



The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the 74th Republic Day of India. Articles and advertisements may please be emailed by January 18, 2023 to salujaindra@gmail.com For any questions, please call 646-247-9458. Visit www.theindianpanorama.news

GEORGE SANTOS FACES CALLS TO RESIGN



George Santos, the first-year Republican lawmaker, representing parts of Queens and Long Island, admitted to lying about his background, education and finances. Photo / www.house.gov

JANUARY 11, 2023

WESTBURY, N.Y. (TIP): Dozens of Republican officials in New York State, including four recently elected congressmen, urged Representative George Santos, on Wednesday, January 11, to resign in a fracturing of local party support for Mr. Santos. Their call represented a sharp break from congressional Republican leaders, who insisted they would not push the embattled congressman to resign.

Even as Mr. Santos's former allies in New York insisted that his fabrications on the campaign trail had significantly violated the public trust, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said that he not only would resist calls to push Mr. Santos out, but that he planned to seat him on a congressional committee.

"The voters elected him to serve," Mr. McCarthy told reporters in Washington, adding that Mr. Santos "has to answer to the voters and the voters can make another decision in two years."

Mr. Santos, who was elected to represent New York's Third Congressional District, a consequential swing district in Queens

CONTD ON PAGE 38

AG Garland Names Special Counsel in Biden Documents Case

The announcement by the attorney general, Merrick Garland, came after the discovery of two batches of classified documents from Mr. Biden's time as vice president.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Attorney General Merrick B. Garland on Thursday, January 12, appointed Robert K. Hur, a veteran prosecutor who worked in the Trump administration, to handle the investigation into how classified documents from President Biden's time as vice president ended up at his private office and home.

Mr. Hur, who previously served as the U.S. attorney for Maryland during the Trump administration, is responsible for investigating "the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered" at the office of Mr. Biden's think tank in Washington and his residence in Wilmington, Del., according to the order signed by Mr. Garland on Thursday.

Mr. Hur, who also served as a top department official in the deputy attorney general's office in 2017 and 2018, is authorized to prosecute any crimes



Robert K. Hur, a veteran prosecutor who worked in the Trump administration, will be special counsel.

File photo / United States Attorney's Office

arising from the inquiry or to refer matters for prosecution by federal attorneys in other jurisdictions, the order said.

The decision to select a special counsel to look into the handling of the documents, which include briefing materials on foreign countries, comes at an extraordinary moment for Mr. Garland, who in November tapped Jack Smith, a former war crimes and public corruption, prosecutor, to lead the investigations into former President Donald J. Trump's mishandling of government documents and his actions related to the Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021.

A senior department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the decision by Mr. Garland "was not taken lightly" but was required under department regulations as "a textbook

CONTD ON PAGE 38

BEING 1 PER CENT OF US POPULATION, INDIAN-AMERICANS PAY 6 PER CENT OF TAXES: CONGRESSMAN RICH MCCORMICK



JANUARY 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-Americans who constitute about one per cent of the US population pay about six per cent of the taxes, a Congressman Rich McCormick told his Congressional colleagues on Thursday, January 12, noting that this ethnic community does not cause problems and follows the laws.

In his maiden speech on the House floor, Rich McCormick, 54, says one of the five doctors in his community is from India and describes Indian-Americans as great patriots, upstanding citizens and good friends

File photo

doctors in his community is from India and described Indian-Americans as great patriots, upstanding citizens and good friends. "Although they make up about one per cent of American society, they pay about six per cent of the taxes. They're amongst the top producers, and they do not cause problems.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

50 INDIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AMONG AMERICA'S TOP 300 FOR THE REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH 2023

JANUARY 11, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): About 50 Indian American students are among 300 semifinalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2023, said to be the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.



Regeneron Science Talent Search is said to be the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

The 300 scholars selected from 1,949 applications from 627 high schools across America and four other countries, will be awarded \$2,000 each and their schools will be awarded \$2,000 for each enrolled scholar, Society for Science announced Jan 10. Scholars were chosen based on their outstanding research, leadership skills, community involvement, commitment to academics, creativity in asking scientific questions and

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Advertisement for 7-Day Cruise on Norwegian Encore Alaska from Seattle, Washington, May 21 - May 28, 2023. Starting from \$975 per person. Includes 5 ports of call: Seattle Washington, Juneau Alaska, Skagway Alaska, Ketchikan Alaska, Victoria British Columbia, Seattle Washington.

Advertisement for Omni Mortgage Corp. Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans. Contact: Andy Singh (516-441-7000) and Herman Singh (718-441-7000). E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:**

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**CONSULTING EDITOR :**Deepak Dwivedi Chairman,  
Editor-In-Chief

Blitz India Media Group

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**

H.S. Panaser

**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**

Om Parkash Malik

**DIRECTOR****ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING****PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

**CORRESPONDENTS :****SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

**NEW YORK :**

Chitagam

**FRESNO:**

Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:**

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS****LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

**SPL CORRESPONDENT****DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

**CHANDIGARH:**

Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:**

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP**

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**DISCLAIMER**

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

**COMMENT**

# New York City needs attention of City Administration

**BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA**

One of the world's most populous megacities, with over 8.5 million people New York City is a global cultural, financial, entertainment, and media center with a significant influence on commerce, health care and life sciences, research, technology, education, politics, tourism, dining, art, fashion, and sports. Home to the headquarters of the United Nations, New York is an important center for international diplomacy, an established safe haven for global investors, and is sometimes described as the capital of the world.

The name of the City creates visions

of beauty, splendor and grandeur in the minds of people across the world. It will not be an exaggeration to say that it is the dream of every tourist in any part of the world to see New York. They dream of a beautiful New York with expansive gardens, walks along the Hudson, tall buildings, historic monuments, and endless sources of entertainment, exquisite shopping malls, and a cultural variety not to be found anywhere else in the world.

However, the majority is disappointed. It is not the Hudson River walks or the expansive gardens which are missing. It is not that tall buildings and monuments are not there. It is not that the numerous entertainments are unavailable. It is the broken roads with potholes; it is the dirt and filth in the streets, including the Times Square area where the daily footfall numbers an astounding 330,000,

many of them tourists, while over 460,000 pedestrians walk through Times Square on its busiest days. What do they see? Stinking garbage. Hardly any greenery. And, on top of that, there is ever-growing lawlessness. Times Square is no longer secure. In fact, the whole of New York is having to face insecurity. It is but natural that tourists will be reluctant to come, as do many who live in New York State itself.

It appears that insanitary conditions—dirt, filth and garbage, broken roads with potholes, the barren, lifeless pavements, and the rising crime are the identity of New York.

We wish the City administration takes care of "the greatest city on the Earth" before the conditions go from bad to worse, and a restoration becomes the more difficult.

**GUEST COMMENT**

## JOSHIMATHS IN THE MAKING: SAVE KARNAPRAYAG, MCLEODGANJ BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Rampant construction activity in callous disregard for the red flags and warnings flashed by geologists ever since land sinking was first noticed 50 years ago in Uttarakhand's strategically located, ecologically fragile and landslide-sensitive zone in which Joshimath is located has come at a great cost. It has claimed a large part of the town, causing irreversible damage. Even as the authorities are trying to prevent an ominous human tragedy by evacuating the affected residents to safety, cracks have appeared in some houses at Karnaprayag, another municipality of Chamoli district, triggering fears of land subsidence there too.

Meanwhile, the unfolding Uttarakhand disaster - sadly a manmade and preventable one - has put the spotlight on a similar hazardous situation prevailing at McLeodganj in the neighboring Himachal Pradesh. The alarm bells are ringing loud as attention is directed towards the increasing occurrences of landslides, sinking of the main McLeodganj-Dharamsala road, the recent cave-in of a market and the yet-to-be-rectified drainage system. Urgent heed must be paid to these warning signs to avoid another Joshimath.

The Joshimath land subsidence underscores the imperativeness of preventive measures. Nature must be respected; it is only in its protection and sustainability that humans can survive. If the balance is tilted in favor of 'development' and 'progress', things cannot last for long. Hundreds of houses, hotels and roads are to be razed in Joshimath due to its foundational land subsiding and becoming incapable of carrying the weight of the buildings that have proliferated there. Declared as an unsafe zone, it will deprive around 30,000 people living in nearly 700 houses, identified as dangerous so far, of the emotional security of having a home. The government authorities are conducting a massive rescue and relief operation as the affected families are being shifted to temporary relief camps and compensated for their loss. But can there ever be enough recompense for people suffering that sinking feeling one gets when one is rendered homeless? The only way out is learning a lesson and preventing more such tragedies.

(Tribune, India)

## PERU IN PERIL: ON THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION MUST AGREE ON AN EARLY DATE FOR FRESH ELECTIONS

With the killing of 17 civilians and one police officer on Monday amid anti-government protests, the month-long political crisis in Peru has crossed a bloody threshold and could trigger more waves of violence. The incident shows not only the barbarity of the country's security personnel in dealing with protests, but also the failure of President Dina Boluarte and of her predecessor Pedro Castillo in uniting and stabilizing the country during the periods they have been in power. The crisis is the result of a power struggle between Mr. Castillo and Congress. Mr. Castillo, a former schoolteacher and a trade unionist, was elected President in 2021 on promises such as ensuring political stability, fighting corruption and addressing chronic inequality. But without any administrative and political experience, Mr. Castillo found it hard to negotiate the maze of Peruvian polity. As he struggled to get a grip on governance, a hostile Congress and the wealthy classes lined up against him. Corruption scandals and alleged links with criminal syndicates weakened Mr. Castillo's position in Lima. Congress voted to fire him twice, but failed to garner enough support. As a third vote was due in December last year, Mr. Castillo made the drastic announcement of dissolving Congress, which also triggered his impeachment.

But if Mr. Castillo, currently in jail, miscalculated the consequences of his decision to dissolve Parliament, his successor and legislators misjudged the leftist leader's support among the poor. Violent protests broke out in Peru's highlands demanding Mr. Castillo's restoration or early elections. Mr. Castillo called Ms. Boluarte "usurper", while his supporters said the president they voted for was not allowed to complete his legitimate term, which was to expire in 2026. At least 47 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in protests, ever since Mr. Castillo was ousted. As she came under enormous pressure, Ms. Boluarte promised to hold elections by April 2024 (pending approval from Congress), but this was dismissed by Mr. Castillo and his supporters, leaving the country in disarray. Both sides have a hand in the current crisis and should come together to find a way out. Restoring Mr. Castillo may not be practically and constitutionally possible, but Ms. Boluarte's government could release him from prison in return for peace. To end the current impasse, the government, the opposition and Congress should agree on the earliest possible date for fresh elections. Peru's political class should also be ready for broader constitutional reforms that allow the presidency and the legislature to function without confrontation.

(The Hindu)



# India's Minister Piyush Goyal interacts with the Indian American community, details his government's achievements

I.S. SALUJA

JANUARY 9, 2023

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** India's Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles, and Leader of the Rajya Sabha, Piyush Goyal interacted here with the Indian American community on January 8.

The minister was gracious enough to apologize for arriving late.

Referring to the cultural presentation by the young artists, he said: "It's very heartening to see India's culture and our traditions being kept alive by all of you and I'd like to thank you for, in some sense, instigating Indian value systems in the youth. The Indians who are born here, who are living here, were largely exposed to the American way of life, American lifestyle. That little bit of Indian tradition, value systems, family culture, I think will hold them in good stead as they grew up to be good citizens of the United States of America."

Praising Indians in the United States of America, he said they had performed exceedingly well in both the US and India. Speaking of the strong linkages and bonds of friendship between India and the US, Mr. Goyal said, "We have very strong geopolitical ties, huge interests in business and trade, and in economic wellbeing of both countries. In fact, India is happy that the United States of America is our largest trading partner."

"As we mark the contribution of all of the overseas Indians across the world, we feel proud that Indians have contributed to the rest of the world through our rich traditions and culture, and our acumen and



Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles, and Leader of the Rajya Sabha  
Facebook photo

managerial skills, our talent which is today helping Indians lead large corporations, helping Indians contribute to the economic wellbeing of almost all parts of the world. Indians have been blessed with a huge amount of wealth of knowledge. And I believe the positive impact that all of you are making to America is well recognized in the reception that we get when we

come to America or we go to any country. It's truly because we represent a country of 1.4 billion Indians that we are recognized and respected.

The minister made a long oration about the progress India had made under the prime ministership of Mr. Narendra Modi. One of the achievements among the many he proudly cited was that Mr. Modi ensured that not even a single person died of starvation during the Covid-19 period. His claim was met with a little disbelief by many in the gathering, as stories about starvation deaths during the Covid-19 period were doing the rounds in the media, even as the government of India reported no starvation deaths in India since 2016.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Consul General of India at New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal observed that "India is on a transformative path under the visionary leadership of the prime minister. There are three things that today happen to be part of global conversation. One, the Indian growth story. Two, the Indian startup ecosystem bursting and booming at its seams and three, the socio-economic initiatives that are transforming India from food distribution to digital goods, and so on so forth. Let me tell you in all these three areas that form part of global conversation today, our honorable Minister has a very critical role. He has played a very critical role in all these areas."

Mr. Vikas Nangia, well known TV Asia anchor excelled as the master of ceremonies. The cultural content was extremely rich, with a song each being sung by a young man and a young lady, and a group dance which was presented by a troupe from Sneha Arts.

## Governor Hochul Announces Climate Programs and Initiatives in State of the State Address

JANUARY 10, 2023

**ALBANY (TIP):** Governor Hochul, on Tuesday, January 10th, announced in the 2023 State of the State address that New York will continue to undertake an ambitious and economywide effort to address the threat of climate change.

It is truly encouraging to see New York's climate and clean energy work represented in the Governor's 2023 agenda, including important plans for a new Cap-and-Invest Program and significant investments in energy affordability, clean and efficient buildings, clean air, and clean water.

New York is once again leading the way with the following climate and clean energy proposals.

**CAP-AND-INVEST PROGRAM:** The Governor proposed advancing an ambitious Cap-and-Invest Program that will establish a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, invest proceeds in programs to reduce pollution, limit potential costs to New Yorkers, and maintain the competitiveness of New York industries. The Cap-and-Invest Program will be shaped by five core principles: affordability, climate leadership, creating jobs and preserving competitiveness, investing in Disadvantaged Communities, and funding a sustainable future. The



Gov Kathy Hochul delivers State of the State address on January 10, 2023

Photo / Courtesy Governor's office

Program will be developed in a public and transparent process to ensure stakeholders' voices are heard and it will prioritize Disadvantaged Communities that have suffered from environmental injustice with at least 35%, and a goal of 40%, of investments directly benefitting these communities and ensuring pollution burdens are reduced in frontline communities. For more information on the Program, please read the press release and New York's Climate

Act website.

**CLEAN AND EFFICIENT BUILDINGS:** As part of the State's comprehensive efforts to decarbonize its building stock, Governor Hochul announced a package of policy initiatives including zero-emission new construction (with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings, and by 2028 for larger buildings) and to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel heating equipment (by 2030 for

smaller buildings and 2035 for larger buildings). These will be advanced alongside a grading system for larger buildings statewide based on their energy usage to help building managers make informed choices to cut electricity bills and emissions. These proposals are significant as New York's building sector was responsible for 32% of emissions, the largest source of emissions in the state.

**ENERGY AFFORDABILITY:** To address high energy prices, Governor Hochul is proposing investments to insulate our most vulnerable households from rising energy prices while advancing the transition to lower emissions. These actions:

Providing \$200 million in relief for high electric bills. New York State will provide a credit to the more than 800,000 New York households that make under \$75,000 annually to help pay burdensome electric bills.

Pairing affordability support with modernizing low-income homes through EmPower Plus. The creation of the Energy Affordability Guarantee, the first-in-the nation pilot program will ensure low-income New Yorkers who participate in the EmPower Plus Program and fully electrify their homes will never pay more than six percent of their incomes on electricity.



## PUNJABI CURRICULUM WILL SOON BE ADDED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Punjabi is all set to be taught in public schools of Western Australia  
Photo for representation only

**JANUARY 9, 2023**

**PERTH (TIP):** Punjabi is all set to be taught in public schools of Western Australia. As per the WA government statement, development of Punjabi curriculum for WA schools will commence this year and syllabuses will be developed for pre-primary to Year 12.

Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery said a Punjabi curriculum will be developed and made available to Western Australian schools. "Punjabi will be fully developed in Western Australia by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority for pre-primary to Year 12 students," she stated.

Curriculum writers will develop syllabuses and support materials for schools.

In Western Australia, languages education becomes compulsory from Year 3. The pre-primary to Year 10 syllabuses will be available to schools from 2024.

It is anticipated that the Year 11 courses will be available to students in 2024, with the first ATAR Course Examination to be set in 2025.

This follows the announcement in 2021 of the development of syllabuses for Hindi, Korean and Tamil, which will be introduced to schools next year.

"With more than 190 languages spoken throughout Western Australia, linguistic diversity is a great strength of our State and provides a range of social, cultural and economic benefits," said Sue Ellery.

"It is also important that we develop courses that suit the needs of our young people.

"Last year, the WA Government led the state's largest ever business delegation to India amid a broader strengthening of our engagement with the country. I am pleased to see the ongoing expansion of languages curriculum for WA students, and the development of Punjabi curriculum is particularly fitting given it could support students in key future employment opportunities," she stated.

# Indian-origin Ranj Pillai elected and will take oath as premier of Canada's Yukon province

**JANUARY 10, 2023**

**WHITEHORSE (TIP):** Indian-origin cabinet minister Ranj Pillai is set to be sworn in as the tenth Premier of the Canadian province of Yukon.

He will be the second Premier of Indian descent to take oath after Ujjal Dosanjh who became the Premier of Canada's British Columbia province between 2000 and 2001.

A deputy in Premier Sandy Silver's government, Pillai was elected as the leader of the Yukon Liberal Party unopposed.

"I am honored and humbled to be acclaimed as the leader of the Yukon Liberal Party. We have so much to be proud of and I'm very excited for what



Ranj Pillai is set to be sworn in as the tenth Premier of the Canadian province of Yukon.

the future of the Yukon holds," Pillai said in his campaign statement.

"I am committed to working hard, seeking common ground, acting strategically and to fiercely defending the interests of the Yukon. I look forward to serving all Yukoners as our dedicated team continues to make this territory one of the best places to call home," he added.

Pillai, who hails from Kerala, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly as MLA for Porter Creek South in November 2016 and was inducted into the Cabinet as Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and Economic Development.

## Indian-origin businessman's gas station attacked in New Zealand



The gas station on Kaurilands Road owned by Kanna Sharma in Auckland was ram-raided by robbers in the early hours on Thursday, January 5, a police statement said.

Photo for representation only

**JANUARY 6, 2023**

**AUCKLAND (TIP):** A gas station owned by an Indian-origin businessman was attacked by unknown assailants in New Zealand, a media report has said, in yet another instance of violence against small-scale businesses in the country. The gas station on Kaurilands Road owned by Kanna Sharma in Auckland was ram-raided by robbers in the early hours on Thursday, a police statement said.

Around 2.20 am, the store was rammed through the front door at least three times, shattering the glass and damaging the front grille, media reported. The thieves stole cigarettes, vapes, and many other products from Sharma's shop, the report said. Sharma said it's the third such attack on his business, it said. "It's a nightmare," Sharma told the media. "This is the third time I've been ram-raided, and I'm shattered. My family is shattered. It's hard to believe a place like New Zealand can be such a nightmare," he added.

New Zealand has seen an uptick in the cases of violence against small-scale businesses in recent times. A 34-year-old Indian-origin dairy shop worker, Janak Patel, was murdered in Sandringham in November last year.

## INDIAN AMERICAN ACADEMIC PROF. SHEILA SEN JASANOFF JOINS RAHUL GANDHI DURING BHARAT JODO YATRA IN HARYANA



Prof Sheila Sen Jasanoff Holberg Awardee, 2022 joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra on Friday, January 6 morning.

**JANUARY 6, 2023**

**PANIPAT (TIP):** Indian American academic Prof Sheila Sen Jasanoff Holberg Awardee, 2022, along with Prof Jay H. Jasanoff and social science students Alan Jasanoff and Hilton Simmet from Harvard University USA, joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra on Friday, January 6 morning. The yatra resumed from the Sanoli-Panipat Road in Haryana.

A public meeting will also be addressed by Rahul Gandhi in Panipat. Thousands of people welcomed the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in the Panipat district of Haryana with fireworks. Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra on Thursday, January 5 completed its Uttar Pradesh leg and re-entered the state of Haryana.

Talking to ANI about the Yatra, Congress leader Selja Kumari said, "Under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, we will walk from the border to Panipat. We will have a massive rally, where Rahul Gandhi will address the public. There is a lot of enthusiasm in the people of Haryana, as they look up to Rahul Gandhi for their future. Taking inspiration from Rahul Gandhi, Congress will work hard in Haryana," she added.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## INDIAN AMERICAN MAN STABS NINE-YEAR-OLD SON TO DEATH



Subramanian Ponnazhakan, 39, of McKinney faces capital murder charges for allegedly stabbing his nine-year-old son to death, police said.  
Photo for representation only

**JANUARY 9, 2023**

**MCKINNEY, TX (TIP):** An Indian American man in Texas faces capital murder charges for allegedly stabbing his nine-year-old son to death, police said.

Subramanian Ponnazhakan, 39, of McKinney, is in police custody at a hospital for "self-inflicted wounds" and his bail has been set at \$1 million, the McKinney Police Department said in a statement on Sunday, January 8.

Police said they got a call from a neighbor last week who said that a woman had found her son "unconscious and bleeding" inside a home near Highway 380 and Custer Road.

When officers entered the house "forcefully", they found the woman's husband in the act of inflicting self-harm with a knife.

The boy, who was found with multiple stab wounds in the garage, was pronounced dead on the spot.

Police said that further investigations are on in the case.

"We continue to keep the child's mother and their entire family in our thoughts and prayers during this unspeakably difficult time," a McKinney Police Department spokeswoman said.



## Indian -origin Manpreet Monica Singh is the first female Sikh judge to be sworn in US



Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris County judge, becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US.  
Photo / ABC13 Videograb via Asia Samachar

JANUARY 9, 2023

**HOUSTON (TIP):** Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris County judge, becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US.

Singh was born and raised in Houston and now lives in Bellaire with

her husband and two children.

She was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas on Friday, January 6.

Singh's father immigrated to the US in the early 1970s.

A trial lawyer for 20 years, she has been involved in numerous civil rights

organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

"It means a lot to me because I represent H-town (a nickname of Houston) the most, so for it to be us, I'm happy for it," she said at the oath ceremony.

Indian American Judge Ravi Sandill, the state's first South Asian judge, presided over the ceremony, which took place in a packed courtroom.

"It's a really big moment for the Sikh community," Sandill said.

"When they see someone of color, someone a little different, they know that possibility is available to them. Manpreet is not only an ambassador for Sikhs, but she's an ambassador for all women of color," he said.

There are an estimated 500,000 Sikhs in the US, with 20,000 Sikhs living in the Houston area.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said: "It was a proud day for the Sikh Community, but also a proud day for all people of Color who see the Diversity of the City of Houston in the Diversity of the Court".

## INDIAN AMERICAN IMPACT FUND CELEBRATES BIDEN'S NOMINATION OF RICHARD VERMA FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



A former US ambassador to India, Richard Verma has been nominated by Biden for Deputy Secretary of State

JANUARY 7, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** An Indian American body has welcomed the nomination of lawyer diplomat Richard Verma for Deputy Secretary of State, a top diplomatic position in the State Department.

In December, the White House in a statement said that Joe 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, also a former US ambassador to India, would be the highest-ranking Indian American in the State Department.

"This nomination is yet another historic addition by President Biden in his campaign pledge to diversify the current administration," Indian American Impact Fund said in a statement.

Verma's historic opportunity to join the State Department is the culmination of his long and illustrious career in public service.

"We at Indian American Impact are thrilled to witness and potentially welcome the historic confirmation of yet another visionary South Asian leader," said Neil Makhija, executive director of Indian American Impact Fund.

## INDIAN AMERICAN DOCTOR AARTI D. PANDYA PAYS \$1,850,000 FOR VIOLATING THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT



Aarti D. Pandya and her Pandya Practice Group allegedly billed the government for cataract surgeries and diagnostic tests that were not medically required

JANUARY 11, 2023

**ATLANTA (TIP):** An Indian American doctor has agreed to pay approximately \$1,850,000 for allegedly billing the government for cataract surgeries and diagnostic tests that were not medically required.

Aarti D. Pandya and her Pandya Practice Group violated the False Claims Act by also performing and billing for tests that were incomplete or of worthless value, and office visits that did not provide the level of service claimed.

"Physicians who perform procedures and tests without a legitimate medical need place profits ahead of patients and subject those patients to unnecessary risk," told US Attorney Ryan K Buchanan in a statement released on Monday.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian American space expert AC Charania named NASA's new chief technologist

JANUARY 10, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** An Indian American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA's new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programs at the space agency's headquarters here.

In his position, AC Charania will align NASA's agencywide technology investments with mission needs across six mission directorates and oversee technology collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and external stakeholders, NASA said in a statement on Monday.

The position works within NASA's Office for Technology, Policy, and Strategy.

"Technology plays a vital role in every NASA mission. Making sure that we're pursuing the best policy objectives allows this agency to continue to serve as a global leader in innovation," Bhavya Lal, NASA associate administrator for technology, policy, and strategy, was quoted as saying in the statement.

"Charania is an experienced leader in managing large, rapidly shifting technology portfolios. I am eager for him to apply his knowledge and enthusiasm at NASA," Lal said.

Lal served as acting chief technologist prior to the appointment of Charania, whose first day working at NASA Headquarters was January 3.

"The rate of advancement we seek in the 21st century is dependent upon selecting and maturing a portfolio of technologies into systems to execute our



AC Charania will align NASA's agencywide technology investments with mission needs across six mission directorates and oversee technology collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and external stakeholders

missions," Charania said in the statement.

"With this in mind, there are incredible opportunities in partnerships within and outside of NASA. I now look forward to the opportunity to work with the entire community to increase the rate of space and aviation progress," he added.

Prior to joining NASA, he served as vice president of product strategy at Reliable Robotics, a firm that works to bring certified autonomous vehicles to commercial aviation.

His previous experience also includes working at Blue Origin to mature its lunar permanence strategy, Blue Moon lunar lander program, and multiple technology initiatives with NASA.

Charania has also worked in strategy and business development for the Virgin Galactic (now Virgin Orbit) LauncherOne small satellite launch vehicle program.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



The Indian Panorama  
FOR FREE AT  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



# Multi-Billion-Dollar Casino Project Proposed for Nassau Hub Site

JANUARY 12, 2023

**UNIONDALE, NY (TIP):** The Las Vegas Sands Corporation has entered into a deal to purchase the lease for the Nassau Coliseum and its surrounding property and, if approved by the state, build a casino on the site, says a Patch report.

The company announced the multi-billion-dollar deal Thursday, January 12. It plans to build a large hospitality, entertainment and casino complex on the site.

"Our company's track record of driving significant economic benefits to the communities in which we operate and the meaningful relationships and partnerships we have created in each of those communities gives us a unique perspective on what it takes to develop transformative tourism destinations that positively impact the local community. Based on that experience, we strongly believe Long Island can be home to one of the region's great entertainment and hospitality developments," said Robert G. Goldstein, Sands chairman and CEO. "Our announcement today is only the first part of this journey. Our ability to put forward a compelling and competitive proposal will only succeed if we engage with the Long Island community and, in collaboration, develop a proposal that reflects the input of all those involved."

The drive for the casino comes from a decision by the state to add three casinos in the downstate area. A casino at the Hub area is still not a done deal. The state

The Nassau Coliseum



has said no determinations or licenses are expected until late 2023 at the earliest.

However, Sands has big plans for the site, regardless of whether a casino is approved. The resort portions of the site would include outdoor community space, four- and five-star hotel rooms and a performance venue that "honors the legacy" of performances at Nassau Coliseum. Sands said the resort would also feature celebrity chef restaurants, experiential events and flexible meeting and convention spaces.

The casino, if approved, would be less than a tenth of the project's total square footage, Sands said.

The Hub site in Uniondale was suggested to Sands by former Gov. David Paterson, who is a senior vice president with the Sands Corporation.

"I will always consider Hempstead my home, so it is with great pride that I have a leadership role working with this great community on this transformational project," he said. "We are committed to bringing opportunities for small businesses to thrive, career paths in multiple disciplines for our local residents, innovative approaches for minority and women-owned businesses, thousands of union jobs, and an understanding of our obligation to partner and communicate our vision for the future."

Sands said it will work with RXR Realty, which owns a large piece of property across the street from the Coliseum, to create a plan for the development that

**CONTD ON PAGE 42**

## JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Applications are invited for one post of Clerk/Typist in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York. Requirements are as follows:

1. Age: Between 21 and 40 years
2. Educational & Professional qualifications: Graduate degree preferably in International Relations. Having a good or detailed knowledge with current international affairs. Prior experience in the UN and/or with other multilateral organizations/ Permanent Missions preferred.
3. Skills required : Fluent in English and Hindi (preferable). Preference for good writing skills, excellent communication, and good knowledge of computers (esp. MS Office/ Libre Office and Google applications etc.)
4. Brief Job Description : Doing research on UN matters and drafting of short summaries/notes. Noting and drafting of emails, official communication and internal correspondence, as & when required. Recording of various UN meetings telecast on UN Web TV, (Documentation/Filing of papers, Communicating with the outside vendors and Officer of Foreign Missions (OFM) etc.)
4. Applicant must be a US Citizen, Green Card holder, Permanent Resident, or have a valid visa and work permit.
5. More details available at: <https://www.pminewyork.gov.in/vacancy>

Resume/ CV with copies of educational qualifications, passport, visa, and EAD may be sent by post/ e-mail/ by hand latest by January 27, 2023 to:

**Head of Chancery**  
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations  
235 East, 43rd Street, New York, NY-10017  
Fax: (212)-490-9656  
E-mail: [india.newyorkpmi@mea.gov.in](mailto:india.newyorkpmi@mea.gov.in)

## ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

### DISPOSAL SITE

**OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM**  
**Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM**

**For construction Debris,  
Demolition & Cleanouts**



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
Just 5 minutes from JFK

**Roll Off Dumpster Service**  
**10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards**

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

**718-345-6451**



# The consulate also promotes economic relations between India and the US : Consul General of India

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 the 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 part 1 of the interview published two weeks ago, Ambassador Jaiswal focused on the vibrant Indian American community and its contribution.

In part 2 of the interview, we brought to readers Ambassador's perspective on Indian students as a powerhouse of knowledge, catalysts of national integration, and promoters of Indian arts, culture and values.

In this third part of the interview, Ambassador Jaiswal speaks about promoting economic relations between the two nations as one of the important functions of the Consulate, besides reiterating what he had said in the first part of the interview that the Consulate is "committed to public service".

## Here are some excerpts from the interview.

**TIP: YOU SPOKE ABOUT THE CONSULATE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DIASPORA, AND WITH THE INDIAN STUDENTS HERE. WHAT ELSE DO YOU THINK IS THE FUNCTION OF THIS CONSULATE?**

**AMBASSADOR:** An important function of the consulate is to promote economic relations. So, we have product launches in the Consulate. We are promoting "one district one product" scheme of government of India. When we had the parade this time, the consulate float was based on one district one product. The idea is that there's so much of capacity in India that we must realize that capacity, produce goods and services for the Indian domestic market, and also bring those goods and services from India to the world outside. So, on trade side with the US we want to see how best we can leverage technology partnership with companies and link those companies with companies in India

so that they can add value to a clean development or green growth or digital pathways or digital led development that we are committed to.

Then, also on the investment side, trying to identify the right partners for investors here how they can invest in India; how they can be partnered in a good story; how they can be part of the PM Shakti Infrastructure Program. Huge infrastructure projects are being undertaken in India- airports, expressways, cities, new cities, Film City; all those things are being built. We have to see how American companies can contribute to our growth and development. And then of course, you know, as part of our general overall friendship that we have to maintain, we are also in touch with US stakeholders, political stakeholders, so that we can inform them while that is happening in India on the economic side, on the reform side, so that there is a better appreciation of our relationship, and how India comes up with the overall strategic partnership.



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal in interview with Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, chief editor of The Indian Panorama. File photo

**TIP: THEY SAY THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES GO TO SHOW THE DISSATISFACTION OF PEOPLE WITH AN ORGANIZATION. HOW SATISFIED YOU ARE AFTER ALMOST THREE YEARS HERE WHEN YOU FIND THAT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES HAS GONE DOWN CONSIDERABLY, ALMOST NON- EXISTENT?**

**AMBASSADOR:** The motto of the government of India is "people first", and that has been an approach with us at the Consulate. If a person is there, if he has a problem, the problem needs to be solved. It is in line with the mission - Karm Yogi . This is another reform that we have undertaken. Prime Minister Modi has undertaken transformative reforms which have changed bureaucracy and the way it is perceived, the way it should be doing things for the society, from rule based to role based. That is the tagline- from rule based to role based. We have to have a helping attitude; we have to have a positive attitude. We have to have a problem-solving attitude.

In the last year we introduced three features in our consular services, bringing in more technology in a public service delivery. That is what is happening in India as well. We launched a mobile app of the consulate, so it becomes easy for people .If you go to a website and fill in a form, the form goes left, right, you don't know where it goes. But on an app if you want to fill in a form it's very easy. So that has made life easy for consular applicants. Most of the queries that are generated on PRAMIT were about status check. What is the status of my passport? What is the status of my visa? Of course, I mean, status of visa is not there because you know we tender it the same day or the following day. So, we introduced an interface which was somewhat difficult because we were dealing with two different technology platforms. We introduced a status check in the form itself . So, instead of asking us, they can themselves put their number and get the status check, and that has been a major hit. We have at least 5000 to

6000 applicants using status check mechanism on PRAMIT on a monthly basis, which means that the number of queries generated from a system has gone down substantially. And the third feature that we introduced is artificial intelligence based strong chatbot. If you have a query, you put your query, the chatbot will answer. Basically, chatbot is able to answer 99% of the questions. So, these three things have made life easy for everyone-people at the consulate and the public seeking consular services. They don't have to run around. They don't waste time and that saves their time, and also their energy.

**TIP: YOU ARE MAKING GREAT USE OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR BOTH THE CONSULATE EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC, WHO UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO, HAD TO SPEND DAYS TOGETHER, RUNNING FROM PILLAR TO POST HAVE A PASSPORT OR VISA ISSUED, AND OF COURSE, FOR OTHER SERVICES.**

**AMBASSADOR:** Also, one more thing

I would like to mention, that we are committed to public service and for that reason, this consulate is open seven days a week. This Saturday also, we had to keep the consulate open as there was a case of emergency at the airport. One young student who was flying out lost his passport after he had checked in. It was a problem. We called him here. We got the passport issued, and then he was able to take another flight. So, we are always there to attend to emergencies. I would encourage people to use the emergency helpline to request us even on a Saturday or a Sunday; we'll be more than happy to render all assistance. But also, I would like to tell your readers that they should use the emergency helpline for emergency only, not for random questions on India or things that may not be related to emergency.

In the last several years, we have taken a problem-solving approach. People who applied for asylum can ask for a passport, and they will be given a passport. You ask for a visa; you will be given a visa. Similarly, if you don't have your passport details etc. and you have I797 we are giving people passport services as well. So, it has helped everybody. This system has been helpful to people and we have also reformed the way we work.

**TIP: AND BESIDES PASSPORT, VISA AND ALL OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES, HOW DO YOU HELP THE INDIAN ORIGIN PEOPLE OR THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN YOUR JURISDICTION?**

**AMBASSADOR:** There have been many death cases. If a person here is alone and there is no survivor, we take care of various needs, including cremation and sending the mortal remains to India. In fact, we do it almost on a weekly basis. For that sort of support, we team with the Teammate, which is an organization here and is very helpful. They deal with all sorts of trauma cases in the community, not just in the United States, but also in Canada. They can reach out within hours in any corner of the nation because they have their volunteers. We have been able to provide a lot of help to the community with support from Teammate.

Just a month back there was an accident in which seven students were involved. Three or four of them died. We immediately contacted the families and then we ensured that the mortal remains were sent back. These are critical situations, we understand. It's very sensitive for the family; we understand their emotion.

We also render services in terms of reaching out to women folk who are disturbed here, for one reason or the other. We provide them. We connect them to NGOs. We provide legal services. We also provide some other assistance and required financial assistance at times. So, we have many people-to-people issues too to deal with, and we are doing our best to help them resolve them.

To be continued



# MAKING DIASPORA INVEST IN INDIA A CHALLENGE



BY PARSA  
VENKATESHWAR  
RAO JR

**"THE UNRESOLVED ISSUE WITH THE NRIS IS THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT JUST DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IT CAN DO WITH THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THEIR MONEY, NO DOUBT, AND THEY ARE INDEED SENDING MONEY HOME, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 3 PER CENT OF INDIA'S GDP, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK. THE BJP'S FOREIGN POLICY NOTION THAT THE NRIS ARE ITS SOLDIERS ABROAD TO SPREAD NATIONAL GLORY IS AT BEST A DELUSION. AND IT COULD BECOME A DANGEROUS ONE IF INDIANS ABROAD ARE SEEN AS 'FIFTH COLUMNISTS'. MOST NRIS HAVE NO INTEREST IN INDIAN POLITICS NOR ARE THEY MOTIVATED TO PUSH INDIA'S CASE ACROSS THE WORLD. A TIME HAS TO COME WHEN INDIANS NEED NOT MIGRATE TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR BETTER OPPORTUNITIES."**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in its pursuit of overzealous nationalism, has looked upon the Indian diaspora across the world as an extension of India, politically as well as



The annual jamboree. Indore hosted this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebration.

PTI

culturally. During the tenure of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an attempt was made to woo overseas Indians, with the PM making it a point to interact with the Indians abroad rather than with other citizens of the host country. It was in 2002 that the first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event was held in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi intensified the outreach to the NRIs by addressing rallies in Madison Square Garden (New York) and then in Sydney after his party's historic win in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. But despite the enthusiasm to cultivate the NRI constituency in the past two decades, there is uncertainty and confusion over how to tap the potential of the NRIs to strengthen India at the global level or even at home.

The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event, held in Indore from January 8 to 10, reflected the confusion. The Indian government does not seem to be keen that the Indians living abroad should come back and help in the development of the country with the knowledge and expertise they have acquired abroad. It only wants that the NRIs invest in India. But it is in many ways a non sequitur.

Indians settled abroad, whether in the Gulf countries, the UK, the US, Canada, Australia or Singapore, have been sending money home to their families. But they have not thought that it is profitable to do business in India or invest in India. Even today, the NRIs remittances are higher than the foreign direct investment (FDI) that India is able to attract. The NRI remittances to India were \$89.4 billion in 2021 and \$100 billion in 2022, higher than what the Chinese and Filipino emigrants send to their home countries.

So, at successive conventions of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the country's leaders of the day give rhetorical messages to the few thousand delegates who attend the event. And this year seems to have been no different. PM Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Education and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan delivered homilies and the unintended ironies were there for all to see. PM Modi, in his inaugural speech on January 8, said, "In Pravasi Bharatiyas, we see myriad images of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," and "Pravasi Bharatiyas echo the voice of a powerful and capable India."

Pradhan said, "We all agree that once upon a time India was a 'Vishwaguru', not in terms of military power but in terms of intellect." And then he turned to the government's programme of creating a skilled network in the country. He told the NRIs that India has a skilled workforce of 500 million. Sitharaman, echoing PM Modi's statement of how cheap India's Mars mission was, said, "The cost of the Chandrayaan, which goes to the moon, is far less than that of a Hollywood film." And citing a NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) report, she said Indian IT companies hired 2 lakh Americans at an average salary of \$1,06,360 in 2021.

These statements can only confuse NRIs. The government wants to woo them by telling them how good India has become since they left the country and what an attractive investment destination it is now. Surely, the NRIs would want to test the government's claims on the ground and it will be reflected in the investment decisions they will make in the future.

**THE NRIS REMITTANCES ARE HIGHER THAN THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) THAT INDIA IS ABLE TO ATTRACT. THE NRI REMITTANCES TO INDIA WERE \$89.4 BILLION IN 2021 AND \$100 BILLION IN 2022.**

But there is also the fact that though Indians in the US are sending home more money than those in the Gulf countries, as was the case earlier, the Indian-Americans are less likely to return home and even start businesses in India. The Indians in Gulf countries will come back at some point of time because as yet there is no possibility of becoming citizens in those countries. In contrast, more Indians are getting the coveted Green Card in the US and they are more likely to become citizens there. Secondly, there are more billionaires in India than among the NRIs. Steel magnate Laxmi Narayan Mittal and metal magnate Anil Agarwal are among the exceptions. The NRIs in the US are prosperous but they are not super-rich yet. They do not have surplus capital to pump into India like Meta's Mark Zuckerberg or Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

It is, however, true that more and more Indians in western countries are becoming part of the political mainstream of their adopted countries, and they are reaching positions of influence and power. Whether it is Indian-origin leaders such as US Vice-President Kamala Harris, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, President of Guyana Mohamed Irfaan Ali or President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi (the last two were special guests at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event in Indore), they owe nothing to India, and there is nothing that India can do to support or strengthen them. India is not the imperial power that the Modi government would imagine itself to be.

The unresolved issue with the NRIs is that the Indian government just does not know what it can do with them. The government wants their money, no doubt, and they are indeed sending money home, which accounts for 3 per cent of India's GDP, according to the World Bank. The BJP's foreign policy notion that the NRIs are its soldiers abroad to spread national glory is at best a delusion. And it could become a dangerous one if Indians abroad are seen as 'fifth columnists'. Most NRIs have no interest in Indian politics nor are they motivated to push India's case across the world. A time has to come when Indians need not migrate to other countries for better opportunities.

(The author is a senior journalist)



## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY

# The onus of furthering constitutional values is on the film fraternity and on other progressive forces

**"There has also been a concerted effort to suppress projects which do not fit the BJP's vision of and for India. Consequently, barring some notable exceptions, India's film fraternity consciously self-censors itself, hoping to ride out the storm. Faced with a dispensation that stops at nothing, this self-preservation imperative is understandable. After all, why should an actor or producer or director stand up for constitutional values when they face boycotts and threats, when investigative agencies are unleashed on them, and when no one publicly stands with them?"**

In 1938, Charlie Chaplin started work on *The Great Dictator*. Even though it critiqued the Nazis, Chaplin was forced to self-sponsor, direct and write the project himself because most mainstream Hollywood studios were hesitant to disrupt ties to German finance, or risk making an overtly political project. Additionally, many in the establishment felt appeasing Adolf Hitler could work, so official censorship was also a real threat. Yet, showing tremendous personal and ideological fortitude, Chaplin forged ahead. The film belied expectations and became Chaplin's biggest commercial success. It was nominated for five Academy awards and became a cult classic.

Contextualize the enormity of Chaplin's achievement. Swimming against the tide, his film mocked Hitler's fetish for photo-ops, self-aggrandizing schemes and critiqued the attacks against minorities to distract from economic failures. Most importantly, it exposed the futility of placating authoritarian figures. This was when Hollywood consciously eschewed taking an anti-Nazi stand on screen, even if it privately opposed Nazism.

## A site of contestation

A similar situation has come to pass in India. India's film industries are now a site of ideological and political contestation, as *The Kashmir Files* and *Pathaan* controversies highlight. The BJP is consistently leveraging films to sway mass



A still from *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*

audiences. Mixing religious imagery, patriotism and nationalistic ideals, these films methodically propagate key Sangh Parivar mythologies. The importance given to this endeavor is demonstrated by the fact that no less than the Prime Minister had multiple meetings with key film industry stakeholders, in an effort to prod them into producing "nation-building films".

There has also been a concerted effort to suppress projects which do not fit the BJP's vision of and for India. Consequently, barring some notable exceptions, India's film fraternity consciously self-censors itself, hoping to ride out the storm. Faced with a dispensation that stops at nothing, this self-preservation imperative is understandable. After all, why should an actor or producer or director stand up for constitutional values when they face boycotts and threats, when investigative agencies are unleashed on them, and when no one publicly stands with them?

Coincidentally, this assault comes at a time when the nature of film consumption is undergoing a structural shift. As the DVD and retail business model has been rendered obsolete, filmmakers no longer get a second shot at turning a profit. This has been exacerbated by the unfortunate reality that confronting regressive values and uncomfortable truths is now a high-risk endeavor, for it could invite the wrath of regressive forces. Faced with these legitimate concerns, filmmakers are opting to churn out extravagant, high-budget films that are divorced from reality, or 'safe' films.

But India's film industries do not have the luxury of escaping socioeconomic and political realities. First, the BJP is creating a 'committed film sector' by attacking the structural integrity of the film and television sectors. By marshalling the full resources of the state (the merging of four film media units ignoring criticism from the industry, subsidizing projects of

aligned filmmakers, the censor board withholding clearances, etc.) and coaxing its core vote bank to support films that pander to its political and ideological projects, the BJP is gerrymandering the market. That is partly why films like *The Kashmir Files* and *Tanhaji* did well commercially.

Second, progressives are targeted not just for their project choices or because they dissent from the BJP, but for what they represent - an India where you could succeed no matter who you are or where you came from. Motivated by their ideological imperatives, these regressive forces need to constantly reinforce two things to their core vote bank, namely that broad-minded, outspoken and disruptive actors/filmmakers cannot shape India's image of itself, nor do they have an equal space in films.

Third, audiences do not seem to be watching films as an escape from reality. An ideologically captive audience is seemingly endorsing films that mirror what they are force-fed daily through the electronic and digital media. This is not just an act of solidarity with populist mythologies connected to national, religious and community pride; it also enables them to exert illusionary control over those they don't agree with.

However, following Newton's third law, it follows that there is a liberal audience that spurns films with regressive values. That is why films like *Samrat Prithviraj*, *Dhaakad*, *Manikarnika*, etc. tanked at the box office, despite the initial leg-up they got from the BJP's ecosystem. If viewership trends on OTT and digital platforms are anything to go by, a silent majority is desperate for films that do not propagate communal, casteist, xenophobic, racist and undemocratic values. In this reading, films that objectively and sensitively address socioeconomic and political realities can succeed commercially. These include *Jai Bhim*, *Mandela*, *Article 15*, *Sardar Udham*,



BY PUSHPARAJ  
DESHPANDE

*Raazi*, *Mulk* and *Pink*. Similarly, films on the farmers'/students' movements; the lived realities of women, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Kashmiri Pandits, OBCs, Adivasis and Dalits; and India's multiple successes since 1947 could resonate with, and bind Indians together positively.

Admittedly, actualizing these requires courage. But the film fraternity needs to realize that it is an equal partner in fostering a national consciousness. While it does not need to wade into polarized political debates, it can (and must) use its craft in defense of our shared values. Unless it spearheads films and serials that remind us to preserve our humanity, that weave a symphony from the many voices of India and that envision a better tomorrow (while being truthful about today), this tsunami of hatred will not pass.

## The shared work of progressives

Yet, the onus of furthering constitutional values is not on India's film fraternity alone. It is also on other progressive forces (including political parties). Given how insidiously regressive forces are colonizing the minds of our fellow Indians, all progressives need to support each other in this normative battle for India's soul. We need to propagate our shared values creatively because high-sounding appeals to protect secular, democratic and liberal values do not sway the silent majority. Furthermore, given the state of a section of India's media, we need to open up new fronts. Unless we display politico-cultural dynamism, the BJP will keep changing its goalposts and unleashing new culture wars that liberals will struggle to catch up to. That is why progressives need to support the film and television industries. Civil society/political action against outfits attacking film sets, raising their issues in the legislature, the media and the judiciary, and establishing new platforms and means of support are just a few ways in which India's film industries can be tangibly supported.

B.R. Ambedkar had argued that "constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated". Seen in this light, it is incumbent on progressives to collaborate in the cultivation of mass emotions. Doing this would mean influencing social consciousness through soaring political rhetoric, disruptive movements like the *Bharat Jodo Yatra*, and the strategic use of popular culture. Notwithstanding the attack on India's constitutional edifice, we must recognize that this is also a moment of possibilities - to redesign our operational methodologies, to shed ideological infirmities and to create a more liberal, just and compassionate India.

(Pushparaj Deshpande is the Director of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation, a multi-party platform that furthers India's constitutional promise & the series editor of the *Rethinking India* series [Penguin])



# YATRA LENDS PURPOSE TO RAHUL'S POLITICAL JOURNEY



BY  
RASHID KIDWAI

There are many quotes that have been attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. In the Congress party office at 24, Akbar Road, one of them reads, "Kabhi kabhi hum apne virodhiyon ke karan aage badhte hain." (At times, we move ahead due to our opponents). Then there is another one saying, "Pehle woh aap par dhyan nahin denge, phir who aap par hasenge, phir aapse ladengen, aur tab aap jeet jayenge." (First they would not pay any attention to you, then they would mock you and then they would fight with you. You would win once these stages are completed).

In the context of Rahul Gandhi's ongoing abstract, yet arduous, Bharat Jodo Yatra, these quotes ring a bell, bringing some relevance and hope for the Congress leader.

There is a broader and growing consensus of sorts among Rahul's detractors and well-wishers that finally, the Gandhi scion is showing signs of purpose, perseverance and hope in his political journey that began in 2004.

Politically, the yatra may or may not be a game-changer, but it has succeeded in establishing Rahul as a credible politician who can walk the talk, intermingle with the masses and get support from a range of politicians and celebrities - from MK Stalin, Aaditya Thackeray, Supriya Sule and Farooq Abdullah to Raghuram Rajan, AS Dulat, Swara Bhaskar and Kamal Haasan.

More importantly, the BJP's stringent criticism, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's 'appeal' to suspend the yatra over Covid concerns, and the outrage over Rahul's comments on China allegedly entering Indian territory have helped him become a singular dissenting voice.

When the yatra began from Kanyakumari, Rahul's popularity ratings were at an all-time low. The Congress organization was in a shambles and the leadership issue was far from settled. While the yatra was on the Kerala-Karnataka border, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, at that time tipped to be the next AICC president, stunned friends and foes alike by showing defiance, a throwback to the bygone era of Devaraj Urs, Arjun Singh and other party chief ministers.

But throughout the Congress organizational election process, Rahul stayed away and focused on the yatra. The Assembly polls of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat offered a mixed bag as the Congress went on to win HP. It was a surprise for those predicting the Congress' death. The 'corpse' is, in fact, very much alive and kicking.

This year, the Congress faces a litmus test in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. If it can win these states, the grand old party would emerge as a serious challenger for the 2024 General Election.

**IN INDIAN ELECTORAL POLITICS, ALLIANCES ARE FORMED ON THE BASIS OF STRENGTHS RATHER THAN WEAKNESSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THE AURA OF SUCCESS SURROUNDING RAHUL'S BHARAT JODO YATRA IS SET TO PROVIDE HIM WITH MORAL AUTHORITY TO PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE. IN ADDITION, IN SONIA GANDHI, RAHUL HAS A RESERVE BENCH OF SORTS; THE FORMER PARTY CHIEF CAN ACT AS A LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH MANY NON-NDA ALLIES, INCLUDING THE LEFT, TO KEEP THE MAHAGATHBANDHAN GOING.**



The Bharat Jodo Yatra has established Rahul as a politician who can mingle with the masses and win their support.

Photo credit / PTI

**THIS YEAR, THE CONGRESS FACES A LITMUS TEST IN KARNATAKA, MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN AND CHHATTISGARH. IF IT CAN WIN THESE STATES, THE GRAND OLD PARTY WOULD EMERGE AS A SERIOUS CHALLENGER FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION.**

We need to remember that the fortunes of the Congress and other non-BJP parties are closely linked to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls where the non-BJP, non-NDA Opposition and the Congress-UPA partners will have to target the 'half of half, i.e. half of the 272 Lok Sabha seats on their own - a challenging but not unmanageable number in the 2024 battle.

There are four crucial states of West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka where the BJP-NDA had done exceedingly well in 2019 but the subsequent political developments have unfolded a new scenario. In West Bengal, for example, the BJP had won 18 Lok Sabha seats out of 42, while in Bihar, the alliance with the JD(U) had resulted in its netting 39 out of 40 parliamentary seats. In Karnataka, the BJP had won 25

out of 28 seats, while in Maharashtra, the alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena had resulted in the NDA allies winning 42 out of 48 seats. Imagine a situation if the BJP's strength from these four states gets reduced to half. A simple majority of 272 would become a distant dream and prospects of a khichdi government a reality.

The Congress, in order to be a contender, has to win 100 or more Lok Sabha seats from states such as Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and a few others where the grand old party has been in direct contest with the BJP or traditionally has a strong presence.

Next year's parliamentary polls are set to be contested in contrasting styles. If

Team Modi is set to make full use of the Prime Minister's personal ratings, big-ticket projects, Covid-19 handling in the context of the massive vaccination programme, achievements on the diplomatic front and reliance on emotive issues like the Ram Temple, the Congress and its potential allies are prepared to take the battle to the states where regional players are expected to hold sway.

So, if the parties led by Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, MK Stalin, Naveen Patnaik, HD Kumaraswamy, Chandrababu Naidu and Akhilesh Yadav together manage to hold on to a chunk of the parliamentary seats, the Congress has the task of doing well in most of the Hindi-belt states and the Northeast.

In Indian electoral politics, alliances are formed on the basis of strengths rather than weaknesses of the participants. The aura of success surrounding Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra is set to provide him with moral authority to play a pivotal role. In addition, in Sonia Gandhi, Rahul has a reserve bench of sorts; the former party chief can act as a line of communication with many non-NDA allies, including the Left, to keep the mahagathbandhan going.

(Rashid Kidwai is a Senior Journalist and Author)



Heartiest congratulations  
and best wishes to



## Parveen Chopra

President,  
*American Centre for  
Wellness and Spirituality inc.*

Founding editor,  
*alotusinthemud.com*

on the auspicious launch of



[www.alotusinthemud.com](http://www.alotusinthemud.com)

A web magazine offering insights & inspiration  
for a healthy, happy and peaceful you.

**January 21, 2023**  
**Consulate of India, New York**

*from*

**Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja**  
*Chief Editor & Publisher*

*The* **INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL



# President Murmu confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023 at PBD convention in Indore

President Droupadi Murmu on January 10 graced the valedictory session of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention and conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards today here upon 27 overseas Indians as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin, or an organization established and run by Non-Resident Indians in recognition of their outstanding achievements both in India and abroad.

Speaking to ANI, the awardees expressed their contentment and gratification over receiving the prestigious awards and said that the Indian diaspora is giving examples of shining in foreign lands that they moved to with India in their hearts.

“This award has been amazing. First of all coming home, coming to India and my family, it is already humbling, and then to receive an award from the President herself has been a truly magical moment and a very big honour in my life,” said Archana Sharma from Switzerland who received the awards in the field of Science and Technology.

“The Indian diaspora is shining diamonds in Switzerland because in Switzerland we have a very – very highly skilled and highly educated Indian diaspora and they are actually dotting very key positions. For example, in the United Nations, the WHO, and in all these kinds of international organizations in multinationals, and in the business community as well. So, we have a sterling diaspora in Switzerland and they are all very connected with India”, added the awardee. Thanking the Government of India for this honour, Reena Vinod Pushkarna from Israel who got the award in the field of business and community welfare said that she was delighted that the government did not forget them even when they leave their Motherland and go to other places.

“Very honoured, extremely touched. My parents up in heaven must be very happy today. It started with food, led to culture then led to diplomacy. Now, there are so many exchange programs, between the citizens of India and Israel, and it all started with just two simple people so I thank the government of India for not forgetting its people and this is what PBD stands for, that they don’t forget their Indians even when they leave their Motherland and go to other places to carry on our journeys but with India in their hearts”, said Reena.

Another awardee from Canada said that he was honoured to receive the award from his Matribhoomi and he will continue to serve both in Canada and India.

“It is a privilege that I got this award from Bharat Mata our Mataribhumi and I will continue to offer our services I am blessed to be able to continue my service, for contributing to the field of education, health care, and clean technology, and continue to serve both Canada and India”,



said Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan.

Getting the award for community welfare from Sri Lanka, Sivakumar Nadesan said that we can do better with the quality of life, improve it and make larger jobs and skills.

“I got the award for community welfare. They have also mentioned that I have done media. So, I think that it is the combination of both. But especially on the community welfare side, we are talking about the Indian origin people who went there four generations ago and they have planted tea, worked on the bridges, worked on the roads and actually done lot of development for Sri Lanka during their lifetime. But I think we can do better with the quality of life, improve it and kind of make them more free to make a larger jobs and skills and housing”, he said.

The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. The awards were conferred by the President during the valedictory session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations. The recipients were chosen by a jury-cum-awards committee chaired by the vice-president with the External affairs minister S Jaishankar as the vice-chair of the panel, whose other members are drawn from various walks of life.

Addressing the gathering, the President



said that the Indian Diaspora today has become an important and unique force in the global system. It has grown into an energetic and confident community in every region and is making stellar contributions to world affairs in leadership positions.

Referring the theme of this year’s Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention – “Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India’s Progress in Amrit Kaal”, the President

said that it reflects India’s desire to make its Diaspora a partner in the achievement of its national developmental goals.

In the next 25 years, India is going to embark on an ambitious journey of collective hard work, sacrifice, and intensive development to transform into a self-reliant world leader by 2047, when we would be celebrating the centenary of our independence, she said.

Source: ANI





### World looking up to India: PM Modi

Prime minister Narendra Modi on January 9 addressed the 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention - this time in Madhya Pradesh's Indore - and declared himself happy to see it organised in 'the heart of India'. This year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas theme is 'Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal'.

Chandrikapersad Santokhi, the president of the Republic of Suriname, and Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, were among the special guests, as was Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. More than 3,500 diaspora members - from 70 countries - registered for the event, news agency ANI said.

Here are prime minister Modi's top quotes from his address at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

1. This Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is special in many ways. The nation has entered 'Amrit Kaal' for the next 25 years and our Pravasi Bhartiya community has a significant role to play in further elevating India's role on global levels.

2. Each and every Pravasi Bhartiya present here has achieved unprecedented success in their respective fields. I'm happy that the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is being organised in Madhya Pradesh, which also is called the 'Heart of India'.

3. I would like you all to relish food in Indore - a city which is known for its delicacies from namkeen to poha; everything here has an unforgettable taste. Chappan dukan is highly famous and the Sarafa market is a world-renowned venue.

4. The digital exhibition displaying our freedom struggle has been organised here and it brings the glorious era in front of you all again.

5. 'Swadesho Bhuvantrayam' means

'for us, the whole world is our country, only human beings are our brothers and sisters'. It was on this ideological foundation that our forefathers shaped the cultural expansion of India.

### About the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (Overseas Indian Honour/Award) is the highest Indian award for Non-resident Indian and Overseas Citizen of India or an organisation or institution established and run by Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, constituted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India in conjunction with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day), to honour exceptional and meritorious contribution in their chosen field/profession. The award is given by the President of India. Since 2016, the Government of India has doubled the number of awardees each year to 30 after a decision to grant the award once every two years.

"A jury-cum-awards committee, with (the) Vice President as the chairman and External Affairs Minister as the vice-chair and other distinguished members from various walks of life considered the nominations...and unanimously selected the awardees," the Ministry of External Affairs stated in a release.

### When Pravasi Bharatiya Divas started?

A High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, headed by jurist and Parliamentarian LM Singhvi, had recommended in January 2002 that the government must renew and strengthen linkages of overseas Indians to their place of origin, and with each other.

The committee recommended that a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan should be set up to emerge as the focal point for networking between India and its overseas Indian community; and as a suitable place which to commemorate the stories of the Indian Diaspora. The idea of a day to have the government recognise the community flowed from this, and was held in 2003.

January 9 was selected as it was the date when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. Over the years, he has often been described as the first non-resident Indian of the most famous NRI by various politicians, including PM Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Since 2015, the centenary year of Gandhi's return, the format was revised for the meeting to be held once every two years. Since the pandemic, this will be the first in-person meeting.



### LIST OF OVERSEAS INDIANS GIVEN THE HONOUR

S.no	Person	Country	Field
1	Jagadish Chennupati	Australia	Science & Tech/ Education
2	Sanjeev Mehta	Bhutan	Education
3	Dilip Loundo	Brazil	Art & Culture/Education
4	Alexander Maliakel John	Brunei	Medicine
5	Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan	Canada	Community Welfare
6	Joginder Singh Nijjar	Croatia	Art & Culture/Education
7	Ramjee Prasad	Denmark	Information Technology
8	Kannan Ambalam	Ethiopia	Community Welfare
9	Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay	Germany	Community Welfare
10	Mohamed Irfaan Ali	Guyana	Community Welfare
11	Reena Vinod Pushkarna	Israel	Business
12	Maqsooda Sarfi Shiotani	Japan	Education
13	Rajagopal	Mexico	Education
14	Amit Kailash Chandra Lath	Poland	Business
15	Parmanand Sukhumal Daswani	Congo	Community Welfare
16	Piyush Gupta	Singapore	Business
17	Mohanlal Hira	South Africa	Community Welfare
18	Sanjaykumar Shivabhai Patel	South Sudan	Business
19	Sivakumar Nadesan	Sri Lanka	Community Welfare
20	Dewanchandrebhose Sharman	Suriname	Community Welfare
21	Archana Sharma	Switzerland	Science & Technology
22	Frank Arthur Seepersad	Trinidad	Education
23	Siddharth Balachandran	UAE	Business
24	Chandrakant Babubhai Patel	UK	Media
25	Darshan Singh Dhaliwal	USA	Community Welfare
26	Rajesh Subramaniam	USA	Business
27	Ashok Kumar Tiwary	Uzbekistan	Business



PM releases a Commemorative Postal Stamp on 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on January 9, 2023.



# IRS sets Jan. 23 as official start to 2023 tax filing season; more help available for taxpayers this year



JANUARY 13, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The Internal Revenue Service, on January 12, announced Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, as the beginning of the nation's 2023 tax season when the agency will begin accepting and processing 2022 tax year returns.

More than 168 million individual tax returns are expected to be filed, with the vast majority of those coming before the April 18 tax deadline. People have three extra days to file this year due to the calendar.

With the three previous tax seasons dramatically impacted by the pandemic, the IRS has taken additional steps for 2023 to improve service for taxpayers. As part of the August passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS has hired more than 5,000 new telephone assistors and added more in-person staff to help support taxpayers.

"This filing season is the first to benefit the IRS and our nation's tax system from multi-year funding in the Inflation Reduction Act," said Acting IRS Commissioner Doug O'Donnell. "With these new additional resources, taxpayers and tax professionals will see improvements in many areas of the agency this year. We've trained thousands of new employees to answer phones and help people. While much work remains after several difficult years, we expect people to experience improvements this tax season. That's just the start as we work to add new long-term transformation efforts that will make things even smoother in future years. We are very excited to begin to deliver what taxpayers want and our employees know we could do with this funding."

These steps took place as the IRS worked for months to prepare for the 2023 tax season. The Jan. 23 start date for individual tax return filers allows the IRS time to perform annual updates and readiness work that are critical to ensuring IRS systems run smoothly. This is the date IRS systems officially begin accepting tax returns. Many software providers and tax professionals are already accepting tax returns; they will transmit those returns to the IRS when the agency begins accepting tax returns on Jan. 23.

The IRS urges people to have all the information they need before they file a

tax return. Filing a complete and accurate tax return can avoid extensive processing and refund delays as well as avoid the possibility of needing to file an amended tax return.

In addition, the IRS encourages people to carefully review their tax situation to make sure they don't overlook important tax credits they may be eligible for, like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The IRS has set a special day on Jan. 27 to encourage people to make sure they understand the important benefits of the EITC, a credit that can help low- and moderate-income workers and families.

The IRS has a variety of free services available to help people. The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs also offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. People can also get help from trusted tax professionals, commercially available tax software as well as IRS Free File, which provides free electronic filing of tax returns.

## APRIL 18 TAX FILING DEADLINE IN 2023

The filing deadline to submit 2022 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed is Tuesday, April 18, 2023, for most taxpayers. By law, Washington, D.C., holidays impact tax deadlines for everyone in the same way as federal holidays. The due date is April 18, instead of April 15, because of the weekend and the District of Columbia's Emancipation Day holiday, which falls on Monday, April 17.

Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, to file.

## TIPS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH THE 2023 TAX SEASON

The IRS recommends several things for people to keep in mind for a smooth filing experience this year:

Have the right information before filing. The IRS encourages individuals to have all the information they need before filing a complete and accurate return. Organize and gather 2022 tax records including Social Security numbers, Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers, Adoption Taxpayer Identification Numbers and this year's Identity Protection Personal Identification Numbers valid for calendar year 2023.

Filing an accurate tax return can help taxpayers avoid delays or later IRS notices. Sometimes this means waiting to make sure individuals have accounted for all their income and the related documents. This is especially important for people who may receive one of the various Forms 1099 from banks or other payers reporting unemployment compensation, dividends, pension, annuity or retirement plan distributions.

People should also remember that most income is taxable, including unemployment income, interest received or money earned from the gig economy

or digital assets. Individuals should make sure they report the correct amount on their tax return to avoid processing delays.

Visit IRS.gov first for questions. The IRS reminds people to visit IRS.gov first for common questions and also to check on the status of their refunds. IRS.gov has much of the same information that IRS phone assistors have.

The IRS anticipates making significant improvements to phone service this year for taxpayers and tax professionals as more training for new phone assistors is completed in the weeks ahead. However, the IRS emphasizes it's important to note that call volumes remain at historically high levels. The IRS urges people to visit IRS.gov for the information they need.

"Our phone volumes remain at very high levels," O'Donnell said. "For faster access to information, we urge people to start with IRS.gov. From there, taxpayers can quickly access the variety of free resources available to help taxpayers anytime, day or night."

Speed refunds by filing electronically and choosing direct deposit. There are important steps people can take to help ensure their tax return and refund are processed without delays. The most important is to file electronically with direct deposit. This is still the fastest and easiest way to file and receive a refund. To avoid delays in processing, people should avoid filing paper returns wherever possible.

To speed refunds, the IRS urges people to file electronically with direct deposit information as soon as they have everything needed to file an accurate return. Individuals can use a bank account, prepaid debit card or mobile app to use direct deposit and will need to provide routing and account numbers with their return. Learn how to open an account at an FDIC-insured bank or through the National Credit Union Locator Tool.

## IRS FREE FILE AVAILABLE JAN. 13

IRS Free File will open Jan. 13 when participating providers will accept completed returns and hold them until they can be filed electronically with the IRS. Many commercial tax preparation software companies and tax professionals will also be accepting and preparing tax returns before Jan. 23 to submit the returns when the IRS systems open.

The IRS's Free File program, available only at IRS.gov, allows taxpayers who made \$73,000 or less in 2022 to file their taxes electronically for free using brand-name software provided by commercial tax filing companies. Free File Fillable forms, a part of this effort, is available to any income level and provides free electronic forms that people fill out and file themselves also at no cost.

Most refunds issued in less than 21 days; EITC refunds for many available starting Feb. 28

The IRS anticipates most taxpayers will receive their refund within 21 days of when they file electronically, if they choose direct deposit and there are no issues with their tax return. Taxpayers should check Where's My Refund? on IRS.gov for their personalized refund status.

While the IRS will begin accepting returns Jan. 23, the IRS cannot issue a refund that includes the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. This is due to the 2015 PATH Act law passed by Congress, which provides this additional time to help the IRS stop fraudulent refunds from being issued.

Where's My Refund? should show an updated status by Feb. 18 for most early EITC/ACTC filers. The IRS expects most EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards by Feb. 28 if taxpayers chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their tax return.

## AWAITING PROCESSING OF PREVIOUS TAX RETURNS? PEOPLE CAN STILL FILE 2022 RETURNS

Currently, the IRS has processed all paper and electronic individual tax year 2021 returns received prior to November 2022 that didn't require error-correction or further review. The IRS continues to work on remaining tax returns in these categories. This work will not impact tax refund timing for people filing in 2023, but the IRS continues to urge people to make sure they submit an error-free tax return this tax season to avoid delays. Check the IRS Operations page for the latest information about the status of tax returns received in 2022.

## IRS.GOV, IRS ONLINE ACCOUNT PROVIDE FREE HELP

Taxpayers can find online tools at IRS.gov that are easy-to-use and available anytime. Millions of people use them to help file and pay taxes, find information about their accounts, determine eligibility for tax credits and get answers to tax questions.

An IRS Online Account allows individuals to log in securely to access personal tax account information including balance, payments and tax records including adjusted gross income.

There are various types of tax return preparers, including enrolled agents, certified public accountants, attorneys and some who don't have a professional credential. Choosing a Tax Professional offers information to help people select one. The Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications can help taxpayers find local preparers who currently hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS or who hold an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



# George Santos was paid for work at company accused of Ponzi scheme later than previously known

JANUARY 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.), who has admitted to fabricating key details of his biography, received payments as recently as April 2021 from a financial services company accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of a "classic Ponzi scheme," according to a court-appointed lawyer reviewing the firm's assets, a Washington Post report says.

Santos did not divulge any income from the company, Florida-based Harbor City Capital, on a financial disclosure form required of all federal candidates. The payments the lawyer described to The Washington Post, which have not been previously reported, indicate that Santos received money at least a month after he has said he left the firm - and mere weeks before registering a business called the Devolder Organization that he has

claimed as the basis for his wealth. The lawyer, Katherine C. Donlon, declined to tell The Post the amount Santos was paid.

Santos, whose election to Congress from Long Island last year helped the GOP secure its narrow majority, has apologized for what he called "résumé embellishment," but he has refused to step aside. On Wednesday, he rebuffed calls to resign from fellow New York Republicans, including leaders of the state GOP and the party in Nassau County, which had previously endorsed him.

The congressman's deceptions have already sparked an investigation by the district attorney's office in Nassau County, as well as complaints before the Federal Election Commission. Authorities in Brazil are also seeking to revive a fraud case against Santos dating to 2008.

During his first run for Congress in 2020, Santos reported earning a salary of \$55,000 from a previous employer in the financial industry. His fortunes then improved dramatically, according to the financial disclosure he filed during his 2022 campaign: He earned an annual salary of \$750,000 and received more than \$1 million in dividends from the Devolder Organization. He also lent his campaign more than \$700,000, according to campaign finance records.

A key unanswered question is how Devolder made its money. The congressman has given various explanations about the firm - including saying it is an operation focused on "asset allocations" and an effort to help "all the people who were left adrift" at Harbor City.

The financial disclosure form, filed in September of last year, covers earnings



Santos has apologized for what he called "résumé embellishment," but he has refused to step aside  
Screengrab / NBC News

starting in January 2021 and anticipated through December 2022. It does not mention Harbor City.

## We count a lot on India's G-20 leadership: IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva



"India, which is the president of G-20 countries, remains among the countries that perform better than global average and by a good percentage," IMF Managing Director told reporters during a media roundtable.

Photo / courtesy IMF

JANUARY 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): At a time when the world is faced with continued economic slowdown and social distress, the international community counts a lot on India's leadership of G-20, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday, January 12.

"India, which is the president of G-20 countries, remains among the countries that

perform better than global average and by a good percentage," IMF Managing Director told

reporters during a media roundtable.

India formally assumed the G20 (Group of 20) Presidency on December 1. The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

"We count a lot on India's leadership of the G-20. Because it is such a critical time for the world to protect its own wellbeing by protecting the integrated global economy. I hope that India will do that huge global service keeping us together," she said.

Georgieva lauded India for embracing digitization.

"What we see as working extremely well for India is how the country has taken digitization that was accelerated by covid-19 to be a strong comparative advantage, both for public policy and for private sector growth," the IMF Managing Director said in response to a question. (Source: PTI)

## Laid off Indian employees on H1B visa in the United States still struggling to find a job

JANUARY 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): It has been a few months now and a new year but laid off Twitter and Meta employees are still struggling to find a new jobs given the macroeconomic conditions globally. Meta and Twitter laid off thousands globally. Many among them were Indians holding H1B visa.

In 2022, employees working for tech companies were majorly impacted by layoffs. Some of the biggest layoffs that took place were at Twitter and Meta. Together, the two biggest tech companies laid off thousands of employees, many of which were Indians living in the United States with H1B visa. At the time of announcing layoffs, Meta head Mark Zuckerberg extended immigration support to foreign employees, but no such support was offered by Elon Musk-headed Twitter. (Source: India Today Tech)



In 2022, employees working for tech companies were majorly impacted by layoffs. Photo for representation only

## AAPI's 17th Global Healthcare Summit Announced During Curtain Raiser in Delhi



Dr. Anjana Samadder, President-Elect of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) announced that the 17th annual Global Healthcare Summit will be held in New Delhi from January 2nd to 4th, 2024



At the Delhi Press conference. From L to R: Dr. Anjana Samadder, Shri Karthikeyan, Dr. Sushi Singh, Dr. Udaya Shivangi

JANUARY 11, 2023

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): "After the highly successful Global Healthcare Summit in Visakhapatnam last weekend, I am happy to announce that the 17th annual Global Healthcare Summit will be held in New Delhi from January 2nd to 4th, 2024," Dr. Anjana Samadder, President-Elect of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) announced here during a Curtain Raiser held at the prestigious Constitution Club in New Delhi on January 9th, 2023.

Organized under the leadership of Dr. Udaya Shivangi, Women's Forum Chair of AAPI, the kickoff event and press conference was attended by nearly 50 journalists from the nation's capital and several leaders of AAPI, who had come all the way from the United States to be part of this important ceremony. Prominent among those who attended the event included Dr. Seema Arora, past BOT Chair of AAPI, Dr. Raghu Lolabhattu, vice chair of AAPI BOT, Dr. Gautam Samadder, past president of AAPI, Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, Dr. Raj Bhayani, and Dr. Joseph Chalil.

CONTD ON PAGE 42



## LAC situation stable but unpredictable: Army Chief

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Thursday said the security situation along the northern borders (with China) was stable but remained unpredictable.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Army Day (Jan 15), the Army Chief said: "We have resolved five of the seven friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh." The pending friction points are at Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh, sources said. General Pande praised the troops on the ground for being able to maintain a "robust defensive posture" to prevent the adversary from changing the status quo along the LAC, the de facto boundary with China.

On China's aggression, the Army Chief said there was a slight increase in the number of troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) facing the Eastern Command. "Their (Chinese) troops which came for training have remained," the General said, adding that "we have adequate deployment and we have the reserves to meet any challenge." The Army has decided to go in for transformation in five key domains. These include force restructuring and optimisation; modernisation and technology infusion; manpower management like Agnipath; jointness with other forces; and refining own systems and processes.

General Pande said 2023 would be the year of transformation and the force had laid out a specific roadmap aiming for certain outcomes that could be achieved. "This process will continue beyond the current year."

On modernisation, General Pande said: "As of now, 45 per cent of our equipment is vintage, 41 per cent is of current technology and some 12 to 15 per cent is state-of-the-art. "By 2030, we aim to have 45 per cent equipment in the state-of-the-art category and 35 per cent of current technology."

# India, US agree to focus on trade, resolving WTO issues

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Committing themselves to expanding their already growing trade relationship, India and the United States (US) have decided to build on the environment of trust to create resilient supply chains, resolve their existing trade disputes at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through bilateral mechanisms, work on expanding market access for each other's products, and intensify their engagement through meetings of specific trade-related working groups on a quarterly basis.

At the 13th Trade Policy Forum (TPF) ministerial talks held in Washington DC on Wednesday, January 11, Union minister for commerce and industry Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai hailed the fact that bilateral trade in goods and services had reached \$160 billion in 2021, but also recognised that the full potential of the trade relationship remained "unfulfilled", according to a joint statement released at the end of the talks.

Goyal told reporters that the TPF, since its relaunch in November 2021, had evolved into a "robust and outcome-oriented discussion" and was helping create a "smoother, more friendly and trusted environment for businesses to expand their trade and investment between the two countries".

### US welcomes draft data law

Goyal said that the US has welcomed India's draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill that was released for public consultations at the end of November and appreciated American suggestions in the regard.

Goyal said, "I must place on record our deep appreciation for the many guidance notes or suggestions we have received from the US from time to time on our digital laws and data protection and privacy laws so that we can align them with the needs of the world and help Indian businesses with their outreach with digital technologies."

Pointing out that India is one of the largest suppliers on the information technology services side to the US, and that there is a "shared interest on both sides" to have a greater flow of data, Goyal said, "The new law placed for public consultations by the ministry of electronics and information technology (Meity) was very very much appreciated by the US side and they do see that our effort to align the needs of industry, while maintaining the highest standards of data protection and privacy, has been brought out beautifully in the new law. The US side has expressed their prima facie satisfaction with the new law and will continue to engage with Meity."

Besides highlighting the importance of a conducive environment for digital trade, the joint statement said that Goyal highlighted India's interest in the potential of digital health, "particularly telemedicine services as an element of continuity of care during



Union minister Piyush Goyal with United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai during the 13th India-US Trade Policy Forum in Washington DC on Wednesday, Jan 11. (PTI)

health emergencies."

### Trade outcomes

Wednesday's talks opened up the prospect of the export of wild caught shrimps from India to the US.

The joint statement said that both sides had welcomed the finalisation of the turtle excluder device (TED) design, whose trials will help minimise the impact of fishing on sea-turtle populations. Goyal explained that wild caught shrimp exports had been banned by the US because of the concerns of the impact on turtles. "We hope that these trials in India will complete in the coming few months so that wild caught shrimps can be exported to the US."

India and the US have also agreed to create a new working group on resilient trade.

The group, according to the joint statement, will focus on trade facilitation "which is particularly relevant to the construction of durable and resilient supply chains"; sustainable and inclusive growth "including cooperative engagement to promote labour rights and workforce development"; expanding dialogue on "good regulatory practices"; and the role of trade in contributing to environmental protection, including issues related to "mobilisation of sustainable finance and scaling up of clean technologies", circular economy, and sustainable lifestyle choices.

India also highlighted, according to the joint statement, its interest in restoration of its beneficiary status under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which was revoked by the Donald Trump administration. But Goyal said that while he had placed the demand on record, it was not an issue that ranked high on Indian priorities. *Source: HT*

## India keen to present views of 'global south' at G-20: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI (TIP)

G20 President India is keen to put forward the development issues of the Global South in order to make the world economic order more equitable, including through reforms in multilateral institutions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday, January 12.

Sitharaman was speaking at the Voice of Global South Summit, a virtual summit spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the aim of presenting at the G20 the issues and challenges of emerging and low-income nations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Around 120 nations are attending the summit. It is an initiative by India to include the voice of nations who are not part of G-20.

"India appreciates the contribution of multilateral institutions and development banks in dealing with global challenges. However, the



hardships posed by the pandemic have exposed vulnerabilities at all levels and shown that a major scale-up of response mechanisms is required so that the support provided by these institutions is responsive to country-specific needs," Sitharaman said.

"We believe strengthening multilateral development banks is a key to addressing the global challenges of the 21st century," she said, adding that the recent geopolitical tensions and the pandemic have aggravated global debt

vulnerabilities.

Sitharaman said India will use the G20 Presidency to encourage collective solutions to deal with the numerous challenges facing the world, like economic slowdown, rising inflation, threat of resurgence of pandemic, and risks emerging from geopolitical conflicts.

"We strongly believe there should not be any first world or a third world, but just one world with a shared understanding for a common future," Sitharaman said.

India has repeatedly stated that one of its aims as G20 president will be to push for reforms in the likes of International Monetary Fund and World Bank to make them more attuned to the needs of the developing world.

'Global South' is a term used to describe emerging and poorer nations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania, as opposed to the 'Global North', which are primarily developed

nations from North America and Europe.

Sitharaman said the global debt crisis is one of the biggest challenges that the world faces today, as many low-income countries are stuck between servicing outstanding sovereign debt and providing basic services for their citizens.

As the world rebuilds itself from the pandemic, the Global South needs to exhibit "strong solidarity" to deal with challenges like pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical tensions, which are affecting efforts for development and economic growth.

"If left unaddressed, these mounting debt vulnerabilities can trigger global recession and push millions to extreme poverty. Under India's G20 presidency, financing for the social dimension of sustainable development is an important priority," Sitharaman said.

*Source: Business Standard*





## Ex-minister, Bihar stalwart Sharad Yadav dies aged 75

Former Union minister and once the Janata Dal (United)'s chief Sharad Yadav died at a hospital in Gurugram late on Thursday, January 12, with tributes pouring in for the 75-year-old veteran politician who was regarded as an impactful orator.

Yadav is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. A statement from the Fortis Memorial Research Institute said Yadav was brought to the emergency ward in an unconscious and unresponsive state.

"On examination, he did not have any pulse or recordable blood pressure. He underwent CPR as per ACLS protocols. Despite best efforts, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 10.19pm," the statement said.

Yadav's daughter Subhashini Sharad Yadav posted on Facebook: "Papa nahi rahe (Papa is no more)".

"Pained by the passing away of Shri Sharad Yadav Ji. In his long years in public life, he distinguished himself as MP and Minister. He was greatly inspired by Dr. Lohia's ideals. I will always cherish our interactions. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted on Thursday night.

# ISRO report shows entire Joshimath may sink; town sank by 5.4 cm in last 12 days

DEHRADUN (TIP)

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released satellite images of Joshimath and a preliminary report on land subsidence which shows that the entire town may sink.

The pictures are taken from the Cartosat-2S satellite.

Hyderabad-based NRSC has released the satellite images of areas that are sinking.

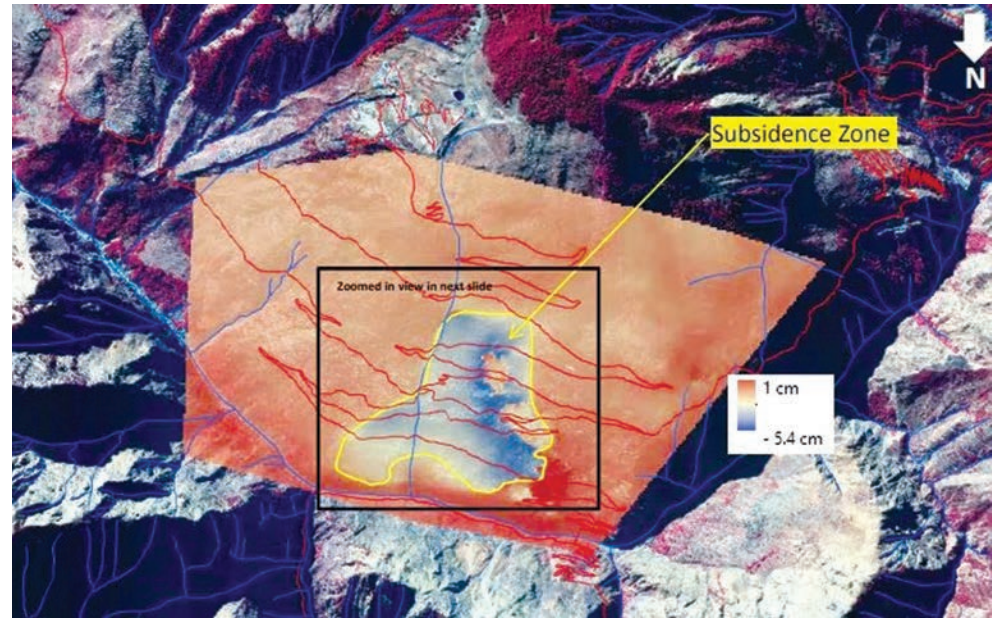
In images, the entire town, including the Army's helipad and the Narasimha temple, has been marked as sensitive zone.

On the basis of ISRO's preliminary report, Uttarakhand government is conducting rescue operation in danger-prone areas and the people in these areas are being shifted to safer places on priority.

According to the report, the land subsidence was slow between April and November 2022, during which Joshimath had sunk by 8.9 cm. But between December 27, 2022 and January 8, 2023, the intensity of land subsidence increased and the town sank by 5.4 cm in these 12 days.

The satellite images show that the Joshimath-Auli road is also going to collapse due to the land subsidence.

Although scientists are still studying the cracks that appeared in the houses and roads after the land subsidence in the town, the findings in the primary report of ISRO are frightening.



Cartosat-2S satellite data of the area of Joshimath which is sinking. (Photo: National Remote Sensing Centre)

Joshimath has been declared a land-subsidence zone by the Chamoli district administration after hundred of houses developed cracks within a few days and families had to be relocated as their residences have been identified as dangerous. While the government has announced an interim relief package of Rs 1.5 lakh and working on a rehabilitation package, the demolition of two hotels began on Thursday, January 12, but was again halted because of bad weather. The mechanical demolition was earlier stalled for a few days because of

the protest of the locals and residents.

Only hotel Malari Inn and Mount View Hotel will be demolished as their existence is dangerous for the surrounding structures, the administration said assuring that no other houses will be demolished as of now. Several expert teams have been roped in to analyse the sinking of Joshimath, while tunnelling work for NTPC hydel project is being blamed by the experts. NTPC, however, issued a statement and claimed that their tunnel is not passing under Joshimath.

# PM flags off Ganga Vilas, inaugurates Tent City in Varanasi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off MV Ganga Vilas, the world's longest river Cruise, and inaugurated Tent City in Varanasi via video conferencing. During the event, the prime minister also laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth over ₹1000 crores. Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav, besides other ministers and senior officials from various ministries and departments were present at the event.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the beginning of the world's longest river cruise service on river Ganga is a landmark moment, asserting that the project will herald a new age of tourism in India.

All you need to know about Ganga Vilas cruise:

Operated by Antara Cruises, MV Ganga Vilas will traverse 3,200km



A view of the world's longest river cruise with MV Ganga Vilas which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi on January 13, 2023.

through five states in India and parts of Bangladesh over 51 days. It will begin its journey from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh.

The vessel with three decks is 62 metres wide and 12 metres in breadth.

Besides connecting National Waterway 1 (NW1) which includes Ganga and National Waterway 2 (NW2) on

Brahmaputra, the cruise will cross 27 river systems.

It has 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists, with all the luxury amenities. The suites have soothing interiors, furnished with numerous amenities such as French balconies, LED TVs, safes, smoke detectors, and convertible beds, according to a UP tourism department

official.

The cruise ship also has a 40-seater restaurant on the main deck, a spa, and a sun deck. The upper deck features a bar.

The 51 days cruise is planned with visits to 50 tourist spots including World Heritage Sites, National Parks, River Ghats, and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam.

Sonowal said the journey will give foreign tourists an opportunity to embark upon an experiential voyage and indulge in the art, culture, history, and spirituality of India and Bangladesh.

The maiden voyage has 32 tourists from Switzerland signing up for the entire length of the journey.

The cruise was to reach Varanasi on January 6 but weather conditions and poor visibility meant that it reached Ghazipur, 65km from Varanasi, on January 8.

The tourists were taken to the tomb of Lord Cornwallis in Ghazipur, the Ganga Aarti at the Dashashwamedh Ghat, and the newly renovated Kashi Vishwanath corridor. *Source: HT*



# India in history this Week

## JANUARY 13, 2023, TO JANUARY 19, 2023

### 13 JANUARY

1709 Mughal ruler Bahadur Shah I defeated his brother Kambakhsh in Hyderabad in a power struggle.

1849 The famous Battle of Chillianwala started during the Second Anglo Sikh War.

1910 Radio was broadcast for the first time. The broadcast could also be heard on a ship 20 km away in the sea.

1923 Famous film producer and director Shakti Samanta was born.



1938 Renowned santoor player Pandit Shivkumar was born.

1948 Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi started a fast unto death in Kolkata to maintain Hindu-Muslim unity.

1949 India's first astronaut Rakesh Sharma is born.

1976 Death of the famous tabla player of India Ahmed Jan Thirkwa.

### 14 JANUARY

1741 Third war of Panipat started between Marathas and Afghans.

1742 Edmund Haley, who introduced the world to Haley Comet, breathed his last on this day. Edmund Haley is one of England's best known astronomers.

1964 Test bowler Rameshchandra Gangaram Nadkarni set a record for throwing 21 maiden overs.



1977 Narayan Karthikeyan, the first Indian to fill the Formula One race, was born on this day.

1994 For the first time in 300 years, a member of Britain's royal family adopted Catholicism. The Duchess of Kent became a member of the Catholic Church in a private service.

2002 The British government announced that the foot and mouth disease that has been spreading in the country for nearly 11 months will be considered to end at midnight.

2016 Social activist and famous litterateur Mahashweta Devi was born.

### 15 JANUARY

1784 Establishment of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

1934 An earthquake measuring 8.7 struck India and Nepal. About 11,000 lives were lost in this earthquake.

1975 Portugal signs agreement for independence of

Angola.

1988 Former India bowler Narendra Hirwani, taking historic feat, took 16 wickets in his debut Test match against West Indies.

2012 India's first female photo journalist Homi Vairala died.

### 16 JANUARY



2009 On this day, Kalpana Chawla filled the space shuttle Columbia, spent 372 hours in space

1761 Pondicherry was annexed by the British from the French.

1769 Pondicherry was annexed by the British from the French.

1681 The grand coronation of Sambhaji, son of Kshatrapati Shivaji, took place at Raigad Fort in Maharashtra.

1938 Death of noted Bengali litterateur Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay.

### 17 JANUARY

2008 The Central Government approved a scheme of Rs 1800 crore for providing jobs to the disabled.

2009 Randhir Singh, the general secretary of the Indian Olympic Association, resigned from his post.



2010 The Supreme Court of India has given a proactive definition of the right to self-defense in the event of unlawful assault, saying that people who follow the law do not have to be cowardly. Its two-member bench set a 10-point directive on the right to self-defense, stating that a person cannot be criminalized under these circumstances, even if he had caused the attacker's death.

### 18 JANUARY



1996 Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao died on 18 January 1996.

1955 On this day in 1955, the famous Urdu writer and poet Sadat Hasan Manto said goodbye to this world.

1991 After 62 years of business, in 1991, today the Eastern airline was closed for economic reasons.

2003 Famous Hindi writer and poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan died in 2003.

1896 The first demonstration of the 'X-ray machine' was done in 1896.

1930 In 1930 Rabindranath Tagore visited the Sabarmati Ashram.



1997 In 1997, Nafisa Joseph became Miss India.



1995 In 1995, the domain of Yahoo.com was created on this day.

### 19 JANUARY

1905 Devendranath Tagore Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thakur's father and Indian thinker, died.

1905 Rajneesh, popularly known as Osho, died in Pune.

1966 On this day, the Congress Party chose Indira Gandhi as its leader for the post of Prime Minister of India. Indira Gandhi was the only daughter of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.





# Lohri – The Bonfire Festival

India, the land of festivals, and Lohri is the harvest festival of the breadbasket of India, i.e. Punjab. Lohri falls in the month of Magh and during the auspicious period of Uttarayan when the Sun moves northwards from the Tropic of Capricorn towards the Tropic of Cancer. It is usually celebrated on January 12 or 13 as per the Gregorian calendar.

Lohri marks the culmination of the winter season and is celebrated by worshipping the fire which is symbolic of the Sun God. This festival is also celebrated in Delhi, Haryana and parts of Himachal Pradesh. Natives of these states celebrate this festival with great fervour, gaiety and splendour. During this time, the fields of these Northern states gleam with the harvest of wheat, the main crop of this region, and the festival honours the elements of nature like the fire and the sun as a mark of gratefulness.

The festival is named Lohri because of the following reasons:

- Some believe that the name is derived from Loi, wife of the Sufi Saint Sant Kabir.
- Loh in Punjab means the pan used for making rotis during community feasts. Since Lohri is a community festival, the name has been derived from the word Loh.
- Lohri was also the sister of Holika.
- The main ingredients used for making sweets in this festival are gajak and rewri, or til and rohri. Thus the name Lohri is a combination of these two words.

## The Origin of Lohri

The history of the celebration of Lohri finds its roots back in the era of Akbar. As per legends, Dulha Batti was a Muslim robber, who during the rule of Akbar, would steal from the rich and distribute the loot among the underprivileged of the society. He was indeed the Robin Hood of that era for he also helped girls who were being taken away against their wish. Dulha Batti, was contemporary in his thinking and would arrange inter-caste marriages between Muslim girls and Hindu boys. Thus the people of Punjab loved and respected him and sang songs in his praise to express their gratitude. These songs are still sung during the celebration of Lohri.

## Customs and Traditions

The joyous occasion of Lohri is marked by many age-old customs and traditions. Some of them include:

- The celebrations start a few days prior to Lohri with young girls of the village going from house to house collecting cow-dung cakes which act as the fuel for the bonfire to be lit on the day of the festival. The young girls sing a song asking for the cow-dung cakes.
- On the day of the festival an idol of goddess Lohri is decorated and the bonfire is lit before this idol. Songs are sung in the praise of Goddess Lohri.
- January is the time to harvest sugarcane and thus the products



made from sugarcane like jaggery find an important place in the celebrations.

- The bonfire is symbolic of the most important element of nature – the Sun God – and is lit after sunset. It is believed that sun is the source of all life on the earth and represents both the physical as well as the spiritual energy in man. The bonfires can be seen burning in the wheat fields as well as at the porches of houses where people get together as a community to celebrate Lohri.
- People circle the fire as a mark of respect and offer sesame seeds, jaggery, sugar-candy, puffed rice, popcorn and rewaries to the sacred fire.
- The prasaad of til, gajak, jaggery, peanuts, and popcorn are then exchanged among family and friends along with gifts and wishes.
- People chant the words ‘Aadar aye dilather jaye’ which literally means “May honour come and poverty depart”.
- Popular folk songs are sung and people perform the Bhangra and the Gidda, the traditional folk dances of Punjab to the beats of Dhol.
- The dying embers and ashes of the sacred bonfire are taken home by the people as they are considered to bring in wealth and prosperity.
- The til is of great significance in this festival. As the people throw sesame seeds into the fire, they pray for as many sons in the family as the number of sesame seeds offered to the sacred fire. Sons are important especially in

the agrarian culture of rural Punjab as they are expected to act as farmhands and eventually take over the farms.

- Lohri is also considered to be the beginning of the financial year by the Sikh community.

## The First Lohri

The first Lohri after a wedding or the birth of a child is of great importance. The new bride and groom, and the new born baby are showered with gifts by family and friends. A grand celebration is organised with a feast as family and friends gather to wish the newly-wed couple or the newborn.

## The Modern Version

With changing times and more awareness among people about the ongoing global warming, Lohri has now donned a contemporary outlook. With the aim towards a green and a clean environment, people have started planting saplings to replenish the trees that are cut for wood that serves as fuel to the sacred bonfire. Today, the people are indeed very conscious about the environment and in order to sustain it they are working towards growing more trees as a community.

Be it Lohri, or Makar Sankranti, or Pongal, these festivals are indeed a celebration of life and are markers of the common man's gratitude towards the various forces of nature. Happy Lohri!!

## Religious Fact

As per the Hindu calendar, in the mid-January, the earth starts its journey towards the sun bringing end to Paush, the coldest month of the year. According to the Shrimad



Bhagawad Gita, Lord Krishna manifests his full divinity during the period of Lohri. A day later, the auspicious Makara Sankranti holds which marks the end of the winter season. Thousands of Hindus bath in the Ganges to nullify their sins.

## Social Fact

Wheat is the main winter crop in the northern parts of India. This winter (rabi) crop is sown in the months of October and harvested in March or April. Farmers and their families celebrate Lohri during January (rest period) before the cutting of crops. Thus, Punjabis and Haryanavis celebrate Lohri as the “harvest festival”. Most farmers from rural Punjab consider the day after Lohri as the starting of new financial year. The Sindhi community popularly call Lohri as “Lal loee”. On the festive day, children request their grandparents and aunties for wood sticks which are burnt in the bonfire.



# Maghi Mela at Muktsar

**M**aghi is the occasion when Sikhs commemorate the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who fought for Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh master.

Maghi, Makara Sankranti, the first day of the month of Magh. The eve of Maghi is the common Indian festival of Lohri when bonfires are lit in Hindu homes to greet the birth of sons in the families and alms are distributed. In the morning, people go out for an early-hour dip in nearby tanks.

For Sikhs, Maghi means primarily the festival at Muktsar, a district town of the Punjab, in commemoration of the heroic fight of the Chali Mukte, literally, the Forty Liberated Ones, who laid down their lives warding off an attack by an imperial army marching in pursuit of Guru Gobind Singh.

Mela Maghi, held at the holy city of Sri Muktsar Sahib each year in January, or the month of Magh according to Nanakshahi calendar is one of the most important melas (fairs) of India and the most important of all religiously significant gatherings of the Sikhs.

Etymologically, mukta from Sanskrit mukt means 'liberated, delivered, emancipated,' especially from the cycle of birth and death. Mukti (liberation, emancipation) in Sikhism is the highest spiritual goal of human existence, and mukt or mukta is the one who has achieved this state of final beatitude. Mukta, also means a pearl, and the word would thus signify a title or epithet of distinction. It was probably in this sense that the five Sikhs, who on 30 March 1699 received the vows of the Khalsa immediately after the first five Panj Piare (q.v.), were blessed with the title mukta, plural mukte.

The term Chali Mukte is also used sometimes for the martyrs whom were attacked by a huge army, which had been in pursuit of the 40 Sikhs, their Guru and the two older Sahibzadas since the evacuation of Anandpur by Guru Gobind Singh during the night 5-6 December. Encircled and hopelessly outnumbered at Chamkaur on 7 December, they engaged the enemy in small sorties throughout the day. Two of those sorties were led by their Guru's two oldest sons the Sahibzadas.

The Guru had previously created the Khalsa making his men his equal. Now Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji told the survivors of his plan to challenge his attackers the next morning joining his sons, the Sahibzadas, in Sach Khand. The five remaining Sikhs were Bhai Dharam Singh, (the two remaining Panj Pyare), Bhai Man Singh, Bhai Sangat Singh and finally Bhai Sant Singh. They begged Guru Ji to escape, they said, "At Kesgarh Sahib we watched you beseeching the five beloved ones to initiate you



with Amrit. You had said then, I am of the Khalsa, and the Khalsa is mine. Today we ask in the capacity of the Khalsa beseeching you to leave Chamkaur and escape to a safer place."

Guru Saheb had no choice now but to accept their demands. It was decided that Guru Ji, Man Singh and the two Panj Pyare would leave

the fort and that they would dress Sant Singh to look like Guru Ji because he had an uncanny resemblance to Guru Saheb. Guru Ji killed the few soldiers that were on watch. Then they left in the pitch dark the Guru clapped his hands three times saying "Peer Ū Hind Rahaavat" ("The "Peer" of India is Leaving").

They all shouted Sat Sri Akal and scattered in different directions. The mughals who couldn't see where anyone was, ended up killing several of their own while Guru Ji and the three Sikhs escaped.

Wazir Khan, the faujdar of Sirhind, denied the next day of the prize he had so eagerly and treacherously hounded, must have been furious. He would soon release that fury on the Guru's remaining sons and their grandmother who, betrayed by their old family cook Gangu, soon fell into his hands back at Sirhind.

While there is no unanimity over the names of the martyrs of Sri Muktsar Sahib and Chamkaur Sahib, the five Muktas who comprised the first batch of Sikhs to receive amrit at the hands of the Panj Piare are given in Rahitnama by Bhai Daya Singh as Ram Singh, Fateh Singh, Deva Singh, Tahil Singh and Isar Singh. No other details of these five are available except that an old manuscript of Bhai Prahlad Singh's Rahitnama is said to contain a note associating Ram Singh and Deva Singh with the village of Bughiana, Tahil Singh and Isar Singh with Dall-Van and Fateh Singh with Kurdpur Mangat.

According to Bhai Chaupa Singh, his Rahitnama or code of conduct was drafted by muktas. The text is said to have received Guru Gobind Singh's approval on 7 Jeth 1757 Bk / 5 May 1700. It appears that the title of mukta was bestowed subsequently also on persons other than the original five. The number of muktas is recorded variously in old Sikh texts. For instance, Kesar Singh Chhibbar, Bansavallnama Dasan Patshahlan Ka, mentions 14, and Kuir Singh, gurbilas Patshahi X, 25.

But the muktas universally celebrated in the Sikh tradition are the forty martyrs of Sri Muktsar Sahib who earned this title by sacrificing their lives for the Guru and who redeemed their past apostasy of having disowned their Guru and deserted him, when driven to desperation by the prolonged siege of Anandpur by the Rajput hill chiefs and Mughal forces by having their disclaimer torn by the Guru.

Sikhs celebrate the Maghi with an end to end recital of the holy Guru Granth Sahib and religious rituals in all the Sikh Gurudwaras. On the eve of Maghi falls the common Indian festival called the Lohri when bonfires are lighted in Hindu homes and alms are also distributed. . however The largest assembly, however, takes place at Muktsar (Punjab) where big fairs are organized and pilgrims take a holy dip in the sacred waters of sarovar and also visit several shrines. A mahala or big march of pilgrims from the main shrine to gurdwara Tibbi Sahib, sacred to Guru Gobind Singh, concludes the three-day celebration.



# NJ ARTS COMMUNITY CELEBRATING NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

BY MABEL PAIS

## THEME: REDEFINING & REBUILDING COMMUNITY

The Creating Change Network, a program hosted by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey that aims to build a more equitable, just, accessible and anti-racist arts community in New Jersey, has curated a line-up of 11 FREE public arts events in celebration of the National Day of Racial Healing, which takes place January 17, 2023.

New Jersey Arts Events will take place January 16-24, and will feature both in person and online offerings. All events are offered free of charge to the public. The full lineup, including links for reserving tickets can be found at [jerseyarts.com/ndorh](http://jerseyarts.com/ndorh).

The Creating Change Network, in partnership with the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center at Rutgers University - Newark sought participation from artists and arts organizations to create events focused on "Redefining and Rebuilding Community" related to race and racism.

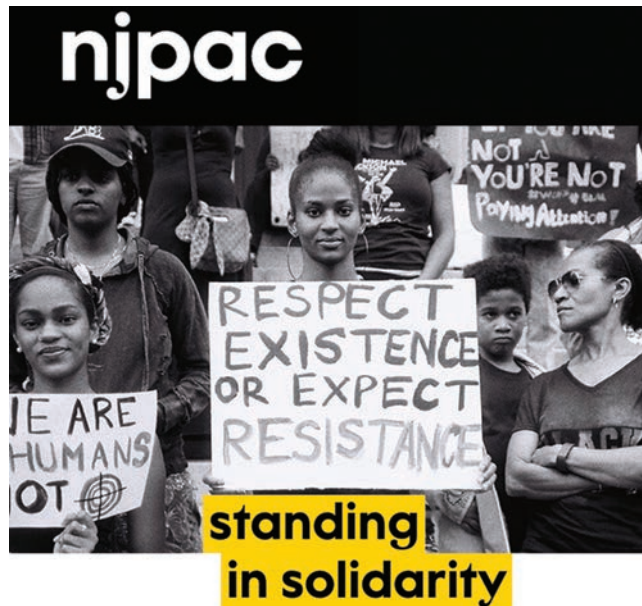
"It has been a pleasure to partner with the Creating Change Network," says Sharon Stroye, Director of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Center and Director of Public Engagement in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University - Newark. "The mission of the TRHT Center at Rutgers University - Newark is to draw on the methodologies and strategies of the humanities and the arts within a social justice framework, where RU - N and diverse community partners can engage in an arc of interactive programming designed to change the narrative about race and race relations in Newark and beyond."

"The theme for National Day of Racial Healing 2023 is Redefining and Rebuilding Community," Stroye continues. "After a global pandemic, the racial reckoning the world is experiencing, and the divisive political rancor, how do we redefine and rebuild inclusive communities for all people? The Creating Change Network is a strategic and collaborative partner in promoting racial healing and relationship building throughout the New Jersey arts community."

"The National Day of Racial Healing is a critical platform enabling individuals and organizations across the country to participate in the recognition that awareness and action are imperative to healing our nation's racial crisis. This opportunity for our arts community to participate, supports our goal of creating change and moving this conversation forward to transform our workplace and how we engage with each

other," says Donna Walker-Kuhne, Senior Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Chair of the Creating Change Steering Committee.

## NEW JERSEY ARTS EVENTS FOR THE 2023 NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING:



Standing in Solidarity.

Photo Credit / JerseyArts.com

- Standing in Solidarity Series  
JAN 3, 2023 - JAN 24, 2023 | WEBCAST  
Culturally Responsive Arts Education (CRAE) Workout and Conversations  
JAN 16, 2023 - MAR 10, 2023 | VIDEO CONFERENCE  
RUST Documentary Film Discussion With Filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno and NJIT Students  
JAN 17, 2023 | WEBCAST  
Just ADD Sound  
JAN 19, 2023 | WEBCAST  
Smoke  
JAN 21, 2023 | NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTENNIAL HALL  
Grief Love: A Theatrical Performance  
JAN 21, 2023 | VIDEO CONFERENCE  
Untold Stories of Storied People  
JAN 21, 2023 | THE NEWARK MUSEUM OF ART  
Flower From Resilience  
JAN 21, 2023 | PLAINSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM  
Back to the Woods  
JAN 22, 2023 | WEBCAST  
Feel The Beat! African Dance & Drum & More

JAN 22, 2023 | CENTER FOR MODERN DANCE EDUCATION (LIVE AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE)

## REDEFINING & BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN OURSELVES

Theater in Life Presents

### Back to the woods...



Togetherness and empathy heals our pain faster than any medicine

"Redefining and Rebuilding Community"  
Epic Actor's Workshop  
"National Day of Racial Healing!"

Redefining & Rebuilding Community. Photo Credit / JerseyArts.com

JAN 24, 2023 | VIDEO CONFERENCE

Learn more about each of the above events at [jerseyarts.com/ndorh](http://jerseyarts.com/ndorh)

## THE CREATING CHANGE NETWORK

The Creating Change Network is a collaboration between New Jersey Theatre Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey, the state's two largest arts service organizations, with a mission to build a more equitable, just, accessible and anti-racist arts community in New Jersey. Learn more at [njtheatrealliance.org/creating-change-network](http://njtheatrealliance.org/creating-change-network).

## NEW JERSEY THEATRE ALLIANCE

Founded in 1981, New Jersey Theatre Alliance was the first statewide service organization for professional, not-for-profit theatre companies in the United States, and is a leader in developing model programs that unite, promote, strengthen, and cultivate professional theatre in New Jersey. Learn more at [njtheatrealliance.org](http://njtheatrealliance.org).

## THE ARTPRIDE NEW JERSEY FOUNDATION

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey's quality of life, education, and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride, visit [ArtPrideNJ.org](http://ArtPrideNJ.org)

# AMERICAN RIVER - A JOURNEY DOWN THE PASSAIC

BY MABEL PAIS



Passaic River.

Photo Credit / [americanriver.film](http://americanriver.film)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) will screen 'American River,' a journey down the Passaic river, a feature-length documentary by Chatham filmmaker Scott Morris on Friday, January 20, 2023 7:00 PM. The screening will be followed by a talk-back session for the audience with Morris, Mary Bruno (aquatic ecologist, author, actor) and her guide, expert

kayaker Carl Alderson.

Mary Bruno spent her childhood along one of the most polluted waterways in America. Decades later, she returns to kayak the river of her youth and tells its story.

'American River' is an exciting cinematic adventure about an ambitious 4-day kayak trip down the Passaic River. Equal parts a scientist's memoir of growing up on the river that inspired her life's work, a history of the Garden State's growth and development, and a gorgeous travelogue that offers incredible bird's-eye panoramas of the state's stretches of pristine wilderness, the film American River was inspired by aquatic ecologist Mary Bruno's book, 'An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey's Passaic,' published in 2012.

Captured in exquisite detail by a fifteen-person film

crew with ten 4K cameras filming from the land, the air and, often, from the bow of Bruno's kayak, the documentary charts not just their travels but how the Passaic shaped New Jersey's history.

"NJPAC's role as an anchor cultural institution means this Arts Center is where our community comes together to talk about our history, our future and what's most important to us," says NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber. "We are excited to offer our community this opportunity to learn more about the river that in many ways made our city what it is today - and to find how the work of their neighbors has been so instrumental in saving the river for our children and grandchildren."

Learn more at [americanriver.film](http://americanriver.film).

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



# NJS WITH XIAN ZHANG IGNITES CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony (njsymphony.org) for the fifth time presents Music Director Xian Zhang igniting the annual Lunar New Year. This festive family-friendly evening of cultural exchange will celebrate the Year of the Rabbit.

The performance takes place on January 21 at 7:30 pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark.

The evening is one of Music Director Xian Zhang's most inspired projects. Shortly after becoming music director of the New Jersey Symphony in 2016, Zhang launched this popular celebration to share cultural traditions from across the globe. Zhang will be ringing in the New Year alongside conductor Tong Chen. Chen, is in her second season as the New Jersey Symphony's assistant conductor; she is also music director of the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra.

Featured in this year's event will be pianist Chelsea Guo and violinist Nancy Zhou, two rising stars who recently received glowing reviews for their performances in the New Jersey Symphony's "East/West: A Symphonic Celebration" concert at New York City's Alice Tully Hall, featuring music by Qigang Chen and Jiping Zhao, composers also represented on this program.

This performance will feature the world premiere of James Ra's Fantasia on Sae Taryeong performed by Min Kwon. Kwon is a Korean-American pianist and professor of piano at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts.

The evening will include performances from the Peking University Alumni Chorus, Starry Arts Group Children's Chorus, and the Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team.

Prior to the performance, the Symphony is hosting a Gala fundraiser, beginning at 4:30pm. Gala guests will

enjoy a pre-concert reception and festivities with featured artists followed by an elegant gala dinner. For information on Lunar New Year events available at njsymphony.org/lnygala

Watch the preview - fb.watch/hUFvOrzuIY

## PROGRAM

2023 Lunar New Year Celebration  
Saturday, January 21, 7:30 pm | New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark

Xian Zhang conductor  
Tong Chen conductor  
Nancy Zhou violin  
Chelsea Guo piano  
Min Kwon piano  
Peking University Alumni Chorus  
Starry Arts Group Children's Chorus Rebecca Shen, Director  
Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team

## New Jersey Symphony



Xian Zhang with NJ Symphony.

Credit: NJ Symphony

Li Huanzhi Spring Festival Overture  
Zhao Jiping Violin Concerto No. 1  
James Ra Sae Taryung for Piano and Orchestra  
Chen Qigang Er Huang  
Bizet "Choeur des gamins" from Carmen  
Traditional (arr. Liu) Di Li, Di Li  
Li Shutong (arr. Hersh) Farewell at Long Pavilion  
Sartori (arr. Hersh) Con te partiro

## TICKETS

For Tickets, call 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or visit njsymphony.org.

## HEALTHY SAFETY POLICY

All New Jersey Symphony performances follow safety measures in partnership with the venues and based on the guidance provided by the CDC and the State of New Jersey.

## NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

The Emmy and Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony, celebrating its Centennial Season in 2022-23, is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The centennial season opened in October and will conclude in June 2023. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org.

## CONNECT WITH NJS:

Website: njsymphony.org  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok: @NJSymphony on  
YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony  
Email: information@njsymphony.org

# NAI NI CHEN CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR AT NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company begins its annual celebration of the Lunar New Year in the Year of the Rabbit. This year's presentation is the Black Water Rabbit with the world premiere of Lion in The City featuring hip-hop break-dancing legends Kwikstep and Rokafella. Kwikstep, founder of the Full Circle Breaking Crew and a mentor to some of the best break dancers in the U.S. and Rokafella, one of the most iconic b-girls in hip-hop history will take to the stage with Nai Ni Chen on Saturday, January 21 and Sunday January 22 at 2pm.

A Newark tradition for over two decades, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company returns to NJPAC to welcome the coming Spring of 2023, the Year of the Black Water Rabbit. This year, to honor the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop, the Company will present the New Jersey Premiere of Dragon Cypher; a work developed by Nai-Ni Chen, Rokafella, and Kwikstep, collaboratively, integrating Chinese dance, contemporary choreography, and Hip-Hop Dance. It's a spectacular experience for all ages, combining traditional Chinese celebrations with a modern flair.

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company has assembled a cross-cultural team consisting of the Company's Director of New and Contemporary Dance, PeiJu Chien-Pott, assisted by H+ | The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory's Yvonne H. Chow, Lion Dance Master Henry Lee, and Hip-Hop break-dancing legends Kwikstep and Rokafella. DJ Kwikstep will develop new music incorporating the unique rhythms of Chinese Lion Dance drumming and Hip-Hop. At the same time, Rokafella works with the team to uniquely translate Hip-Hop Dance vocabulary onto the body of the lion. As Yvonne and PeiJu oversee the integration of all elements, welcome a Red Lion dance to a mix of Chinese drums and Hip-Hop rhythms.



Chinese-  
Dragon dance



Hip-Hop  
Break dance

Courtesy, NJPAC

Besides these two new cross-cultural works, the Company also presents the Yungge (Harvest Song) and Peacock Dance from its traditional dance repertoire and one of Nai-Ni Chen's signature works, Movable Figures, from the Company's contemporary dance repertoire.

The Lunar New Year of the Rabbit performance is only complete with authentic Chinese Classical music performance by the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York and the spectacular Dragon Dance. The audience will be blessed by the visitation of the Dragon, bringing good luck and fortune to every attendee of this celebration.

The Company will also showcase a contemporary dance work, Ashes of A Dead Frog, choreographed by legendary

Polish Choreographer Jacek Luminski and commissioned by Nai-Ni Chen almost a decade ago. Guest artists from the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York will provide traditional and contemporary music on classical and folk Chinese instruments. The Company Dancers, acrobats, and musicians perform in festive costumes in red, gold, blue, and purple colors symbolizing their prayer for a peaceful and harmonious New Year with plenty of prosperity and good fortune for everyone to enjoy and share.

**TICKETS :** For Tickets to see Nai-Ni Chen featuring break dancing legends Kwikstep and Rokafella, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY

Learn more at nainichen.org PeiJu Chien-Pott  
To learn more, visit peijucpresents.com/peiju-chien-pott  
Full Circle Souljahs  
Learn more at fullcirclesouljahs.com  
Yvonne Huatin Chow  
For more information, visit linkedin.com › in › yvonnechow

## FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)  
Twitter: @NJPAC Instagram: @NJPAC  
Hashtag: #NJPAC  
Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC  
YouTube: NJPACtv  
Follow NJPAC's Standing in Solidarity Series Online:  
Website: njpac.org/takeastand  
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand  
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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



# CINEMATTERS FILM FEST RETURNS - IN THE SPIRIT OF DR KING'S LEGACY

BY MABEL PAIS

## CINEMATTERS ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

'Cinematters,' the annual film festival also referred to 'The NY Social Justice Film Festival' presents impactful films that engage the community toward a more democratic, inclusive, and just society. The 2023 festival takes place, January 16 and 18 at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. The program explores themes of inequality, injustice, and social responsibility. Through films, special events, and conversations, the fest aims to inspire participants to reflect and take action in order to create a community of civic-minded individuals eager to make a collective change.

'Cinematters' presents impactful films with a goal to engage the community toward a more democratic, inclusive, and just society in the spirit of Dr. King's legacy. Learn more at [mmjccm.org/arts-film/film/cinematters](http://mmjccm.org/arts-film/film/cinematters).

### JAN 16 AT 4PM: STRANGER AT THE GATE

'Stranger at the Gate' is on the Oscar shortlist for Documentary Short Film

Dir: Joshua Seftel | USA | 2021 | 30m

After 25 years of service, U.S. Marine Mac McKinney returns home to Indiana filled with an all-consuming rage toward the people he had been fighting against. But his plan takes an unexpected turn.

Screening followed by Q+A with director Joshua Seftel, producer Suzanne Hillinger, film subject Richard "Mac" McKinney, and Pam Haas, Executive Director of

'Facing History and Ourselves.'

### JAN 16 AT 5:30PM: BLACK MOTHERS LOVE & RESIST

Dir: Débora Souza Silva | USA | 2022 | 1h 43m | NY Premiere



Black Mothers

Photo credit / JCC

Wanda Johnson and Angela Williams, mothers of young Black men victimized by police brutality, come together and build a network of community-led support, mutual aid, and healing. Radical empathy fuels this timely exposé.

Screening followed by Q+A with film subject Wanda Johnson and producer Loi Ameera Almeron.

### JAN 18 AT 7PM: REPAIRING THE WORLD: STORIES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE



Repairing The World

Photo credit / JCC

Dir: Patrice O'Neill | USA | 2022 | 1h 20m

'Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life' documents a community's powerful and inspiring response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest anti-semitic attack in U.S. history on October 27, 2018 at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Through the voices of survivors, family members, diverse Pittsburgh residents, and leaders, the film shows the powerful display of unity in a moment of crisis, the resilience of a vibrant city, and a community working together to understand what it means to be "Stronger than Hate."

Screening followed by Q+A with director Patrice O'Neill and Hassan Naveed, Executive Director, NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes.

# BOOKS FEST LAUNCHES AT JCC

BY MABEL PAIS

## AUTHOR JAI CHAKRABARTI AMONG OTHERS



Books Fest banner

Photo credit / JCC

'Books That Changed My Life' Festival, the first of its kind, opened on January 5, and runs through Tuesday, February 28 at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM).

The two-month long celebration of literature and culture features events inspired by or adapted from beloved literary works, including author conversations, weekly storytime, a gallery exhibit, musical, theatrical and film events, new 76West podcast episodes, and more. The festival will also feature the announcement of Jewish Book Council's 72nd National Jewish Book Awards live from the Books That Changed My Life Pop-Up Library in the MMJCCM lobby.

'Books That Changed My Life' is a new initiative, hosted by the JCC's Lambert Center for Arts + Ideas, that celebrates the transformational role books play in our lives. Cozy up with a book from the pop-up library in The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery and attend a conversation with notable minds on the topic of their most impactful reads. The Jewish people are often described as "people of the book," and in this interactive celebration of all types of reads, the MMJCCM will honor the ways in which storytelling,

documenting, and exploring other worlds allow all of us to live more connected and meaningful lives. Additional information is available at [book-festival.mmjccm.org](http://book-festival.mmjccm.org).

The MMJCCM is partnering with Jewish Book Council on the festival, which will include the announcement of the 72nd National Jewish Book Awards. This first ever live stream announcement of the awards will take place from the pop-up library in the MMJCCM lobby on Wednesday, January 18 at 8:45 AM.

Sun, Jan 15 at 1pm: 'WARRIORS DON'T CRY' (Theatrical Experience)

Appropriate for ages 6-12.

Inspired by Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals's Little Rock Nine memoir, 'Warriors Don't Cry,' this production is a catalyst for deeper discussion about social responsibility, civil discourse, social media, and community engagement.

### TUE, JAN 17, 7 PM: 'A WOMAN'S LIFE IS A HUMAN LIFE'

Cynthia Nixon in Conversation with Author Felicia Kornbluh

Less than a week before the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Cynthia Nixon sits down with author and historian Felicia Kornbluh to discuss 'A Woman's Life Is a Human Life.' Kornbluh's book is an urgent account of the movements that transformed the politics of reproductive rights: the fight to decriminalize abortion and the campaign against sterilization abuse, at a time when sterilization was disproportionately proposed as birth control to Black, Latinx, and poor women. The book addresses how grassroots action overcame the odds-and how it might work today.

### THU, JAN 19, 7 PM: 'THE YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY'

Author A.J. Jacobs in Conversation with Freakonomics' Stephen J. Dubner

Freakonomics is a groundbreaking and bestselling

book that changed the life of prolific author A.J. Jacobs (The Puzzler). A.J. sits down with author, journalist, and podcast host Stephen J. Dubner in a conversation inspired by his transformative 2005 book.

### WED, JAN 25, 7 PM: 'THIS TIME TOMORROW'

Author Emma Straub in Conversation with Vanessa Kroll Bennett

After reading Emma Straub's 'This Time Tomorrow,' podcast host and writer Vanessa Kroll Bennett was immediately moved to write a blog post ([mailchi.mp/dynamogirl/the-intersection-of-regret-and-hope?e=fb57859f9e](http://mailchi.mp/dynamogirl/the-intersection-of-regret-and-hope?e=fb57859f9e)) about the book to share with her community. Join Vanessa and Emma as they talk about themes of youth and the magic of the Upper West Side in a conversation inspired by 'This Time Tomorrow.'

### TUES, JAN 31, 7PM: 'BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY' FILM SCREENING

(USA, 2022, 87 min)

Tribeca Film Festival 2022 Official Selection

This wonderfully nostalgic look back at the beloved children's show 'Reading Rainbow,' explores its origin story and the challenges its creators faced in cultivating a love of reading through television. For 25 years, the series insisted on having kids speak to kids about their favorite stories, and it introduced the world to one of the most adored television hosts of all time, LeVar Burton. Burton reached millions of children of every background through the wonder of books - delving behind the pages to the people, places, and things each story explored. Screening followed by Q+A with Steve Horelick, composer of the iconic Reading Rainbow theme song, "Butterfly in the Sky."

(February events to feature in next issue)

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





### Ekta Kapoor to enter 'Bigg Boss 16' house to cast a new face for film

TV czarina Ekta Kapoor has announced that she will be casting a new face for her upcoming film and would enter the 'Bigg Boss 16' house to look for the cast.

Ekta also bid adieu to Tejaswi Prakash, who had bagged Ekta's 'Naagin' Season 6 while she was in the Bigg Boss 15 house last season.

As the show's sixth season is wrapping up, Ekta penned an emotional note for Tejaswi, whom she tagged as Nagina.

Ekta wrote, "Lots of love for this nagina! Found her in the bigg boss house in throes of corona n high fever n cough forced @colors n Manisha that I wanted to cast her!"

She is also excited to enter Bigg Boss 16 house to cast a new face for an upcoming film.

"Hopefully going to big boss for an exciting film announcement, let's see who we find there this time #byebyenagin."

In another video, sharing the promo of Naagin 6, she bid adieu to the show.

## RRR wins Golden Globe for best song for Naatu Naatu, loses best picture-non English trophy

Naatu Naatu, the irrepressible, fun number from the blockbuster RRR, danced its way to a Golden Globe as the 'best original song-motion picture' — and to Indian showbiz history — at a star spangled awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Tuesday, January 10, night.

The song, which beat the likes of Taylor Swift, Rihanna and Lady Gaga, to win the coveted award is the first time that an Indian production has won a Golden Globe.

RRR had also been nominated in the 'best picture-non English' category and lost out to Argentina's historical drama Argentina, 1985. But there was compensation aplenty.

"And the Globe goes to Naatu Naatu RRR," actor Jenna Ortega announced on stage to loud cheers from the RRR team.

The track has been composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani and voiced by singers Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj. Naatu Naatu, filmed on Ram Charan and Jr NTR, roughly translates to dance like no one's watching in Telugu. Choreographed by Prem Rakshith, it has legions of followers still trying to master its steps. Naatu Naatu was nominated alongside Taylor Swift's Carolina from Where The Crawdads Sing, Ciao Papa from Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, Lady Gaga's Hold My Hand from Top Gun: Maverick and Rihanna's Lift Me Up from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

Source: PTI



## Tiger Shroff's first look from 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan Out', actor's macho look will leave you intrigued

Bollywood star Tiger Shroff's glimpses from his upcoming action entertainer film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' are gaining momentum on social media. The film also stars Akshay Kumar, who had a rough patch on the professional front in 2022.

In the pictures, Tiger can be seen doing what he does best — high octane action sequences and acrobatics. Dressed in a sleeveless jacket, Tiger effortlessly fits his part as an action hero.

The film is set to be one of the biggest films this year with 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' presenting the new squad of Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Prithviraj Sukumaran in some of the larger-than-life visuals. Prithviraj Sukumaran will play the antagonist in the film.

Produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh under the banner of Pooja Entertainment, 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' has been directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, who has earlier helmed films like 'Tiger Zinda Hai' and 'Sultan' and Tiger Shroff's fans are looking forward to it.

Source: IANS



## Priyanka launches her first make-up collection with Max Factor

Priyanka Chopra has officially launched her first make-up collection with Max Factor. The launch took place in the UK. The collection includes the Masterpiece Eye Palette, nine Colour Elixir Lipsticks and eight Miracle Pure Nail Polishes. Priyanka Chopra looked the epitome of glamour in the campaign shoot.

"Inclusivity is the backbone of this collection and to help women feel confident and as a woman of colour, I am all too aware of the struggles many people can have when searching for the right make-up for them," said Priyanka Chopra, as reported by Independent UK. She added, "I know the transformative impact it can have not just on my appearance, but on my self-confidence. For me, make-up has always been a tool of discovery and self-expression, and a way to feel like the best version of myself." Back in 2020, Priyanka Chopra was announced as the new face of Max Factor, who will serve as global ambassador and consultant for the make-up giant.

On the professional front, the 40-year-old actress has a bunch of projects in the pipeline; Love Again, Citadel (web series), and Ending Things to name a few. She also has a Farhan Akhtar film in her kitty, titled Jee Le Zaraa, which stars Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt.





## Lisa Marie Presley passes away at 54

Lisa Marie Presley, singer-songwriter and daughter of Elvis and Priscilla Presley, passed away aged 54. People confirmed the news with a statement shared by Priscilla where she said, "It is with a heavy heart that I must share the devastating news that my beautiful daughter Lisa Marie has left us" on Thursday, January 12. Lisa Marie's mother further paid her a tribute calling her "passionate strong and loving woman" she has ever known.

The news of Lisa Marie Presley's passing comes after it was reported on Thursday morning that she had been rushed to the hospital following a possible cardiac arrest. A spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department confirmed to People that paramedics responded to the 5900 block of Normandy drive in Calabasas to treat a woman in her 50s who was not breathing. The statement mentioned that after the paramedics began CPR and, upon noting the patient had "signs of life," transferred her to medical care.

# The Complete List Of Winners At The 2023 Golden Globes

The Golden Globes made a comeback as films, from Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" to "Top Gun" and "Avatar" sequels, competes for top honours. The awards were taken off air last year amid controversy over ethical lapses and a lack of diversity in the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which organises the Beverly Hills gala.

Here is the full list of winners at the 80th annual Golden Globe Awards:

### FILM

- Best film, drama: "The Fabelmans"
- Best film, musical or comedy: "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Best director: Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
- Best actor, drama: Austin Butler, "Elvis"
- Best actress, drama: Cate Blanchett, "Tar"
- Best actor, musical or comedy: Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Best actress, musical or comedy: Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best supporting actor: Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best supporting actress: Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
- Best screenplay: Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Best music, original score: Justin Hurwitz, "Babylon"
- Best music, original song: "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR"
- Best non-English language film: "Argentina, 1985"
- Best animated feature: "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"

### TV

- Best drama series: "House of the Dragon"
- Best drama actor: Kevin Costner, "Yellowstone"
- Best drama actress: Zendaya, "Euphoria"
- Best musical or comedy series: "Abbott Elementary"
- Best musical or comedy actor: Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
- Best musical or comedy actress: Quinta Brunson, "Abbott Elementary"
- Best supporting actor, television: Tyler James Williams, "Abbott Elementary"



- Best supporting actress, television: Julia Garner, "Ozark"
- Best limited series or TV movie: "The White Lotus"
- Best limited series or TV movie actor: Evan Peters, "Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story"



Cate Blanchett

## Hugh Jackman passed on steroids for Wolverine role

Hugh Jackman has denied ever taking any steroids to bulk himself for his superhero characters. He will be returning to play his most iconic character Logan aka Wolverine in the upcoming superhero film Deadpool 3 with his good friend, actor Ryan Reynolds. The actor is currently on Broadway for The Music Man; his final performance will be on January 15, 2023 before he has to get into shape back again for Wolverine.

The actor broke through in Hollywood with X-Men (2000) where he first played Logan, alongside co-stars Patrick Stewart, James Marsden, Famke Janssen and Ian McKellen in the comic book adaptation.

Since then, Hugh has played Wolverine in X2 (2003), X-Men: The Last Stand (2006), X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009), X-Men: First Class (2011), The Wolverine (2011), X-Men: Days Of Future Past (2014), X-Men: Apocalypse (2016) and Logan (2017).

In a new interview on HBO's talk show Who's Talking to Chris Wallace, the actor responded to claims that if he had even taken any steroids in order to transform into the character. The journalist asked him that over the years, people have wondered, "Did he juice?" Hugh replied, "No, I love my job. And I love Wolverine. I got to be careful what I say here, but I had been told anecdotally what the side effects are of that. And I was like, 'I don't love it that much.' So no, I just did it the old school way. And I tell you, I've eaten more chickens — I'm so sorry to all the vegans and vegetarians and to the chickens of the world. Literally the karma is not good for me. If the deity has anything related to chickens, I'm in trouble."



## James Cameron slams streaming releases amid Avatar's record box-office success

James Cameron's Avatar: The Way of Water is still going strong at the global box office, even after multiple weeks of release and is nearing the \$2 billion mark. The film which released on December 16, had crossed \$1 billion within 12 days of release. Now director James Cameron has said that he is not in the mood to entertain any ideas of the film eyeing a digital release so soon.

During an interview with Variety at the Golden Globes red carpet, where Avatar The Way of Water was nominated for Best Motion Picture (Drama) and Best Director (it lost both to Steven Spielberg's The Fabelmans), James Cameron addressed the enthusiasm of the audience to go to the theatres and watch a movie on the big screen rather than move in for a streaming date. The director was reminded in the same interview that the sequel to his 2009 original has now emerged to be the seventh biggest movie of all time and is showing no such signs of slowing down. Also, James Cameron has now directed three of the top 10 biggest movies ever, including the first Avatar and Titanic.

To this James responded, "I'm not



thinking of it in those terms, I'm thinking of it more in the terms of, we're back to theaters around the world. People are going back to theaters. They're even going back to theaters in China where they're having this huge COVID surge. We're seeing as a society we need this, we need to go to movie theaters and have that experience. Enough with the streaming already! I'm tired of sitting on my a\*\*."



## 6 STABBED AT PARIS TRAIN STATION, ATTACKER SHOT AT

JANUARY 11

**PARIS (TIP):** An attacker wounded six people in an unprovoked blade attack in Paris' busy Gare du Nord train station on January 11 morning before being shot and wounded by police, France's interior minister said.

The suspect attacked several people, including a police officer, with a "bladed weapon" during the morning rush hour, interior minister Gerald Darmanin said.

He said the unnamed assailant was currently "between life and death" in hospital after being shot in the chest. No specific motive has currently been suggested by authorities. — AP

## UK, JAPAN SIGN DEFENCE DEAL AMID CHINA CONCERN

JANUARY 11

**LONDON (TIP) :** The leaders of Britain and Japan are signing a defence agreement on January 11 that could see troops deployed to each others' countries.

The two countries are strengthening military ties amid growing concern about China's increasing military assertiveness and designs toward Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province.

The British government said the defence agreement "cements our commitment to the Indo-Pacific" region. It is due to be signed by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and UK leader Rishi Sunak during a meeting in the symbolic setting of the Tower of London fortress.

The deal has been in the works for years, and was discussed when Kishida visited Sunak's predecessor, Boris Johnson, in London in May.

The deal, Reciprocal Access Agreement — Japan's first with any European nation — allows the two countries to hold joint military exercises. — AP

## CLAMOUR GROWS IN BRAZIL OVER JAIL FOR RIOTERS

JANUARY 10

**RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP):** "No amnesty! No amnesty! No amnesty!" The chant reverberated off the walls of the jam-packed hall at the University of Sao Paulo's law college on January 10 afternoon. Hours later, it was the rallying cry for thousands of Brazilians who streamed into the streets of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, penned on the protest posters and banners. The words were a demand for retribution against the supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed Brazil's capital on Sunday, and those who enabled the rampage. (AP)

# Russia replaces Ukraine war commander; Soledar battle on

JANUARY 12

**KYIV (TIP):** Moscow has named Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov as new commander for its invasion of Ukraine. At the same time, Ukraine said its troops were holding out despite heavy fighting on a battlefield littered with bodies in a salt mining town in eastern Ukraine, where Russian private military firm Wagner Group had claimed Moscow's first significant gain in half a year.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on January 11 appointed Valery Gerasimov as the overall commander for what Moscow calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, now in its 11th month.

The change effectively demoted General Sergei Surovikin, who was appointed in October to lead the invasion and oversaw heavy attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The ultra-nationalist contract militia Wagner, run by an ally of President Vladimir Putin outside the main chain of military command, claims to have taken Soledar after intense fighting that it said had left the town strewn with Ukrainian dead. But Moscow has held off officially proclaiming victory. "There are still some small pockets of resistance in



Soledar," Andrei Bayevsky, a Russian-installed politician, said in an online broadcast.

Ukraine has acknowledged Russian advances but Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Malyar told a briefing on Thursday that fighting was still fierce. Malyar said Russia had increased the number of units in Ukraine to 280 from 250 in the past week as it seeks to regain the initiative.

Kremlin-watchers were poring over Russia's latest switch of battlefield

leadership, a day after Valery Gerasimov, chief of the military's general staff, was unexpectedly given direct command of the invasion. The previous commander of three months' standing, Army General Sergei Surovikin, was effectively demoted to become one of Gerasimov's three deputies. Russia explained the decision, third abrupt change of commander in the 11-month conflict, as a response to campaign's growing importance. — Reuters

## UK police investigating uranium-tainted cargo at London's Heathrow Airport

**THE SUN, WHICH FIRST REPORTED THE STORY, SAID THE SHIPMENT ORIGINATED IN PAKISTAN AND ARRIVED ON A FLIGHT FROM OMAN**

JANUARY 11

**LONDON (TIP):** British counterterrorism police are investigating after border officers seized cargo contaminated with uranium at London's Heathrow Airport.

The Metropolitan Police force said January 11 that "a very small amount of contaminated material was identified after routine screening within a package incoming to the U.K." on Dec. 29.

It said the force's Counterterrorism Command is investigating. There have been no arrests.

**THE BBC REPORTED THAT THE URANIUM WAS IN A SHIPMENT OF SCRAP METAL. THE SUN, WHICH FIRST REPORTED THE STORY, SAID THE SHIPMENT ORIGINATED IN PAKISTAN AND ARRIVED ON A FLIGHT FROM OMAN.**

Police Commander Richard Smith said the amount of contaminated material



was "extremely small and has been assessed by experts as posing no threat to the public." He said it "does not appear to be linked to any direct threat," but the investigation continues.

"We will of course, follow every

avenue to see what the background to this was and satisfy ourselves that there's no further threat," he said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesman declined to comment on an ongoing police operation. AP



# Japan, South Korea protest China visa stoppage amid Covid spat

JANUARY 11

**TOKYO (TIP):** Japan and South Korea defended public health restrictions on travellers from China on January 11, a day after China stopped issuing new visas in both countries in apparent retaliation.

Chinese embassies stopped issuing new visas for South Koreans and Japanese on Tuesday.

It wasn't clear whether China would expand the visa suspensions to other countries that have imposed stricter virus testing on passengers from China following its Covid-19 surge.

South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin said on Wednesday he finds "significantly regrettable" that China stopped issuing short-term visas to South Koreans and called for China to align its pandemic steps with "scientific and objective facts".

According to South Korea's Disease Control and Prevention Agency, about 17 per cent of the 2,550 short-term travellers from China from January 2 to Tuesday have tested positive.

South Korea has stopped issuing most short-term visas at its consulates in China through the end of January while also requiring all passengers from China, Hong Kong and Macau to submit proofs of negative tests taken within 48



hours of their arrival in addition to Covid-19 tests at the airport.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno criticised China for "one-sidedly" restricting visa issuances to the Japanese nationals "because of a reason that is not related to Covid-19 measures".

Tokyo protested and demanded China scrap the measures and that Japan will

"respond appropriately while closely watching China's infection situation and how information disclosures are handled by the Chinese side", Matsuno said.

Matsuno said Japan had to take temporary measures to avoid rapid inflow of infections into Japan because of China's spreading infections and lack of transparency about the situation.

He said that Japanese border measures

are purely aimed at preventing infections and have aimed to limit effects on international travel. "It is extremely regrettable that China has one-sidedly restricted visa issuances." The Chinese embassies in Tokyo and Seoul announced the suspensions in brief online notices, without providing reasons or details such as when visa issuances will resume.

China's Foreign Ministry threatened countermeasures last week against countries that had announced new virus testing requirements for travelers from China. At least 10 governments in Europe, North America and Asia have done so recently.

Meanwhile, Thailand sent three ministers to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport to welcome the country's first planeload of Chinese tourists in years, in a bid to revive inbound tourism.

Japan reopened its borders for individual tourism in October. Most travellers can show proof of vaccination instead of testing at the airport, unless they show symptoms, but since December 30 travellers from China must show pre-departure negative tests and take an additional test upon arrival. Those who test positive must quarantine at designated facilities for up to seven days. (AP)

## 7.6 quake damages buildings in Indonesia, felt in Australia

JANUARY 10

**JAKARTA (TIP):** A powerful deep-sea earthquake damaged village buildings in a lightly populated island chain in eastern Indonesia early on January 10, and its substantial shaking was widely felt in northern Australia.

Two school buildings and 15 houses were damaged in the Tanimbar islands, with one of the homes heavily damaged and three moderately damaged. Only one injured resident was reported.

"Local residents felt strong tremors for three to five seconds. There was panic when the quake shook so the residents left their houses," Abdul Muhari, spokesperson of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said in a statement, citing the local agency.

The epicentre of the magnitude 7.6 temblor was in the Banda Sea, nearest the Tanimbar islands in Maluku province that have about 127,000 residents, according to 2021 data.

Tremors were felt in several regions, including Papua and East Nusa Tenggara provinces, as well as in northern Australia.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency issued a tsunami warning that was lifted three hours later.



"Based on four tide gauge observations around the centre of the earthquake, it did not show any significant anomaly or change in sea level," agency head Dwikorita Karnawati said.

The US Geological Survey said the quake's epicentre was at a depth of 105 kilometres (65 miles) not far from Australia's northern tip. Deeper quakes

tend to cause less surface damage than shallow shaking but are more widely felt.

More than 1,000 people in northern Australia, including in the city of Darwin, reported to Geoscience Australia that they felt the quake. The Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre said the quake didn't pose a tsunami threat to the mainland or any islands or territories. (AP)

### BRITISH PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK AND 15 MINISTERS AT RISK OF LOSING SEAT IN 2024

JANUARY 9

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and 15 of his Cabinet ministers are at risk of losing their seats in a general election "wipeout" in 2024, according to a media report citing a new polling data.

Senior Tory figures – including Prime Minister Sunak, Deputy prime minister Dominic Raab and health secretary Steve Barclay – are all at risk of defeat at the election expected in 2024, according to the polling data shared with The Independent newspapers. Foreign secretary James Cleverly, defence secretary Ben Wallace, business secretary Grant Shapps, Commons leader Penny Mordaunt and environment secretary Therese Coffey could also lose their seats, according to the Focaldata polling for Best for Britain. Only five Cabinet ministers – Jeremy Hunt, Indian-origin Suella Braverman, Michael Gove, Nadhim Zawawi and Kemi Badenoch – would cling on after the 2024 election, according to the poll. A new analysis shared with The Independent on 10 crucial "bellwether" seats – those who have voted consistently with the winning party in recent decades – shows that Labour is on course to take all 10. (PTI)



**UAE TO ROLL OVER \$2 BN  
LOAN: PAK PM OFFICE**

JANUARY 12

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on January 12 agreed to extend an existing loan of \$2 billion and provide an additional loan of \$1 billion to help cash-strapped Pakistan tackle its economic woes, including the fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Office made the announcement after his meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to further strengthen these ties, especially in the fields of trade, investment and energy. They also had an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

While on one hand, the government supply of subsidised wheat has nearly stopped altogether, the prices of other essentials have skyrocketed on the other. Stores and grocery shops are running out of kitchen staples. The shortage of wheat flour has led to an increase in the prices of bread and bakery items too.

The desperate situation has triggered chaos and some clashes among people were also seen in the region in the past few days. The locals blamed the government for the situation. "We will continue to protest till our demands are met. The scope of this protest can also increase, it can go from one district to another. We can protest in the entire PoK region. If the poor people yearn for bread, we are not responsible for it. It is the responsibility of the government," said a protester in Muzaffarabad. /ANI

**INDIA HANDS OVER 75  
BUSES TO SRI LANKA**

**COLOMBO (TIP):** India has handed over 75 out of 500 buses to Sri Lanka to ease jam-packed public transport mainly due to the on-going fuel and economic crisis in the island nation. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay handed over the fleet. The buses were given to mark the island nation's 75th Independence Day on February 4. IANS

# Suicide attack in Kabul leaves five dead, 40 injured

JANUARY 11

**KABUL (TIP):** A suicide bomber killed at least five people outside the Afghan foreign ministry on January 11, police said, and a nearby hospital said over 40 people were wounded.

Kabul police spokesperson Khalid Zadran said the official confirmed death toll was five. Ustad Fareedun, an official at the Taliban-run information ministry, said 20 people were killed. He said the bomber had planned to enter the foreign ministry but failed.

Emergency Hospital, a surgical centre for those wounded by the war run by an Italian NGO, said it had received more than 40 patients following the explosion. The United Nations and several countries, including Pakistan and the United Kingdom, condemned the attack.

"The UK rejects such senseless and indiscriminate acts of violence," said Hugo Shorter, the charge d'affaires for the UK mission to Afghanistan.

A photo of the area, confirmed by official sources, showed at least nine dead or wounded lying outside the ministry. The blast hit at about 4 pm



(1130 GMT), Zadran said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. The Taliban-run administration has faced an insurgency by Islamic State militants who have targeted foreigners, including the Russian and Pakistani embassies and a

hotel catering to Chinese businessmen. The blast took place during a busy time of day in a heavily fortified area surrounded by checkpoints on a street housing several ministries. Countries, including Turkey and China, have embassies in the area. — Reuters

## Lankan ex-Prez told to pay Easter attack victims

JANUARY 12

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on January 12 ordered ex-President Maithripala Sirisena and four top former officials to pay 310 million in Sri Lankan Rupee (SLR) as compensation to the victims of the 2019 Easter attack for their negligence in preventing the country's one of the worst terror strikes despite having credible intelligence from India of an imminent attack.

In its verdict, a seven-member bench ruled that the respondents had violated the fundamental rights of the

petitioners. The court ordered the then president Sirisena, who was also defence minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, to pay a compensation of Rs 100 million (\$273,300) from his personal fund.

It also ordered former police chief Pujith Jayasundara and former state intelligence services chief Nilantha Jayawardene to pay Rs 75 million rupees (\$204,975) each, former defence secretary Hemasiri Fernando to pay a compensation of Rs 50 million (\$136,650) and former national intelligence service chief Sisira

Mendis Rs 10 million (\$27,330).

The court said top officials failed to act on the detailed intelligence information shared by India to avert the deadly suicide bombings. They have been ordered to pay from their personal funds to the victim fund maintained by the office of reparations. The court must be reported within six months on the payment of compensation. Nine bombers linked to ISIS attacked Catholic churches and hotels on April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 people. (PTI)

## Nepal's newly-appointed PM Prachanda wins vote of confidence in House of Representatives

JANUARY 10

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on January 10 won the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.

The 68-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre leader was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the third time on December 26 last year after he dramatically walked out of the pre-poll alliance led by the Nepali Congress and joined hands with opposition leader K P Sharma Oli.

Out of the 270 members in the House of

Representatives (HoR) present during the voting, 268 voted in favour of Prime Minister Prachanda, while 2 voted against him.

Pashupati Shamsheer JB Rana, the senior-most member of the House, who chaired the meeting, said that the HoR passed the vote of confidence proposal moved by Prachanda.

Rana, who chaired the meeting did not vote, while four other lawmakers were absent.

Prachanda needed only 138 votes in the 275-member parliament to continue his term as the prime minister. (PTI)





## R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, relines night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.  
We GUARANTEE full satisfaction



## SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)  
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



MASTER MOHINDER SINGH  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator  
Cell: 646-523-5092

**CALL TODAY**  
**OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM**

113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879  
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801  
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
(516) 932-3400  
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
  - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
  - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
  - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
  - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
  - New Purchase Refinance
  - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?  
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**

**STOP FORECLOSURE!**

**CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**



**Pal Singh Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified  
Notary Public

(516) 304-2630

**Jeet Dhillon**

Licensed Real Estate Broker  
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352



hprealty1@gmail.com



# Hair care mistakes to avoid for longer tresses

Most of us have a strong attachment to our hair. To look our best, we tend to try every possible remedy. But did you know that many of us unknowingly make mistakes that harm our hair more than they help? Sometimes unknowingly we adapt some hair habits in our hair care routine that can damage the shiny and voluminous tresses. Here is a list of things that you should never expose your hair to.

## Don't brush or comb too much

Brushing your hair again and again will only weaken them and cause breakage and make the hair oily. All you need is 8-9 strokes of a wide toothed comb or hair brush to remove the tangles.

## Using the wrong comb or brush

It is a trial and error but once you find the brush or comb that works for you then stick to it. The basic rule of thumb is the long your hair the more should be the brush's diameter. Chose a comb that is anti-static and had wide and gentle bristles. Jagged ends can cause split ends. Paddle brushes are great for hair that tangle a lot.

Swaying between over washing and not washing for long durations at all: Shampooing less is always better as it keeps the dirt away and maintains oil balance. Not washing the hair clogs the hair follicles and damages the strands. Ideally wash your hair every third day and it is enough.

Using the hair dryer for long times: Dryers are a boon especially in the winters or when you are in a hurry to go out. But using too much of hair dryer will only cause long term damage. When your hair is wet the dryer is good for removing extra moisture but on dry hair you are just pulling the intrinsic moisture out. Therefore, dial down the hair dryer settings to keep the hair healthy.

## Styling wet hair

The hair are weakest when wet, therefore wait for it to dry a bit before you pull out the dryer and styling tools. Air drying is the best to make your hair style ready. Make sure your hair is at least 80% dry before you start styling. Style from root to end and keep the



temperature in tolerable ranges.

## Using the hair product incorrectly

When using a hair product read the instruction labels correctly. Conditioner is for the tips and strands, and so is hair serum, shampoo is for the scalp. Each scalp condition requires a different kind of product. If in doubt talk to your trichologist for the right guidance.

## Clean the combs regularly

Oils, grime and dirt can easily deposit on the hair tools and the residue can end up in your hair. Therefore, clean the combs and brushes at least once a week and replace them after few months of use. Dirty hair instruments can cause scalp infection.

Sleeping with open hair: Sleeping with open hair will make the hair very tangled, and frizzy and difficult to tame in the morning. Tie your hair in a top knot or a braid before sleeping trust us your hair will thank you in the morning.

Source: India.com

## FOOD

# Spicy Chicken Curry

## Ingredients

Onion - 2 (finely chopped), Tomato - 2 (diced or pureed), Oil - 3 tbsp, Bay Leaf - 1, Curry Leaves - 1 sprig, Cumin seeds - ¼ tsp, Coriander leaves (Cilantro) - handful (finely chopped), Salt - to taste

## To Marinate

Chicken - 1 kg (2 lbs), Turmeric powder - 1/4, tsp, Lemon juice - 2 tsp, Salt - 1 tsp, To cursh, Ginger - 1" piece, Garlic - 8 cloves, Shallots - 7, Green Chillies - 3, To roast and powder, Grated Coconut - 1/4 cup, Dry red chillies - 10, Coriander Seeds - 2 tbsp, Black Peppercorns - 2 tsp, Fennel Seeds - 2 tsp, Poppy Seeds - 1 tsp, Curry Leaves - 2 sprigs, Cardamom - 10, Cinnamon - 1" piece, Cloves - 5, Mace - 1 piece, Star anise - 1 piece, Black Stone Flower (Kalpasi) - 1, Kapok Buds (Marathi Moggu) - 1

## Method

- Cut the chicken and cut it into medium size pieces. Marinate it with salt, lemon juice and turmeric powder for at least half an hour.
- Dry roast the ingredients under To Roast and Powder on low flame till everything turns golden brown in colour. After it cools make a powder of it and keep aside. Be careful not to burn it.
- Make a paste of the ingredients under To Crush. Keep this aside.
- Heat the oil in a heavy bottomed pan and add the cumin seeds and bay leaf.
- Add the chopped onions and fry till it becomes brown in colour.
- Add the ground paste of shallots, ginger, garlic and green chillies and fry till the raw smell is gone.
- Add the marinated chicken and fry for few minutes. The chicken releases lot of water.
- Now add the tomato puree and the freshly powdered spices, required salt and water.
- Cover and cook for 15-20 minutes. By now the chicken pieces will be completely cooked.
- This is the right time to check for salt and other spices. Adjust anything if needed.
- Cook uncovered till the oil floats on top of the gravy.
- Add the finely chopped cilantro and fresh curry leaves and switch off. Keep the gravy covered till you are ready to serve.



# Bring some fun into your outfit with floral prints



Flowers have always been a symbol of beauty and grace, usually loved by women across the world. Moreover, designers all over are reviving floral prints in outfits because of which this is slowly turning out to be the hottest trend in clothing.

## Lacy/Pencil Skirt

A lacy floral skirt offers a subtler yet stylish look. Try a slim pencil skirt in floral pattern for a chic look. Add a crisp shirt in a solid colour and slip on a metallic ballerina flat to finish the look. The harmony of colours is quite important.

## Maxi Dress

Pair a flowing floral Maxi dress with comfortable height uplifting stacked heels or sandals. Keep your accessories delicate to balance the floral look. Take your look up a notch with a leather hat. You could also add a chunky cardigan against protection in cold weather.

## The Beachy Dress

A beachy dress in floral goes well for a beach party or a brunch. Look for burgundy, forest green or mustard yellow dress. Merely changing the colours of the print can make a huge difference.

## Floral Jeans

For some experiment with your regular denims, try floral patterned jeans. Pair your jeans with a white full sleeve shirt for an elegant appeal. You can also opt to roll up the pant cuffs and wear a pair of metallic flip-flops to beautify the look.

## Other style tricks to dress in floral:

- It is essential that you feel confident with what you are wearing.
- The floral print should be the main part of your outfit. So style your look with minimal accessories.
- Don't shy away from brighter colors. Always pair them with a complimenting colour.
- Floral prints aren't just for summer. Darker prints work well in the winter.

Source: ANI



# Antibiotic use may increase risk of inflammatory bowel disease in people over 40s

Antibiotic use may increase the risk of inflammatory bowel illness (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) in people over 40, according to a study published online in the journal *Gut*.

The risk seems to be cumulative and greatest 1-2 years after use and for those antibiotics targeting gut infections, the findings indicate.

Mounting evidence suggests that environmental factors are likely implicated in the development of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Globally, close to 7 million people have the condition, with this number expected to rise over the next decade, say the researchers.

One factor associated with IBD risk in younger people is the use of antibiotics, but it's not clear if this association might also apply to older people.

To explore this further, the researchers drew on national medical data from 2000 to 2018 for Danish citizens aged 10 upwards who hadn't been diagnosed with IBD.

They specifically wanted to know if the timing and dose of antibiotic might be important for the development of IBD, and whether this varied by IBD and antibiotic type.

More than 6.1 million people were included in the study, just over half of whom were female. In total, 5.5 million (91%) were prescribed at least one course of antibiotics between 2000 and 2018.

During this period, some 36,017 new cases of ulcerative colitis and 16,881 new cases of Crohn's disease were diagnosed.

Overall, compared with no antibiotic use, use of these drugs was associated with a higher risk of developing IBD, regardless of age. But older age was associated with the highest risk.

Those aged 10-40 were 28% more likely to be diagnosed with IBD; 40-60 year olds were 48% more likely to do so, while the over 60s were 47% more likely to do so.



The risks were slightly higher for Crohn's disease than they were for ulcerative colitis: 40% among 10-40 year olds; 62% among 40-60 year olds; and 51% among the over 60s.

The risk seemed to be cumulative, with each subsequent course adding an additional 11%, 15%, and 14% heightened risk, according to age band.

The highest risk of all was observed among those prescribed 5 or more courses of antibiotics: 69% heightened risk for 10-40 year olds; a doubling in risk for 40-60 year olds; and a 95% heightened risk for the over 60s. Timing also seemed to be influential, with the highest risk for IBD occurring 1-2 years after antibiotic exposure, with each subsequent year thereafter associated with a lowering in risk.

Specifically, among 10-40 year olds IBD risk was 40% higher 1-2 years after taking antibiotics compared with 13% 4-5 years later. The equivalent figures for 40-60 year olds were 66% vs 21% and for the over 60s 63% vs 22%.

Source: ANI



## Fast food consumption linked to liver disease

A study published in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* by Keck Medicine at USC provides more motivation for people to minimise their fast-food consumption.

The study found that eating fast food is associated with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, a potentially life-threatening condition in which fat builds up in the liver.

Researchers discovered that people with obesity or diabetes who consume 20% or more of their daily calories from fast food have severely elevated levels of fat in their liver compared to those who consume less or no fast food. And the general population has moderate increases of liver fat when one-fifth or more of their diet is fast food.

"Healthy livers contain a small amount of fat, usually less than 5%, and even a moderate increase in fat can lead to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease," said Ani Kardashian, MD, a hepatologist with Keck Medicine and lead author of the study, adding, "The severe rise in liver fat in those with obesity or diabetes is especially striking, and probably due to the fact that these conditions cause a greater susceptibility for fat to build up in the liver." While previous research has shown a link between fast food and obesity and diabetes, this is one of the first studies to demonstrate the negative impact of fast food on liver health, according to Kardashian.

The findings also reveal that a relatively modest amount of fast food, which is high in carbohydrates and fat, can hurt the liver. "If people eat one meal a day at a fast-food restaurant, they may think they aren't doing harm," said Kardashian, adding, "However, if that one meal equals at least one-fifth of their daily calories, they are putting their livers at risk." Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, also known as liver steatosis, can lead to cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver, which can cause liver cancer or failure. Liver steatosis affects over 30% of the U.S. population.

Kardashian and colleagues analyzed the most recent data from the nation's largest annual nutritional survey, the 2017-2018 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, to determine the impact of fast-food consumption on liver steatosis. Source: ANI

# Study finds neurodegenerative disease progression linked to proteins in brain

Many neurodegenerative illnesses, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, are mostly caused by tau and tubulin proteins. The accumulation of these proteins in the brain is mostly responsible for the advancement of neurodegenerative diseases.

Jiali Li, a professor of physics at the University of Arkansas, and her team developed a unique silicon nitride nanopore-based sensing device as a result of one of her doctorate students' desire to investigate tau and tubulin proteins.

In *Journal of Applied Physics*, from AIP Publishing, Acharjee et al. present the device, which is designed to provide volume information about tau and tubulin protein molecules and their aggregation states at the single-molecule level within their native environment.

To create the sensor, the team explored how the proteins change the current and voltage flowing through a nanopore system.

"Ohm's Law is the basic physics that enables the nanopore device to sense protein molecules," said Li. "A tiny hole—from 6 to 30 nanometers—is made in a thin silicon nitride membrane and supported by a silicon substrate. When that is placed into a solution with salt ions, applying an electric voltage drives the ions' flow through the hole, or nanopore. This, in turn, generates an open pore ionic current." When a charged protein molecule—often thousands of times larger than the ions—is near the nanopore, it also gets driven into the nanopore and blocks the flow of some ions. This causes



the open pore current to drop.

"The amount of current drop produced by a protein molecule is proportional to the protein's volume or size and shape," said Li. "This implies that if protein A binds to protein B, they will cause a current drop proportional to the volume of A+B, and an aggregated protein A will cause approximately multiple amounts of current drop." This allows Li and her group to look at the protein binding and aggregation within a nanopore device. The amount of time a protein stays in a nanopore is inversely proportional to its charge, which also provides useful information about a protein molecule. Source: ANI

PAGE SPONSORED BY

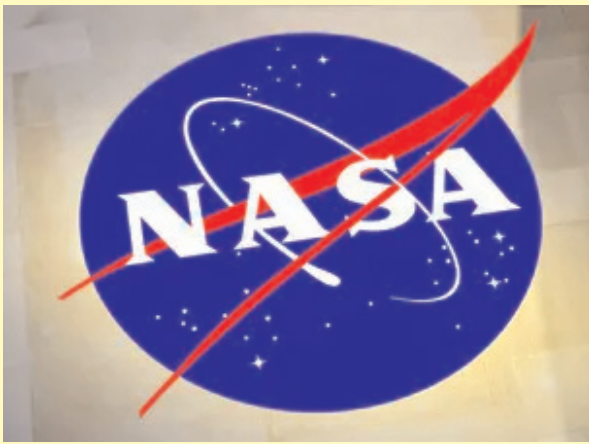
### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: [sanandmd@gmail.com](mailto:sanandmd@gmail.com)

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: [gitanjlianand@gmail.com](mailto:gitanjlianand@gmail.com)





## NASA mission spots 2nd Earth-size world within 'habitable zone'

NASA mission has discovered a second Earth-sized, rocky planet within the habitable zone of its star—the range of distances where liquid water could occur on a planet's surface.

Using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), the astronomers found "TOI 700 e" which is one of only a few systems with multiple, small, habitable-zone planets that we know of.

Astronomers previously discovered three planets in this system, called TOI 700 b, c, and d.

Planet d also orbits in the habitable zone, but the scientists needed an additional year of TESS observations to discover TOI 700 e.

"That makes the TOI 700 system an exciting prospect for additional follow-up. Planet e is about 10 per cent smaller than planet d, so the system also shows how additional TESS observations help us find smaller and smaller worlds," said Emily Gilbert, a postdoctoral fellow at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California who led the work.

TOI 700 is a small, cool M dwarf star located around 100 light-years away in the southern constellation Dorado.

In 2020, Gilbert and others announced the discovery of the Earth-size, habitable-zone planet d, which is on a 37-day orbit, along with two other worlds.

The innermost planet, TOI 700 b, is about 90 per cent Earth's size and orbits the star every 10 days.

TOI 700 c is over 2.5 times bigger than Earth and completes an orbit every 16 days.

"The planets are probably tidally locked, which means they spin only once per orbit such that one side always faces the star, just as one side of the Moon is always turned toward Earth," the US space agency said in a statement late on January 10. *Source: IANS*

## Google's trying to bring new features to older versions of Android with kit for developers

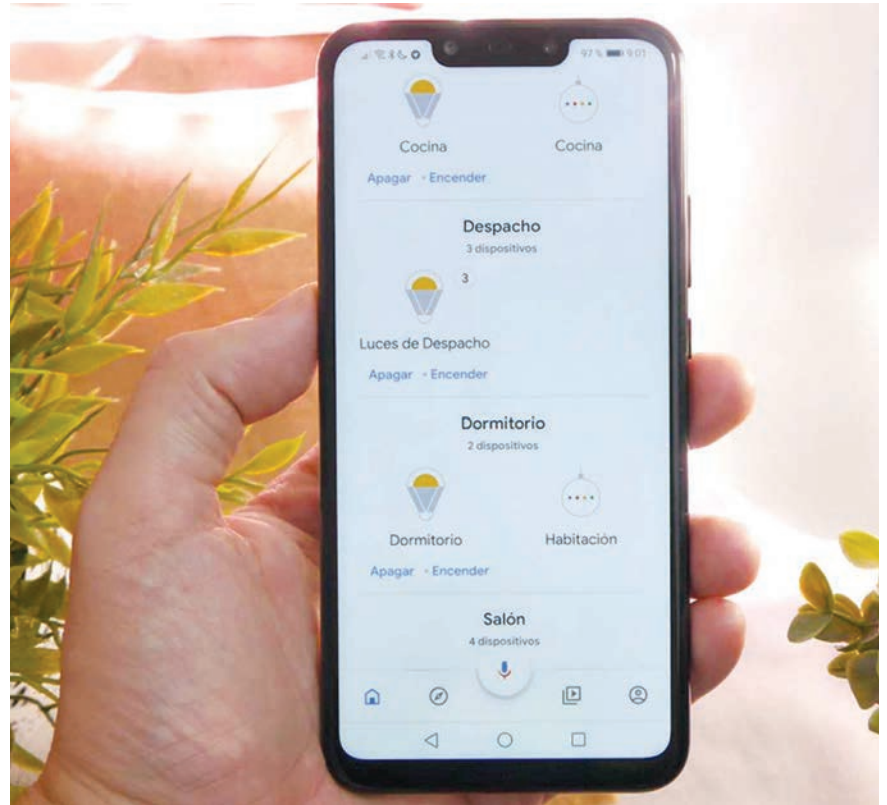
Android's open-source nature has helped propel it to the status of the most popular smartphone operating system in the world. But that also means that there are so many devices out there running the OS that keeping them updated with the latest version is a gargantuan task. Google has been trying to do something about this for years now, but the update situation continues to remain a mess. Acting on that, the company is now trying something new and has just released the first public version of the Extension SDK, aiming to bring features of the latest Android versions to older versions.

As part of the announcement, Google is opening up Photo Picker API support to Android 12 and Android 11. Photo Picker was introduced with Android 13 and lets users give access to only recent images on their device (or cloud), rather than potential access to all files via the usual document picker.

Only Android 13 has it right now, but with this release from Google, developers will be able to include certain features in their apps, its workings are obviously complicated. In the broader sense, Google's been trying to modularise components of Android since Android 10, helping the company make new functionality backwards compatible on already-released Android versions.

Not everything with this release is about bringing newer features to older versions of Android, though. The Extension SDK may also be used to update Privacy Sandbox on newer versions of Android without having to roll out major OS updates. According to Google's own description of the feature, Privacy Sandbox on Android "aims to develop new technologies that improve user privacy and enable effective, personalized advertising experiences for mobile apps."

Since the Extension SDK is aimed



at developers looking to implement certain features in their apps, its workings are obviously complicated. In the broader sense, Google's been trying to modularise components of Android since Android 10, helping the company make new functionality backwards compatible on already-released Android versions.

### Twitter redesigns homepage for iOS app

Recently, Elon Musk announced that Twitter will soon make some changes to its user interface. And it looks like the microblogging platform has started rolling out a redesigned homepage interface.

As it turns out, the redesigned user interface is only available on

the iOS version of the Twitter app. The updated interface replaces the 'Home' and 'Latest' tabs with 'For You' and 'Following' tabs and lets users easily switch between the two. For convenience, the two new tabs are pinned on top of the timeline.

Earlier, users had to tap on the star-like icon that appeared on the top of the timeline and choose between 'For You' and 'Latest' tweets.

For the uninitiated, the 'For You' section displayed tweets you might be interested in while the 'Latest' section showed the latest tweets from accounts you follow. Also, Twitter is yet to confirm if the changes will make their way to the Android version of the app, so we will have to wait and see.

## iPhone 16 Pro may feature under-display Face ID

Apple's upcoming iPhone 16 Pro model will reportedly feature under-display Face ID technology to provide a more usable display area. The tech giant is likely to place the parts needed for Face ID authentication directly under the iPhone's display next year, reports MacRumors.

The TrueDepth camera for Face ID won't be visible under the display when it is not in use, instead it will appear seamlessly blended with the surrounding screen area.

The hole in the display for the front camera is expected to remain on the iPhone 16 Pro, however, the overall display area and sense of immersion are



likely to be improved.

Since the under-display technology is not yet ready, the display cutouts will not change from the iPhone 14 Pro to the iPhone 15 Pro later this year.

The iPhone maker is likely to adopt an underpanel camera (UPC) once it implements under-display Face ID technology, thereby eliminating all of the display cutouts on the iPhone currently in use, the report said.

Meanwhile, in August last year, analyst Ming-Chi Kuo had said that "high-end iPhones in 2024 would adopt an under-display front camera alongside the under-display Face ID".

## Apple is working on adding touch screens to Macs

Apple Inc. is working on adding touch screens to its Mac computers, a move that would defy long-held company orthodoxy and embrace an approach that co-founder Steve Jobs once called "ergonomically terrible."

Apple engineers are actively engaged in the project, indicating that the company is seriously considering producing touch-screen Macs for the first time, according to people familiar with the efforts. Still, a launch hasn't been finalized and the plans could change.

For more than a decade, the company has argued that touch screens don't work well on laptops and that the iPad is a better option if someone wants a touch interface. Apple also has worried that touch-screen Macs could cannibalize iPad sales.

But rivals have increasingly added touch screens to computers, putting pressure on Apple to do the same. A Mac resurgence in recent years also has made the business a bigger moneymaker than the iPad — and the company wants to keep its computer lineup as compelling as possible.



## Apple CEO Tim Cook takes 40% pay cut

Apple Inc. is cutting Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook's compensation by more than 40% to \$49 million in 2023, citing investor guidance and a request from Cook himself to adjust his pay.

As part of the changes, the percentage of stock units awarded to Cook and tied to Apple's performance will increase to 75% in 2023 from 50%, as well as in future years, the company said in a regulatory filing Thursday. For 2022, Cook received compensation of \$99.4 million, including \$3 million in base salary, about \$83 million in stock awards and a bonus. That was up slightly from 2021, when his total pay package was \$98.7 million.

Cook's latest pay was based on "balanced shareholder feedback, Apple's exceptional performance and a recommendation from Mr. Cook," the iPhone maker said in the filing. The company also plans to "position Mr. Cook's annual target compensation between the 80th and 90th percentiles relative to our primary peer group for future years," Apple said.

Apple has drawn criticism from groups such as Institutional Shareholder Services about Cook's previous compensation package, but a majority of shareholders voted to approve it last year. ISS, a top advisory firm, complained that Cook's stock would continue to vest post-retirement and that half of the rewards didn't depend on performance criteria like the company's share price.

# Bernard Arnault, world's richest man, names daughter as Dior chief

French billionaire Bernard Arnault announced Wednesday, January 11, that his daughter Delphine would head his LVMH luxury empire's Dior fashion house in a leadership shuffle also featuring a new CEO at flagship brand Louis Vuitton.

The shake-up at LVMH's two leading brands came as Arnault has seen his wealth soar to new heights, overtaking Tesla and Twitter chief Elon Musk as the world's top billionaire late last year.

Bernard Arnault said the appointment of Delphine, a top executive at Louis Vuitton, as head of Christian Dior Couture is the "continuation of a career of excellence in fashion and leather goods".

Under her direction, Louis Vuitton was able to "fly from record to record" and her "sharp eye and incomparable experience will be decisive assets in the continued development of Christian Dior", Arnault said in a statement.

She will succeed Pietro Beccari, who will replace Michael Burke as head of Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury brand in terms of sales, famous for its handbags bedecked with the initials "LV".

Bernard Arnault praised Beccari for his "exceptional work" as head of Dior over the past five years.

"Nobody doubts that he will lead Louis Vuitton towards even greater desirability and success," he said.

Arnault also congratulated Burke for his "great job" during 10 years at the helm of Vuitton, which helped to "widen the gap with our competition".

Burke will take up a new position alongside Bernard Arnault.

Arnaud Cadart, portfolio manager at the Paris-based asset management firm Flornoy, said the appointments of Beccari and Delphine Arnault were "clear signs of trust" and a "desire to keep a balance between outside people and Arnault family



members". Beccari, who joined LVMH in 2006, is taking over a "strategic house" while Delphine Arnault is heading "another jewel of the group", Cadart said.

Delphine Arnault has "proven herself by doing a big and good job at Vuitton", he said, calling the move a "major appointment".

The management changes will be effective on February 1.

Arnault, 73, overtook Musk on the Forbes and Bloomberg lists of the world's top billionaires late last year, with Forbes putting the clan's net worth at \$200 billion.

Arnault's five children all have top jobs at LVMH.

Delphine Arnault has been executive vice president at Louis Vuitton since 2013, supervising the brand's product-related activities. Previously, she served as deputy managing director at Christian Dior Couture.

Source: AFP

## Retail inflation stays below 6% for 2nd month

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Continuing moderation in food prices brought retail inflation to a 12-month low of 5.7% in December 2022, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed. In another set of statistics released by NSO, industrial activity posted a sharp jump to 7.1% growth in the month of November. The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers have positively surprised analysts. A Bloomberg forecast of economists had projected December inflation to be 7.9% while November IIP was expected to be just 2.8%. To be sure, experts are more sceptical about the prospects of a manufacturing revival than the downward trend in inflation, which makes the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of the RBI an important event in the economic calendar. Indeed, some economists are already recommending that the central bank suspend its rate tightening cycle in February.

"Against the evolving landscape, we see little incentive for further rate hike, with synchronised past actions on rate front yet to show the full impact. The next policy statement is due on Feb 6-8 and just comes after the Union budget on Feb 1 and also after the FOMC policy statement on Jan 31-1, first in 2023, giving impetus to data driven stance," said Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, State Bank of India.

India's benchmark inflation rate, as measured by CPI stood at 5.72% in December 2022. This is the lowest monthly inflation print since December 2021, the third consecutive month of a dip, and the second consecutive month when it has stayed below the 6% mark, the upper limit of RBI's tolerance band. The data also shows that inflation for the quarter ending December is just 6.1%, which is lower than the 6.6% forecast by MPC in its December 2022 meeting. MPC had overestimated inflation in the immediate quarter in its June and September meeting as well.

Source: HT

## Indian economy estimated to grow at 7% in current fiscal: NSO

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The country's GDP at constant prices will grow by over Rs 10 lakh crore more during the current fiscal (FY22-23) as compared to the previous fiscal (FY 2021-22). This translates into growth in real GDP during FY23 at 7% as compared to 8.7% in FY22, according to the First Advance Estimates of National Income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 157.60 lakh crore, as against the provisional estimate of GDP for 2021-22 of Rs 147.36 lakh crore.

### Largely tallies with RBI's 6.8% projection

The projections are much lower than government's earlier forecast of 8-8.5% growth but above the RBI's projection of 6.8%. The first advance GDP estimates, which are used to work out allocations and other fiscal projections for the next Budget due on February 1, proved to be more optimistic than the actual growth in three out of the last four years. The projections suggest that despite the global headwinds and continued geopolitical uncertainty caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the recovery is on track though there are pressure points.



The 7% GDP growth in 2022-23 largely tallies with the RBI's forecast made in December of GDP growth of 6.8% and the World Bank's estimation of 6.9%.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 273.08 lakh crore, as against the provisional estimate of GDP for 2021-22 of Rs 236.65 lakh crore. The growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 15.4% as compared to 19.5% in 2021-22.

### Was 8.7% in 2021-2022

At constant prices, the GDP will grow by over Rs 10L crore more during the current fiscal as compared to the previous fiscal, as per NSO estimates.

Real GDP in 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 157.60 lakh crore, as against the provisional estimate of GDP for

2021-22 of Rs 147.36 lakh crore.

Big decline in the output of the manufacturing sector to 1.6% projected as against the growth of 9.9% in 2021-22.

Agri sector It is expected to grow at 3.5% compared to 3% in the previous fiscal.

Mining It is likely to grow at 2.4% from last fiscal's 11.5% report inside.

The projections show a big decline in the output of the manufacturing sector to 1.6% as against growth of 9.9% in 2021-22. The agriculture sector is expected to grow at 3.5% compared to 3% in the previous fiscal. The mining sector is likely to grow at 2.4% from last fiscal's 11.5%.

Private final consumption expenditure, whose rise could boost demand, is forecast to rise by 7.7% in 2022-23 as compared to the previous fiscal. Gross fixed capital formation is estimated to rise around 11.5% in the current fiscal. The electricity sector is likely to grow at 9%, compared to 7.5% in the last fiscal. Trade and hotels growth is expected to be a healthy 13.7% from last fiscal's 11.1%, showing the effects of Covid in this contact-intensive industry are wearing off. In finance and real estate, the growth is estimated at 6.4% as against 4.2% in the last fiscal.

Source: TNS



## Shree Ganeshaya Namah

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available  
for astrological consultations.  
He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com)  
and on phone  
**+91-9638770377**  
[www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)**

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

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JANUARY 16, 2023 TO JANUARY 22, 2023

**Aries**

Ganesha says this week is a great week to put goodness into reality. Eventually, you'll own up to your bad relationships. You'll eliminate the unhealthy practices this week and swap it out for something constructive. This week, you will create a beautiful vibe and attitude that will permeate both your work and personal existence. You will be devoid of all negative thoughts and temptations this week. Your partnership will have some small problems this week. You should take excellent treatment of both your lover and yourself. You'll be in good health. Be at ease.

**Taurus**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll be a part of the trailblazing. You invested to improve your career chances, and it will show amazing results this week. Big businesses will be eager to collaborate with you. You will become one of the most useful workers for the organisation thanks to your professional skills and working methods. You have a terrific week set of you professionally. Your lover will help you feel unique and happy this week. The psychological assistance you offer them will be appreciated by them. You'll be in good condition.

**Gemini**

Ganesha says, you'll be interacting with important consumers this week, which is essential. Your concentration will be on intellectual and spiritual pursuits in the latter part of the week. Your understanding of religion will help you appreciate your existence and its delights. You will devise a strategy with your partner to develop a tighter relationship. You will be mindful of your body's needs this week and try to meet them. You will have a difficult time keeping up with your health instead of trying to shed pounds.

**Cancer**

Ganesha says, you will rush for the amazing results you achieve this week. It will be great for you to choose whatever you do. You will enjoy this week's happiness with your colleague. This week, your rage will subside and you'll interact with people in a humble and grounded manner. You will probably get good news by the evening. Everything in your connection will be in order. Black should be avoided this week. Just be careful behind the wheel and pay heed to your wellness.

**Leo**

Ganesha says, you should use every bit of your annoyance this week. You'll accurately complete all of your outstanding duties and obligations. You will increase your confidence and consciousness this week. Your dedication and resolve will amaze colleagues who had doubts about your abilities. This week, your buddy will be prepared to make the most of your moment with them. In the event that you get wedded this week, God Dhanvantri will favor you. You'll be in good health.

**Virgo**

Ganesha says, this week is significant for you personally and in respect of your household. Your journey to a more fulfilling and peaceful life begins this week. You'll get help from a totally distinct person when it comes to money. This act of kindness will increase your trust in human nature. You and your household will be allowed to take pleasure in life's finer pleasures this week. Your friend will help you sort out your muddle in thought. Your physique is struggling as a result of your inconsistent adherence to your exercise schedule.

**Libra**

Ganesha says, you are a calm and self-assured individual, and this week, your serenity will be a beautiful present to you. You will manage a difficult situation with comfort and understanding. You won't think anything unfavorable. Your dedication will motivate the people you work with and are among. You can improve conditions for yourself with the assistance of your companion. This week, your condition will improve. This week you will start to feel better if you have been struggling with an old illness.

**Scorpio**

Ganesha says, you will be engaged in educational activities and conversations this week. You will be given the chance to participate in a very educational and mentally stimulating programmed this week. You'll be adequately nourished this week. You'll either personally or unintentionally help a lot of people this week. You will sort matters out with your companion this week. Your relationship can struggle a little because your partner will be negatively influenced by someone else. There won't be anything wrong with your wellness this week. This week, make sure to look after your kids.

**Sagittarius**

Ganesha says, this week, you will plant the seeds of success and understanding. You will be pleased with your efforts this week. You'll get paid for your work this week. Your statement will be the greatest essential element to you this week. Despite the aid of outside motivations, your ambition and planetary qualities will bring you to enlightenment and put you on a pathway to success. This week, your spouse will be particularly receptive to your thoughts, therefore you will need to work extra difficult to help them comprehend. This week, your wellness will be excellent. This week, stay away from harmful foods.

**Capricorn**

Ganesha says any animosity or anger you have toward another of your friends will fade this week. You and your friend will become closer as a result of the interaction. The new phase of your connection will begin this week. You and your spouse will speak for lengthy periods of time this week. Your companion will be accepted by your parents. This week, your partner will serve as your rock. This week, your back aches will cause you a very bit discomfort.

**Aquarius**

Ganesha says this coming week is promising to be fantastic. Collaborate with somebody whose zodiac sign is Taurus since they will help you get the recognition you need. You will be capable to acquire a lot from the person this week. You may use the knowledge you've gained to enhance your profession. This week will give your profession the push it requires. This week, you and your companion will talk about your careers, which will help you resolve a few issues on economic frontiers. This week, there won't be any concerns about your wellness.

**Pisces**

Ganesha says, your week's shining point will be teamwork. You will be compelled to operate in an environment this week that will hone your synchronization skills. You'll be ready to contribute suggestions and be in rhythm with the remainder of the company. The organization and the work you'll be doing this week will benefit greatly from you. This week, both you and your lover will be more enthusiastic about your connection. You'll be blessed by Jupiter this week. This week, you'll need to pay good attention to your wellness since you can get sporadic migraines.



## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JANUARY 16 TO JANUARY 22 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

**JANUARY 16 :** Ganesha says this day may begin with a very promising and advantageous phase. Stock market speculators will make money. Property investments are advantageous at the moment. Children will be encouraged and bring in some joyful news. A short trip would be a high possibility today. People who work in creative industries might anticipate attention and financial rewards. Your professional career will benefit greatly from any unexpected assistance from a friend or family member.

**JANUARY 17 :** Ganesha says your best time to make significant decisions is right now. You must learn new things, gather data, and establish solid connections. In the pursuit of your objectives, you must spare no effort. Entrepreneurs will diversify their business activities into new, lucrative areas. The returns on stock investments would be astounding. Undoubtedly, health would require greater focus. For both spiritual and physical benefits, meditation and yoga should be practiced.

**JANUARY 18 :** Ganesha says there can be an improvement in your financial situation this time; your costs will also rise. Avoid wasting a lot of time on little issues and focus your efforts on tasks that promise long-term rewards. You should steer clear of

all forms of speculation since only careful investing will pay off. For some of you, employment possibilities. You'll enjoy romance and find it gives your life more flavor. During this time, there will be a large number of visitors and family members arriving with gifts, both monetary and in-kind.

**JANUARY 19 :** Ganesha says you might anticipate significant changes in your professional career going forward. Around the middle of the day, a long overdue transfer or promotion is likely to occur. Travelers who are looking forward to venture abroad will be able to start planning today. Avoid overspending on pleasures. Despite a few early issues, once new money-making enterprises are started, your financial situation will get substantially better, till then, spend less money. Some may experience spiritual enlightenment later in the day.

**JANUARY 20 :** Ganesha says you'll finish a lot of your outstanding tasks. Although new money-making prospects will be quite promising, you will need to put in your best effort. During this time, your relationship with your spouse will be friendly and equal. You'll hear wonderful news from your kids, and you'll be pleased with all they've accomplished. Relationships will flourish and get stronger. However, speculation won't be useful and is therefore strongly

discouraged. Long-term gains can be made by investing in a home or piece of land.

**JANUARY 21 :** Ganesha says your current job will make you feel more secure, and your financial situation will also get better. However, financial transactions should be done with caution. It is possible that some losses during this time will result from speculation or rash decisions. Businessmen will execute fresh, significant contracts. Foreign business endeavors will be quite profitable. It's possible that this isn't the best day to be married and deal with concerns of the heart. You'll go on a pilgrimage which will provide you with comfort and peace of mind.

**JANUARY 22 :** Ganesha says there will be plenty of fresh prospects for progress. Your business savvy strategies will work wonders, but you must plan your budget carefully and it is best to stay within the spending limit. Past investments will start to pay off, improving your financial situation significantly. You will handle property or legal conflicts to your satisfaction. Your spirits will be raised by some exciting news from your kids. You will have a lot of fun planning the journey itself. You definitely need to pay more attention to health. Try to do simple things for your health like going on a walk daily.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



# Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit [www.BejanDaruwalla.com](http://www.BejanDaruwalla.com)

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com)



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla



# Sikh History This Week

JANUARY 13, 2023, TO JANUARY 19, 2023

## 13th January



1588: Foundation stone of Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, laid by Sain Mia Mir.

Foundation stone of Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar, was laid down by the renowned Sufi Saint of Qadiry order, Mir Mohamed Khan, popularly known as Hazarat Mian Mir of Lahore. Sri Harmandir Sahib, unlike any other place of worship, was built at a lower level than the surrounding area. It has doors on all four sides, signifying both humanity and universalism and that it was open to people of all the denominations.

1761: Janam Din Akali Phula Singh Ji.

PHULA SINGH AKALI was son of Siha village (Bangar) resident Eshwar Singh. After being introduced to amrit through Nihangh Singh (of Naena Singh Shaheedhi misl), he assumed the name Phula Singh. He was one of the precious flowers of Kalgidhar's Akali garden. He led the Akali movement in restoration of our Gurudwaras and general improvement of the whole Panth. He traveled extensively in pursuit of Gurudwara reforms. However, he maintained his residence in Amritsar. Even today there is a "burgh" and an establishment, named after him, in Amritsar. Akali Phula Singh helped Maharaja Ranjit Singh fight and successfully win numerous wars. He was so true to his faith and strong in his principles that he did not hesitate in pointing Maharaja Ranjit Singh's lapses in public forums. Further he actively sought appropriate punishment (Tankha) for such lapses.

1764: Conquest of Sirhind by the Khalsa Dal.

Sirhind was attacked and successfully conquered by the Khalsa Dal. The city was plundered and the walls of the fort were pulled down. Sirhind is the place where the younger sahibzadas, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Fateh Singh Ji, were bricked alive at this place. Ahmed Shah Abdali's proclamation to blow up Sri Harminder Sahib was answered by the total demolition of Sirhind.

1849: Battle of ChellianWala fought between Khalsa Army and East India Company resulting in tremendous loss of lives on both sides.



1913: Walls of the Gurudwara RakabGanj forcibly demolished by the British Government.

1974: Harbhajan Singh Yogi was honored with the title of "Bhai Sahib" at Sri Akal Takhat, Amritsar. He had been honored for his contributions for the American Sikh movement that accounted for 500,000 of American decent.

## 14th January



1553: Guru Amar Das visits Kurukshetra.

The solar eclipse of "Abijit Nakshatra (recurring after about 25 years) brought Guru Amar Das and his Sikhs to Kurukshetra for preaching Guru Nanak's mission to the vast multitude. It led to discussions with yogis, naked ascetics, sanyasis and the followers of all the six schools of Hindu philosophy. The earlier solar eclipse had taken Guru Nanak to Kurukshetra, known as a big centre for pilgrimage on such an occasion.

1705: Mela Maaghi (Muktsar) in remembrance of 40 Muktas.

Mela is observed every year at Muktsar. Guru Gobind Singh cast off the blue dress that he used for his escape at Dhilmi. He then moved on to Talwandi and was at Rohi when a group of 40 Sikhs from Majha, accompanied by Mata Bhag Kaur, visited him. They were visiting to convey their condolences at the death of his four sons and his mother, and also to offer their services to mediate a compromise between the Guru and the Mughal authorities. However, the Guru put them on the defensive by narrating the series of Mughal atrocities from Guru Arjan's martyrdom through Guru Hargobind's incarceration for several years at Gawalior, Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom to the laying of the siege of Anandpur.

1761: Abdali destroyed Panipat but the Sikhs faced him in Goindwal and rescued their honor.

## 15th January



1350: Bhagat Namdev Ji passed away. Annual mela observations are held in village Ghumaan, district Gurdaspur.

## 16th January

1766: Sirdar Chadat Singh Sukarchakia killed

Hameed Khan and captured Gujrawala.



Chand Kaur's samadhi in Lahore.

1841: Chand Kaur defended Lahore against Sher Singh's attack with the help of Gulab Singh. Fort was well defended by Gulab Singh and Gardner. Dhian Singh returned to Lahore. Sher Singh lost about 5000 men. And Gulab Singh left fort and Lahore and carried away great wealth.

1923: First abortive attempt is made to kill Arjan Singh Patwari of Haripur. He was alleged to be responsible for Master Mota Singh's arrest.

## 17th January

1766: Jahan Khan, the Commander of Ahmed Shah Abdali's forces, attacked Amritsar. The united forces of the Sikh Misl, faced Jahan Khan and successfully defeated the enemy forces at Putlighar, on the outskirts of Amritsar.1846 The Khalsa Army of Ranjit Singh ransacked a garrison of East India Company at Ludhiana.

1872: Baba Ram Singh, Naamdhari Leader, was arrested by the British government. He was subsequently exiled from India.

1872: 42 Naamdhari GurSikhs, accused of secessionist acts, were bown-up at Malaerkotla, after being tied with the cannons while one boy was cut to pieces. These executions were carried out under orders of Mr. L. Cowan, Deputy Commissioner Ludhiana, Malaerkotla.

1922: All Akalis arrested in connection with the Keys agitation are released.

1925: A jatha of 500 Akali Sikhs, led by Lakha Singh JahanShah (Gujran Wala), ready to lay down their lives was stooped from proceeding to Gangsar, Jaito – the place of Sikh agitation, and arrested.

## 19th January



1908: First Gurdwara Sahib in Canada 19th,1908 the was officially opened at 1866 west 2nd Avenue Vancouver B.C., under the management of the Khalsa Diwan Society. This Gurdwara Sahib served the Greater Vancouver Sikh community until new Gurdwara Sahib was occupied on April 25th,1970. The 2nd Avenue property was sold for \$100,000 to build a bigger (present) Gurdwara Sahib. It was very unfortunate to lose this historical Sikh monument.



# Makar Sankranti

**M**akar Sankranti is an important Hindu festival celebrated in different forms in India and Nepal. The festival is celebrated when the sun enters into Makar rashi in Pausha month. It is celebrated every year either on 13, 14 or 15 January because on these dates the sun leaves Dhanu rashi and enters into maker rashi. The festival is also known as Uttarayni because on this day the sun starts to move towards north.

The festival is celebrated in different states of India in different ways. In south India, It is known as Pongal festival in Tamil Nadu while it is celebrated as Sankranti in Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. In north India, it is celebrated as Lohri in Punjab and Haryana. In Uttar Pradesh, it is a day of giving and donation.

It is believed that on this day, people take bath in the holy Ganga river and then donate the things. The sweets made of Til sesame is also offered to brahmins and elders. Fares are also organised on the banks and ghats of river Ganga.

In Bihar, the festival is known as Khichdi festival. There is a tradition of distributing Urad, rice, til, chiwada, woollen clothes, blankets etc.

Believe goes that Makar Sankranti is the most auspicious day of the year and has a very sacred mythological story associated. It marks the end of an inauspicious phase that begins around mid-December. Further, it is also believed that any sacred Makar Sankranti ritual can be performed from this day onwards. The auspicious day of Makar Sankranti also marks the beginning of warmer and longer days as compared to nights. Now let's know what mythology says about this lucky day.

Mata Mahishasurmardini – a powerful form of Goddess Durga, had descended with the purpose of destroying Mahishasur. The Goddess had first set foot on earth, in the Kataraj ashram of Rishi Kardam and Devahuti.

It is also believed that on this day Lord Sun visits God Shani who is the owner of the constellation Makar. Since Shani is the foster child of Sun, they do not share a good relation. However, it is Shani's responsibility to take care of his father. Hence, this day signifies the priority of responsibilities.

Even in the epic of Mahabharata, an episode mentions how people in that era also considered the day as auspicious. Bhishma Pitamah even after being wounded in the Mahabharata war lingered on till Uttarayan set in so that he can attain heavenly abode inauspicious times. It is said that death on this day brings Moksha or salvation to the deceased.

## History of Makar Sankranti

The great savior of his ancestors, Maharaj Bhagirath, did great Tapasya to bring Gangaji down on the earth for the redemption of 60,000 sons of Maharaj Sagar, who were burnt to ashes at the Kapil Muni Ashram, near the present-day Ganga Sagar. It was on this day that Bhagirath finally did tarpan with the Ganges water for his unfortunate ancestors and thereby liberated them from the curse. Thus Makar Sankranti marks the start of good luck and fortune for all endeavors.

Another legend says that any boy or girl who takes a bath at any of the holy places will be blessed with a charming and beautiful partner. Another belief associated with the holy dip is that Lord Vishnu himself comes down to take a dip in the Triveni Sangam and therefore anyone who bathes there is blessed with his grace.

## Culture and Festivity of Makar Sankranti

Makar Sankranti is celebrated differently at different places and has a variety of rituals associated.

### Maharashtra

Maharashtra takes the limelight when it comes to the celebration of Makar Sankranti. People here come together to exchange sweets especially laddus made of Til (Sesame seeds) and Jaggery. Women who are married get together to exchange utensils and put Haldi Kumkum on their forehead. Hindus wear



## Important information

### Makar Sankranti 2023

Saturday, 14 January 2023

ornaments made of 'Halwa' on this day.

### Orissa

In Orissa, families get together to prepare some authentic delicacies on the eve of Makar Sankranti. They prepare a special dish called 'Ghantaa' which is a curry made of different cereals and vegetables. They also prepare some sweet dishes. Many of Orissa celebrate the day of Sankranti by lighting bonfires, dancing and eating their particular dishes sitting together. The Bhaya tribals of Orissa have their Magh yatra in which small home-made articles are put for sale.

### Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, Sankranti is called 'Khichiri'. Taking a dip in the holy rivers on this day is regarded as most auspicious. A big one-month long 'Magha-Mela' fair begins at Prayag in Allahabad on this occasion. Apart from Triveni, ritual bathing also takes place at many places like Haridwar and Garh Mukteshwar in Uttar Pradesh, and Patna in Bihar.

### Bengal

The famous Ganga Sagar river witnesses a huge Mela every year during Makar Sankranti. This is the place where river Ganga is believed to have divided into the nether region and vivified the ashes of the sixty thousand ancestors of King Bhagirath. This meal is attended by a large number of pilgrims from all over the country.

### Tamil Nadu

Pongal is the festival which is very similar to Makar Sankranti and is one of the major festivities of South India. Rice and pulses cooked together in ghee and milk are offered to the family deity after the ritual worship. In this, they worship the Sun God.

### Andhra Pradesh

The people of Andhra celebrate it for three long days and call it 'Pedda Panduga' meaning big festival. The whole event lasts for four days, the first day Bhogi, the

second day Sankranti, the third day Kanuma and the fourth day, Mukkanuma.

### Gujarat

For the Gujarati's, the festival is more about socializing and show your love for your relatives. They exchange gifts, arrange dinners and perform Puja together. The Gujarati Pundits on this auspicious day grant scholarships to students for higher studies in astrology and philosophy. This festival thus helps the maintenance of social relationships within the family, caste, and community.

### Punjab

Punjab celebrated this occasion as Lohri. This period being the coldest of the year they lit huge bonfires and participate in entertaining activities. Sweets, sugarcane, and rice are thrown in the bonfires, around which friends and relatives gather together. The following day, which is Sankrant, is celebrated as MAGHI. The Punjabi dance their famous Bhangra dance and eat sumptuous dinner together.

## PAGE SPONSORED BY



### ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

**Arish K Sahani (Father)**

**Shiv Sahani (Son)**

**Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)**

**718 - 271 - 1906**

[arish.sahani@gmail.com](mailto:arish.sahani@gmail.com)

"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."



contd from page 1

**AG Garland Names Special Counsel...**

example" of an investigation that necessitated appointment of a special counsel.

The appointment is intended to insulate the Justice Department from accusations of partisanship at a time when the new Republican majority in the House has embarked on an aggressive and open-ended investigation into what they claim is the Biden administration's bias against their party.

Mr. Hur, who is a partner at the white-collar law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, had been appointed by Mr. Trump as the U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland in 2018, leaving that position when the Trump administration ended.

The White House has acknowledged twice this week that Mr. Biden's team had found batches of classified papers in two locations associated with him, in his former office at a think tank in Washington and in the garage of his home in Wilmington, Del.

A batch of classified papers, which is said to have included briefing materials on foreign governments dating from Mr. Biden's time as vice president, were found on Nov. 2, as lawyers were closing down his office at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement in Washington.

They alerted the National Archives, which retrieved them the next morning. Archives officials then informed the Justice Department; Mr. Garland assigned the preliminary phase of the inquiry to John R. Lausch Jr., the U.S. attorney in Chicago and a Trump appointee, to blunt criticism that he was seeking to protect the Democratic president who appointed him.

Like Mr. Lausch, Mr. Hur was a political appointee of Mr. Trump. During the Trump administration, he was the top aide to the deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein, himself a former U.S. attorney in Maryland.

But Mr. Hur had a significant career in an apolitical role as an assistant federal prosecutor in that office from 2007 to 2014, and then had worked as a trial lawyer in private practice before coming back to the Justice Department to assist Mr. Rosenstein.

According to a biography, Mr. Hur's prosecutorial career included cases involving gang violence, gun offenses and drug trafficking, as well as white-collar crimes like fraud, public corruption, tax offenses, hacking, and intellectual property theft.

Mr. Hur also prosecuted high-profile domestic terrorism cases.

Mr. Hur graduated from Harvard College and Stanford Law School and clerked for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the biography said. He also worked as an aide to Christopher Wray, now the F.B.I. director, when Mr. Wray ran the Justice Department's criminal division in the George W. Bush administration.

Meanwhile, President Biden said he was 'cooperating fully and completely' with a Justice Department review. He told reporters on Thursday, January 12, that he was cooperating fully with the Justice Department in its investigation into classified documents found at his Delaware residence and promised a further explanation in the days ahead.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, used his morning news conference to condemn Biden's behavior. "This was discovered before the election," McCarthy said, a reference to the Nov. 2 discovery of documents at a Washington think tank. He added: "Congress has to investigate this."

McCarthy also pointed out Biden's criticism of former President Trump's handling of documents, wondering if Biden had used the Justice Department to raid Mar-a-Lago. He added: "They knew this happened to President Biden before the election, but they kept it secret from the American public." (Source: agencies)

**George Santos Faces Calls to Resign**

and Long Island, emphatically resisted calls to leave office, saying on Twitter that he remained committed to

serving the people of his district.

The Nassau County party chairman, Joseph G. Cairo Jr., said that Mr. Santos, a first-term Republican, had lost the support of Republicans in his district, saying that Mr. Santos's campaign was one of "deceit, lies, fabrication."

"He's disgraced the House of Representatives, and we do not consider him one of our congresspeople," Mr. Cairo said at the news conference. "Today, on behalf of the Nassau County Republican Committee, I am calling for his immediate resignation." (Source: agencies)

**Being 1 per cent of US population...**

They follow the laws," McCormick said in a short speech on the floor of the US House of Representatives.

A physician by profession, Republican McCormick represents the 6th Congressional District of Georgia, which mainly constitutes the northern suburbs of Atlanta. He defeated Bob Christian of the Democratic Party in the November 8, 2022 midterm elections.

"They (Indian-Americans) don't have the problems that we see other people have when they come to the emergency room for overdoses and depression anxiety because they're the most productive or family-oriented and the best of what represents American citizens," McCormick said.

Georgia has a significant number of Indian-Americans. "I rise to this occasion to appreciate my constituents, especially those who have emigrated from India. We have a very large portion of my community that's made up of almost 100,000 people who have emigrated directly from India," he said.

"One out of every five doctors in my community are from India. They represent some of the best citizens we have in America, we should make sure that we streamline the immigration process for those who come here to obey the law and pay their taxes and be the most creative and productive in society," McCormick said.

"God bless my Indian constituents and I look forward to meeting with the (Indian) Ambassador," McCormick said in his brief remarks. (Source: PTI)

**50 Indian American students among...**

exceptional promise as STEM leaders demonstrated through the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations, according to a society press release.

The 300 scholars hail from 194 American and international high schools in 35 states and China.

On Jan 24, 40 of the 300 scholars will be named Regeneration Science Talent Search finalists. The finalists will then compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards during a week-long competition in Washington, DC, taking place March 9-15.

"Congratulations to the top 300 scholars in this year's Regeneration Science Talent Search," said Maya Ajmera, President and CEO, Society for Science and Publisher, Science News.

"The enthusiasm and quality of projects from this year's participants were just outstanding. Each year, I am tremendously impressed by the ingenuity that the students bring to the competition. Their hard work, creativity and perseverance should be applauded."

Collectively, STS alumni over eight decades have received millions of dollars in scholarships and gone on to be awarded Nobel Prizes, Fields Medals, MacArthur Fellowships and numerous other accolades, the release said.

**INDIAN AMERICAN SEMIFINALISTS INCLUDE:**

Ashwika Agrawal, 17 Cupertino High School, California.

Project Title: Hanu: A Low-Cost Computer-Aided Lung Auscultation Apparatus with Automated Diagnosis of Respiratory Illnesses.

Bhargav Ravishachandra Annem, 17, Liberal Arts & Science Academy, Texas.

**PROJECT TITLE: IMPACT OF ORBITING SATELLITES ON STAR FORMATION RATE EVOLUTION AND METALLICITY VARIATIONS IN MILKY WAY-LIKE DISCS**

Stavya Arora, 17, Maple Grove Senior High School, Minnesota.

**PROJECT TITLE: OVERCOMING OPIOIDS: ANALYZING, CHARACTERIZING AND QUANTIFYING THE SENTIMENT OF REDDIT POSTS' TONE AND LANGUAGE PRIOR TO A RELAPSE TO ALLOW FOR EARLY INTERVENTION.**

Aaditya Krishna Arun, 18, Harmony School of Innovation, Sugar Land, Texas.

Project Title: Determine the Deleterious Effect of Excess Fluoride on Reproductive Outcome and Development of Dip Bag-Based De-Fluoridation Solution.

Shivani Babu, 17, Auburn High School, Alabama.

**PROJECT TITLE: ATTENUATION OF ADIPOCYTE HYPERTROPHY IN A PALMITIC ACID-INDUCED 3T3 CELL MODEL THROUGH LUPEOL TREATMENT.**

Sruthi Balasubramanian, 17, American Heritage School Boca-Delray, Florida.

Project Title: The Effect of Nicotinamide on the IL-6 Expression and Cell Count of Barrett's Esophagus-Expressing Cells.

Samir Batheja, 17, Half Hollow Hills High School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SLEEP AND FATIGUE IN DEPRESSION: ROLE OF GABA AND GLUTAMATE.**

Shriya P Bhat, 17, Plano East Senior High School, Texas.

**PROJECT TITLE: CLONING AND MUTAGENESIS OF THE AMPC GENE ENCODING FOR ?-LACTAMASE IN PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL ALLOSTERIC BINDING SITES.**

Rohan Tan Bhowmik, 17, The Harker School, California.

**PROJECT TITLE: A MULTI-MODAL WILDFIRE PREDICTION AND EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM BASED ON A NOVEL MACHINE LEARNING FRAMEWORK.**

Kristi Biswas, 17, Paxon Senior High School, Florida.

**PROJECT TITLE: ASSOCIATIONS OF GENETIC SNPS WITH AD, NEUROPATHOLOGY AND GENE EXPRESSION OFFERS NOVEL INSIGHT INTO AD**

Raka Bose, 17, Yorktown High School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ICU PATIENT TRIAGE.**

Hiral Milind Chavre, 17, George W. Hewlett High School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: NMDA RECEPTOR MUTATION AND KCC2 INHIBITION INDUCE CHANGES IN BRAIN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.**

Rohini Elora Das, 17, Byram Hills High School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: "LET'S SLEEP ON IT": EMPLOYING THE BRAIN APP TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF SLEEP IN CONSOLIDATING PRIOR LEARNING.**

Samara Davis, 17, Ossining High School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL DNA METABARCODING FOR THE DETECTION OF ELUSIVE VERNAL POOL-BREEDING AMPHIBIANS.**

Vihaan Dheer, 18, Hackley School, New York.

**PROJECT TITLE: THE OPTIMIZATION OF FLUX TRAJECTORIES FOR THE ADIABATIC CONTROLLED-Z GATE ON SPLIT-TUNABLE TRANSMONS.**

Nadya Jasmine Dhillon, 17, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Illinois.

**PROJECT TITLE: THE EFFECT OF A NOVEL BIOMEDICAL TECHNIQUE ON REPROCESSING OF DUODENOSCOPES USING SILVER NITRATE AND METHYLENE BLUE IRRADIATED WITH RED LIGHT.**





Shiv Sahani

Call for All your Life Insurance Needs!  
"Making Friends Through Service"

**SAHANIS: Shiv, Arish & Priya**  
Office: (718) 271-0453  
Cell: (646) 644-0174  
Email: [sksahani@ft.nyl.com](mailto:sksahani@ft.nyl.com)  
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company



**Professional Sample Maker/  
Seamstress/Alterations Specialist**  
Hicksville, NY

Custom Uniform manufacturer located in Hicksville, Long Island, NY seeks full time professional Sample Maker. This position is NOT in NYC so if you are not able to work on Long Island please do not apply. We are a 1/4 mile from the Hicksville train station.

Must be able to handle all types of garments. Products include, Male and Female jackets, pants, vests, shirts/blouses, dresses, overcoats, etc.

Will also be responsible for all custom alterations done in house for our customers.

Hourly wage from \$25.00/hour, possibly more for right person. Hours are 8:00 to 5:00 Monday to Friday - overtime is often available.

**Job Type:** Full-time

**Salary:** From \$25.00 per hour

**Benefits**

**Education:**

• High school or equivalent (Required)

**Schedule:**

- Monday to Friday
- Weekend availability

**Contact:**

• [lauren@tophatiw.com](mailto:lauren@tophatiw.com)

[www.tophatimagewear.com](http://www.tophatimagewear.com)



Rohan Handa  
Executive Partner  
New York Life

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
**IS HIRING**

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Conveniently located at:  
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor  
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



**SACH  
Law Firm**

- "Whole Truth and Nothing But The Truth."
- > Immigration
  - > Accidents
  - > Divorce
  - > Real Estate

Call at (516)-499-9779

Our legal team at Sach Law Firm has a well-deserved reputation of excellence in providing smart, sensible, and cost-effective legal and business solutions for our clients.

We serve a wide range of clientele, and every client relationship is valued greatly and treated with dignity and respect. Each engagement benefits from the depth and breadth of expertise of Sach Law Firm.



**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

MAKE YOUR  
BRAND ROAR  
IN THIS  
FEROCIOUS  
MARKET



Advertise for as little as  
\$10.00.

Call 646-247-9458



## History This Week

JANUARY 13 TO JANUARY 19, 2023

## JANUARY 13

January 13, 1935 - The population of the Saar region bordering France and Germany voted for incorporation into Hitler's Reich. The 737 square-mile area with its valuable coal deposits had been under French control following Germany's defeat in World War I.



Douglas Wilder

January 13, 1990 - Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the first African American governor in the U.S. as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

Birthdays - Author Horatio Alger (1834-1899) was born in Revere, Massachusetts. He wrote over 100 books for boys, many featuring "rags to riches" themes of poor boys triumphing over life's obstacles.

## JANUARY 14



President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II. At the conclusion of the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill held a joint news conference at which Roosevelt surprisingly announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

Birthdays - Benedict Arnold (1741-1801) was born in Norwich, Connecticut. He was the American Revolutionary War hero who turned traitor, sending information to the

British in exchange for money. After obtaining command of West Point in 1780, he conspired to turn over the garrison to the British. However, his plans were discovered and he fled to British headquarters in New York. After the war, he lived in England.

Birthdays - Philosopher-physician Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was born in Upper Alsace, Germany. He served as a medical missionary in Africa and received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of the brotherhood of all nations.

Birthdays - American film pioneer Hal Roach (1892-1992) was born in Elmira, New York. His output included nearly 1,000 movies of all lengths, including the classic Laurel and Hardy comedies.

## JANUARY 15



Golda Meir

January 15, 1973 - Golda Meir became the first Israeli Prime Minister to visit the Pope.

Birthdays - Martin Luther King (1929-1968) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. As an African American civil rights leader he spoke eloquently and stressed nonviolent methods to achieve equality. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. In 1983, the third Monday in January was designated a legal holiday in the U.S. to celebrate his birthday.

## JANUARY 16



The Shah of Iran

January 16, 1979 - The Shah of Iran departed his country amid mass demonstrations and the

revolt of Islamic fundamentalists led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Shah had ruled Iran since 1941 and had unsuccessfully attempted to westernize its culture.

January 16, 1991 - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

January 16, 1992 - The twelve-year civil war in El Salvador ended with the signing of a peace treaty in Mexico City. The conflict had claimed over 75,000 lives.

Birthdays - French industrialist Andre Michelin (1853-1931) was born in Paris. He started the Michelin Tire Company in 1888, pioneering the use of pneumatic tires on autos.

## JANUARY 17



Captain James Cook

January 17, 1773 - The ship Resolution, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 17, 1945 - During World War II, Warsaw, Poland, was liberated by Soviet Russian troops.

January 17, 1966 - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its H-bomb into the Atlantic.

Birthdays - Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Considered the Elder Statesman of the American Revolution, he displayed multiple talents as a printer, author, publisher, philosopher, scientist, diplomat and philanthropist. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the new U.S. Constitution.

Birthdays - Muhammad Ali

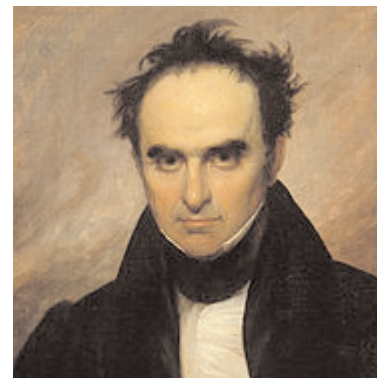
was born in Louisville, Kentucky, January 17, 1942 (as Cassius Clay). At age 22 in 1964, he knocked out Sonny Liston to win the world heavyweight boxing championship, shouting out "I shook up the world!" After converting to the Muslim religion, the boxing superstar became an outspoken conscientious objector (on religious grounds) to America's escalating involvement in the Vietnam War and refused military duty upon being drafted. As a result, he was stripped of his boxing title, banned from boxing, and subsequently jailed. After a long legal battle, his conviction was reversed and he regained the championship in 1974 by defeating George Foreman. In the early 1980s, after retiring from boxing, Ali revealed his new struggle with Parkinson's disease. However, he has remained active, devoting himself to various philanthropic and humanitarian causes.

## JANUARY 18



Robert Clifton Weaver

January 18, 1966 - Robert Clifton Weaver was sworn in as the first African American cabinet member in U.S. history, becoming President Lyndon B. Johnson's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.



Daniel Webster

Birthdays - American orator and politician Daniel Webster (1782-1852) was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire. "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!" he stated in the U.S. Senate in

1830 in response to Southern Senators who contended that individual states had the right to refuse to obey Congress.

## JANUARY 19



Indira Gandhi

January 19, 1966 - Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India in succession to Lal Shastri who had died eight days earlier. She served until 1975 and later from 1980 to 1984, when she was assassinated by her own bodyguards as she walked to her office. Her only surviving son, Rajiv, became the next prime minister. In 1991, he was assassinated while campaigning for reelection.

January 19, 1983 - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was arrested in Bolivia, South America. He was responsible for deporting Jewish children from Lyon to Auschwitz where they were gassed. He also murdered French Resistance leader Jean Moulin and tortured others. He was exposed by Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, extradited in 1987, then convicted by the French and died while in prison.

Birthdays - Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) military leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of a Revolutionary War hero, a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years preceding the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was offered command of the Union Army, but declined and instead accepted command of the military and naval forces of Virginia.

Birthdays - Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) poet and writer of mystery and suspense tales, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include; The Fall of the House of Usher, Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque, The Murders in the Rue Morgue and his famous poem The Raven.



# Puducherry: The French Riviera of the East

Puducherry, officially known as Pondicherry, and commonly referred to as just Pondy, is one of the seven Union Territories of India which is bounded by the southern state of Tamil Nadu. This former French colony is a perfect amalgamation of the traditional Indian sensibilities and French architecture, making it a dreamy escape that offers the best of both worlds.

The streets of the French Quarter of Pondicherry, also known as White Town, are dotted with charming mustard-yellow colonial structures with bougainvillea laden walls. These are interspersed with cosy cafes and chic boutiques that offer delectable French cuisine and beverages. Simply strolling down these streets, can give the traveller an insight into the fairytale charm of Pondicherry.

Topped with authentic French bakeries, bohemian stores and cobblestoned paths that are delightful for a leisurely stroll or a bicycle ride, Pondicherry has a lot to offer. So head on down to this dream town of the Indian Coast and chug a few beers (at the Union Territory prices; bid adieu to state taxes) or just read a book in one of the quaint cafes.

Come explore the boulevards and rues (the French word for streets) of Pondicherry that will ultimately take you down to the gorgeous seaside promenade, and witness the Bay of Bengal playfully splashing the shores of the famous Rock beach.

## Paradise Beach

Paradise Beach, also known as Plage Paradiso, is situated in Chunnambar, close to Pondicherry town. Adorned with the golden sand, this is a little-isolated beach. To reach here, you have to take a ferry across the backwaters, which takes around 20-30 minutes. There are a few shacks along the main entrance to the beach, and you can get fresh coconut water and some simple snacks - don't expect any fancy street food though.

Part of the fun in reaching the beach is the beautiful ferry from the boathouse - the backwaters on the way to the beach are green and have thick mangrove forests. Especially after the monsoons, the backwaters are fresh and green. You can spot a lot of birds while on the ride - and photography enthusiasts would relish the opportunity to get some great photos here.

## Aurobindo Ashram

Located in the White Town of Pondicherry, Aurobindo Ashram has been named after its creator- Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. The foundation of this ashram was laid on 24th November in the year 1926 when he was surrounded by his disciples all over after he retired from politics and settled in Pondicherry. This ashram was set up with the aim of helping people attain moksha and inner peace. Thousands of tourists from all over the country visit the ashram to experience and achieve spiritual knowledge. The ashram is by far one of



the wealthiest ashrams in the world. Also, the ashram does not have any branches and solely exists in Pondicherry.

## Auroville

Auroville is one of those towns which appear to come to life right out of fiction. In the union territory of Pondicherry, this township runs on the principles of peace, harmony, sustainable living and 'divine consciousness' which was the philosophy of the Mother of Sri Aurobindo Society, Mirra Alfassa. This universal township was inaugurated on 28 February 1968 with the agenda that it will be a place with people willing enough to make this a hub of uninterrupted education and progress, regardless of their caste, creed, nationality or race. Called the city of dawn, this place is the epitome of tranquility and proves as the perfect escape for the ones in search of peace.

## Scuba Diving in Pondicherry

Packed with enchanting marine life, Pondicherry offers an amazing adventure of scuba diving off the country's East Coast. A dive into the sea will let you explore the rich life comprising of beautiful natural coral reefs and other exotic creatures such as manta rays, kingfish, sea snakes, lionfish, butterflies, crustaceans, moray eels and many more. Apart from that, if it is your lucky day you might even spot whale sharks, even sharks, dolphins and turtles. You also have an option of enjoying the dive at an artificial reef and experience the thrill of the activity making Pondicherry an irresistible diving destination.



## Arikamedu

Situated within a half hour drive of the French colonial town of Pondicherry, Arikamedu is an ancient Roman trade centre hidden from the eyes and ears of the commonplace Tamil tourism. Its name has been taken from the Tamil word- 'Arikanmedu' which means 'eroding mount'. Very little is known about any Indo-Roman ties in the Before Christ era, but with the discovery and excavation of Arikamedu, extensive proofs were unearthed. This port town was occupied by the people of Rome, Cholas, and French serving as a very famous maritime centre from 1st century BC to 2nd century AD. The glass bead manufacturing factory of Arikamedu is

called the mother of all bead centres in the entire world.

## Cafes in Pondicherry

If you are a connoisseur, then Pondicherry is an excellent place for you to visit as it serves a wide variety of gourmet food. It definitely has the best cafes around and offers great cuisine. Some of the cafes will take you completely by surprise with their culinary and mouthwatering dishes. If you always dreamt of sitting in a French café and sipping a cup of coffee or taking a bite but are unable to visit France, then Pondy should be on your checklist. These cafes also offer an ambient atmosphere and solace from the busy streets.

Source: *Holidify*



## New York nurses strike ends after tentative deal reached with hospitals

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A nurses strike at two private New York City hospital systems has come to an end after 7,000 nurses spent three days on the picket line.

CNN has reported that the New York State Nurses Association union reached tentative deals with Mount Sinai Health System and Montefiore Health System, which operates three hospitals in the Bronx that had been struck. The nurses had been arguing that immense staffing shortages have caused widespread burnout, hindering their ability to properly care for their patients.

The union said the deal will provide enforceable "safe staffing ratios" for all inpatient units at Mount Sinai and Montefiore, "so that there will always be enough nurses at the bedside to provide safe patient care, not just on paper." At Montefiore, the hospital agreed to financial penalties for failing to comply with agreed-upon staffing levels in all

units. Montefiore said the agreement also includes 170 new nursing positions, a 19% increase in pay over the three year life of the contract, lifetime health coverage for eligible retirees and adding "significantly more nurses" in the ER. The deals were announced in the early hours Thursday morning, January 12 at 3 a.m. ET for Montefiore and about 30 minutes later at Mount Sinai. The nurses returned to the job for the 7 a.m. ET shift Thursday, and Montefiore Medical Center said all surgeries and procedures and outpatient appointments for Thursday and after will proceed as scheduled.

Nurses will need to vote to approve the deal before it is finalized. But the union said the tentative deal will help put more nurses to work and allow patients to receive better care. "Through our unity and by putting it all on the line, we won enforceable safe staffing ratios at both



Following a tentative deal which will help put more nurses to work and allow patients to receive better care, New York nurses strike has ended

Montefiore and Mount Sinai where nurses went on strike for patient care," the nurses' union said in a statement. "Today, we can return to work with our heads held high, knowing that our victory means safer care for our patients and more sustainable jobs for our profession."

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

contd from page 6

### Multi-Billion-Dollar Casino Project...

"maximizes economic opportunity, helps to build stronger communities, and protects the quality of life for all Long Islanders."

"After nearly two decades of working to transform the Nassau Coliseum site, including countless hours meeting with thousands of community members, the message has been overwhelmingly clear that Long Islanders want a global renowned entertainment destination that creates well-paying jobs and new opportunities at the Nassau Hub. But the challenge for turning this vision into reality has always been the commercial viability of a site encumbered by a nearly obsolete half-century-old arena," said Scott Rechler, CEO and chairman of RXR. "The plan envisioned by Sands is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create the kind of world-renowned entertainment and hospitality destination that has been sought after by Long Islanders."

In recent years, the Nassau Hub has been the source of much debate and many different proposals. More than a decade ago, Rechler and former Islanders owner Charles Wang tried to get The Lighthouse Project built at the site. It would have redeveloped the Hub with a new sporting/entertainment venue, as well as a hotel and other amenities and businesses. That plan, however, was squashed by the Town of Hempstead, which has control of zoning of the parcel.

A few years later, Bruce Ratner took over the site and completely renovated the Coliseum, officially rebranding it NYCB Live, Home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. When the renovated Coliseum was revealed, Ratner said he hoped it would become "the Eiffel Tower of Long Island."

Under the Sands plan, it's unclear what would happen to the Coliseum. In announcing the plan, Sands said it would honor the site's legacy as a veteran's memorial and pay tribute to Long Island service members, but did not say what would become of the Coliseum itself.

"The entire Sands team is excited for the opportunity to help bring this vision to reality and we are ready to work in a serious and transparent manner with the local community in an effort to bring an exciting new industry to Long Island," said Goldstein.

**CONTD FROM PAGE 15**

### AAPI's 17th Global Healthcare Summit..

Dr. Sampat Shivangi, Chair of AAPI's Legislative Chair joined the meeting through a message of felicitation sent to the media and AAPI leadership.

In her address, Dr. Anjana Samadder said, the theme for the next global healthcare summit will be "Maa Bachao," meaning, protecting the mother, which will be a great way to strengthen families and humanity as a whole.

Dr. Sushi Singh, chief guest at the event said, saving the mother and giving her due respect and honor is essential today more than ever. She pointed to the high infant mortality rate in India and urged all sections of society to work together to save girl children.

Shri Karthikeyan, a decorated former IPS Officer, in his keynote address, shared of the many sacrifices and contributions by the fraternity of doctors, and lauded them for their services to humanity, especially during the covid pandemic. He shared with the audience his personal experiences working with the most vulnerable people across society and urged everyone to work compassionately towards the poor and help uplift their lives.

In a message, Dr. Ravi Kolli, president of AAPI said, "The Global Healthcare Summit held annually in India across several states, has become a major contributing factor, where Indian American Doctors focus on various programs and policies in their efforts to make a huge difference in the delivery of healthcare in India."

"Coming from a nation that has given us so much, today Physicians of Indian origin have become a powerful influence in healthcare across the world," said Dr. Shivangi. "Nowhere in the world is their authority more keenly felt than in the United States. The overrepresentation of Indians in the field of medicine is striking - in practical terms, one out of seven doctors in the United States is of Indian Heritage. We provide medical care to over 40 million of the US population."

an interactive session with the media persons who had filled the meeting venue, the leaders of AAPI shared with them of the numerous initiatives taken up by AAPI during the course of the past four decades in India as well as in the United States.

"We the physicians of Indian origin are proud of our great achievements and contributions to our motherland, India, our adopted land, the US, and in a very significant way to the transformation of Indo-US relations and help India to have a cost-effective, efficient and advanced healthcare delivery benefitting India's 1.4 billion people," they pointed out.

The Global Health Summit held annually in India has been a major contributing factor by Indian American Doctors, focusing on various programs and policies, and making a difference in the delivery of healthcare in India.

In addition to educational seminars/workshops on current topics, the GHS includes a well-organized CEO forum with a panel of eminent healthcare leaders from the US and India, reinforcing the need for preventive care rather than disease management, to control the non-communicable diseases which are the biggest silent killers.

Areas of ongoing skill training, investment in infrastructure, modernizing healthcare delivery, and private-public collaboration specific to each state in the healthcare sector are discussed and specific plans laid



Journalists at the press conference

out, which are sent in a White Paper report for follow up in the coming months.

Over the past 17 years and beyond, AAPI leadership has been able to establish Collaboration and multiple medical organizations - ACP - FSMB - ECFMG - NMC (India) - IMA (India) - GAPIO - UNICEF - Red Cross Society - CWC - Lifestyle Medicine - MDTok - Apollo Groups, only to name a few. These connections and collaborations are vital for us to stay connected and make a powerful impact on our communities.

Through AAPI's charitable activities with service to our motherland as the motto, AAPI has several programs in India and the United States. Despite the Covid challenges of Delta and Omicron waves, in spite of limited resources, AAPI blood donation drives were done in several cities with several of them organizing multiple events. .

Among several other initiatives, AAPI's "Adopt a village" Rural Preventive Healthcare Screening Initiative in India, where free health screening camps with free physician consultations were done in several Indian rural villages in the middle of Covid pandemic.

Continuing the efforts towards the Covid-19 Fund - Post-Covid Relief Activities, AAPI has raised over \$5 million during the delta wave in India. The ongoing Covid-19 relief work in India is in progress, donating lifesaving equipment to support critically ill patients - Biochemical Analyzers, Ventilators, Oxygen Flow Meters, and Oxygen Plants. The funds will continue to support Covid patients in rural hospitals.

Since its inception 40 years ago, AAPI has served as a link to foster stronger US-India relations and has been lauded by the governments of both nations for their great achievements and contributions.

"We urge you to be part of this event in January 2024 and help create awareness and reach our services to the neediest in India and the United States," said Dr. Anjana Samadder. For more details about AAPI and its many noble initiatives, please visit: [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org)



## Barcelona beat Betis on penalties, reach Clasico Super Cup final

Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved twice from the spot to help Barcelona beat Real Betis 4-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw on Thursday, setting up a Clasico Spanish Super Cup final.

The Catalans will face their bitter rivals Real Madrid on Sunday after Carlo Ancelotti's side beat Valencia on penalties on Wednesday.

Barcelona needed spot-kicks to see off Betis after an entertaining draw over 120 minutes at Riyadh's King Fahd Stadium.

Robert Lewandowski put Barcelona ahead after 40 minutes but Betis playmaker Nabil Fekir levelled with 13 minutes remaining.

Ansu Fati smashed in a fine volley to put Barcelona ahead in extra-time but Loren Moron pulled Betis back level with a cunning backheel flick.

Ter Stegen denied Juanmi and William Carvalho in the shootout and Pedri converted the decisive spot-kick.

"(The final) will be a very nice game, everyone wants to see these type of games and we'll be delighted to play it and win it," Ter Stegen told Movistar.

The goalkeeper made some fine saves even before the shootout, where he was key.

"I would like to have less work in games," Ter Stegen added, acknowledging that he was back to his best. "For a year I've been at a very good level personally, physically, it's the work too -- every day I have a spectacular team that helps me improve and think about how to get better."

Barcelona have not won the Spanish Super Cup since the change to a four-team format, with the first Saudi Arabia edition taking place in 2020.

After finishing last season without a single trophy and investing heavily in the summer despite the club's debts, Xavi and his team are desperate for silverware.

Although winning the Super Cup will not be enough in itself, it would be a step in the right direction and Xavi's first trophy since arriving in November 2021.

"Ter Stegen makes the difference for us, I am very happy with him," Xavi told reporters.

"He saved two penalties, and we're in the final. Now we have to compete in it and win it." *Source: AFP*

## KL Rahul anchors India's series win over Lanka with fighting fifty

KOLKATA (TIP)

Under-fire KL Rahul made amends for his poor run of form as he anchored India's series clinching four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI with a dogged 64 on a tricky Eden Gardens track.

Snubbed time and again by Indian think-tank, Kuldeep Yadav proved his mettle yet another time as he formed a lovely bowling alliance with pacer Mohammed Siraj to demolish Sri Lanka for 215 inside 40 overs after they opted to bat.

The paltry chase on the quick Eden outfield however was not a cakewalk for Indian team, which lost its top-four batters for 86 runs in 14.2 overs.

Needing 130 from 214 balls, Rahul was the only designated batter left as he once again proved his utility in the middle overs with an unbeaten 64 off 103 balls that took India home with 40 balls to spare.

While there was a bit of seam movement on offer and ball from spinners gripping a bit, to be fair, there was no scoreboard pressure on the home team.

The win also gave India an unassailable 2-0 series lead going into the Trivandrum ODI on Sunday.

"I won't say it was a flat wicket, or it was doing a lot that it was impossible to bat. When Sri Lanka started, I thought it was a 280-300 wicket," Rahul said after the match.

Having started off with a boundary, Rahul was quick to slow down as he ran hard for his singles en route to a 93-ball fifty.

The need of the hour was to play sensibly as Rahul and Hardik Pandya curbed their natural strokeplay in a decisive 75-run partnership that came off 119 balls.

It was also a different Pandya (36; 53b) on display as he took time and gave Rahul a perfect support. Pandya however departed against the run of play, leaving 55 runs required from 95 balls.

India earlier endured some tense moments inside the powerplay when Rohit Sharma (17) and Shubman Gill (21) departed in four deliveries after an attacking start, while Virat Kohli (4) became the third casualty to be 63/2 in 9.3 overs.

Rohit took a faint edge behind the stumps to be dismissed by Karunaratne. In the next over Shubman Gill, who wowed the packed Eden crowd with his delectable cover drives, had a soft dismissal giving a straight catch to Avishka Fernando at short



midwicket off Lahiru Kumara.

The pacer, who replaced an injured Dilshan Madushanka (dislocated shoulder), was all charged up when he cleaned up the last match centurion Kohli with a delivery that jagged back in.

More anxiety was in store as India were reduced to 86/4 in 14.2 overs when Shreyas Iyer was dismissed leg before by a ball going down the leg.

However, Rahul, relishing his role as a No. 5 was never in tearing hurry as he anchored the chase to perfection. He needed one good stand and in vice-captain Hardik Pandya (36) he got an able ally as they put up 75 runs.

"The good thing about batting at No. 5 is you don't have to rush. You can take a shower, put your feet up and watch the game. But I always think what team needs of me. If you can read the situation when you go in, it helps you and team. Batting at No. 5 has helped me understand my game better," Rahul said.

*Source: PTI*

## Men's Hockey World Cup 2023: Tournament gets underway in Odisha with stunning opening ceremony

CUTTACK (TIP)

Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 got underway on Wednesday, January 11, evening with a spectacular opening ceremony at the picturesque Barabati Stadium in Cuttack that was witnessed by thousands of hockey lovers in attendance from across the country and abroad.

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, International Hockey Federation president Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India chairman Dilip Tirkey were present at the glittering ceremony to welcome members of all the 16 participating teams.

Ikram, in his address, complimented Odisha for hosting the mega event twice consecutively, the last one being in 2018, and called the state the "Land of Hockey".

Thakur thanked the Odisha government for successfully hosting the event in grandeur and said the enthusiasm of the people of India and the state showed their love for the game.

He said the Centre will always extend support to states for hosting such sporting events.



Patnaik said Odisha has long been known for its hospitality and hoped every visitor takes back good memories of their stay in the state.

The hour-long opening ceremony was preceded and succeeded by colourful cultural programmes that kept mesmerising the packed audience.

The celebration began with a stunning tribal dance art of the state, which was a fusion of at least six local dance forms choreographed by eminent dance guru Aruna Mohanty.

Sixteen fan parks were set up at important locations across the city where thousands of hockey lovers and enthusiasts witnessed the opening ceremony on giant screens.

Hundreds of singers from Bollywood and local artists sang the Hockey World Cup theme song that was composed by music director Pritam, who also performed on the stage along with some other singers.

The matches will be held at two venues – Birsamundra Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar -- from January 13 to January 29.

While 20 matches will be played at Rourkela, 24 matches, including the final, will be held in Bhubaneswar.

The state government has built a new hockey stadium in Rourkela ahead of the event.

Odisha is hosting the international event for the second consecutive time, the previous one having been held in Bhubaneswar in 2018.

*Source: PTI*





## A World without Childhood Blindness



Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda

An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness  
Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children



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



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"



**POST SURGERY**



**PRE SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)  
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA Focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.  
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)