directions, he said.

The year also saw tangible outcomes - resolution of some old market access issues, the first-ever maintenance of a US Naval Ship in India, the Quad focus on STEM, signing of an Investment Incentive Agreement, the launch of Technology Innovation Hubs as a collaboration of the respective science agencies, record level of trade and investments, etc, said Sandhu.

"Our strategic convergences deepened, new initiatives like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) were launched while others such as I2U2 were strengthened," Sandhu said in response to a question.

Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu, concurred with Ambassador Sandhu's take on the bilateral ties, saying that he believes that the India-US relationship is one of the most consequential relationships in the world.

This relationship, he asserted, will determine whether Asia remains free and democratic.

"It will determine the future of technology and innovation. And increasingly, it will determine whether we will be successful in combating climate change," he said.

"This has been a remarkable and historic year for our relations," Lu told PTI in response to a question. "We have successfully worked in both countries to move beyond the acute phase of COVID-19 and supported millions of people around the world with innovative vaccines," he said.

"We have worked together in the Quad to launch the Indo-Pacific Partnership for

Maritime Domain Awareness and the Partnership for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. We launched the US-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment which is working to support entrepreneurship and mentoring of women business leaders," he said.

Observing that the bedrock of this relationship has always been the people-to-people relationship, the senior American diplomat said more than 1 million people travel back and forth each year between the two nations.

"This year we had a record number of Indian students studying in the United States, nearly 200,000. Our bilateral trade this year is on track to exceed last year's record of USD 157 billion. This has been a very good year indeed," Lu said.

According to Mukesh Aghi, president, and CEO of US-India Strategic and Partnership, 2022 was "a momentous year" for US-India relations, as the two nations celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations. These 75 years symbolized a long journey that had humble beginnings from the Cold War era, long before India's own economic growth story, he noted.

Today, the relationship, which has been dubbed as the most important strategic partner of the 21st century, has moved long beyond symbolic platitudes between the world's oldest and largest democracy to robust engagements across trade, defense, climate, and technology, Aghi said.

Despite the pandemic, the bilateral trade between India and the US crossed the USD 100 billion mark in 2021, and in 2022, official figures state that the overall US-India bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record USD 157 billion, a drastic increase from the 2020 trade figures, he said.

"The year 2022 has seen deep collaboration between various ministries and not just between the key principals and the Foreign Minister and Secretary of State. On the finance side, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's recent visit to India and meeting with her counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman. On the energy front, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri recently worked with his counterpart, Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm on the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, and of course Minister Piyush Goyal and USTR Katherine Tai are in regular conversations on trade," Aghi told PTI.

Next year is going to take the relationship to a new level.

"As we usher in 2023, I am confident that the bilateral relationship would cement even further to address the challenges of tomorrow, continuing to be a partnership for global good. India's G-20 Presidency and the commonalities that India's priorities as President have with the US will also be a significant factor in this," Sandhu told PTI when asked about the India-US relationship in 2023.

Excited about what lies ahead in 2023, Lu said India has the G20 presidency for the first time, and the United States looks forward to working closely with India at all levels of government in support of this important position.

"This year we plan to move forward on intensive collaboration in the defense and clean energy fields. We have committed ourselves to support Prime Minister Modi's Make in India efforts through more co-production of cutting-edge defense technologies in India," Lu told PTI.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

contd from page 1

PM Modi's mother Heeraben passes away; cremated in Gandhinagar

hospitalized was on the eve of the Gujarat polls on December 4 when he went to seek her blessings in Gandhinagar. Paying tributes to his mother, the PM tweeted, "A splendid century long life has come to an end. In my mother, I saw the trinity-of a hermit, an ascetic and a life devoted to ideals."

Heeraba is survived by five sons-PM Modi and brothers Soma Bhai, Amrutbhai, Prahladbhai and Pankajbhai, and daughter Vasantiben. The PM and his brothers lit the pyre at their mother's last rites in Gandhinagar. Earlier, the PM reached Ahmedabad from Delhi and went straight to the house of brother Pankaj Modi at Raysan village on Gandhinagar outskirts where the mortal remains of Heeraba were kept. After carrying the mortal remains for some distance, the PM boarded the mortuary van to accompany his mother on her last journey to the cremation ground.

President Droupadi Murmu led the tributes to Heeraba, hailing her simple and compassionate life.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu also paid tributes.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Heeraba's 100 years of struggle are a symbol of Indian ideals. Shri Modi imbibed the spirit of '#Matradevobhav' (Mother is

God) and the values of Heeraba in his life. I pray for the peace of the holy soul (sic)," the President said. A prayer meeting in the memory of Heeraba would be held later at Vadnagar, the family's native place. Born in Mehsana, she led an active life and often made headlines. She was seen standing in a queue to withdraw cash from an ATM after PM Modi declared demonetization in 2016. She also made news when she accepted the Covid vaccine and was a regular voter. -

Condolences poured in from leaders across the world. My deepest condolences. May her soul rest in peace. - Fumio Kishida, Japanese PM

May she rest in peace and may you find solace in her memory and the rich heritage she bequeathed to you and many others. - Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel PM

There is no greater loss than losing one's mother. My condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. - Shehbaz Sharif, Pak PM

We have seen how instrumental her role was in every aspect of your life as a mother, motivator and mentor. - Sheikh Hasina, B'desh PM.

China's US envoy Qin Gang is the country's new Foreign Minister

the Taiwan issue. The US must oppose and stop "Taiwan independence", support the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and China's peaceful reunification, he had written.

But Qin has also been reflecting Beijing's desire to

mend fences with the US by stating recently that the China-US ties are not a zero-sum game. Xi held his first in-person summit with US President Joe Biden in Bali last November. - TNS

Rishabh Pant hurt as car catches fire after crash in Haridwar, hospitalized

Haridwar district around 5.30 am, the police said. The driver and other staff of a Haryana Roadways bus helped the cricketer get out of the burning Mercedes Benz, said Haridwar SSP Ajai Singh. The car was completely charred and reduced to a mangled heap.

Pant, who was alone in the car, reportedly dozed off and the car hit the divider before bursting into flames, he said.

The bus driver, Sushil Kumar, said he saw the car ramming into the divider and ran over to help. Dr Sushil Nagar, who treated Pant at a Roorkee hospital where he was initially taken, said there was no fracture, but a ligament injury in the knee. He was later taken to Max Hospital, Dehradun.

PM Narendra Modi was among those who sent in their best wishes for his speedy recovery. "Distressed by the accident of noted cricketer Rishabh Pant. I pray for his good health and well-being," he tweeted. The Haryana Government, meanwhile, said it would honor driver Sushil Singh and conductor Paramjit for rescuing the cricketer from his blazing car. (Source: PTI)



BCCI to review T20 World Cup performance in new year

The BCCI brass will review India's underwhelming performance in the T20 World Cup with skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid on January 1, according to BCCI sources.

NCA chief VVS Laxman, who has been with the Indian team in Dravid's absence, is also expected to be part of the meeting.

The meeting in Mumbai is scheduled ahead of limited overs against Sri Lanka beginning on January 3.

England had hammered India by 10 wickets in the World Cup semi-finals, extending their barren run in ICC events since 2013 when they won the Champions Trophy under M S Dhoni's leadership. The last world title came at home in 2011.

"Head coach Rahul Dravid and NCA head VVS Laxman are expected to analyse India's performance with BCCI bosses. The roadmap going into 2023 World Cup is also expected to be discussed," said the source.

The selection panel led by Chetan Sharma were shown the door post the World Cup but a new panel is yet to be formed.

The committee was sacked in November but it continues to track the ongoing Ranji Trophy and also picked the team for three T20s and ODIs against Sri Lanka.

The Cricket Advisory Committee, which was formed earlier this month, met in Mumbai on Friday to shortlist the list of candidates for the selectors' posts.

Source: PTI

New Zealand vs Pakistan Test in Karachi ends in draw

KARACHI (TIP)

The opening Test between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium in Karachi ended in a draw. It meant that Pakistan stayed winless in their last seven Test matches at home.

At Stumps on Day 4, the match was poised for a stalemate. Imam-ul-Haq scored 96 as Pakistan declared their second innings at 311 for the loss of eight wickets. The left-hander failed to read a googly from Ish Sodhi, who got the batter out stumped after beating him all ends up.

Saud Shakeel and Sarfaraz Ahmed were also impressive, having scored 55 and 53 respectively. Mohammad Wasim Jr added 43 runs and was also involved in a 71-run stand with Shakeel. Agha Salman, who scored a hundred in the first innings, fell cheaply.

Sodhi was the pick of the bowlers for the Black Caps as he finished with stupendous figures of 37-11-86-6. Michael Bracewell picked up two wickets as well.

Babar Azam took a brave call of declaring their second innings and setting New Zealand a target of 138 runs with 15 overs left. In their run-chase, the Kiwis came out all guns blazing and tried to give Pakistan a run for their money. The visiting team lost the early wicket of Bracewell as Abrar Ahmed rattled his woodwork.

However, Devon Conway and Tom Latham threw their bats around to give New Zealand some hope. The duo put on an



Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Michael Bracewell (R) during the fifth and final day of the first Test match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium in Karachi on December 30, 2022. (Photo: Getty Images)

The second Test is scheduled to get underway on Monday, January 2 at the National Stadium in Karachi.

In Short

- New Zealand were asked to chase 138 in their 2nd innings
- Pakistan haven't won a home Test in 2022
- The second Test against New Zealand will start on January 2

unbeaten partnership of 52 runs off 6.3 overs, but bad light stopped play once and for all.

The Kiwis finished their innings at 61 for the loss of one

wicket in 7.3 overs.

The second Test is scheduled to get underway on Monday, January 2 at the National Stadium in Karachi.

Melbourne Cricket Club expresses interest to host Indo-Pak Test

MELBOURNE (TIP)

The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) has expressed interest in hosting a Test match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan after successfully organising the marquee T20 World Cup clash between the two sides earlier this year.

MCC, which manages the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the Victoria government recently enquired with Cricket Australia (CA) about the possibility of hosting the high-profile Test.

"Three (Tests) in a row would be lovely at the MCG. You'd fill it every time. We have asked," MCC chief executive Stuart Fox said.

"We've taken that up with Cricket Australia. I know the (Victoria) government has as well. Again, it's enormously complicated from what I can understand, amongst a really busy schedule. So I think that's probably the greater challenge. Wouldn't it be great that it wasn't just Australia-centric and Victoria-centric, that we're catering for all the countries and filling the stadium all the time. So we have asked," he added

"Hopefully, CA keep taking it up with the ICC



and keep pushing for it. When you do see some of the stadiums around the world unoccupied, I think it would be much better to have a full house," he added.

Source: PTI

Ronaldo will play for Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr until 2025

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has joined Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr on a 2-1/2 year contract, the club announced on Friday, December 30, after leaving Manchester United to become a free agent.

Ronaldo departed Old Trafford last month following an explosive television interview in which the 37-year-old forward said he felt betrayed by the club and did not respect their Dutch manager Erik ten Hag.

Al Nassr issued a statement saying the five-time Ballon D'or winner will join on a deal until 2025 but did not disclose any financial details. Ronaldo's contract has been estimated by media to be worth more than 200 million euros (\$214.04 million).

"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia," Ronaldo said in the statement.

"I am looking forward to joining my new team mates and together with them help the Club to achieve success."

Source: Reuters



History This Week

DECEMBER 30, 2022 TO JANUARY 05, 2023

DECEMBER 30



Iroquois Theater

December 30, 1903 - In Chicago, a fire inside the Iroquois Theater killed 588 persons, eventually resulting in new fire safety codes for theaters.

December 30, 1922 - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was established through the confederation of Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine and the Transcaucasian Federation.

December 30, 1947 - King Michael of Romania was forced to abdicate after the Communists seized power.

December 30, 1988 - President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush were subpoenaed to testify in the trial of Oliver North, a former White House aide implicated in the Iran-Contra affair in which arms were secretly sold to Iran while profits from the sale were diverted to guerrillas trying to topple the Nicaraguan government in South America.

December 30, 1993 - Israel and the Vatican signed an agreement on mutual recognition, seeking to end 2,000 years of unfriendly Christian-Jewish relations.

Birthdays - Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was born in Bombay, India. He was a British poet, novelist, short story writer, best known for his children's stories such as the Jungle Book.

Birthdays - Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo (1884-1948) was born in Tokyo. He led Japan during World War II and was arrested in August 1945 as a war criminal, tried, then hanged in 1948.

DECEMBER 31

December 31, 1971 - Austrian Kurt Waldheim became U.N. Secretary-General following the retirement of U Thant. Waldheim served until 1981 then resumed his career in Austrian politics. In 1986, he ran for the presidency. During the campaign, it was revealed he had likely given false

information concerning his military service in the German Army during World War II. He claimed he left the army in 1942 after being wounded on the Russian Front, but allegations arose that he was actually lieutenant in 1943-44 stationed in the Balkans when Greek Jews were rounded up and sent to Nazi death camps and when atrocities were committed against Yugoslav resistance fighters.



George C. Marshall

Birthdays - George C. Marshall (1880-1959) was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He had genius for organization and served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army throughout World War II, expanding the Army from 130,000 to 8,300,000 men. He then served as Secretary of State under President Truman and designed the Marshall Plan for the relief of war torn Europe and to halt the spread of Communism.

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day - The most celebrated holiday around the world.



Edmund Barton

January 1, 1901 - The Commonwealth of Australia was founded as six former British colonies became six states with Edmund Barton as the first prime minister.

January 1, 1915 - During World War I, the British Battleship Formidable was hit by a torpedo in the English Channel, killing 547 crewmen.

January 1, 1942 - Twenty six countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their opposition to

the Axis powers and confirming that no single nation would make a separate peace.

January 1, 1958 - The EEC (European Economic Community) known as the Common Market was formed by Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands in order to remove trade barriers and coordinate trade policies.

January 1, 1959 - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba after leading a revolution that drove out Dictator Fulgencio Batista. Castro then established a Communist dictatorship.

January 1, 1973 - Britain, Ireland and Denmark became members of the Common Market (EEC).

January 1, 1975 - During the Watergate scandal, former top aides to President Nixon including former Attorney General John Mitchell, Domestic Affairs Advisor John Ehrlichman and Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman, were found guilty of obstruction of justice.

January 1, 1979 - China and the U.S. established diplomatic relations, 30 years after the foundation of the People's Republic.

January 1, 1993 - Czechoslovakia broke into separate Czech and Slovak republics.

January 1, 1999 - Eleven European nations began using a new single European currency, the Euro, for electronic financial and business transactions. Participating countries included; Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.



Paul Revere

Birthdays - American Patriot Paul Revere (1735-1818) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Best known for his ride on the night of April 18, 1775, warning Americans of British plans to raid Lexington and Concord.

JANUARY 2

January 2, 1905 - The Russians surrendered to the Japanese after the Battle of Port Arthur

during the Russian-Japanese War. A peace conference was later held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, with President Theodore Roosevelt serving as a mediator. In September of 1905, the Russians agreed to the Treaty of Portsmouth yielding Port Arthur and the Liaodong Peninsula to Japan. Russia also agreed to evacuate Manchuria and recognize Japan's interests in Korea.

January 2, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.



Senator John F. Kennedy

January 2, 1960 - In Washington, D.C., Senator John F. Kennedy announced his intention to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

JANUARY 3

January 3, 1777 - During the American Revolution, General George Washington defeated the British at Princeton and drove them back toward New Brunswick. Washington then established winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the long harsh winter, Washington's army shrank to about a thousand men as enlistments expired and deserters fled.



Howard Carter

January 3, 1924 - British Egyptologist Howard Carter found the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor after several years of searching.

January 3, 1946 - An Englishman known during World War II as "Lord Haw Haw"

(William Joyce) was hanged for treason in London. Joyce had broadcast Nazi propaganda via radio from Germany to Britain during the war.

January 3, 1961 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba two years after Communist dictator Fidel Castro had seized power and just weeks before John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the next president.

January 3, 1990 - Manuel Noriega, the deposed leader of Panama, surrendered to American authorities on charges of drug trafficking after spending 10 days hiding in the Vatican embassy following the U.S. invasion of Panama.

January 3, 1993 - President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the Start-II (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of each country's long range nuclear weapons.

JANUARY 4

January 4, 1790 - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.

January 4, 1974 - President Richard Nixon rejected subpoenas from the Senate Watergate Committee seeking audio tapes and related documents.

Birthdays - Louis Braille (1809-1852) was born in France. Blinded as a boy, he later invented a reading system for the blind using punch marks in paper.

JANUARY 5



Nellie Tayloe

January 5, 1925 - Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female governor inaugurated in the U.S.

January 5, 1968 - Alexander Dubcek became first secretary of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party. He introduced liberal reforms known as "Communism with a human face" which resulted in Soviet Russian troops invading Prague to crack down.

World Vegan Vision organizes a Thanksgiving Dinner and Dance



The force behind World Vegan Vision

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): World Vegan Vision (WVV) organized Thanksgiving Dinner and Dance with over 150 people attending at Antuns' by Minar here on November 19. The organization dedicated this event to celebrate its 30th anniversary, The first Indian elected representative from the Town of North Hempstead Honorable Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava graced the occasion.

years of its journey and we have been celebrating this milestone throughout this year. Thanks to our Founders HK Shah ji and Malti Shah ji, who have been nurturing this organization with Tan, man and Dhan from day 1. And they have been doing it for a good cause, promoting healthy lifestyle and compassion towards animals". She further stated that "I personally experienced enormous health benefits of becoming vegan. I



Town of North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava (6th from the left) was a center of attraction at the event . To her left is Suman Munjal, President of World Vegan Vision New York Chapter

World Vegan Vision is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote veganism and healthy

lifestyle. The main mission of World Vegan Vision is to increase the public awareness about the 3 main aspects of Veganism: Health, Animal Welfare, and Environmental Conservation.

The main function started at 7:20 PM with Vice President Gunjan Rastogi welcoming the audience and inviting the Treasurer Kirti Shukla for singing both American and Indian National Anthem. Suman Munjal, President of World Vegan Vision New York Chapter, in her speech welcomed and thanked all the dignitaries, trustees, sponsors, past presidents, community leaders, executive committee members and the invited guests for coming. She stated that "World Vegan Vision has completed 30

controlled my diabetes and cholesterol with a vegan diet. I would like to encourage everyone to join in, become vegan and experience the benefits of veganism".

Founder and Chairman Mr. H.K. Shah in his speech thanked the people for all their help and support for the last 30 years. Chandra Mehta Vice Chair of WVV and wife of the Trustee Mr. K. K. Mehta thanked everybody for coming and for their continued help and support, especially when she organized the 25th anniversary of Vegetarian Vision/World Vegan Vision.

Dr Moiz Kasubhai and Vice President, Mr. Rakesh Bhargava held a detailed and very Informative Question Answer Session on the benefits of plant-based diet, vegan lifestyle and welfare of the animals.

Founder and Chairman Mr. H K Shah announced that with the expiry of Suman Munjal's term as president in December 2022, Mr. Rakesh Bhargava, who has been a vegan for the last 20 years, will be taking over the presidency of WVV starting January 2023.

melodious voice and people danced to their heart's content for over 2 hours.

Dinner was served. Everyone enjoyed the Delicious vegan dishes served during Appetizers hour and dinner, including vegan yogurt, ice cream and jalebis.

Free Raffle was conducted with a lot of



Fun time. Dancing with Varsha Joshi

Varsha Joshi, versatile singer from New Jersey along with her troupe of singers and instruments players entertained the crowd with her

good prizes.

Program concluded with a vote of thanks by the Secretary, Tejal Raval.

(Press Release by Gobind Munjal)

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Brahman Samaj of New York (BSNY) celebrated Diwali



Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment and Innovation for NYC Mayor Eric Adam's Office for International Affairs was among those honored at the event.

Photo / Vijay Shah-photojournalist

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Brahman Samaj of New York (BSNY), established in 2022, proudly celebrated Diwali-The Festival of Light at The Cotillion, NY on Sunday, November 20th, 2022. Diwali is celebration of new beginnings, change and the triumph of right over wrong, light over darkness. It is the time to come together, look forward to the future and enjoy each other's company over delicious food, fun, and a warm atmosphere.

Divyesh Tripathi, Founder, President of BSNY along with his committee took this opportunity to present and offer their best wishes for Diwali and new year. Also introduce BSNY Women's Wing. Advisory Committee member, Rohit Pandya

presented his welcome speech for the audience. Program Manager, Chandrakant Shah, EC members and volunteers managed the entire event very smoothly. The program began with Deep Pragatya by EC including BOD, Advisory Committee, Grand and Platinum Sponsors.

Function was graced by Town Clerk respected Ragini Srivastava from Town of North Hempstead and Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment and Innovation for NYC Mayor Eric Adams office for International Affairs. BSNY honored them with a flower bouquet. They appreciated President, Divyesh Tripathi



Town of North Hempstead Clerk Ragini Srivastav is seen here with BSNY officials and guests

Photo / Vijay Shah-photojournalist

and his EC for their valuable contributions to the community. BSNY expressed gratitude by presenting plaque, Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation to the individuals and organizations who contributed generously for the success of the Samaj.

Renowned singers Kashyap Jani and Anitha Krishnan along with live band mesmerized the gathering, started with Lord Shiv Vandana, slowly followed by ever captivating Bollywood songs, inviting audience to dance and express their happiness.

Founder, President Divyesh Tripathi, BOD-Harshad Patel (Pakaji), Anil Shah, EC-Hiren Vyas, Harish Dave, Sanjay Dave, Vikas Bhalodkar, Chandrakant Shah,

Parag Patel, Rekha Trivedi, Virendra Banker, Paresh Raval, Harsh Vyas, Advisory Committee-Rohit Pandya, Dr. Himanshu Pandya, Ragini Srivastav, Dilip Chauhan, Jagat Rawal, Bhadrash Acharya, Mukesh Modi, Women's Wing-Renuka Shah, Tejal Raval, Ami Tripathi, Poonam Shah-Bhatt, Nikita Pancholi, and Reshma Lalwani were among the more prominent attendees.

Nothing of the above would have been possible without the overwhelming support of all organizations, sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers for the grand success of the event. BSNY Thanks to all.

(Press release and photograph by Vijay Shah, photojournalist)

The India Center Comes of age

NEW YORK (TIP): 2022 has been an amazing year for The India Center because we were selected by the NYCxDDesign Festival to exhibit our Graphic Designs for the first time.

There were also some other firsts like being contacted by several schools both private and public to present Indian Cultural Programs to their students.

A group of five friends who were passionate about Indian Culture got together for dinner one evening in 2003 and The India Center was born.

It has been an interesting journey from hosting Dance and Music events on Cable TV to doing full day events at the Baruch Performing Arts Center which included Yoga, Ayurveda and Vastu. Then switching to Zoom during the pandemic.

It is a time to thank all those who have supported us in the last 20 years and to reflect on the path we need to take in the coming years.

Our immense gratitude to all our amazing instructors especially Guru Sanjay Attada and Guru Manjulanandji for their staunch support of our projects over the years. We feel so honored when he says, "Working with India Center is always a pleasure because I get to contribute to bringing Indian culture to the larger community. Not only am I fortunate to be able to speak about my favorite aspects of Indian culture - yoga - but also I am able to collaborate with



other speakers. Being able to share perspectives with other people equally passionate about Indian culture helps me enrich my own experience and bring out stories to the community at large. The process of working with India Center has always been smooth and cooperative. Speaking with India Center is always enjoyable because everyone is accommodating and allows the event to come together seamlessly. I am thankful to have spoken at the India Center in the past and hope to do so in the future."

Special thanks to our amazing performers, especially the little ones, some as young as four years old, whose devotion to traditional Indian Arts despite the lack of resources and support is heartening. We had two little boys

perform regularly at our festivals. The children would wake up at 3:00 am on Sundays and were driven by their mother, a doctor with a busy work schedule, all the way from their home near PA to their teacher's home in Long Island NY for their 6:00 am Carnatic Music lessons. They inspire us to do our best and remind us how Indian Culture has survived despite all odds.

We wish to thank our friends at Manhattan Neighborhood Network who have always gone above and beyond their call of duty to help us out. Without them there would be no India Center.

Thanks to Keshav Das for his help and Eddie Stern for letting us use his Patanjali Yoga Studio to launch the very first Saraswati Arts Festival.

We also wish to thank all our dedicated volunteers who have put in blood sweat and tears to make our events happen. Some of them have worked with us for years - Atul Kapoor, Ashu Kapoor, Anita Ghei, Deepti Vij, Dinesh Pai, Sonali Daripkar, Navin Hadge, Charles Caminiti, Gloria Messer, Patricia Rios, Jasmine Lindo, Nat Wood, Nelson Torres, and scores of others whose names we cannot include because of the paucity of space.

And last but not the least, a very special thank you to the team at Lower Manhattan Cultural Council for believing in us and supporting our projects over the years and to Google for their Adwords Grant.

We hope we live up to the expectations of Gurus, performers and supporters in the coming years.

When the India Center was launched in 2003 the goal was to host events that would give children a platform to display their talent in Traditional Indian Arts. Most of the money and resources for the arts has been taken up by Bollywood and there is little space left for Traditional Arts. We felt that our youth who study Traditional Arts which has been passed on from generation to generation through the Guru Shishya Parampara needed our support.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

UN Women Executive Director condemns the Taliban prohibition of women working with non-governmental organizations

DECEMBER 27, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Once again, the de facto authorities of Afghanistan have found new ways to harm the women and girls of Afghanistan. As the world remains outraged by recent decisions to ban women and girls from higher education, the decree issued on the 24th December barring women from working in national and international NGOs is yet another stark violation of women's rights and humanitarian principles. We strongly condemn this without reservation.

This is relentless misogyny, a virulent attack on women, their contribution, their freedom and their voice. It is yet another repudiation of every norm and standard of women's human rights and respect for human dignity.

In barring women from contributing to the efforts of aid organizations, the Taliban has in effect suspended aid for half the population of Afghanistan, aid that they depended on and without which they will not survive.

11.6 million women and girls are no longer receiving vital assistance. Women-headed households, which make up almost a quarter of households in Afghanistan, have nowhere left to turn and no livelihood support. Many national and



UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous has characterized it as "relentless misogyny, a virulent attack on women, their contribution, their freedom and their voice" in Taliban barring women from contributing to the efforts of aid organizations.

international NGOs are unable to operate without their female staff. All services for women are impacted including their access to water, sanitation, hygiene, protection, food, shelter and livelihoods.

The consequences of this are further increasing the vulnerability of women and girls already at risk, as services for survivors of violence or to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse are shut down. Thousands of children and families who depended on the income that women delivering humanitarian assistance brought in, are now even more destitute.

There can be no greater catastrophe in the face of humanitarian crisis than to remove the contribution of half the population in navigating Afghanistan's daunting challenges.

UN Women stands in full solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan. I stress again our complete condemnation of the continued erasure and oppression of Afghanistan's women and girls from public life and our outrage at this latest act of cruelty.

The de facto authorities must know that their actions are undertaken under the full light and scrutiny of the international community and always will be. UN Women has stayed and delivered in Afghanistan, and we will remain. Together with our partners we will make every effort to ensure that women and girls reclaim their space in contributing to the future of Afghanistan, and that their rights are restored, protected and upheld.

Reader's write



TIRLOK MALIK

2022 World was full of challenges and it will continue in 2023

Health, wealth and World peace was one major fear or issue for a lot of people in 2022 and it will continue in 2023 also.

The atmosphere around covid is unpredictable again. Health is a real concern and we all know that wealth because rising inflation and fear of the economy going worse than what it is now in 2022 and 2023. Peace in the world where it is when there is war going on some place in the world for reasons beyond a common human understanding, but war is justified in closed air-conditioned offices of governments controlled by their own egos and certain wrong beliefs.

So, 2022 was a very disturbing full of problems all over the world. I mean the outer world, then there is inner world of everybody, that's where one has to find peace happiness inside which is not easy when the outer world is in many conflicts. Lots of people have difficulty in finding peace within them and still many do.

For me, personally, taking care of myself and being responsible for my wellbeing is important but I get emotionally affected by my outer world. I have to force myself unsuccessfully not to get affected by what is happening around me. It has disturbed my peace many times.

Talking and sharing with friends is healing. I am grateful to the universe for everything. 2023 could be a difficult year in many ways, it seems. Let's hope for a better year.

My suggestion is to be responsible towards your wellbeing and learn to be more grateful to the universe and the people in your life.

Explore within you happiness, contentment and inner peace. Once one practices this exploration then it can be easier to face challenges in life. Then there are realities of living such as work, family, finances, etc which bring other challenges for individuals depending on their circumstances.

Having said this, I still say welcome 2023 with hope and self-care responsibility.

So, Happy New Year... It sounds good to say it and to hear it!

(Tirlok Malik is an Emmy Nominated Filmmaker | Actor | Happy Life Yoga Speaker)



BY VIJAY SHAH

2022 demands "Think to change as per the need of time in 2023"

A well-known phrase is: "The impression you create may affect future opportunities, collaborations or other important matters."

Following a strong rebound of 2022, the global economy is entering a pronounced slowdown amongst fresh threats from COVID-19 and variants which has the rise in inflation, debt, and income inequality that could be endangering the recovery in evolving and developing economies. It's a time of global crisis.

The slowdown of 2022 had coincided with a widening divergence in growth rates. Meanwhile, rising inflation which hits working communities particularly hard. 2022 left the impression of downsizing economy, covid ups and down flow, high inflation globally, political scenarios and revolution in job downsizing orientated working patters had added on and on impacted scenarios where stock market fall resulted like or looked like recession period in 2022.

The past pandemic period time is moved with process and affected economy, political status, 401K or marketplace inflation etc... Everyone and everyone is thinking now of future: what will be the next change for good?

Let's not think of negativity for India. I have

seen one person who made change with passing of time to positivity, process of progress, prosperity by not giving importance to self but to the nation. Economic growth of India captured global attention.

One man made difference in building economy, national ethics, creative - positive thinking, safe, healthy nation and many more to add, and that person is none other than Mr. Narendra Modi who made global impact in 2022. Anyone and everyone should learn how to convert crisis into opportunities by focus, analysis, planning, implementation of policies for growth and progress for impacted achievements of India. I have learned a lot and admire such people who made changes for "Not to Cry but for Try". Let's use time of crisis into opportunities, and that's the myth in 2023.

The time has come in 2023, when changes are needed in many aspects. From "Office work in offices to homes", "fixed timing of work" to "work at own pace" with task complex to completion. Buying power by going to marketplace to shop online, driving revolution on roads by Uber, Lyft to many more, Car revolution from gas to electric... These kinds of changes make us think that should we also change with change of time? The answer is "YES". The time has come that we all have to think to change as per the need of time and that will be the resolution for the coming 2023.

(Mr. Vijay Shah is a photojournalist. He contributes to The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at freelanceusmedia@gmail.com)



May Guru Gobind Singh Ji inspire you to achieve all your goals and may his blessings be with you in whatever you do.

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HINDI TECHING IN USA, LEARNING IN INDIA



BY
ASHOK OJHA

THE PARTICIPANTS OF YHS FULBRIGHT-HAYS GPA SHORT TERM CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 2022 OBSERVED, LEARNED, COLLECTED VARIETIES OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN INDIA DURING THE 4 WEEKLONG STUDY TOUR FROM OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 26, 2022.

In January 2022 I submitted a proposal to the US Department of Education on behalf of Yuva Hindi Sansthan, a NJ based non-profit educational organization, of which I am the president. The proposal was approved and I was granted the 'Fulbright-Hays GPA Short-Term /Curricula Development Award 2022'.

Under the program I was mandated to recruit 12 US based teachers and students and led them on a Study Tour to India. I selected 12 participants on the basis of their academic interests and teaching goals. All participants had expressed their commitment to teaching Hindi in the cultural contexts. I conducted the Study Tour during the months of October and November 2022. The purpose of the tour was to familiarize US based teachers and student teachers with the ground realities at various locations in India, created by global warming and climate change. The segment of 'Sustainability' was added into the area studies theme of 'Climate Change'. Participants were required to study the impact of 'Climate Change', in the cultural contexts of India and be aware of the 'sustainable' lifestyle of certain communities. We were also required to collect authentic materials in the native land of the Hindi language, India.



FULBRIGHT-HAYS GPA program participants in Delhi, India

The Study Tour program was facilitated as planned. All participants boarded the United Airlines flight on October 28, 2022 at Newark International Airport. We arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on October 29, 2022 where our Indian staff members welcomed us at the airport. The Indian staff included Binod Choubey, who was an experienced production manager employed with Adhikari Brothers in Mumbai. Cameraman Manoj Singh, has previously worked with me in India and was very excited to be part of this project. Rajesh Sah, the third member of the Indian staff, was entrusted with editing video footage that Manoj captured on a daily basis. Thanks to this team, we produced and edited more than two dozen video films during the tour.

I have been teaching Hindi in the United States for more than a one and half dec-ade. As a language teacher I know how to integrate the World Readiness Standards in my teaching materials. I believe that ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching Foreign Languages) proficiency guidelines and the best practices endorsed by STARTALK Language Program offer an ideal framework for teaching a foreign language such as Hindi. In order to follow ACTFL proficiency guidelines and world Readiness Standards it is important to use 'authentic materials' that are needed to develop learning curricula. These authentic materials can only be acquired in the native land



YHS Fulbright-Hays participant Anubhooti Kabra speaking at the reception organized by Mumbai Hindi journalists Nov 16, 2022

where the language was born. Hence our Study Tour played an important role in acquiring authentic materials. It supported the curricula developed on the basis of those materials by the language teacher participants. The curricula thus produced will be freely disseminated by the US Department of Education. On our part we will make all video films, produced during the Study Tour, available on our website, <https://21stcenturyhindi.com/phase-II>.

For four weeks our team travelled to various parts of India that are deeply im-pacted by the climate change. First we travelled to Nainital, a hill station in the northern state of Uttarakhand. We camped at Hotel Vikram situated close to our academic partner, Kumaun University and downtown Nainital. Ajay Rawat, an environment expert on the ecology of the Himalayas, presented detailed information on land erosion and water pollution in the region. Next morning, we visited an area called Ballia Nala, where we witnessed the devastation caused by land erosion. Here we met with locals who live fearful of further landslide. A road passing through the area was completely cut off due to landslide. We learned that the city's sewerage system was too old that created hollow spaces in the hills. We met activists who were working to create awareness among people about water pollution and climate.



YHS Fulbright-Hays participants interacting with environmentalist Vandana Shiva in Dehradun, November 8th, 2022

We left Nainital for Jim Corbett Forest area and then to Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand state. We rented safari jeeps to travel inside the forest and observed the impact of Climate Change on the wildlife. We continued our journey to Dehradun where we camped at Navdhanya complex, a farmland established by the noted environmentalist Vandana Shiva, who mentored us on the traditional living. We observed people engaged in producing agricultural crops using compost fertilizer. Dr. Shiva lectured and demonstrated benefits of sustainable living that was possible with organic farming and a simple lifestyle. Our participants joined local farmers and villagers to get hands-on experience on sustainable living.

In order to enhance our knowledge and understanding about sustainable living we flew to Mumbai. We travelled by road from Mumbai to Dahanu, a coastal town where the Warli tribal folks live a self-contained life in their hutments. They use local resources to build huts, fishing and creating world famous Warli paintings. We met a few Warli artists and farmers to learn about 'sustainability' and depiction of life in their paintings. Our participants took part in art workshops conducted by experienced Warli artists and visited local schools to experience how Warli boys and girls were learning language and art.

Our fourth and the final destination was Alwar district in the state of Rajasthan-the region that has experienced water shortage for decades. Alwar is also home of dozens of wild animals who live in the forest of Sariska. We learned about impact of climate change on the local communities. There was depletion of water levels in local wells and ponds that affected the lives of people and animals. However, the local population has managed to store rainwater by construction small dams. The traditional methodology to rejuvenate wells, ponds and rivers was revived by Tarun Bharat Sangh, a local non-Government organization in the early Eighties. Since then, volunteers of TBS, under the mentorship of Dr. Rajendra Singh, a Magasaysay Award winner social activist, have been working with villagers to preserve water resources by constructing Johads and Pokhars, as the small dams are locally known as. They have preserved water for drinking and irrigating farmland, rejuvenated rivers to raise water levels in the village wells enabling women and girls to engage in more productive activities than just fetching water from miles away. Today the villages of Alwar district have enough water for drinking and irrigating their farmland. They are able to sustain their lives which has been facing impact of climate change.

(Ashok Ojha, a NJ based journalist and teacher, recipient of this year's 'Fulbright-Hays' GPA project, funded by the US Department of Education, teaches Hindi under the banner of Yuva Hindi Sansthan, a non-profit educational outfit <https://21stcenturyhindi.com/>)

Ashok directed dozens of federally funded language programs for teaching Hindi. He has also directed a number of educational films. Before moving to the USA in 1996 he worked as a journalist in India for more than two decades.

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