



We Wish Readers a Happy Republic Day of India



World plagued by perfect storm on multiple fronts, we can work together to control damage: Guterres

NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT IS TIME TO FORGE THE PATHWAYS TO COOPERATION IN OUR FRAGMENTED WORLD, HE SAID



Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres speaks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, January 18. Photo credit / PTI

JANUARY 18, 2023

DAVOS (TIP): The world is facing a perfect storm on multiple fronts and all that can be done now is working together to control the damage and seize the opportunities, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday, January 18.

In a special address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023 here, he also called for ending the addiction to fossil fuels, and stopping "our self-defeating war on nature." "There are no perfect solutions in a perfect storm."

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WRESTLING FEDERATION OF INDIA PRESIDENT BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH PROTESTING WRESTLERS THREATEN TO MOVE COURT; WANT WFI DISBANDED



Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat, Babita Phogat and others address the media after meeting with Sports Secretary, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday, January 19, 2023

Photo credit / Tribune -Manas Ranjan Bhui

JANUARY 19, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's top wrestlers have intensified their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh after their talks with the Sports Ministry failed. They said the government has given them an assurance but no "satisfactory response" and they will lodge multiple FIRs against WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh if the Wrestling Federation of India is not disbanded immediately.

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THREE INDIAN AMERICANS AMONG 2023 PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Anahita Dua, Sonia Singhvi, and Neil Vora are among this year's 60 Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS) program serving as a catalyst for a diverse network of established leaders

JANUARY 18, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Three Indian Americans, Anahita Dua, Sonia Singhvi, and Neil Vora are among this year's 60 Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS) program serving as a catalyst for a diverse network of established leaders. The eighth annual PLS class comprises accomplished leaders including service members, educators, physicians, public servants, and corporate professionals, the program announced Jan 12.

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Collegium junks objections to Kirpal's appointment: Reiterates names for appointment in Madras, Bombay High Courts



The Supreme Court Collegium has rejected the Centre's objections to the proposed elevation of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, an openly gay person, as a judge of the Delhi High Court and reiterated its recommendations for four other appointments.

JANUARY 19, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a fresh round of confrontation with the Centre, the Supreme Court Collegium has rejected the Centre's objections to the proposed elevation of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal.

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NEW ZEALAND PM QUILTS AHEAD OF OCT ELECTIONS: FEB 7 LAST DAY IN OFFICE



New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern with her partner in Napier. Photo credit / PTI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19

NEW DELHI (TIP): New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who became a global icon of the left after being elected the world's youngest female head of state five and a half years ago, on Thursday, January 19, announced her decision to quit her job due to vicious attacks and dwindling support.

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COMMENT**Not by GDP Alone**

I am more inclined to think as a common man rather than come out with a scholarly and pedantic analysis. I shall not go in to the nitty gritty of figures or make a presentation through graphs to exhibit gains and losses because these have only confounded the common man. I will not speak of when India will be a 5 trillion or 7 trillion economy. I will not make comment on the growth of GDP. Nor would I make any guesses about the fortunes of an Adani or an Ambani. I leave that to a Narendra Modi or a Nirmala Seetharaman. I shall be more interested in talking about where India stands when it comes to the people of India and their rights as human beings.

For every Indian it was a bliss to be alive on 26th January 1950 when the Constitution of Secular India came in to being. For him it was a day when he was promised certain fundamental rights. Readers may please look into the Preamble to the Constitution of India. It is a day when every Indian felt he was going to see a new sunrise. It is a day that promised every single man, woman and child in India end of inequality and exploitation. It is a day that held the prospect of an end to bigotry. It is the day that spoke of an end of illiteracy. It is a day our leaders described as the day of a new awakening. It is a day of new life of liberty and freedom-the most cherished goals of every human being anywhere in the world. Indians bowed their heads in gratitude before the framers of the Constitution, led by the brilliant Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

They felt they were just about to enter the Promised Land.

Behind the veil of all external growth, all seeming progress, there is decadence in India. To the common people, equality is a word in Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution of India, not the practice. How can one claim there is equality in India when the majority still is caught in the grinding machine of illiteracy, ignorance and poverty? How can one feel proud of the growing economic stature of the country (India will be a 5 Trillion economy by 2024 and an economic super power by 2050 or even earlier) when one does not get two square meals, is without a home and has neither a present nor a future?

73 years of Republic and we have still not been able to ensure justice to our people. "Might is Right" holds true in the land of the Buddha, Nanak and Gandhi. From far flung hamlets to the city, it is the might that rules. Even the politicians who are supposed to act as the custodians of the Constitution subscribe to the dictum. Dalits and minorities are at the receiving end. A case in point is the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi and elsewhere in India. Ten thousand Sikh men, women and children were butchered in cold blood then. Thousands of Sikh women became widows. Thousands of children became orphans.

Look at all the cases being reported every day of rape of dalit women, the police brutality, the gangsters' reign, the highhandedness of government officials, the loot the politicians engage in day in and day out. Law seems to have taken leave of the

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

country.

A fresh case is of the top Indian wrestlers who have been forced to gather in Delhi to protest the sexual harassment of players by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the President of Wrestling Federation of India and his colleagues. Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh should have been arrested and interrogated, if the law had respect in the country, but he will not be touched, because he belongs to the ruling party, and, on top of it, he is a "Bahubali". Those who speak of Ram Rajya are the ones who do not practice Ram Rajya.

The Non-resident Indians have been voicing similar concern at the lawlessness in the country when many pointed out that their property in India was being grabbed by unscrupulous elements and many had been framed in false criminal cases. They pointed the accusing finger at the police and civil officials who connived with criminals to rob the NRI's of their legitimate property. How can government of India expect the NRI's to come forward to invest in the country when they feel insecure? Law is on leave, probably a long leave.

Where is Equality promised in the Constitution of the Republic of India? Where is Freedom? Where is Justice?

Let us on this Republic Day ask ourselves these questions, for the sake of the Republic of India.

SATYAMEV JAYATE!**GUEST COMMENT****Sack wrestling chief: Initiate probe into harassment charges against Brij Bhushan**

An ugly bout is playing out, not in the sporting arena but at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, and it calls for immediate and stringent action. Just like a wrestler is disqualified when she breaks the match rules, given the allegations of sexual misconduct against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is also a BJP MP, he must be made to step down from his powerful position pending the inquiry into the charges. That the wrestling community - from Olympic stars to aspiring grapplers - is up in arms over Brij Bhushan's character and manner of functioning lends gravitas to the situation and calls for a police probe. Spearheaded by Commonwealth Games medalist Vignesh Phogat and Olympic medalists Bajrang

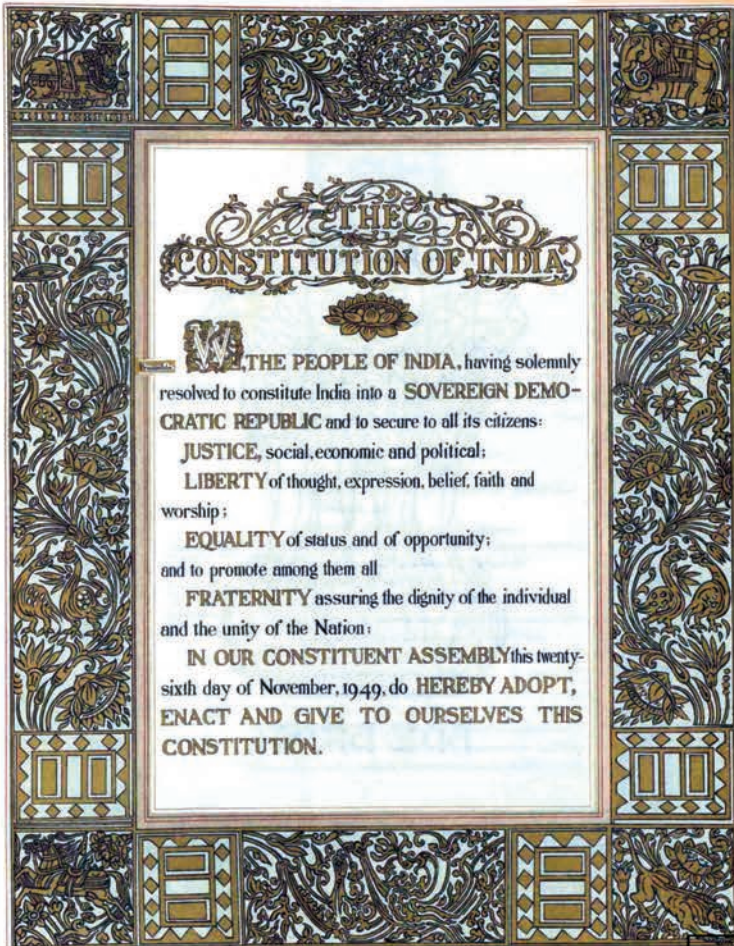
Punia and Sakshi Malik, nearly 200 wrestlers have been demanding action against the federation chief and several coaches for sexually harassing many young women athletes at camps and running the game in a dictatorial way.

The veteran wrestlers have taken up cudgels for their younger counterparts who are too scared to take on the powerful MP who has been ruling the akhada as WFI chief for three consecutive terms. It is a courageous bid to clean up the management of wrestling - a sport that has been bringing glory to India with its rich haul of medals at global platforms.

The authorities must ensure Brij Bhushan's ouster. For, it is not every day that one sees so many complainants coming out. The sad truth

is that in a bid to achieve personal sporting glory, many sportspersons are forced to endure moral turpitude by those in control of things. Two recent exposes show how such perpetrators carry on with impunity for long before being called out. Last June, cycling coach RK Sharma was accused of sexually harassing a top female cyclist and threatening to derail her career. In 2021, the predatory behavior of a Tamil Nadu sports academy coach, P Nagarajan, was revealed when after a teenaged athlete accused him of sexual misconduct from 2013 to 2020, seven more women who had trained under him during his three-decade career said they had undergone similar torment. Zero tolerance for such transgressions should be the norm.

(Tribune, India)



“I feel that the Constitution is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peacetime and in wartime.” -

*Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar,
Chairman of the Indian
Constitution Drafting Committee*

A Happy Republic Day of India



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INDIAN STUDENT FROM PUNJAB'S HOSHIARPUR DIES IN CAR CRASH IN AUSTRALIA



21-year-old Indian student Kunal Chopra from Punjab's Hoshiarpur died in car crash in Australia
Credit / PTI

JANUARY 17, 2023

CANBERRA (TIP): A 21-year-old Indian from Punjab was killed in a fatal car crash in Australia's Canberra, a media report said.

Kunal Chopra from Hoshiarpur district, who held a student visa in Australia, was returning from work around 7 am when his car collided with a concrete pumping truck on William Hovell Drive in Canberra last week, SBS Punjabi, a multi-cultural and multi-lingual broadcaster in Australia, reported.

According to the preliminary investigations, Chopra's car crossed to the wrong side of the road into the path of the city-bound truck.

Chopra was announced dead on the spot. This was Canberra territory's first road fatality for 2023.

Acting Inspector for Road Policing Travis Mills said the major collisions team continued to investigate the accident of Chopra, who arrived in Australia in February last year.

"We are heartbroken, and his family back home is shattered and inconsolable," Honey Malhotra, a cousin of Chopra who stayed with him in Canberra, told SBS Punjabi.

Malhotra said he was making arrangements to send Chopra's mortal remains to his family in India.

Friend and community representative, Gurpreet Singh Gill, said the tragedy has left the tight-knit Indian community in Canberra in deep shock.

"We are in touch with his family, and also with the Indian High Commission, which is helping with the repatriation of his mortal remains to India," Gill told SBS Punjabi, urging young students to remain vigilant on the roads.

Chopra's accident comes days after the Shepparton crash that left four men of Indian origin dead, another tragedy that shocked the community in Australia.

(Source: PTI)

Indian-origin entrepreneur Manish Tiwari conferred Freedom of the City of London Honor

JANUARY 19, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A British-Indian entrepreneur and founder of an ethnic minority-focused marketing agency has been conferred the Freedom of the City of London honor for his contributions to the financial hub of the UK capital.

Manish Tiwari, founder of Here and Now 365, read the "Declaration of a Freeman" and signed the Freeman's Declaration Book recently, when he was presented with the Copy of the Freedom—a parchment document inscribed by a calligrapher, along with a copy of the "Rules for the Conduct of Life" which date from the mid-eighteenth century.

The honor is steeped in history and traditionally the recognition gave a "Freeman" the right to trade in the Square Mile or financial heart of London.

"On the strength of its multi-cultural legacy, the City of London continues to



Tiwari has been conferred the Freedom of the City of London honor for his contributions to the financial hub of the UK capital.

grow and prosper. It remains at the forefront of global finance by leveraging its past and embracing change and I am honored to be a part of this legacy," said Tiwari.

As one of the oldest surviving traditional ceremonies of the British capital still in existence today, the tradition of conferring the title is believed to have started in 1237. The title of Freeman is more symbolic today and comes with certain corresponding duties associated with the Lord Mayor's office.

A previous Indian recipient of the honor is Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and other prominent recipients include South African leader Nelson Mandela and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Tiwari became the latest to join the ranks at a solemn admission ceremony at the Chamberlain's Court in the iconic Guildhall in London earlier this month.

UK court sentences Sikh man for drunk-driving; imposes fine, bans from roads for 22 months



A UK court imposed a fine, and banned from roads for 22 months, Sukhpreet Singh for drunk-driving
Photo for representation only

JANUARY 18, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A 25-year-old Sikh man has been fined and banned from roads for 22 months by a UK court for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Police found open cans of alcohol in Sukhpreet Singh's car after he was followed through a Derbyshire town swerving across lanes in November last year, the Derbyshire Live reported.

The Southern Derbyshire Magistrates' Court heard that Singh, a Pizza Hut worker and a resident of Higher Albert Street, Chesterfield, was driving without a license.

According to prosecutor Becky Allsop, a witness informed that Singh's car was swerving in and out of the zig-zag lines in the center of the road, and vehicles travelling in the opposite direction had to flash their lights at him.

The witness, a driver, was following Singh's car and had informed the police about him.

The witness described the vehicle as coming to a stop in the middle of the road for no reason and then drove off again, still swerving all the way down the road, the report said.

"The road he turned into had two lanes in each direction and Singh crossed both the carriageways, went over the central raised pavement and came to rest facing the opposite direction to the way he should have been," Allsop was quoted as saying in Derbyshire Live.

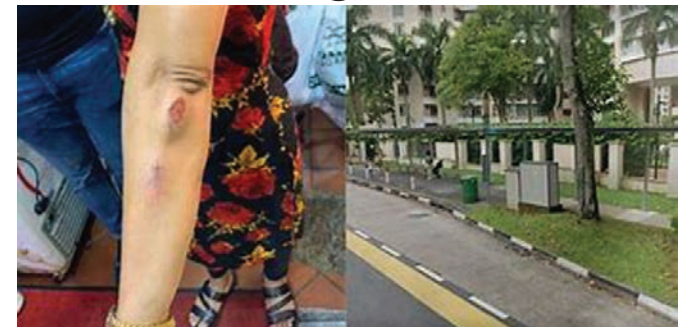
Singh had a breath test reading of 77 micrograms of alcohol in 100 milliliters of breath – almost twice the legal limit of 35, the court was informed. Sajid Majeed, mitigating, said Singh has pleaded guilty, and had no previous convictions of any kind.

Majeed told the court that his client had moved to the UK with his wife from India and still takes care of the financial needs of his elderly parents back there. The court fined Singh 250 pounds, ordered him to pay 85 pound costs, a 100 pound victim surcharge and disqualified him from driving for 22 months, according to Derbyshire Live.

The report added that the ban will be reduced by 25 per cent on the successful completion of a drink-drive awareness course, which Singh has agreed to undergo.

(Source: IANS)

Indian-origin woman in Singapore attacked for not wearing a mask



Hindocho Nita Vishnubhai said she was attacked for not wearing a mask

JANUARY 19, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): Almost two years after a man allegedly kicked her in the chest and hurled racial slurs at her, Indian-origin woman Hindocho Nita Vishnubhai said she had not been able to overcome the trauma caused by the incident in Chua Chu Kang housing estate on May 7, 2021.

The 57-year-old was speaking in a district court on Wednesday, January 18, the first day of the trial of the accused, Wong Xing Fong, now aged 32.

Wong has denied the allegations against him.

According to court documents, Wong is accused of hurling racial slurs at Hindocho with the deliberate intention of "wounding" her "racial feelings". He is also accused of voluntarily causing hurt by kicking Hindocho's chest in an attack aggravated by the racial element.

On Wednesday, Hindocho was called as the prosecution's first witness, but she broke down as she walked into the courtroom, according to a media report.

It was not clear if she cried on seeing Wong but District Judge Shaiffudin Saruwan stood the case down temporarily to allow time for her to compose herself and for a screen to be set up that shielded her from view, the report stated.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Dr Nirav D. Shah appointed Principal deputy Director at US CDC

JANUARY 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American doctor Nirav D. Shah, who played a pivotal role during Covid-19 pandemic, has been appointed Principal Deputy Director at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).

Shah, 45, who serves as the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC), will report to US CDC Director Rochelle Walensky in his new role starting March.

"In my new role, I will be honored to serve not just Maine, but the entire nation and carry forward the good work that we have done here. As I prepare for this next step, I thank the people of Maine for taking care of me, as I've always asked them to take care of each other," he said in a statement.

Shah was appointed to Maine CDC in 2019 with the mission of rebuilding the



Dr. Nirav D. Shah, has been appointed Principal Deputy Director at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC).

agency and the State's public health infrastructure.

"Dr Shah has been a trusted advisor to me and an extraordinary leader of the Maine CDC. But even more than that, he was a trusted advisor and a leader to the people of Maine during one of the greatest public health crises of our time," Maine Governor Janet Mills wrote in a tweet.

She added in her statement that Shah spoke calmly and directly to the people of Maine, many of whom were scared and uncertain, and answered their questions with "compassion, empathy, humor, and a clarity".

Shah's appointment as Principal Deputy Director comes as part of a planned, broader overhaul of that agency announced by the US CDC Director in August of last year.

Born to Indian immigrants, Shah grew up in Wisconsin, and attended the University of Louisville where he majored in psychology and biology.

He studied economics at Oxford University and enrolled in medical school at the University of Chicago in 2000. Shah completed his Juris Doctor in 2007 and his Doctor of Medicine in 2008 - both from the University of Chicago and was a recipient of The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans.

INDIAN AMERICAN ATTORNEY JANANI RAMACHANDRAN BECOMES FIRST LGBTQ WOMAN OF COLOR TO TAKE OATH AS US CITY COUNCIL MEMBER



Janani Ramachandran the youngest and the first woman of color to take oath as the Oakland City Council member in the State of California

JANUARY 17, 2023

OAKLAND, CA (TIP): Janani Ramachandran, a 30-year-old Indian American attorney, has emerged as the youngest and the first woman of color to take oath as the Oakland City Council member in the US state of California.

Ramachandran took the ceremonial oath wearing a saree as the Oakland City Council member for District 4 in an inauguration ceremony held on January 10. and helped build our movement. Honored to have my loved ones by my side as I took the ceremonial oath!" Ramachandran describes herself as "a daughter of immigrants from a small village in South India.

Ramachandran currently serves on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs and has previously served as a Commissioner at the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, according to her website.

The Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley pass-out has worked in several legal non-profits.

As a first-time candidate in her 2021 run for State Assembly, she shocked political experts by advancing to the special election runoff, coming out on top amongst a field of previously elected officials, her website said.

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Indian American billionaire Vinod Khosla wants the world's elite to skip Davos

JANUARY 17, 2023

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): Indian American billionaire Vinod Khosla wants the world's elite to not go to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, and instead contribute that money to "a better cause."



Vinod Khosla wants the world's elite to not go to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, and instead contribute that money to "a better cause."

The founder of Khosla Ventures and co-founder of Sun Microsystems, who is a big champion of clean energy, tweeted on Monday, January 16: "Can the people going to Davos not go and

contribute the money to a better cause? This is ridiculous."

The tweet was in response to a tweet by Bill Browder, CEO of Hermitage Capital who is campaigning to channel \$350 billion in Russian funds frozen since the beginning of the Ukraine war to be "used for the defense of Ukraine."

The financier said he is skipping Davos "after 27 years as a regular" because "the Forum wanted to charge him \$250,000, more than triple what he paid in the past." Browder thinks he deserves to be "admitted for free, as a human rights activist."

"I'm in Davos to argue for the frozen Russian \$350 billion to be used for the defense of Ukraine," he wrote. "But I won't be doing it in the halls of the WEF because they raised the price of attendance to \$250k for me (3x what they charged before). Russians are happy."

The 2023 edition of the Forum began in Davos Monday and runs through January 20. The theme this year is "Cooperation in a Fragmented World."

CEOs of 1,000 member companies and leaders from a wide range of fields are expected to attend the event, covered by hundreds of global media organizations.

It is also a magnet for critics who denounce the gathering for being tone deaf to a number of global issues, including increasing income inequalities and climate change, just to name a few.

Khosla - who is worth \$4.9 billion, according to the Forbes Real Time Network tracker on January 16 - himself is no stranger to Davos. The 557th richest person in the world has attended the Forum on multiple occasions.

Born in Pune, India, Khosla, 67, is considered one of the most successful and influential venture capitalists. An alumnus of IIT Delhi where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Khosla earned his master's in biomedical engineering from Carnegie Mellon and MBA from Stanford.

Indian American attorney Harmeet Dhillon alleges bigoted attacks owing to her Sikh faith

JANUARY 17, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):

Amid a tight race for Republican Party leadership, Indian American attorney Harmeet Dhillon, a supporter of former President Donald Trump, has alleged that she is facing bigoted attacks from some party leaders owing to her Sikh faith.



Harmeet Dhillon, a supporter of former President Donald Trump, has alleged that she is facing bigoted attacks from some party leaders owing to her Sikh faith.

But Dhillon, who represented Trump during the Jan 6 select committee's probe that tried to subpoena him, has vowed that she would not drop out of the contest against current Republican National Committee (RNC) Chair Ronna McDaniel, who has led the RNC since 2017.

"To be very clear, no amount of threats to me or my team, or bigoted attacks on my faith traceable directly to associates of the chair, will deter me from advancing positive change at the RNC, which includes new standards of accountability, transparency, integrity, and decency," she wrote in a series of tweets.

"Threats incoming today. One of Ronna's state chair supporters responded to my message about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's legacy by threatening me with consequences if I didn't make the "annoying" text messages from voters stop (no one on my team has asked anyone to text members)," she alleged.

"Another person on my team got a threatening call from a \$\$\$ RNC consultant for raising questions about RNC's highest-paid vendors. Message delivered was that my supporter would never work on a certain presidential campaign or for RNC if they didn't shut up," Dhillon wrote. "It is hurtful to learn that a handful of RNC members, in a close race for RNC chair, have chosen to question my fitness to run the RNC by using my devout Sikh faith as a weapon against me," Dhillon told media.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Roger Chugh dies of heart attack: Cremation on January 20



**JANUARY 19, 2023
NEW YORK (TIP):** Prominent community leader Roger (Rajesh) Chugh died of a massive heart attack on January 17, 2023. The Indian community in New Jersey and New York is deeply saddened on his sudden death.

Roger leaves behind a rich legacy of four decades of community service.

The cremation is scheduled for Friday, January 20. The funeral procession will start at 12.30 P.M. from Lloyd Maxcy & Sons Beauchamp Chapel, 16 Shea Place, New Rochelle, NY 10805 for Ferncliff Cemetery, 280 Secor Rd, Hartsdale, NY 10530 where cremation will take place at 1 P.M.

Roger Chugh, the unforgettable ever-smiling friend to all

MAKKARS HOST A LOHRI CELEBRATION



Glimpses of Lohri celebration hosted by Makkars at their home on January 15

SPRINGFIELD, NJ (TIP): A well-known community activist Dave Makkar and his family hosted a Lohri celebration at their home on January 15. Makkars have been organizing Lohri celebrations for the last 21 years.

Dave's daughter Prachi, and son Surya had their friends from different ethnicities joining them at the celebration.

It was a typical Punjabi Lohri celebration, with Lohri prayers, boliyan, Jago, bhangra, and the universally popular Dhol. And the food was delectable and reminiscent of back home delicacies which the Makkars could make possible on the occasion- Makki ki roti and Sarson ka saag, Dal, sabzi, and a variety of sweets.

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The Year 2023 will be a 'big year' of activities: Ambassador Jaiswal

THE INDIAN PANORAMA EDITOR INDRAJIT SALUJA INTERVIEWED AMBASSADOR RANDHIR KUMAR JAISWAL, CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA AT NEW YORK. THIS IS THE FOURTH PART OF THE INTERVIEW.

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 spoke 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".

In this fourth part of the interview, Ambassador Jaiswal outlines the big events planned in the year 2023.

Here are some excerpts from the interview.

TIP: IT IS WONDERFUL TO KNOW THE GOOD THINGS AND THE GREAT THINGS YOU HAVE BEEN DOING. HOPEFULLY YOU WILL CONTINUE WITH THEM IN 2023. DO WE HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EVENTS WHICH ARE WORTH MENTIONING THAT YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR 2023?

AMBASSADOR: There'll be a big 2023. As far as India is concerned, we will be taking over the presidency of G20. So that's a big occasion for us. India will be leading

the world in a sense. 20 countries of the world, big countries of the world, they account for 85% of the GDP, will have the meetings, which, in fact, have already started. India will have the summit meeting somewhere in September or in the middle of the year or thereabout. So that will be a big occasion for us to welcome leaders from across the world, and show them how it can contribute to inclusive growth, how it can contribute in solving the challenges of the world, how it can contribute to peace and security of the world, how it can contribute to making the world a more progressive place for one and



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

File photo

all, you know issues like inclusive growth, how we have dealt with public digital goods, which is a huge example. India's success is a huge example everywhere today. 40% of digital payments worldwide having made in India utilize technology platform and digital economy and digital platforms to pull out public services. And everybody has much to say about it. India's FinTech platform, UPI is a major success and a global talking point today. The approach we have on women empowerment, for example, the President of India is an inspirational figure. Today, India counts for the highest number of women pilots in the world in terms of percentage, 12 and a half percentage. So, all these good stories we want to tell. Even in a startup ecosystem, large number of them are led by women directors, women founders, very good story to tell. We want to tell how we can contribute to the World meeting Sustainable Development goals, the world meeting climate change challenge, etc. We have much to contribute. We will see all this happening next year, as India leads the G 20 as its president.

Then next year we have is International Year of Millets what we call mota anaj in our country. We piloted a resolution in the United Nations. It was India's initiative. And

thereafter now the United Nations will be celebrating International Year of Millets across the world. The Food and Agriculture Organization which is based in Rome will take the lead. All our embassies and consulates will take lead and of course in India you will have functions throughout the year. The idea behind promoting millet is that millets are useful health wise and water wise. So, while it helps you being healthy, at the same time, it helps you in taking climate change action. You know with less water you can produce more. And then of course, there are several other benefits. There are benefits for farmers also.

millet dishes.

We have Swami Vivekananda birthday on 12 January coming up. We'll have a program on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. He visited United States in 1893. American people's attitude towards India changed the way he spoke about Indian philosophy and thought. People in America were able to better appreciate his thoughts because he spoke their language- the language which is universal. So the universality of India, the universalism of Indian thought was brought to the audience here. What he was also able to make an impact on is the way modernity was defined here. He brought spirituality, spiritual understanding to be part of modernity. I think his legacy and his wisdom and his guidance will help us go forward. The first Vedanta society he established was here in New York, even before it was established in India. So, he has a huge imprint on the city. So, we have a busy calendar. We have Republic Day. We have the international year of millets. We will have several food festivals during the food festival year.

TIP: IS THERE A DATE?

AMBASSADOR: No. It is the whole year. We will have top shows on millets we'll be giving gifts made of millets - biscuits for example, and such stuff. Then, we want to promote Indian coffee here. Indian coffee exports have seen a significant jump. We want to promote coffee coming from Karnataka. Coffee has a big market.. We have had programs to promote Indian coffee before but we will have several new programs. We want to promote our superfoods. We also promote Indian wellness products. Wellness products are doing very well internationally. We also have a plan to promote tiles, tile exports from India. There are three or four countries which are our major competitors- Spain, Italy, China, etc. We have a presence here in the United States. But we can compete with the best. Indian tiles are doing very well in the Middle East and other markets. We have a presence here but we want to expand the presence. We also want to strengthen collaboration between startup ecosystem here in the US and in India.

TIP: SO, APART FROM WHAT YOU HAVE SAID JUST NOW THERE ARE SO MANY MORE. ONE QUESTION ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF DAYS OF VARIOUS STATES AND THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE. HAVE YOU DRAWN UP A PLAN FOR 2023?

AMBASSADOR: Yes. We have several programs lined up as part of the languages series. We also have the states that we celebrate here -Gujarat Day, Maharashtra Day, Punjab Day, Bihar Day etc.

To be concluded

Admonishments that endanger the Constitution

TO SUGGEST THAT THE BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE IS BY ITSELF UNSANCTIONED IS TO PLACE THE CONSTITUTION AT THE LEGISLATURE'S WHIM



BY SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

"SINCE ITS JUDGMENT IN KESAVANANDA, THE SUPREME COURT HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL FEATURES THAT ARE IMMUTABLE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ON OCCASION, THE COURT'S INTERPRETATION OF THESE FEATURES HAS SUFFERED FROM INCOHERENCE. BUT TO SUGGEST THAT THE BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE IS BY ITSELF UNSANCTIONED IS TO PLACE THE CONSTITUTION AT THE LEGISLATURE'S WHIM. WHEN TAKEN TO ITS EXTREME, ACCEPTING THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S CLAIMS WOULD MEAN THAT, IN THEORY, PARLIAMENT CAN ABROGATE ITS OWN POWERS AND APPOINT A PERSON OF ITS CHOICE AS THE COUNTRY'S DICTATOR. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES."

Come April and it will be 50 years since the Supreme Court of India delivered its verdict in *Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala*. The judgment is widely recognized as a milestone in India's history. In holding that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution was not plenary, that any change that damages the document's basic structure would be declared void, the Court, it was understood, had helped preserve the essence of our republic.

In the years since the verdict - if not in its immediate aftermath - its importance has been recognized by successive governments. During this time, most criticism of the doctrine has been confined to the manner of its application rather than its legitimacy. But last week, India's Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched a salvo of attacks at the Supreme Court, by calling into question the ruling's correctness. Faced as we are with far greater issues of civic concern, this debate might well be regarded as tedious, if only the arguments made against the judgment were not part of what appears to be a concerted effort at undermining the judiciary's importance.

Collegium as target

Over the course of the last few months, not a day has gone by without one member or the other of the political executive excoriating the Court over its apparent excesses. Much of this criticism has been aimed at the functioning of the collegium - a body of senior judges that makes binding recommendations on appointments and the transfer of judges. The Union Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju, and indeed



Can Parliament allow that its verdict will be subject to any other authority?": Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.

File photo

Mr. Dhankhar, have repeatedly doubted the Court's judgment in 2015, in which it struck down efforts to replace the collegium with a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). That criticism has now turned sharper, with the Vice-President's diatribe against *Kesavananda*.

In his maiden address to the Rajya Sabha in December 2022, Mr. Dhankhar claimed that the striking down of the NJAC had no parallels in democratic history. A "duly legitimized constitutional prescription," he claimed, "has been judicially undone." Speaking on January 11 at the 83rd All India Presiding Officers (Assembly Speakers) Conference in Jaipur, Rajasthan, he said that "in a democratic society, the basic of any basic structure is supremacy of people, sovereignty of parliament...The ultimate power is with the legislature. Legislature also decides who will be there in other institutions. In such a situation, all institutions must confine to their domains. One must not make incursion in the domain of others."

Mr. Dhankhar then heightened his criticism by doubting the legitimacy of the basic structure doctrine. The correctness of the Court's view, he said, "must be deliberated...Can Parliament allow that its verdict will be subject to any other authority? In my maiden address after I assumed the office of Chairman of Rajya Sabha, I said this. I am not in doubt about it. This cannot happen."

To be sure, genuine criticism of both the Collegium's functioning and the Court's judgment upholding the body's legality ought to be welcomed. But seeing as the Government, as Mr. Rijiju confirmed in Parliament last month, has no plans to implement any systemic change in the way we appoint judges, and given that the Government itself has done little to promote transparency in the process, the present reproach is, at its best, unprincipled, and, at its worst, an attempt at subverting the judiciary's autonomy. That it is likely the latter is clear from the fact that the Vice-President has now carried his denunciation to a point where his admonishments are reserved not just for the collegium but also for the ruling in *Kesavananda*.

The foundation of the Constitution

Were we to begin with the elementary premise that India's Constitution, as originally adopted, comprises a set of principles that together lend it an identity, we will see that the *raison d'être* for the basic structure doctrine is not difficult to grasp. On any reasonable reading of constitutional history, one can see that the Constitution is a product of a collective vision. That vision was built on distinct, if interwoven, ideals: among others, that India would be governed by the rule

of law, that our structure of governance would rest on Westminster parliamentaryism, that the powers of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary would be separate, that the courts would be independent of government, and that our States would have absolute power over defined spheres of governance.

Now, ask yourself the following questions: what happens when an amendment made to the Constitution harms one or more of these principles in a manner that alters the Constitution's identity? Would the Constitution remain the same Constitution that was adopted in 1950? Should Parliament amend the Constitution to replace the Westminster system with a presidential style of governance, would the Constitution's character be preserved? Or consider something rather more radical: can Parliament, through amendment, efface the right to life guaranteed in Article 21? Would this not result in the creation of a document of governance that is no longer "the Constitution of India?"

It is by pondering over questions of this nature that the majority in *Kesavananda* found that there was much that was correct in the German professor Dietrich Conrad's address in February 1965 at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. There, Conrad had pointed out, that "any amending body organized within the statutory scheme, howsoever verbally unlimited its power, cannot by its very structure change the fundamental pillars supporting its constitutional authority".

On 'amendments'

As the Court would later explain in *Minerva Mills vs Union of India* (1980) - and incidentally at stake there was the very survival of the idea that fundamental rights are inviolable - "Parliament too is a creature of the Constitution". Therefore, it can only have such powers that are expressly vested on it. If those powers are seen as unlimited, Parliament, the Court found, "would cease to be an authority under the Constitution"; it would instead "become supreme over it, because it would have power to alter the entire Constitution including its basic structure". In other words, the principle that Parliament is proscribed from changing the Constitution's essential features is rooted in the knowledge that the Constitution, as originally adopted, was built on an intelligible moral foundation.

On this construction, it is possible to see the basic structure doctrine as implicit on a reading of the Constitution as a whole. But it is also deductible, as Justice H.R. Khanna wrote in his controlling opinion in *Kesavananda*, through an interpretation of the word "amendment". The dictionary defines "amendment" to mean a "minor change or addition designed to improve a text". As Justice Khanna saw it, when the Constitution that emerges out of a process of amendment as stipulated in Article 368 is not merely the Constitution in an altered form but a Constitution that is devoid of its basic structure, the procedure undertaken ceases to be a mere amendment.

Since its judgment in *Kesavananda*, the Supreme Court has identified several features that are immutable. There is no doubt that on occasion, the Court's interpretation of these features has suffered from incoherence. But to suggest that the basic structure doctrine is by itself unsanctioned is to place the Constitution at the legislature's whim. When taken to its extreme, accepting the Vice-President's claims would mean that, in theory, Parliament can abrogate its own powers and appoint a person of its choice as the country's dictator. Consider the consequences.

(Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court)

'A Small Indian Elite Controls Narrative, Talk Of India's Decade Is Juvenile Economics'



BY
KAVITHA IYER

"A POSITIVE DIFFUSION OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE, WHEN ITS ENERGIES ARE HARNESSSED, IT IMPROVES THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC GOODS, INCREASES ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY, AND ALLOW PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY.

TODAY, ANYBODY WHO TALKS ABOUT DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY IS AT RISK OF BEING LABELLED A HOPELESS ROMANTIC. WHAT I HOPE IS THAT WE WILL HAVE A TIME WHEN PEOPLE WILL ADMIRE THOSE VIRTUES. RATHER THAN AN EXISTENCE WHERE CORRUPTION, CRIMINALS IN POLITICS, AND SOCIAL VIOLENCE ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF LIFE, WHERE IT IS RATIONAL TO CHEAT OTHERS BEFORE THEY CHEAT YOU, TO DIG THE GROUNDWATER DEEPER BEFORE YOUR NEIGHBOR DOES, A MORAL RESTRAINT FOSTERS TRUST AND COOPERATION FOR SHARED ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

AND IT IS MY CONTENTION IN THE BOOK THAT THE DECAY OF SOCIAL NORMS AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY PREVENTS THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC GOODS. I USE THAT INTERPLAY OF THE LIVED REALITY WITH NORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO ASSESS EVERY LEADER."



Ashoka Mody, economic historian at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs

In his new book *India Is Broken: A People Betrayed, Independence To Today*, Ashoka Mody, an economic historian at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, spares no one who has ever led independent India, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Before arguing against Nehru's heavy industrialization policy to build 'temples of modern India', he says in a chapter titled 'Fake Socialism' that Mahatma Gandhi's choice of Nehru over Vallabhbhai Patel to lead the Congress party in 1946 emerged from Gandhi's view of Nehru as "a Harrow boy, a Cambridge graduate", who would "represent India in international affairs more effectively than Patel".

And yet, he says, while India came "tantalizingly close" to adopting the strategy followed by Japan, already industrialized by the 1920s, the Nehru era saw the country neglect agriculture and labor-intensive small and medium-sized manufacturing that could have generated job-rich growth.

Tracing the arc of India's current unemployment crisis, poor quality education and public healthcare to the immediate post-Independence years, *India Is Broken* tells the story of how the hopes of a newly independent nation in 1947 eroded over decades; and of how uneven but measurable progress on key goals, on poverty, agriculture, industry and employment was gradually lost.

A former World Bank and International Monetary Fund economist, Mody has also written *EuroTragedy: A Drama in Nine Acts* (2018).

On recent rosy projections of India's economy (see here, here, here and here), Mody told Article 14 that the country is celebrating "superficial gloss", and that once the dust settled on the post-Covid base effect, gross domestic product (GDP) growth would be closer to 4% or 3%.

GDP growth itself is a faulty measure of human welfare,

Mody said, arguing that on all the metrics of liveability and human welfare including jobs, health, education, women's participation in the labor force, the quality of life in cities, levels of pollution, the resilience of democratic institutions, India is lagging behind nations with which it competes.

Excerpts from the interview:

IYER: I AM RE-READING INDIA IS BROKEN RIGHT AFTER RE-READING SEVERAL EXPERT OPINIONS THAT SAY THIS IS INDIA'S TIME ON THE WORLD STAGE-A MORGAN STANLEY REPORT SAYS THIS IS INDIA'S DECADE, WE ARE GOING TO BE THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY AND STOCK MARKET; MORGAN STANLEY'S TOP ASIA ECONOMIST HAS SAID INDIA WILL OFFER "A COMPELLING OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTORS IN A WORLD STARVED OF GROWTH"; A WORLD BANK REPORT SAYS INDIA WILL REMAIN ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING MAJOR ECONOMIES; AND THE CEO OF MCKINSEY SAYS THIS IS GOING TO BE INDIA'S CENTURY. IS YOURS JUST A GLASS-HALF-EMPTY ASSESSMENT, OR ARE ALL OF THESE GUYS MISSING SOMETHING?

MODY: I know this sounds very presumptuous, but I have to say that all these guys are essentially clueless about the development process. Since about the early 1990s, an Indian elite, which lives first world lives, has set the domestic narrative in the media and politics. A corresponding group in the first world has echoed that narrative.

The Indian elite does not easily relate to the subjects I deal with in the book. The members of that elite have an abstract notion that India has an employment problem. They've heard about or seen videos of rioting in January 2022 by young applicants for jobs with the Railways, who were frustrated because the Railways did not honor a promise of recruitment; they've heard about the protests against the Agniveer scheme for recruitment to the armed forces.

IYER: BUT NONE OF THE GLOWING ASSESSMENTS OF INDIA THAT YOU POINTED TO DISCUSSES OUR EMPLOYMENT CRISIS. WHILE MOST ANALYSTS CONCEDE THAT WE NEED A BETTER EDUCATION SYSTEM, THEY RARELY FOCUS ON THE ENORMITY OF THE TASK; THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT MOST INDIANS HAVE ACQUIRED BASIC LITERACY, NOT RECOGNIZING THAT THE NATIONS WE COMPETE WITH HAVE SET THE BAR MUCH HIGHER.

We say we want to receive investments moving out of China. We don't ask why China has been so successful in becoming the world's manufacturing hub. The answer lies in a 1983 World Bank report, its first report on China. China had just become a member of the World Bank, having recently come out of its communist phase. Despite the scars inflicted by Communism, the report said, China starts from an extraordinary base of human development. Life expectancies were high because nutrition levels were good. In a pointed comparison with India, the World Bank said China was miles ahead of India in these metrics.

China had similarly made big strides in girls' education. You

ASHOKA MODY WROTE HIS NEW BOOK INDIA IS BROKEN: A PEOPLE BETRAYED, INDEPENDENCE TO TODAY TO CHALLENGE PREVAILING NARRATIVES ABOUT INDIA'S PLACE ON THE WORLD STAGE AND TO ANALYZE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF 'INDIA AT 75' THROUGH THE PRISM OF HUMAN-WELFARE INDICATORS. A FORMER WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ECONOMIST AND NOW A PROFESSOR AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, MODY ARGUES THE COUNTRY IS CELEBRATING 'SUPERFICIAL GLOSS' OVER ROSY PREDICTIONS MADE FOR ITS FUTURE.



India Is Broken

A PEOPLE BETRAYED, INDEPENDENCE TO TODAY

Ashoka Mody



A PROVOCATIVE NEW ACCOUNT OF HOW INDIA MOVED RELENTLESSLY FROM ITS HOPE-FILLED FOUNDING IN 1947 TO THE DRAMATIC ECONOMIC AND DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWNS OF TODAY. WHEN INDIAN LEADERS FIRST TOOK CONTROL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT IN 1947, THEY PROCLAIMED THE IDEALS OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SECULAR DEMOCRACY. ...

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'A SMALL INDIAN ELITE CONTROLS NARRATIVE, TALK OF INDIA'S DECADE IS JUVENILE ECONOMICS'

know the expression 'women hold up half the sky'? It's a phrase that the Chinese supreme leader Mao Zedong often used, and he lived up to it. Women were active members of the Chinese Communist Party, and they had a large presence in the labor force. I'm not saying Chinese women did not suffer from gender inequities, which they continue to do; but Chinese women have made much more progress than Indian women have.

It is not surprising that the vast bulk of the movement of production out of China is going to Vietnam, where education standards match or exceed those in Western industrialized nations and women have high labor force participation rates. We keep recycling one story about Apple investing in Chennai, but if you look at the data, much of the US investment moving from China is going to Mexico.

In Asia, Vietnam, a country of a hundred million people in comparison to our 1.4 billion, now has export levels at par with ours; Vietnam has come from behind us and is poised to go ahead. Bangladesh is also on a superior trajectory, of commitment to education and greater agency of women. Recently, Cambodia is becoming another significant international production site.

Despite the hype about the Apple project, India barely appears in the data on the production moving out of China.

Since the industrial revolution nearly 350 years ago, no country has achieved success without two fundamental achievements: good education and an increase in the participation of women in the workforce. These work as a combination.



India has an abysmally low labor force participation rate for women

As women come into the workforce, they have fewer children, they adopt better child-rearing practices, and they devote greater resources to educating the children. The children therefore grow up to be more productive. That cycle perpetuates itself over generations.

Today, India does not have well educated kids and it has an abysmally low labor force participation rate for women. So when people say to me, oh but we've got this United Payments Interface, I ask if UPI is going to educate your kids? Is it going to reduce the violence against women? Is it going to prevent the sinking of Joshimath? Is it going to prevent the Hasdeo forest from being cut down? Is it going to prevent the denudation of the Aravallis? Is it going to revive all the dying rivers in this country? If not, are you telling me that none of that matters and UPI is going to be our ticket to success?

IYER: THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVES HAVE ATTRACTED SOME INVESTMENT IN PHARMACEUTICALS AND IN ASSEMBLY OF PHONES, BUT EVEN THERE, THE OUTPUT TARGETS ARE NOT BEING MET, AND CERTAINLY EMPLOYMENT LEVELS ARE FALLING WELL SHORT OF THE TARGETS.

MODY: The problem with the elite commentary on India is that instead of examining the lived reality of Indians, it focuses on this animal called GDP growth, and more recently on some magical GDP targets of several trillions. This is juvenile economics. I am a former IMF economist who believes in the Marxian focus on power

relations as key determinants of economic outcomes. In my IMF incarnation, I see so-called experts extrapolating from the growth rate this year to the next century, and I want to hold my head in my hand and sob uncontrollably. Because this is madness.

Even if we look at GDP growth, which as I noted is a faulty measure of human welfare, we have a problem. Recall that GDP growth had slowed to between 3% and 4% in 2019, before Covid-19. That, I would say, is the best estimate we have of India's potential growth. All current growth rates suffer from the base effect: if a number falls from 100 to one, that's a 99% decrease; but if it goes from one to two, that is a 100% increase. So, today's GDP growth rates are meaningless. My best reading is that Indian GDP growth rates will fall to 4% once the dust of the base effects settles.

But we cannot allow these growth numbers to distract us from the important objectives: jobs, health, education, quality of cities, clean air and clean water, which are the right metrics of liveability, and hence in the long run are the foundation of sustainable long-term growth.

I have given you a long response to your question on the commentary by so-called experts who have fantastical visions of India's future but have no knowledge of economic and social success achieved both historically in western nations and in our contemporary world by East Asian countries.

Human development and greater agency of women are the two fundamental ingredients why China succeeded despite having many of the pathologies we have, such as environmental degradation and over-reliance on construction as a motor of growth. China became the world's manufacturing hub because of the foundation of strong investment in human development and women working in export-oriented factories.

In India, the demand for jobs keeps growing much faster than the supply. If all you care about is GDP growth, you can achieve that with petrochemical plants and maybe a semiconductor factory eventually. But how many jobs does such activity create?

flip side of this highly capital-intensive growth is an economy that benefits maybe the top 5% of the people, their consumption embellished with a Louis Vuitton or a Lamborghini. The vast bulk are struggling to buy scooters and pressure cookers. And in the heat of summer, they have to wonder, can I afford a table fan?

IYER: SO IS THE IDEA OF A \$7 TRILLION ECONOMY MISPLACED ON OUR WISHLIST OR IS IT AN EMPTY PROMISE?

MODY: It is both misplaced and empty.

IYER: YOUR BOOK BEGINS WITH A RETELLING OF A SCENE FROM THE 1946 FILM DHARTI KE LAL, IN WHICH YOU DESCRIBE AN EXODUS FROM FAMINE-STRUCK BENGAL TOWARDS CALCUTTA. IN GREATER NUMBERS, CLIMATE MIGRANTS CONTINUE TO ALIGHT AT RAILWAY STATIONS IN MUMBAI, DELHI, CHENNAI, ETC. IS RURAL INDIA'S MOVE TO THE CITIES, PERSISTENT OVER DECADES, A CRISIS OR IS IT A SOLUTION TO UNEQUAL GROWTH?

MODY: I was struck in Dharti Ke Lal not so much by the migration to Calcutta but by the return of the migrants to their villages. That reverse trek sunk into my heart for that was the very moment I was writing about the Covid-19 reverse trek.

The reverse trek from the city to the village is heartrending. It tells me that agriculture is distressed, which makes people want to move to the city, but the cities do not have jobs and are inhospitable, which forces people to go back to the very place they want to leave.

We have made much progress since 1946, but in one fundamental sense we have failed: the lack of honorable jobs either on the farm or in the cities.

the day after the lockdown was announced in March 2020, the factories in Surat closed down. A story of two migrants, narrated beautifully in the New York Times, was about two men who decided to stay on in Surat because going back did not hold much promise for them. Their ancestral lands had been fragmented to a degree where, if they went back, they wouldn't have a living. However, after a few weeks out of a job in Surat, their savings ran out and they were forced to go back.

What happened during the pandemic was extreme and

does not happen regularly, but it does tell you that the cities are still inhospitable because there are too few good jobs.

Additionally, we are facing a climate crisis which, as you quite rightly point out, is forcing more people out of the rural areas. Where are we going to absorb them? What are the opportunities for them? Things will become even more serious as the climate crisis causes coastal erosion, causes more frequent extreme weather events in urban areas, and reduces productivity in industry. For rural migrants to urban areas, the future is set to get harder.

IYER: YOU WRITE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISES ON NUTRITION, HEALTH, EDUCATION TEND TO BE LIKE GROUNDHOG DAY, A SORT OF A CONTINUING WINTER DESPITE PROMISES OF CHANGE, WHILE DEVELOPMENT HAS TENDED TO FOCUS ON CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS, RIVERFRONTS, OVERPASSES, ETC. HOW FAR BACK DO YOU DO TRACE THIS MISPLACED FOCUS ON BIG CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, WHO GOT IT WRONG FIRST?

MODY: This process began with heavy industrialization under Jawaharlal Nehru, but as I have emphasized, Nehru was an idealist and had a vision, even if it was mistaken.

With Mrs Gandhi onwards, policy-making became a business of headline-grabbing. In her case, it was bank nationalization and Garibi Hatao. With the onset of the so-called liberalisation, the focus shifted to mining and construction.

The hard work of development, you will hear me say a million times, is human development, empowerment of women, making the judiciary fairer and responsive, cleaning the air and water.

The river Musi that runs through Hyderabad is dying because the much-celebrated pharma industry is dumping its pollutants in the Musi. Does any of the elite reporting that believes in the Indian century refer to the slow death of that river or of virtually every Indian river? This raises the question, who is development for?

In Varanasi, the river Assi, a tributary of the Ganga, gives the holy city its name along with the Varuna. The Assi has narrowed to a drain, and is extremely polluted, a fact that stays out of sight and out of mind, while the headline is that there is fancy riverfront development along the Ganga and a luxury cruise that only a handful can afford. Everybody knows of the Sabarmati riverfront, but do people know that downstream, the Sabarmati is a highly polluted river? How many people are aware that Sabarmati riverfront is essentially a lake that's cordoned off on both sides to collect water so that a select few people can enjoy it.

A seaplane service from the Statue of Unity (the Sardar Patel statue) to the Sabarmati riverfront is a glitzy detail embedded in the headline-grabbing pattern of development which, when extrapolated to an extreme, gives us a message that this is India's century.

Joshimath in Uttarakhand has been sinking since 1976 when the M C Mishra committee report directed that construction activity in the Himalayas be undertaken with the utmost care because those mountains are very fragile. For years, we did exactly the opposite, building on that fragile surface without restraint or discipline. In February 2021, there was another warning that went unheeded.

Now when the town is sinking, people have suddenly woken up. But we don't know how long this new concern will last. We also don't know how much of the rest of the area is sinking and what we can do about it.

These examples highlight the deep erosion of social norms and public accountability. We may be in a trap. Unaccountable politicians do not impose accountability on themselves, and this becomes a Catch 22: How do you restore norms and accountability once they have eroded to such an extent?

The headline-grabbing will continue. The head of Microsoft, who was in India recently, said Indian kids are contributing to the growth of artificial intelligence. We have somehow developed a view that technology will be a substitute for long, time-honored processes of development, that the new technological tools will seamlessly take us out of the current situation into a blissful Nirvana.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Heartiest congratulations
and best wishes to



Parveen Chopra

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Chief Editor & Publisher

The **INDIAN PANORAMA**
EVER TRUTHFUL

Making of the Republic of India

India celebrates Republic Day annually on 26 January, and this year the country will celebrate its 74th Republic Day to mark the day India became a sovereign republic. While India gained independence from the British in 1947, but it wasn't until 26 January 1950 that the Indian Constitution came into effect and India became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic. This day is celebrated with much pomp and fervour all over India, and in India's capital Delhi, parades, tableaux and spectacular displays by the defense forces are showcased at Rajpath. The Indian flag is also hoisted all over the country.

The Indian Constitution was drafted by Dr BR Ambedkar who is known as the Architect of the Indian Constitution. 26 January was chosen as the day to announce India becoming a republic as in 1929 on the same day the Indian National Congress denounced colonial rule and proclaimed Purna Swaraj, "complete freedom from the British". And while the Constitution came into force in 1950 under a democratic government system, it was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949. This completed the country's transition into becoming a sovereign republic.

India celebrates Republic Day to commemorate the day the Government of India Act (1935) set by the British Raj was replaced by the Indian Constitution as the governing document of India. Other than flag hoisting, reciting the national anthem and organising shows and events on this day, the defense forces including the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, police and paramilitary forces showcase their skills and display India's defence prowess at the parade on Rajpath which is broadcast on television. Other than performing stunts, air shows, stunts on motorbikes, tanks and other weapons systems are also showcased. Alongside these are the beautifully decorated tableaux that reflect the uniqueness and beauty of the various states of India.

India became independent from the British Rule on 15th August, 1947. However, the country did not have its own constitution and wholly depended on the modified colonial Government of India Act, 1935. Also, India was headed by King George VI, until the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950. Prior to this, the seeds of a republican nation were sowed by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in the Lahore session at the Indian National Congress at the midnight of 31st December, 1929 - 1st January, 1930.

The tricolor flag was unfurled by the nationalists present who took a pledge to celebrate "Purna Swaraj" (complete Independence) Day every year on 26th January, while continuing to fight for the establishment of a Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. The independence was achieved in 1947 while the professed pledge was redeemed on 26th January, 1950.

The Indian Constituent Assembly was called together on 9th December, 1946, where a committee was formed. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar became the chairman of the committee, who along with the other members drafted the Constitution. The Indian Constitution included 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. The



Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949. In the following year on 26th January, 1950, the Constitution of India came into force and became a sovereign democratic republic of India, 894 days after the withdrawal of British Rule in 1947, which is why, it is said that India achieved its true independence on this day. Next, elections were held and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the first President of free India.

He took the oath at the Durban Hall in the Government House, which was followed by the Presidential drive along the five-mile route to the Irwin Stadium. He unfurled the National Flag at the stadium.

This transition of India into a sovereign democratic republic nation is indeed a historical event. The two-decade long journey, right from the conceptualization of the dream in 1930 to its actual realization in 1950, is certainly worth a grand celebration. Today, the Indian Constitution is the longest in the world, consisting of 397 articles and 12 schedules, providing a single citizenship for the whole nation. The national holiday is celebrated with festivities and patriotic fervor across the whole nation.

Republic Day Parade

The grandeur of the Republic Day of India is visible in the grand parade that is held along Rajpath, beginning from Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace) and moving on to Rajpath past India Gate and proceeding to the Red Fort.

The occasion witnesses the presence of the President, the Prime Minister and several other high-ranking officials of the country. The parade starts with the arrival of the President of India, who is escorted by a group of bodyguards on horses. Next, the Prime Minister of India offers wreaths at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate in memory of the



martyrs of the Indian army. The national flag is unfurled by the President of India, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces. This is succeeded by the cheerful tune of the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute. Led by three different divisions of the armed forces viz: Navy, Army and Air Force; the Republic Day Parade has all of them displaying their might along the Rajpath, saluting the President. The Armed Forces staff performs motorcycle rides whereas the staff of the Indian Air Force performs flying parade in fighter planes. The rich and colorful culture of India is showcased in the parade of the Republic Day. Traditional as well as cultural performances are given by professionals belonging to different regions. School children in picturesque costumes also participate in the display of different aspects of the glorious history of the country on this big day.

The real heroes of the nation are honored with the bravery awards and medals. National Awards are given to children for selfless sacrifice and bravery.

A row of IAF jets marks the end of the grand celebration, leaving behind a trail of colored smoke. It bids goodbye to the gathered audience by lavishing rose petals on them.

Beating the Retreat Ceremony

The Republic Day celebration ends officially with the Beating the Retreat ceremony, which is held on the 29 January every year. The event symbolizes retreat after a day on the battlefield and features remarkable performances by the Indian Air Force, the India Navy, and the Indian Army. Held at the Raisina Hill, New Delhi, Beating the Retreat Ceremony has its tickets available at the same outlets as

the Republic Day Parade.

Why is Republic Day of India celebrated on 26 January?

The Constitution of India, which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, came into effect on January 26, 1950. This completed India's movement towards becoming an independent republic with a democratic government system. January 26 was also selected as the day to mark Republic Day because it had been on this day that the Indian National Congress (INC) proclaimed the Declaration of Indian Independence in 1929. This was opposite to the 'dominion' status offered by the British.

The independence came through the Indian Independence Act 1947, an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India into the two new independent Dominions of the British Commonwealth, India obtained its independence on 15 August 1947 as a constitutional monarchy as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as governor-general. The country, though, did not yet have a permanent constitution; instead, its laws were based on the modified colonial Government of India Act 1935.

On 29 August 1947, a resolution was moved for the appointment of Drafting Committee, which was appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with Dr B R Ambedkar as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates its freedom from British Rule, the Republic Day celebrates the coming into force of its constitution. A draft constitution was prepared by the committee and submitted to the Constituent Assembly on 4 November 1947. The Assembly met, in sessions open to the public, for 166 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months and 18 days before adopting the Constitution. After many contemplations and some moderation, the 308 members of the Assembly signed two hand-written copies of the document (one each in Hindi and English) on 24 January 1950. Two days later which was on 26 January 1950, it came into effect throughout the whole nation. On that day, Dr Rajendra Prasad's became the first president of India. The Constituent Assembly became the Parliament of India under the transitional provisions of the new law.

Who will be the chief guest at the Republic Day 2023 event?

This year, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January.

Flag hoisting time on Republic Day 2023

The Republic Day Parade 2023 live telecast is scheduled to start from Kartavya Path (Rajpath) at 9:30 AM sharp, as usual with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the Amar Jawan Jyoti. Later, President Droupadi Murmu will unfurl the national flag.

At what time does the Republic Day parade start?

The Republic Day parade will start at the scheduled time of 10 am.

Republic Day Parade starts from which place?

Republic Day celebrations in India are nearly synonymous with the grand parade that marches down New Delhi's Rajpath on January 26. The parade marches from the Rashtrapati Bhawan



along the Rajpath, to India Gate and from there to Red Fort. Its route is more than five kilometres long and opens with the unfurling of the national flag by the president of India.

What is the theme of Republic Day 2023?

According to official source, The government has proposed three specific themes for 2023 Republic Day Parade tableaux -- India@75, International Year of Millets and Nari Shakti.

Sources said that in a letter from the Ministry of Defence, various state governments, central ministries and departments have been invited to participate in the Republic Day Parade on January 26 by creating a tableaux choosing any of these three themes or a combination of the three.

The government which is celebrating 75 years of India's independence has proposed that India@75 tableaux include India's freedom struggle, its achievements, actions and resolves over the past seven decades.

The theme to mark a day of millets has its roots in 2021 when India had proposed to the United Nations to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM). The proposal of India received support from 72 countries and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

Who hoisted the national flag on the first Republic Day?

On January 26, 1950, India declared itself a Sovereign, Democratic and Republic state with the adoption of the Constitution. The 21 guns salute and unfurling of the Indian national flag by the first President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad saw the historic birth of the Indian Republic.

Who takes the national salute on R-Day?

The President of India who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, takes the salute. Different contingents of various para-military forces of India and other civil forces take part on the Republic Day parade.

When does the R-Day celebration end?

The Beating Retreat ceremony is held after officially denoting the end of Republic Day festivities. It is conducted



on the evening of 29 January, the third day after Republic Day. It is performed by the bands of the three wings of the military, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. The venue is Raisina Hill and an adjacent square, Vijay Chowk, flanked by the North and South block of the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace) towards the end of Rajpath

Who was the chief guest at the first Republic Day event?

Indonesian President Sukarno was the first chief guest at the very first Republic Day parade of India.

What is the difference between hoisting the flag on Independence Day and R-Day?

Every year, on Independence Day and Republic Day people, people celebrate it with the spirit of patriotism by participating in the different event by decorating schools, offices and public places in tricolours.

However, there is a huge difference between hoisting the flag on Independence day and unfurling it on Republic Day. On Independence Day, the national flag is tied at the bottom and then pulled up. The prime minister then hoists the tricolor. The day is to mark the historic event of the Independence of the country from British Rule. However, on Republic Day, the flag is tied up on the top and is unfurled without pulling it up.

This depicts that the country is already independent. The Constitution was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on 26 January 1950 with a democratic government system, completing the country's transition towards becoming an independent republic.

And one of the major differences is that the prime minister of India hoists the tricolour on Independence Day as the head of the Indian government because at the time of Independence, the Constitution of India did not come into force and the president who is the constitutional head did not take office. But on Republic Day, the president who is the first citizen of the country attends the event and unfurls the flag.

When was the Indian national flag adopted?

The design of the Indian national flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.

Who designed the Indian national flag?

Pingali Venkayya designed the flag of India and presented it to Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 during the session of the All India Congress Committee in Vijaywada. The flag, at that time, was made of green and saffron colours, representing the Muslim and Hindu communities of India.

People involved in drafting of the Constitution of India

The constitution of India is the supreme law of India. The document lays down the framework determining the fundamental political code, structure, procedure, powers and duties of the governments institutions. It also states the fundamental rights, principals and the duties of the citizens.

In fact, it is the longest constitution in the world.

Who all were involved in the drafting committee of the Constitution of India?

It had seven main members:

Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar

Dewan Bahadur Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Lyer was one of the main members of the drafting committee of the Constitution of India - an important member of the Constituent Assembly of India. Ayyar also served as an Advocate General of Madras State from 1929 to 1944.

Alladi Krishnaswami lyer was born in 1883 in the small village of Pudur in Madras State (now the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh). He was born to Ekamra Sastry, who was a priest. He passed his matriculation examination in 1899 and entered the Madras Christian College to study History. Ayyar used his spare time to attend classes in law and passed the B.L exam and become one of the leading members of the bar. He was renowned as Dewan Bahadur in 1930.

He played a major role in drafting the Constitution of India. The main architect of Indian constitution Dr. B. R Ambedkar, who also chaired the constitution's drafting committee said about Ayyar's contribution, "There were in the drafting committee men bigger, better and more competent as my friend Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer."

N. Gopaldaswami Ayyanger:

Dewan Bahadur Sir Narasimha Ayyanger Gopaldaswami Ayyanger, a proficient Member of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. He was chosen to be the leader of the Rajya Sabha and a cabinet minister in the Government of India. He was selected as the first minister without a portfolio but he was intensely looking after Kashmir Affairs, and later was appointed the Railway Minister.

In his Kashmir Affairs role, he represented India at the United Nation Security Council and later drafted Article 370 of the Indian constitution that granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir.

Gopaldaswami was born on March 31, 1882 in Tanjore District Madras. He studied at Wesley School, and then Presidency and Law College in Madras. He was also an Assistant Professor in Pachaiyappa's college in 1904.

DR. B.R. Ambedkar

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar also known as Babasaheb Ambedkar was a



BR Ambedkar Chairman, Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution with other members on August 29, 1947

Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Dalit-Buddist movement. He also campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables. Babasaheb was Independent India's first Law and Justice Minister. He was the major architect of the Constitution of India.

Ambekar was a brilliant student - he had a doctorate in Economics from both Columbia University and the London School of Economics, and gained a reputation as a scholar for his research in Law, Economics and Political Science. Ambedkar was involved in a lot of campaigning and negotiations done for the Independence of the country, publishing journals and advocating political rights and social freedom for Dalits, and contributing significantly to the establishment of the state of India.

In 1990, he received the Bharat Ratna - India's highest civilian award.

K. M Munshi

Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi also known as K.M Munshi, or by his pen name, Ghanshyam Vyas, was an brilliant Indian independence movement activist, politician, writer and educationist from Gujarat. He was a lawyer by profession, he later became an author and politician. He was a well-known name in Gujarati literature. He founded Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan an educational trust in 1938. Before the independence of India he was a part of Indian National Congress and after independence, he joined the Swatantra Party and Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Munshi held different posts - he was the member of Constituent Assembly of India, Minister of Agriculture and Food of India, and he was also the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Mohammad Saadulla

Sir Syed Muhammad Saadulla, was the Prime Minister of Assam (British India). He was also a Chairman of Gauhati Municipality in 1919 and minister in charge of education and agriculture for Assam from 1924 to 1934.

He got his education from the Cotton College, Guwahati and Presidency College, Calcutta. He was born on 21 May 1885 in Gawahati to an orthodox Assamese Muslim family.

The Assam Legislative Assembly elected Syed Muhammad Saadulla to the Constituent Assembly of India in 1947 and later he was elected in the drafting committee as well. He was also an integral part in preparing the Constitution of the Republic of India. Saadulla was the only member from the North East to be elected into the Drafting Committee.

B. L. Mitter:

B.L Mitter worked with the Dewan of Baroda. Mitter is said to have made significant contributions to integration of the Princely States with India. He was later replaced by Madhav Rao on the drafting committee, who was the legal advisor to the Maharaja of Vadodara.

D. P. Khaitan

D.P Khaitan, also known as Debi Prasad Khaitan, was the owner of Khaitan & co - one of the oldest

working law firms in India. It had 530 fee earners and consultants including 115 partners and directors. Debi found this company in 1911 with the assistance of his brothers. He was a proficient member of the drafting committee including 6 others.

Who wrote the Constitution of India?

Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution. The original constitution was written by him in a flowing italic style. The Calligraphy of the Hindi version of the Original Constitution was done by Vasant Krishan Vaidya.

Enactment and enforcement of the Constitution

The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, containing a Preamble, 395 Articles, and 8 Schedules after three sets of reading of the Draft that was prepared by the Drafting Committee, and published in October 1948. The motion on Draft Constitution was declared to be passed on November 26, 1949, thereby receiving the signatures of the members along with the President. It is to be noted that the Preamble succeeded the Constitution in enactment. Among the 395 Articles, some of the Articles like Articles 5 to 9, Articles 379, 380, 388, 392, 393 came into force on 26th November, 1949 itself. The rest of the Articles were enforced on Republic Day, that is 26th January, 1950. As the Constitution of India commenced, the Indian Independence Act, 1947, and the Government of India Act, 1935 ceased to exist. At present, our Constitution is decorated with 448 Articles, 25 Parts, and 12 Schedules.

Framing of the Indian Constitution

From 9th December 1946 to 26th November 1949, the constitution of India was framed which came into force after two months of completion, that is on 26th January 1950, celebrated as the republic day of India. The years spent in the making of the Indian Constitution were marked exceptionally tumultuous as:

- 1942, Quit India struggle was just going through in our nation
- Subhas Chandra Bose bid to establish freedom through armed struggle
- August 1946, the Great Calcutta Killings
- Improvement in the ratings of the Indian Navy in different parts of the country including Bombay in 1946

Timeline

- 1945: The Labour Government came into power on July 26, 1945 in Britain
- 1946: The Cabinet Mission announced the constitutional scheme on 16th May
- Cabinet Mission's constitutional scheme was accepted by Muslim league on 16 June
- The schemes to form Interim Government at the Centre were presented on 6 June
- Direct Action Day was announced by the muslim league on 16 August 1946
- Interim Government was established and Nehru was designated as the Vice-President on 2 September
- The Interim Government was joined by the Muslim league on 13 October
- Attlee, the British Prime Minister met Indian leaders on 3-6 December
- Sessions were introduced in the constituent assembly on 9 December
- 1947: Dissolution of constituent assembly demanded by the Muslim league on 29 January
- Interim government had its last meeting on 16 July
- The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan elected Jinnah as their first president on 11 August
- Pakistan celebrates its independence on 14 August
- India celebrates its independence on 15 August
- 1949: Constitution of India was signed in 1949



The Constitution of India being signed by Members of the Constituent Assembly in January 1950.

The Making of the Constituent Assembly

- M.N Roy first proposed the idea of constituent assembly in 1934. Later, under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, elections were held for the formation of a constituent assembly
- The Constituent Assembly was formed for the purpose of writing a constitution for independent India
- The constituent assembly members were not elected on the basis of the universal adult franchise, but chosen in 1945-46 from the provincial legislatures
- The Muslim League boycotted the Constituent Assembly as they wanted a separate constitution for Pakistan
- In order to create a sense of participation, the people in India were supposedly asked to analyse what needs to be amended for improvement and send their views to officials
- Many of the linguistic minorities were on their toes to protect their mother tongue., while dalits demanded an end to all seat reservations and caste oppression. Religious minorities wanted special safeguards
- Issues like social justice and cultural rights were highlighted in



these public discussions and were also debated on the floor of the Assembly

The Dominant Voices in the Constituent Assembly

- The total members of the Constituent Assembly is 389. Of these, six members played particularly important roles
- Jawaharlal Nehru proposed the "Objective Resolution". He also proposed that India's National Flag should be of three colours saffron, green, and white in equal proportion with a dark blue coloured wheel at the centre
- Rajendra Prasad was President of the Assembly, where he had to steer the discussion along constructive lines while ensuring every member had equal chance to put across their views
- Ambedkar served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution
- Other members of the drafting committee are Alladi Krishnaswamy Aiyar from Madras and K.M. Munshi from Gujarat, N. Gopaldaswami, Mohammad Saadulla, B.L. Mitter, D.P. Khaitan
- The Constitutional Advisor was B.N Rau

Salient features of Constitution

Indian constitution, one of the utmost admired constitutions in the world was enacted after 'ransacking' all the known constitutions of the world at that time. This constitution that we have enacted has stood the test of times. Though provisions were borrowed from other constitutions, the constitution of India has several salient features that distinguish it from constitution of other countries

Some of its salient features are discussed below:

Longest written constitution

Constitution can be classified into written constitution such as that of America or unwritten constitution such as that UK.

The constitution of India is a written constitution which happens to be the longest written constitution in the world.

It is comprehensive, elaborate and a detailed document

The factors that have contributed to this phenomenon are: geographical factors (vastness of country and diversity), Historical factors (Influence of GoI, 1935), Single constitution for both centre and state and dominance of legal luminaries

Drawn from various sources

It has borrowed most of its provisions from the constitution of various other countries as well as from the Government of India act, 1935. Ex: structural part from GoI, 1935, independence of judiciary from USA, Fundamental Rights from USA etc

Though it is borrowed, the Indian constitution-makers made sure the borrowed features were made suitable to Indian conditions. Ex: Though we borrowed cabinet form of governance from UK, the cabinet is not all-supreme as in the case of UK.

Preamble of the constitution

The Preamble consists of the ideals, objectives and basic principles of the Constitution.

The salient features of the Constitution have developed directly and indirectly from these objectives which flow from the Preamble

It asserts India to be a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and a welfare state committed to secure justice, liberty and equality for the people and for promoting fraternity, dignity the individual, and unity and integrity of the nation.

The Preamble is the nature of Indian state and the objectives it is committed to secure for the people.

Democratic system

The authority of the government rests upon the sovereignty of the people. The people enjoy equal political rights.

Free fair and regular elections are held for electing governments

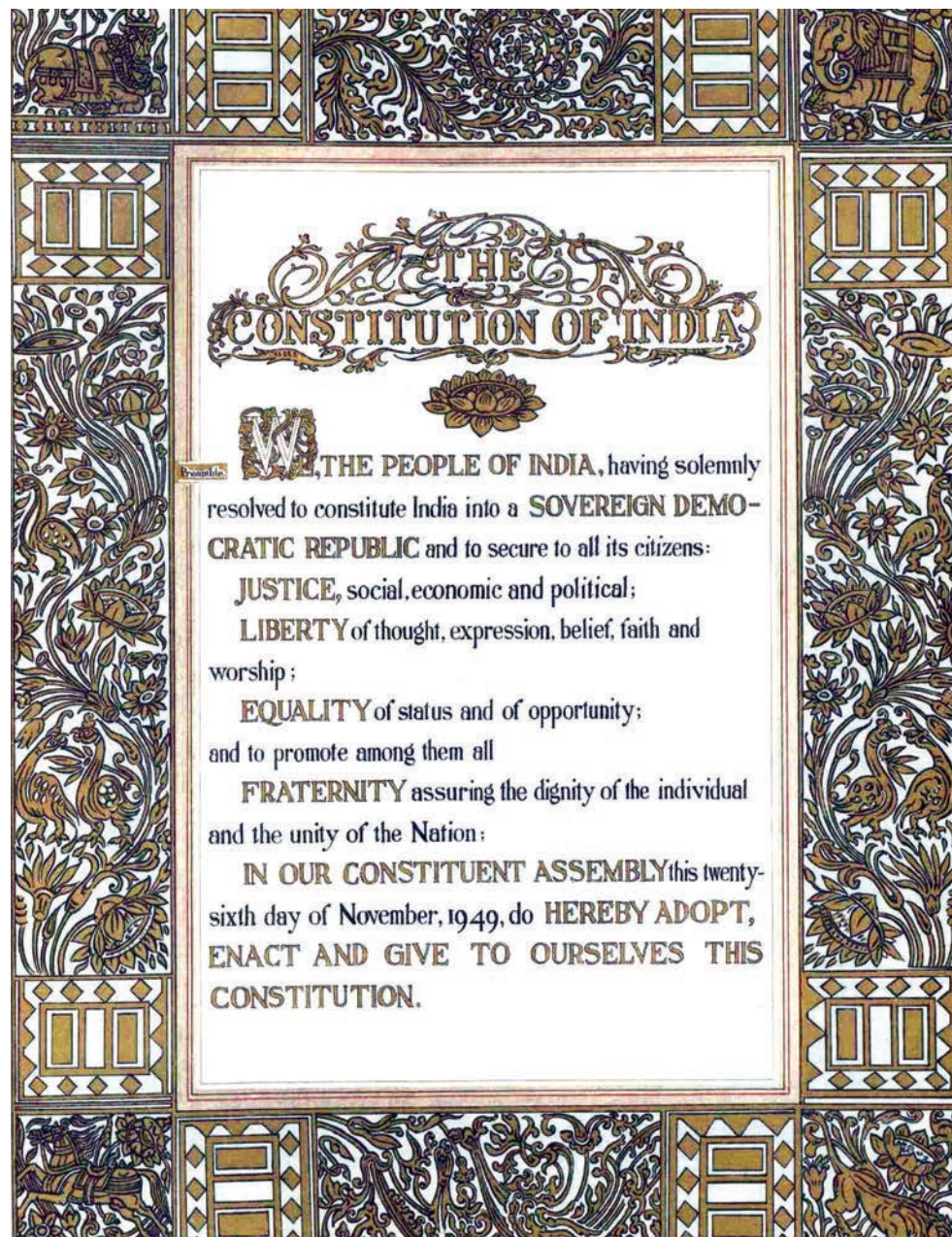
India is a republic

The Preamble declares India to be a Republic.

India is not ruled by a monarch or a nominated head of state. India has an elected head of state (President of India) who wields power for a fixed term of 5 years.

After every 5 years, the people of India indirectly elect their President.

Union of states



Article I of the Constitution declares, that "India that is Bharat is a Union of States."

Fundamental Rights and duties

The Constitution of India grants and guarantees Fundamental Rights to its citizens.

The constitution of India confirms the basic principle that every individual is permitted to enjoy certain basic rights and part III of the Constitution deals with those rights which are known as fundamental right.

The Six FR include- Right to Equality; Right to Freedom; Right Against Exploitation; Right to Freedom of Religion; Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies (Art. 32).

The fundamental rights are justiciable and are not absolute. Reasonable constraints can be imposed keeping in view the security-requirements of the state.

A new part IV (A) after the Directive Principles of State Policy was combined in the constitution by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 for fundamental duties.

Directive Principles of State Policy

A unique aspect of the Constitution is that it comprises of a chapter in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

These principles are in the nature of directives to the government to implement them to maintain social and economic democracy in the country.

Parliamentary System:

The Constituent Assembly decided to espouse Parliamentary form of government both for the Centre and the states.

In Indian parliamentary system, distinction is made between nominal and real executive head.

The Council of Ministers is responsible before the Lok Sabha, The lower house of union parliament. There are close relations between executive and legislature.

Federal structure of government

A federal state is a state where a country is divided into smaller regions and the government is functioning at two levels

The Indian Constitution has envisaged a federal structure for India considering the geographical vastness and the diversity of languages, region, religions, castes, etc.

Written Constitution, supremacy of the Constitution, division of powers between Union and States, bicameral Legislature, independent Judiciary, etc. are the features of Indian federation.

Scholars describe India as a 'Quasi-Federation' (K.C. Wheare) or as 'a federation with a unitary bias, or even as 'a Unitarian federation.'

Universal adult franchise

All men and women enjoy an equal right to vote. Each adult man and woman above the age of 18 years has the right to vote.

All registered voters get the opportunity

to vote in elections.

Single integrated State with Single Citizenship:

India is the single Independent and Sovereign integrated state.

All citizens enjoy a common uniform citizenship.

They are entitled to equal rights and freedoms, and equal protection of the state.

Integrated Judicial system

The Constitution provides for a single integrated judicial system common for the Union and the states.

The Supreme Court of India works at the apex level, High Courts at the state level and other courts work under the High Courts.

Independent Judiciary

It is necessary to secure the philosophical foundations of the rule of law and democracy

Firstly, the Constitution makers created a separate Judiciary independent of Legislature and Executive.

Secondly, the Constitution has ensured complete independence of Judiciary in the matters of administration and finances.

Amending the Constitution of India

Amending the Constitution of India is the procedure of making modifications to the nation's fundamental law or supreme law.

The procedure of amendment in the constitution is laid down in Part XX (Article 368) of the Constitution of India.

This procedure guarantees the sanctity of the Constitution of India and keeps a check on uninformed power of the Parliament of India.

Judicial Review

The judiciary has significant position in Indian Constitution and it is also made independent of the legislature and the executive.

The Supreme Court of India stands at the peak of single integrated judicial system

It operates as defender of fundamental rights of Indian citizens and guardian of the Constitution.

Basic Structure doctrine

The basic structure doctrine is an Indian judicial norm that the Constitution of India has certain basic features that cannot be changed or destroyed through amendments by the parliament.

The basic features of the Constitution have not been openly defined by the Judiciary.

At least, 20 features have been described as "basic" or "essential" by the Courts in numerous cases, and have been incorporated in the basic structure.

In Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narayan case and also in the Minerva Mills case, it was witnessed that the claim of any particular feature of the Constitution to be a "basic" feature would be determined by the Court in each case that comes before it.

Secularism

In no other country of the world so many religions co-exist as in India. In view of such diversity the Constitution guarantees complete freedom of religion to all.

The citizens of our country are free to follow any religion and they enjoy equal rights without any distinction of caste, creed, religion or sex.

India on the path to be a global superpower

At the dawn of 2023, as the mist gently lifts, an early stretch of India's shimmering path to the future is visible. If there is a steady, determined leadership in the coming years and the citizenry keeps being fired up by resurgent nationalism, India's place as a superpower is assured, and so is overall prosperity for her people.

The talk of this being China and India's century is banal. But exactly 30 years ago, Deng Xiaoping told China, "gai gé kai fāng", or open up to the world. It was the world's tenth largest economy then. It is poised to overtake the US and be the largest in the next couple of years.

China's quiet and consummate nation-building of the last three decades has very few parallels in history. Today, India seems set to traverse that road.

The signs are increasingly becoming clear. Ingredients needed for a tectonic shift are falling into the cauldron of the moment for India. Let us examine the five main demonstrable factors driving this change.

Civilisational and national reawakening

The dominant global liberal order of the last three decades, which has created a self-serving power elite, looks condescendingly at India's nationalism. But the very constituents of this global order, the leading western nations, had become developed and wealthy from being swamps of poverty and squalid shantytowns only by the push of nationalism. From Germany to France, the United Kingdom to the United States, Italy to Scandinavia, nation after nation pulled itself up from their shabby existence after nation states emerged in Europe and the pride in one's land, language and people became the main driver of change.

Nationalism even fired China, Japan, and Russia to reawaken from slumber and transform themselves into major global powers again. Industry,



technology, and military might were the body of this mutation. Nationalistic spirit remained the soul.

While all this was happening in 17th to 19th century Europe, a thousands of years old civilisation was getting ravaged at the hands of brutal Islamic invaders and colonisers from the rising Europe.

As Bharat rises again, several colonial and anti-national structures are falling by the roadside. Article 370 that gave Kashmiri separatism a boost is gone. India is on its way to getting a Uniform Civil Code and an educational system that corrects history and regenerates

civilisational knowledge. There is a massive cultural revival, rejection of Islamism and Communism.

Most importantly, there is a growing unity of purpose and renewed pride in the self that has driven every successful nation to excel.

Unchaining the economic giant

In spite of three crippling waves of the pandemic and teething troubles from setting structures like GST, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, real estate regulation, and digital economy in place, India remains the fastest growing major economy and the brightest spot of hope

for investors.

Morgan Stanley, one of the most influential companies of the world, said last year that three megatrends — global offshoring, digitalisation and energy transition — are setting the scene for India's unprecedented economic growth.

"We believe India is set to surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027 and will have the third-largest stock market by the end of this decade," said Ridham Desai, Morgan Stanley's Chief Equity Strategist for India. "Consequently, India is gaining power in the world order, and in our opinion these



idiosyncratic changes imply a once-in-a-generation shift and an opportunity for investors and companies.”

Morgan and Stanley reckons that India's GDP could more than double from \$3.5 trillion today to surpass \$7.5 trillion by 2031. India's per capita income is projected to rise from \$2,000 now to about \$5,000 by then.

Its share of global exports could also double over that period, while the Bombay Stock Exchange could deliver 11 percent annual growth, reaching a market capitalisation of \$10 trillion in the coming decade, the company estimates.

The World Bank shares Morgan Stanley's optimism. It believes India's economy is relatively insulated from global spillovers compared to other emerging markets. This is partly because India has a large domestic market and is relatively less exposed to international trade flows.

“India's economy has been remarkably resilient to the deteriorating external environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals have placed it in good stead compared to other emerging market economies,” said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India. “However, continued vigilance is required as adverse global developments persist.”

Ahead of the Union Budget, Prime Minister Modi signalled further reforms. At a meet of chief secretaries of states, he said mindless compliances should be done away with and outdated laws scrapped.

Economic rise is key to global power. That rise in India's case seems almost certain, although with major caveats.

Independent and assertive diplomacy

India has taken on a rampaging China at our borders and retaliated in good measure. It has talked back to America and Europe when lectured about its relations and trade with the West's pariah, Putin.

India even snubbed Putin at September's Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The PM said “today's era is not of war” and Putin should “move on to a path of peace”. Soon after, India voted in favour of a resolution to allow Zelenskyy to virtually address the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

India's policy of global vision tempered by self-interest was on full display in 2022. While it led the world by sending Covid vaccines to more than 70 countries, it refused to be bullied into sacrificing its energy needs when far more developed nations used dirty energy to get rich and still leave a much bigger carbon footprint. Now that India heads the G20 for a year, Zelenskyy recently requested PM Narendra Modi to come up with a “peace formula”.

While being a member of the Quad with the US, Japan and Australia, India conducted joint military exercises with Russia and China last year.

India has shown the confidence to be the voice of smaller nations from Africa and other continents. It is already one of the main fulcrums of an increasingly multipolar world.

Military might, Made in India

India used to be the biggest importer of arms. But in the last eight years, it has upped its defence exports by eight times.

In 2021-22, India's defence exports



touched a record Rs 13,000 crore. Around 70 percent of defence production was done by around 50 Indian companies in the private sector.

India conducted 38 missile tests in 2022. Some were new missiles, which included a naval anti-ship short-range missile, a helicopter-launched anti-ship missile, a very short range air defence system and a man-portable air defence system.

The country has exported arms and technology to Italy, Sri Lanka, Russia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, France, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Israel, Bhutan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Philippines, Poland, Spain and Chile.

Spending Rs 31,000 crore, the government has started building 64 strategic roads with a total length of 3,508 km and 103 bridges along the border. More than 6,000 km along the border are under construction.

In 2022, 28 projects were inaugurated and 103 infrastructure projects of the Border Roads Organisation were dedicated to the nation in the year at a total cost of Rs 2,897 crore.

Last year, intruding Chinese troops were beaten up by Indian soldiers at Tawang, Arunachal, in a continuing series of low-intensity, mainly hand-to-hand skirmishes.

India also developed a military base in the North Agalega Islands of Mauritius. It already has bases in Tajikistan, Bhutan, Madagascar, Seychelles, Oman, Iran, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Self-sufficiency in defence has been one of the hallmarks of India's recent surge towards the future.

Indigenous research

Scientific research used to be modern India's weak point. State-run labs were controlled by a rotting, politicking



bureaucracy.

That has started changing. From budget rocket launches to Deep Ocean research to green energy, the country has taken significant leaps. But the most impressive feat lately has been India's reach out to the world during Covid 19 with its own indigenously developed vaccine.

Without innovation and research, no nation can even dream to be tomorrow's superpower. While the allocation for this has been going up incrementally and

now stands at Rs 14,217 crore, India's gross expenditure on research and development per capita is lowest in the world at \$43. The forthcoming budget may see a substantial correction.

The nation is on the cusp of realising its potential. Ten or 15 more years of smart policymaking and closely monitored implementation will take it to a place perhaps not conceivable to its 1.4 billion population, except for those who can look beyond immediate horizons.

Source: Firstpost/ Abhijit Majumder

Events being organised as part of Republic Day celebrations

The Nation will celebrate its 74th Republic Day on January 26, 2023. The celebrations include the traditional march past at Kartavya Path comprising a grand parade by the contingents of the Armed Forces & Paramilitary Forces; tableaux display by the States and Central Ministries/Departments; cultural performances by children; acrobatic motorcycle rides and a fly-past, besides Beating the Retreat ceremony at the Vijay Chowk and PM's NCC rally.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on January 18, 2023, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane said that celebrations have been planned reflecting the Prime Minister's vision of Jan Bhagidari. The Republic Day celebrations are going to be week-long commencing on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of great national icon Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and culminate on 30th January which is observed as Martyrs' Day. The celebrations will be a tribute to INA veterans, people and tribal communities who participated in freedom movement.

Many new events are being organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations this year. These include Military Tattoo & Tribal dance festival; Veer Gatha 2.0; second edition of Vande Bharatam dance competition; performances of Military & Coast Guard bands at the National War Memorial; an All-India School Band Competition at the NWM; a Drone Show and projection mapping during Beating the Retreat ceremony. The details of the events are as follows:

Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance festival

As part of Republic Day celebrations and to mark the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (celebrated as Parakram Diwas), a Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance festival 'Aadi-Shaurya - Parv Parakram ka' will be held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi on January 23 & 24, 2023. The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are jointly organising the event, with Indian Coast Guard being the coordinating agency. It will witness 10 Military Tattoo performances and 20 Tribal Dances.

Over 1,200 performers are fine tuning their art forms each day in rehearsals with their unique and colorful costumes, headdresses, musical instruments and rhythmic dance beats. The traditional dance forms to be presented during the main event include Gaurr Maria, Gaddi Nati, Siddi Dhamal, Baiga Pardhoni, Purulia, Bagurumba, Ghusadi, Balti, Lambadi, Paika, Rathwa, Budigali, Songimukhawate, Karma, Mangho, Ka Shad Mastieh, Kummikali, Palaiyar, Cheraw & Rekham Pada.

The Indian Armed Forces will showcase Horse Show, Khukuri Dance, Gatka, Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta, Motorcycle Display, Air Warrior Drill, Navy Band and martial arts. 20 Tribal dance troupes from all across the country will perform during military tattoo event. Approximately



60,000 spectators are expected to attend the event.

The grand finale will showcase a performance by famous playback singer Shri Kailash Kher. The entry for the event is free.

Vande Bharatam 2.0

The second edition of Vande Bharatam dance competition was organised as part of RDC 2023. Entries were sought from October 15 - November 10, 2022 from the participants in the age group of 17-30 years in the genres of Folk/Tribal, Classical and Contemporary/ Fusion. State/UT-level and Zonal-level competitions were conducted from November 17 to December 10, 2022 by the seven Zonal Cultural Centres under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture.

The Grand finale was held in New Delhi on December 19 & 20, 2022 which witnessed participation of 980 dancers. Of those, 503 dancers were selected by a jury. These dancers will put up a grand

cultural show during the RD parade on the theme of 'Nari Shakti'.

Veer Gatha 2.0

Veer Gatha, one of the unique projects launched as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' last year, was organised to inspire and spread awareness among children about the gallant deeds and sacrifices of the Armed Forces. This year too, the Tri-Services organised virtual and face-to-face interaction of school children with Gallantry Award winners and the students (from 3rd to 12th Standard) submitted their entries in the form of poem, essay, painting, multimedia presentation etc. These were evaluated by a national Committee, which selected Super-25. The winners are scheduled to be felicitated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on January 25, 2023. These winners will also attend the RD parade.

Tableaux

Twenty-three tableaux – 17 from States/Union Territories and six from various Ministries/Departments, depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage, economic and social progress and strong internal and external security will roll down the Kartavya Path during RD Parade.

Bharat Parv

Reflecting the Janbhagidari theme, 'Bharat Parv' will be organised at Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi from January 26-31, 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism. It will showcase Republic Day Tableaux, performances by the Military bands, cultural performances, Pan India Food Courts and Crafts Bazaar.

E-invitation

This year, physical invitation cards for guests and spectators have been replaced by e-invitations. For this purpose, a dedicated portal www.amantran.mod.gov.in has been launched. Sale of tickets, admit cards, invitation cards and car parking labels are being issued online through this portal. This will ensure the whole process to be more secure & paperless and enable people from all parts of the country to attend this national event.

Special Invitees

This year invites have been sent to common people from all walks of the society such as Shramyogis involved in construction of Central Vista, Kartavya Path, New Parliament Building, milk, vegetable vendors, and street vendors etc. These Special Invitees will be prominently seated at Kartavya Path.

School Band Performance at NWM

An All-India School Band competition was organised for various schools to compete and perform in the run up to the Republic Day to encourage values of discipline, teamwork & national pride among the children. Over 300 schools participated in the competition organised by Ministry of Defence in coordination with Ministry of Education. Eight school bands were selected, which began performing at the National War Memorial from 15th January onwards. The performances will continue till 22nd January.

Drone Show

The biggest Drone Show in India, comprising of 3,500 indigenous drones, will light up the evening sky over the Raisina hills, weaving myriad forms of national figures/events through smooth synchronisation. It depicts the success of start-up ecosystem, technological prowess of the country's youth and pave the way for future path-breaking trends. The event will be organised by M/s Botlabs Dynamics.

Anamorphic Projection

For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection will be organised during Beating Retreat Ceremony 2023 on the façade of North and South Block.

White House insists debt ceiling be dealt with without conditions

JANUARY 18, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The White House on Tuesday, January 17, insisted that the looming debt ceiling crisis be dealt with without conditions and there is no room for negotiations on this.

"This should not be political brinkmanship. We should be dealing with the debt ceiling without conditions. It is important. We're not going to work our way around this; we're not going to negotiate on this. This is the basic duty of Congress," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

In the last administration, the Democrats and Republicans were able to deal with the debt limit three times. "Let's not forget that," she said.

Last week, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a letter to Congress raised the red flag on an imminent debt crisis. Given the sharp differences between the ruling Democrats and the opposition Republicans, who enjoy a majority in the House of Representatives, not handling the issue on time might result in the United States defaulting on its debt commitment, which has never happened in the past.

Republicans have so far insisted on not raising the debt limit which currently is USD 31.381 trillion as approved by Congress last month. This debt limit is the total amount of money that the US

government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations and is scheduled to reach its statutory limit on January 19.

The United States is the only industrialized nation to have such an arbitrary institution as a debt ceiling, but the players who keep ending up in the same standoff aren't exactly looking to kill it, Time magazine said Tuesday.

The New York Times warned that a default would most likely rattle markets and carry big risks, no matter how the Federal Reserve and Treasury try to curb the fallout.

In her letter to the Congressional leadership, Yellen asserted that it is "critical that Congress act in a timely manner to increase or suspend the debt limit". Failure to meet the government's obligations would cause irreparable harm to the US economy, the livelihoods of all Americans, and global financial stability, she warned.

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, who is a Democrat, has called for an increase in the debt limit. "If we don't raise the debt ceiling, we'll go into default, and only one default is enough to nuke the economy," he said.

Opposing an increase in the debt limit, Republican Congressman Ralph Norman, said that USD31.4 trillion, is a massive amount of debt. "The government owes this money because politicians in Washington simply will not

stop spending. This has been the case for decades, and Republicans are just as much to blame as Democrats," he said.

"We'll have to see how negotiations play out, but the bottom line is this: Republicans need to see some degree of incremental spending cuts in these debt ceiling negotiations. An agreement without some reasonable cuts is unacceptable," Norman said.

"Our national debt is approaching a level not just harmful to economic growth and irresponsible to future generations, but dangerous to our national security today. We are entering treacherous waters and must couple any debt ceiling increases with real reforms," said Congresswoman Victoria Spartz.

"Huge amounts of politically directed spending and crony capitalism have created a significant oligopoly problem in nearly every market sector - not much different from oligarchs ruling in post-socialist countries," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries in a joint statement said that the Congress must act on legislation to prevent a disastrous default, meet America's your obligations and protect its full faith and credit.

"A default forced by extreme MAGA Republicans could plunge the country into a deep recession and lead to even higher costs for America's working families on everything from mortgages

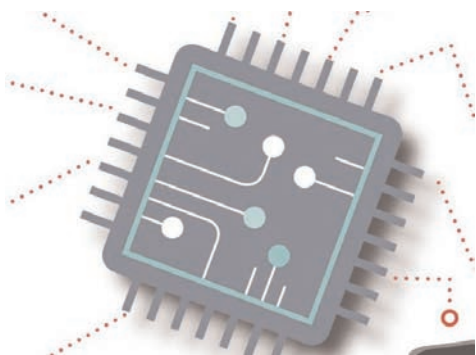


White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre
File photo

and car loans to credit card interest rates," they said.

"America pays its debts. Period. There should be no political brinkmanship with the debt limit. It's reckless for Speaker McCarthy and MAGA Republicans to try and use the full faith and credit of the United States as a political bargaining chip. A default would be catastrophic for America's working families and lead to higher costs," Schumer said in another statement. (Source: PTI)

The U.S. Is About to Start Producing Its Own Chips



JANUARY 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): This is what an arms race of the 21st century looks like. It's not about trying to outrun geopolitical rivals like the Soviet Union. It's about technology... and specifically, semiconductors. Or "chips."

Right now, things aren't looking good for the United States in terms of semiconductor capacity. Industry giants like Ford and General Motors are feeling the pain. Due to chip supply shortages, they shipped cars without much-needed accessories, like touchscreens or heated seats.

You see, the U.S. relies on manufacturing facilities located in other places - mainly Taiwan - for its chip supply. It's not ideal to have a key tech supplier located just 110 miles away from

the country's main geopolitical challenger, China. Especially when said the challenger had no problem flying dozens of warplanes over chip production facilities in Taiwan as part of a military drill.

The U.S. and China aren't at war - for now. But the risk of an escalating conflict has pushed the United States to start "onshoring" some of the key industries that it relies on Taiwan for, such as semiconductors.

The good news is this decision will kickstart a multi-billion-dollar investment trend... So, in a moment, I'll explain who the biggest winners will be... and how you can learn about the companies benefitting in 2023.

Chips are critical in a modern economy. Almost any appliance you use has multiple chips in it. On average, a modern car has about 1,500 chips alone.

But the COVID pandemic kickstarted a chip shortage due to rising demand and disrupted supply chains failing to keep up with a spike in consumer spending.

As a result, the U.S. government passed the CHIPS Act in late 2022. It's a sprawling piece of legislation focused on boosting domestic chip production - with over \$280 billion of spending over the next 10 years.

Most of the funds, \$200 billion, will be spent on scientific research in advanced semiconductors.

Another \$53 billion will be dedicated to semiconductor production. What's more, the bill provides chip plants tax credits of almost \$24 billion, to spur U.S. chip manufacturing.

The CHIPS Act is so massive that it will create incredible wealth for the companies participating in the chip "onshoring" trend. McKinsey, a consultancy, estimates that chips will become a \$1 trillion industry by the end of the 2020s.

For instance, when the U.S. government announced the CHIPS Act in 2020 (two years before it passed), semiconductor companies launched dozens of projects that would benefit from it.

As of mid-December 2022, over 40 new projects in the chip ecosystem were announced. Those included new chip fabrication facilities, expansions of existing ones, and the production of equipment and materials used in chip assembly.

Meanwhile, private companies have dedicated over \$200 billion to chip manufacturing projects. As a result, 40,000 new jobs will be created in the

country.

Best of all, an SIA-Oxford Economics study estimates that each semiconductor-related job supports almost six jobs in the wider U.S. economy...

How This Legislation Relates to the Broader Economy... and Your Money

Much like the Infrastructure Act I wrote about last week, this kind of investment in "digital infrastructure" benefits not only the chip industry, but the broader economy as well.

The biggest winners from the CHIPS Act in the long term include some of the already-established players in the chip space.

Such as Intel. It is building a new semiconductor plant in Ohio and expanding its facilities in Arizona and New Mexico. These investments will have a 25% rebate from the government.

So, the more Intel spends on plant construction and research and development, the more money it will receive from the government. Again, the companies that can fund tens of billions of dollars to build these facilities (a modern one costs about \$10 billion) are the largest ones in the business.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Tanishq enters American market; first store inaugurated by Senator Robert Menendez

JANUARY 20, 2023

ISELIN, NJ (TIP): Tanishq, India's leading jewelry retail brand from the house of Tata, has entered the American market and its first store, in New Jersey's Little India, was inaugurated by Senator Robert Menendez this week.

"Oak Tree road is the jewelry capital of New Jersey," Menendez, Chairman of the powerful Foreign Relations Committee, told a gathering of jewelers, local businessmen and Indian Americans.

While Oak Tree Road has more than a dozen jewelry stores, mostly owned by Indian Americans, Menendez said the arrival of Tanishq at this popular Indian shopping destination is significant and different from others.

"Some people might look at it as another jewelry store ..., a new business, but this is different ... because of the creativity of the designer ... to create very unique pieces," the Senator said.

A Senator inaugurating a jewelry store is very rare in American politics.

The 3750+ square foot, two-story showroom on New Jersey's Oak Tree Road, offers over 6,500 unique designs in 18 and 22 KT gold and diamond jewelry, as well as solitaires and colored stones, a media release said.

Tanishq said the brand aims to meet



U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman and Senator Robert Menendez along with other dignitaries inaugurates Tanishq's store in New Jersey
Photo Credit / PTI

the evolving needs of Indian Americans, who comprise 4.35 per cent of the state's total population and are 387,000 strong.

According to the US Census Bureau, jewelry store sales were estimated at USD 33.2 billion in 2020, which was a 25 per cent increase over the previous decade.

Tanishq has been in the US market through e-commerce for over a year and has received positive community feedback.

The store inauguration among others was attended by Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York, along with

John E McCormac, Mayor Woodbridge, Sam Joshi, Mayor Edison, Wesley Mathews, Choose New Jersey Inc, Vin Gopal, New Jersey State Senator and Congressman Frank Pallone.

Congressman Pallone described jewelry as a "pride of India". This brings home the wonder and culture of India, he told the gathering.

The launch is a part of Tanishq's retail business expansion strategy. It launched its first international brick-and-mortar store in Dubai in November 2020. It now has eight international stores, seven in

the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the first in the United States of America.

"Tanishq already has a significant online presence in the US market. The high demand and interest shown by the Indian American community encouraged us to have an on-ground presence for them.

"This showroom will have our latest collections and masterpieces designed to suit all jewelry needs of the Indian Americans," said Kuruvilla Markose, CEO - International Business Division, Titan Company Ltd.

Tanishq said it intends to collectively open 20-30 stores in North America and the Middle East over the next 2-3 years. In India, Tanishq has a presence of 400 plus stores across 240 cities and intends to add another 100 stores in the next year.

"We are on a mission to establish Tanishq as a global brand, and our retail showroom expansion in the United States is a significant step in that direction.

"Tanishq has been balancing the elegance of tradition with the brilliance of modernity for decades and we want to bring it to New Jersey," said C K Venkataraman, managing director at Titan Company Ltd, the parent company of Tanishq. (Source: PTI)

US announces another USD 2.5 billion military aid package for Ukraine

JANUARY 20, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States has announced another military assistance package of USD 2.5 billion for Ukraine to fight against Russian aggression, taking the total US military assistance to USD 27.5 billion.

"This assistance package will provide Ukraine with hundreds of additional armored vehicles, including Stryker armored personnel carriers, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles," Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Thursday, January 19.

The package also includes critical additional air defense support for Ukraine, including more Avenger air defense systems, and surface-to-air missiles, as well as additional munitions for NASAMS that the United States has previously provided, he said.

It also contains night vision devices, small arms and ammunition, and other items to support Ukraine as it bravely defends its people, sovereignty and territorial integrity, Blinken said in a statement.

"This package, which totals USD 2.5



Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Thursday, January 19 an assistance package of USD 2.5 billion for Ukraine
Photo credit/ US Embassy in Prague

billion, will bring the total US military assistance for Ukraine to an unprecedented approximately USD 27.5 billion since the beginning of the administration," he said.

"The United States also continues to rally the world to support Ukraine. We have seen incredible solidarity from our allies and partners, including at today's Ukraine Defense Contact Group, and

we applaud the more than 50 countries who have come together to make significant contributions to support Ukraine," he added.

In a separate statement, the Pentagon said the Kremlin's most recent air attacks against Ukraine's critical infrastructure again demonstrate the devastating impact of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine.

This package provides additional NASAMS munitions and Avenger air defense systems to help Ukraine counter a range of short and medium-range threats and bolster its layered air defense, it said.

"The 59 Bradley IFVs included in this package, together with the 50 Bradleys previously committed on January 6, and the 90 Stryker APCs will provide Ukraine with two brigades of armored capability," the Pentagon said. (Source: PTI)

MICROSOFT ATTEMPTS TO CUT COSTS; TO LAY OFF 10,000 WORKERS

THE JOB CUTS, WHICH AMOUNT TO LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF THE COMPANY'S WORK FORCE, ARE ITS LARGEST IN ROUGHLY EIGHT YEARS

JAN. 18, 2023

REDMOND, WA (TIP): Microsoft plans to lay off 10,000 workers, the company said Wednesday, as it looks to trim costs amid economic uncertainty and to refocus on strategic priorities, such as artificial intelligence, a Jan 18 New York Times report says.

The company employed about 221,000 workers as of the end of June, and the cuts amount to less than 5 percent of its global work force.

"These are the kinds the staffd choices we have made throughout our 47-year history to remain a consequential company in this industry that is unforgiving to anyone who doesn't adapt to platform shifts," Satya Nadella, Microsoft's chief executive, said in a message to staff.

The layoffs, which will begin on Wednesday, are the company's largest in roughly eight years. Mr. Nadella cut about 25,000 jobs over the course of 2014 and 2015 as Microsoft abandoned its ill-fated acquisition of the mobile phone maker Nokia.

Like other tech companies, Microsoft expanded rapidly during the pandemic. It has hired more than 75,000 people since 2019, seizing on the surge in online services and the expansion of cloud computing.

Microsoft's annual revenue grew 58 percent over three years but rising interest



rates and the prospect of a recession have tempered the company's outlook. In the quarter that ended in October, it reported its slowest growth in five years and warned that more tepid results could follow.

The changes, including severance and other restructuring expenses, will cost \$1.2 billion, Mr. Nadella said. Microsoft is scheduled to report its quarterly earnings on Tuesday.

The company has been pursuing several expensive bets, including potentially putting another \$10 billion into its investment in OpenAI, which makes the explosively popular ChatGPT artificial intelligence system, and a \$69 billion acquisition of the video game maker Activision that is facing challenges globally by antitrust regulators.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



Delhi women's panel chief Swati Maliwal 'molested, dragged' by 'drunk car driver' for 15 metres

Delhi Police on Thursday, January 19, said they had arrested a man in connection with an incident in which Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal alleged that she was "molested" and "dragged by a car" for several metres opposite AIIMS in the national capital in the early hours of the day.

Speaking to ANI, DCP South Chandan Chowdhary said that according to Maliwal, she was with her team outside the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here at around 2.45am when the arrested man, later identified as Harish Chandra, hailing from city's Sangam Vihar and who appeared to be in an inebriated state approached her.

The DCW chief in her complaint to the police alleged that the man who was driving a white-coloured car stopped his car near where she was standing and "made indecent gestures". He then beckoned her to sit in his vehicle, claimed Maliwal. When the DCW chief reprimanded him, the man allegedly went away but returned a short while later and repeated his actions, the police said.

"She was standing with her team at Gate 2 of AIIMS which falls under the Kotla police station area. According to her, when she was standing on the footpath, a white-coloured vehicle approached her whose driver offered her a lift and started insisting that she sit in the car.

"When she refused and went near the driver's window to reprimand him, the man rolled up the car's glass window and her hand got stuck and she got dragged for about 10-15 metres," DCP Chowdhary said.

The police official said a PCR call was received at around 3.12am and a police team, including the ACP, Hauz Khas, reached the spot at around 3.20am and the accused was apprehended.

"The police took a written complaint from Maliwal and sent her and the accused for medical examination," the DCP added. A case was registered under Sections 323/341/509 of the IPC and 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Later, the section of molestation (354) was also included. Further investigation is under way. *Source: ANI*

Tripura goes to polls on 16 February, Meghalaya & Nagaland to vote on 27 February

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The 2023 assembly elections season kicked off on Wednesday, January 18, as the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the poll schedule for Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland next month, setting the stage for a fierce political battle in India's northeast.

Voting for assembly elections in Tripura will be held in a single phase on February 16, and in Nagaland and Meghalaya on February 27. The results will be declared on March 2, chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar said during a press conference. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is part of the ruling coalition in all three states, which all have 60 seats in the assembly. The Commission, led by CEC Kumar, and election commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel, appealed to all the voters to participate in the "festival of democracy". "I urge all the voters to cast their ballot and be a part of this festival of democracy," Kumar said while announcing the dates at the press conference. "The Commission is making all efforts to conduct an inclusive election."

The announcement marks the beginning of a packed assembly elections schedule in 2023, which will see polls in nine states in addition to possible elections in Jammu & Kashmir. The three states that go to the polls in February may be small – with one Lok Sabha and six assembly seats – but are likely to see pitched political contests, especially in Tripura and Meghalaya, where the ruling coalitions appear uneasy.

January 30 will be the last date for nominations in Tripura, and February 7 for Meghalaya and Nagaland. The terms of Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura assemblies are scheduled to end on March 12, 15, and 22 respectively. Each state has 60 constituencies, with 59 of them reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Nagaland, 55 in Meghalaya, and 20 in Tripura.

Kumar urged people to vote and be a part of the festival of democracy. ECI has set up 9,125 polling stations in the three states, where over 628,000 people are eligible to vote. Of these, 22,000 are first-time voters. Nearly 82% of the polling stations are in rural areas.

The poll body will webcast the polling process live from 73% polling stations. Kumar said ECI was committed to conducting free, fair, participative, and ethical elections. "There are only a few states where pre-poll and post-poll violence happens. The commission has spoken to the local authorities and all efforts will be made to ensure peaceful elections."

About 100 companies of central paramilitary forces will be deployed in Tripura's sensitive areas due to fears of an escalation in political violence before the assembly polls. "Based



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey during a press conference for the announcement of schedule of general elections to the Legislative assemblies of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023. (PTI)

on the assessment of the ground situation, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and State Armed Police (SAP) drawn from other States will be deployed during the elections. The CAPFs shall be deployed well in advance for area domination, route marches in vulnerable pockets, point patrolling and other confidence building measures to re-assure and build faith in the minds of the voters, especially those belonging to the weaker sections, minorities etc," ECI said in a statement.

The political contest is likely to be the most heated in Tripura, where the BJP made history in 2018 by defeating the Left Front government after two decades. This time, the ruling alliance of BJP and Indigenous People's Front of Tripura is facing an alliance of erstwhile rivals Congress and the Communist Party of India-Marxist, and a third key force in the form of the TIPRA Motha party, which is expected to do well in the tribal-dominated regions. The party, founded by former Congress leader Pradyot Bikram Deb Barma, who is also a member of the royal family, has yet not decided on whether he will go it alone, or ally with one of the two major coalitions. Deb Barma has kept his cards close to his chest, and said that he will go with the party that accepts in writing his party's demand for separate state called Tipraland. The key to the election may be held in the 20 tribal-dominated seats in the state.

In Meghalaya, too, the ruling coalition of National People's Party and the BJP appears to be under stress. Both parties have decided to fight the election separately, even as a third player, in the form of the Trinamool Congress, is trying to make inroads. TMC is led in the state by former chief minister Mukul Sangma, who left the Congress last year. *Source: HT*

BJP, RSS created atmosphere of fear, hatred in country: Rahul Gandhi

PATHANKOT (TIP)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the BJP and RSS on Thursday, January 19, accusing them of creating an atmosphere of hatred, violence and fear in the country.

Addressing a rally here on the last day of Bharat Jodo Yatra's Punjab leg, he alleged that the BJP was making one religion fight against another, one caste against another and one language against another.

"They create fear. All of their plans (policies) cause fear to someone or something," he alleged.

Pointing towards the policies of the previous UPA government, Gandhi said it brought MGNREGA, waived farm loans, urban renewal mission, green revolution, white revolution.

"Whatever we do is to wipe out fear. And whatever they do they (BJP) do is to spread

fear.

"Look at their policies—farmers get up at 4 am in the morning and they toil hard daily and feed the nation. Farmers do not want anything in return, they only want respect," he said.

He targeted the Centre over the now-repealed three agri laws and said these created fear in the minds of farmers.

"But what did BJP do for them—they brought black farm laws. These laws created fear among farmers," he said.

Speaking about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Congress leader claimed that farmers were not getting compensation for their crop damage because of the vagaries of weather.

"Not even a single farmer told him that they got insurance compensation when they suffered crop loss due to natural calamities," he claimed. *Source: PTI*



Singapore-bound flight takes off from Amritsar airport without 35 passengers; DGCA orders probe

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a probe into how a Singapore-bound flight took off hours ahead of schedule, leaving behind 35 passengers at the Amritsar airport.

The probe was initiated by the aviation regulatory authority after a Scoot Airline flight which was scheduled to depart at 7.55pm on Wednesday, January 18, from the Amritsar airport took off at 3pm, hours ahead of its departure time.

This triggered chaos at the airport with angry passengers who were left behind staging a protest. They registered their complaint with authorities concerned at the airport. After the airport authorities contacted the airline officials they were informed that the passengers had been sounded about the change in flight time via e-mail.

"Around 280 passengers were to travel to Singapore but 253 passengers were rescheduled, leaving behind over 30 passengers behind," Amritsar airport Director told ANI.

The DGCA has sought details from both Scoot Airline which is a Singaporean low-cost airline and a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Airlines and the Amritsar Airport authority.

According to the airline, all the passengers were informed about the change in timing via email. An airport official told ANI that the travel agent, who booked the tickets for 30 people in a group, had not informed them (passengers) about the change in flight timings due to which the airline flew with the passengers who had reported on time.

BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots a 'propaganda piece': India

India on Thursday, January 19, described a BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots as a "propaganda piece" designed to push a particular "discredited narrative".

The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset are blatantly visible, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing while replying to a volley of questions on the documentary.

The documentary deals with the riots that broke out in Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister.

Bagchi said the documentary is a reflection on the agency and individuals that are peddling "this narrative" again.

"It makes us wonder about purpose of this exercise and agenda behind it," he said.

Need to build resilient health system across world: India at G20 Health Working Group meet

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP)

COVID-19 pandemic will not be the last one and therefore, emergency preparedness is an overarching priority that requires building of resilient health systems across the world to protect people in the face of similar crises, India said on Wednesday, January 18, during the G20 Health Working Group meeting here.

Pointing to the need to respond together each time when such threats to global health emerge, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar said it was essential to ally with emerging scientific evidence, diversify our capacities and capabilities and strengthen the early warning systems.

She said that emergency preparedness was no longer an initiative in isolation, but rather "an overarching priority" which "requires efforts to build resilient health systems horizontally and vertically across the world".

"In an increasingly interconnected world we need to ensure that our communities are resilient and have equal opportunities to protect themselves in the face of a crisis.

"The principle of equity and equitable support must be non-negotiable in our pursuit for health security," she stressed in her keynote address at the G20 India Health Working Group meeting.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also tweeted about the meeting.

"My Ministerial Colleagues @DrBharatiPPawarJi & @VMBJP Ji inaugurated the G20 Health Working group meeting. I heartily welcome all the delegates in Kerala, India as part of its #G20 Presidency will work towards creating a healthier world & ensuring health equity globally," he said.

The first Health Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency is under way presently and will conclude on January 20. India assumed the presidency of the G20 on December 01, 2022.



Union MoS for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pawar speaks at the 1st Health Working Group meeting under G20 India presidency, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on January 18, 2023. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan is also seen. @MoHFW_INDIA/Twitter/PTI

Pawar said that during the two-day long meeting of the Working Health Group, the aim would be to "realign our politics and policies". "We must invest collectively and the investment must start today." The minister noted that the Indian presidency will aim to build on the efforts and proposals laid down by previous Health Working Groups and G20 leaders.

"It will include strengthening our healthcare, prioritising one-health, emergency preparedness, ensuring equitable distribution of life saving vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, and utilising digital health as an instrument to aid universal health coverage," she said.

The G20 countries have to collectively strive to evolve and present the world with a "harmonised blueprint for the fundamental architecture of global health scheme and health emergency management duly avoiding duplication and fragmentation". Source: PTI

China builds new dam in Tibet that could affect flows downstream

NEW DELHI (TIP)

China is building a new dam in Tibet on a tributary of the Ganga, close to the tri-junction of its borders with India and Nepal, that could be used to control the flow of water downstream, new satellite imagery has revealed.

The development comes in the wake of China unveiling plans to build a "super" dam close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Tibet on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo river, which flows into Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang and then to Assam as the Brahmaputra.

It also comes at a time when satellite imagery has shown that China has substantially ramped up creation of military and dual use infrastructure and villages in the eastern and western sectors of the LAC.

Satellite images tweeted on Thursday by Damien Symon, a geospatial intelligence researcher at the Intel Lab, showed earth development and dam construction activity done by the Chinese side on Mabja Zangbo river in Burang county of Tibet since May 2021.

The images clearly depict the obstruction of the river's path, the formation of a reservoir and an embankment-type dam.

The Mabja Zangbo river flows into the Ghaghara or Karnali river in Nepal before eventually joining the Ganga river in India.

The dam is located just a few kilometres north of the tri-junction of China's border with India and Nepal, Symon said.

According to the latest satellite images, the dam appears to be 350 metres to 400 metres long, Symon said.

"The structure is currently in development, so the purpose is unknown," he said. "It appears to be an embankment dam," he added. "An airport is being constructed nearby as well", he said.

People familiar with the matter said the dam, located at the strategic tri-junction of China's borders with India and Nepal and opposite the Kalapani region of Uttarakhand state, could be used to divert or restrict the waters of the Mabja Zangbo river. Source: HT

Supreme Court cautions courts against use of Wikipedia in legal proceedings

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The SC has cautioned courts and tribunals against using free online sources such as Wikipedia, saying such sources based on a crowd-sourced and user-generated editing model can provide misleading information.

"We must note that the adjudicating authorities while

coming to their respective conclusions, especially the Commissioner of Customs (Appeal), have extensively referred to online sources such as Wikipedia to support their conclusion. While we expressly acknowledge the utility of these platforms which provide free access to knowledge across the globe, but we must also sound a note of caution against using such sources for legal dispute resolution," a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant said while deciding a case regarding the correct classification of imported 'All in One Integrated Desktop Computer' under the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

"These sources, despite being a treasure trove of knowledge, are based on a crowd-sourced and user-generated editing model that is not completely dependable," it said. Source: TNS



India in history this Week

JANUARY 20, 2023, TO JANUARY 26, 2023

20 JANUARY



Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the greatest activist of Pashtun independence and called Frontier Gandhi, passed away.

1817 Hindu college was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1945 National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who is considered the master mind of surgical strike, was born.

21 JANUARY

2008 India successfully launched an spy satellite of Israel and installed it in Polar Orbit.

1958 Copyright Act enacted.



1945 Renowned lawyer and freedom fighter Ras Bihari Bose died.

22 JANUARY

1965 Steel factory started in Durgapur, West Bengal.



1966 Mughal emperor Shah Jahan died.

1963 The National Library for the Blind was established in 1963 in Dehradun.

23 JANUARY



1897 India's freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Odisha.



1926 Bal Thackeray, Indian politician and founder of Shiv Sena was born.

1966 Indira Gandhi became the third Prime Minister of India.

1977 Janata Party was formed.

2009 The ban on smoking scenes in film and television programs is over.

24 JANUARY

1950 On this day, the Constituent Assembly elected the first President of the country. Apart from this, the National Anthem was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950.

1966 Air India's Boeing 707 crashes near the summit of Monblan in the hills of the Alps. 117 people died in it.

1950 Jana Gana Mana was accepted as the national anthem.

1857 University of Calcutta was established.

1950 Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of independent India.

1950 Jana-gana-mana got the status of national anthem of India in 1950.

1951 Prem Mathur became India's first female commercial pilot in 1951.

1952 The first International Film Festival was held in Bombay in 1952.

2002 The Indian satellite INSAT-3C successfully orbited in 2002.

25 JANUARY

1971 Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a state.

1980 The Indian Brahmo Samaj was started in 1880 by the famous social reformer Keshav Chandra Sen.

1980 After a gap of three years, in 1980, Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna, etc. civil honors started being awarded again.



1980 The famous philanthropist Mother Teresa was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1980.



2002 In 2002, Arjan Singh became the first Air Marshal of the Indian Air Force.

26 JANUARY

1956 In the year 1956, Humayun, son of Mughal emperor Babur, died.

1930 Swaraj Day was celebrated for the first time in India under British rule.

1931 Mahatma Gandhi was released for talks with the British government during the 'Civil Disobedience Movement'.

1949 The Constitution of India was prepared on this day.

1950 India is declared a sovereign democratic republic and the Constitution of India comes into force.

1950 Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first and last Governor General of independent India, resigned from his post and Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of the country.

1950 Ashoka Pillar was adopted as the national emblem.

1963 The Government of India declared it a national bird on 26 January due to the peacock's amazing beauty.

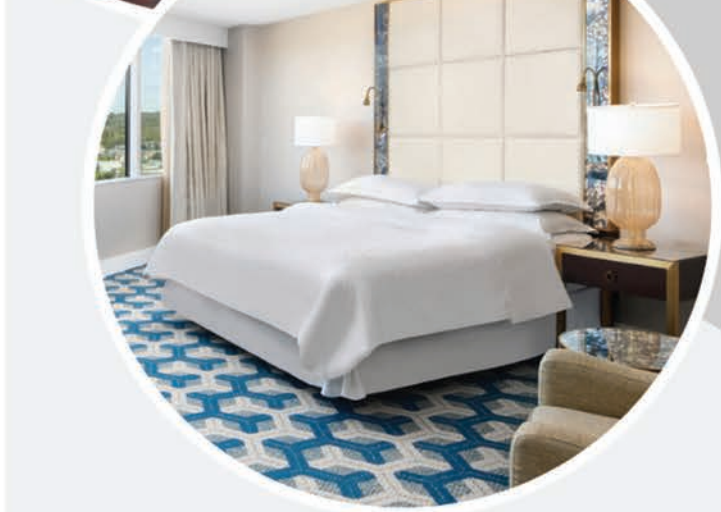
1972 The National Memorial Amar Jawan Jyoti was established at India Gate in Delhi.

1981 Keeping in mind the ease of air traffic in Northeast India, Air service Vayudoot started.

1950 The Constitution of India was implemented at 10.18 minutes on 26 January 1950.

1955 The first parade of Republic Day took place on 1955 at Rajpath in Delhi.

1930 The Indian Constitution was implemented on 26 January keeping in mind the full Swaraj Day (26 January 1930).



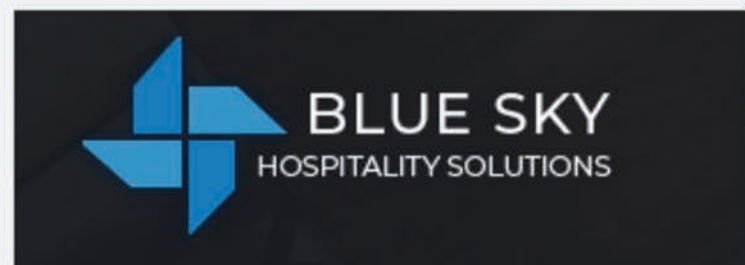
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BOOKS FEST CONTINUES AT JCC

BY MABEL PAIS

Featuring

AUTHOR JAI CHAKRABARTI

BANNED BOOKS PANEL WITH PEN AMERICA

AUTHOR CHELSEA CLINTON



BTCML, Book Cover Gallery

Photo credit / JCC

WED, FEB 1, 7 PM - IN PERSON

JEWISH FOOD SOCIETY STORYTELLING EVENT

Jewish Food Society presents 'The Story That Changed My Life,' a live taping of their award-winning storytelling podcast, 'Schmaltzy.' Hear stories from authors and luminaries, followed by a lively roundtable discussion led by Schmaltzy host Amanda Dell. Book signing to follow, and like all Schmaltzy events, enjoy drinks and bites inspired by the stories.

SUN, FEB 5, 11 AM - IN PERSON

HA'KEVES HASHISHA ASAR IN CONCERT

This special event will feature a concert of the classic Israeli children's story and album Ha'Keves haShisha Asar ('The Sixteenth Sheep'). Together with host Elad Kabilio of MusicTalks, Yoav Eshed on guitar, Alon Nir on double bass, and Eviatar Slivnik on drums, this performance will celebrate the incredible 1978 collaboration of author Yonatan Gefen and composer Yoni Rechter, which created a unique piece of art that speaks volumes to children and adult alike. Songs will be performed in Hebrew.

MON, FEB 6, 7 PM - IN PERSON

AUTHOR ALLEGRA GOODMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH LITERARY AGENT JULIE BARER P

The Book Group's Julie Barer, host of the JCC's Authors in Quarantine series, was inspired by the writing of author Allegra Goodman to go into a career in books and, in a turn of events, eventually became her literary agent. Allegra, whose latest novel Sam is January 2023's 'Read with Jenna' pick, sits down with Julie to talk about the book and each of their respective careers.

TUE, FEB 7, 4:30 PM - IN PERSON

STORYTIME IN THE LOBBY WITH AMY ROSENFELD F P

STORYTELLER: AMY ROSENFELD

Amy Rosenfeld has been the Librarian at the Saul and Carole Zabar Nursery School for 11 years. She enjoys exploring

different themes with the children during story times, and strives to find new books pertaining to diversity and inclusion to add into the growing school library.

Amy adapted a children's book, 'Daniel and Max Play Together,' which was published in December of 2021.

THU, FEB 9, 7 PM - IN PERSON

BANNED BOOKS PANEL WITH PEN AMERICA

PEN America champions the freedom to write, recognizing the power of the word to transform the world. Join PEN America's Director of Free Expression and Education Programs Jonathan Friedman, in a timely and important panel discussion with frequently banned authors and topic experts. The panel will include prolific YA author David Levithan ('Boy Meets Boy,' 'Nick & Nora's Infinite Playlist,' 'Dash & Lily') and additional guests to be announced.

MON, FEB 13 AT 7 PM - IN PERSON

CHELSEA CLINTON IN CONVERSATION WITH ABIGAIL POGREBIN

New York Times bestselling author Chelsea Clinton's latest book, 'Welcome to the Big Kids Club,' is the essential guide for kids welcoming the newest member of their family. Chelsea sits down with JCC staple Abigail Pogrebin to talk about the book, as well as Clinton's influential, bestselling, and life-changing 'She Persisted' series. Tickets include a signed copy of the book.

TUE, FEB 14, 4:30 PM - IN PERSON

STORYTIME IN THE LOBBY: DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR WITH ABBI GEZUNT F P

Storyteller: Abbi Gezunt | Abbi Gezunt (Yochai Greenfeld) is a Jewish mother from the Five Towns of Long Island who devotes her precious time to creating sensible educational Jewish

entertainment. Her Jewtorials can be found online and her Jewish drag shows are the latest sensation at the JCC. Appropriate for ages 6+.

WED, FEB 15, 5-8 PM - IN PERSON

ALTERED BOOK WORKSHOP

Instructor: DJ O'Connel | In this fun workshop, repurpose old books by turning them into personal journals using paint, paper, recycled items, fabric, and ink. Books will be semi-destroyed in the transformation process. Beginners welcome. May not be suitable for children under age 10. All materials will be supplied-just bring your imagination.

THU, FEB 16, 7 PM - IN PERSON

MICHAEL WINOGRAD PLAYS TANZ: A LIVE ALBUM RECREATION

Join Brooklyn musician Michael Winograd and his stellar band for a performance of 'Tanz,' a recreation of the 1956 album featuring clarinetists Sam Musiker and the King of Klezmer Dave Tarras. Ahead of its time, 'Tanz' was a landmark recording, pushing the boundaries of Jewish music. Now celebrated as one of the greatest Klezmer records, more than six decades later, 'Tanz' comes to life in this live performance and concert filming.



BTCML, Library.

Photo credit / JCC

TUE, FEB 21, 4:30 PM - IN PERSON

STORYTIME IN THE LOBBY

STORYTELLER: TBD

WED, FEB 22, 7 PM - IN PERSON

AUTHOR JAI CHAKRABARTI IN CONVERSATION WITH JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL'S BECCA KANTOR

National Jewish Book Award winner Jai Chakrabarti ('A Play for the End of the World') had his life changed when he discovered Bernard Malamud's 'The Magic Barrel' at a used bookstore in a suburb of India. This year is the 65th anniversary of the book's publication, as well as the 65th anniversary of Bernard Malamud receiving the National Jewish Book Award for another work of his, 'The Assistant.' Becca Kantor, editorial director of the Jewish Book Council (which administers the National Jewish Book Award), talks to Jai about his newest book and the impact and legacy of Malamud's work.

THU, FEB 23, 7 PM - VIRTUAL

Join JCC for a rebroadcast of the very first 'Books That Changed My Life' event: an intimate conversation between prolific writers Elizabeth Gilbert ('Eat Pray Love,' 'City of Girls') and Maggie Smith ('Good Bones,' 'Goldenrod'), inspired by Gilbert's bestselling book 'Big Magic,' a book that changed Smith's life. The live stream of this event was recorded in April.

SUN, FEB 26, 11 AM - IN PERSON

'DOT DOT DOT: A NEW MUSICAL'

Based on the Creatrilogy series of books, 'The Dot, Ish & Sky Color' by Peter H. Reynolds

An exciting new musical based on the Creatrilogy trio of award-winning picture books ('The Dot, Ish, and Color Sky') by New York Times bestselling author Peter H. Reynolds that celebrates the power of originality, self-expression, and opening our eyes to look beyond the expected. Written by Keelay Gipson and Sam Salmond. A TheaterWorksUSA Production. Appropriate for ages 5+.

MON, FEB 27, 7 PM - IN PERSON

IN CONVERSATION WITH CLAUDIA FLEMING, EXECUTIVE CULINARY DIRECTOR, DAILY PROVISIONS

Acclaimed pastry chef Claudia Fleming, executive culinary director for 'Daily Provisions,' will discuss her latest cookbook, 'Delectable: Sweet & Savory Baking,' as well as books that changed her life. Conversation partner will be announced soon.

EVERY TUES AT 4:30 PM - IN PERSON

STORYTIME IN THE LOBBY

Every Tuesday at 4:30-5:15 from Jan 10 to Feb 28 will be storytime in the lobby library. Join JCC for special guests including drag queen Yuhua Hamasaki, WonderSpark Puppets, JCC staff members, and more. Storyteller to be announced. The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan Learn more at mmjccm.org

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

INDIA MAKES HISTORY AT GOLDEN GLOBES, 3 FILMS SHORTLISTED FOR 'OSCARs'

BY MABEL PAIS

What a wonderful way to ring in 2023!

India has made history as the first Asian song with 'Naatu Naatu' (film, 'RRR') winning the Golden Globe Award for BEST ORIGINAL SONG - MOTION PICTURE, SONGWRITER M.M. KEERAVANI for 2022!

Further, films from India have been Shortlisted by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (The 95th - 'Oscars') in three categories: Documentary Feature Film, International Feature Film and Music (Original Song).

The ten categories are Documentary Feature Film, Documentary Short Film, International Feature Film, Makeup and Hairstyling, Music (Original Score), Music (Original Song), Animated Short Film, Live Action Short Film, Sound and Visual Effects.

The nominees for 'The Oscars' will be announced by The Academy on Tuesday, January 24 and the Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 12.

In the Documentary Feature film category, 'All That Breathes' has not only won several awards and recognitions at several film festivals and organizations (see poster) but was also shortlisted in the Documentary Feature Film category by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

'OSCAR' SHORTLISTS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM

'ALL THAT BREATHES'

DIR/CO-PROD: SHAUNAK SEN L CO-PRODS: AMAN MANN AND TEDDY LEIFER L 2022 L INDIA/USA/UK L 1H 34M

In one of the world's most populated cities, two brothers - Nadeem and Saud - devote their lives to the quixotic effort of protecting the black kite, a majestic bird of prey essential to the ecosystem of New Delhi that has been falling from the sky at alarming rates. Amid environmental toxicity and social unrest, the 'kite brothers' spend day and night caring for the creatures in their makeshift avian basement hospital. Director Shaunak Sen (Cities of Sleep) explores the connection between the kites and the Muslim brothers who help them return to the skies, offering a mesmerizing chronicle of inter-species coexistence.

Gotham Film Awards, in presenting the Best Documentary Feature Award to Shaunak Sen commented - "a sublime mix of social issue focus and poetic artistry that embraces the interconnectedness of all living things in this portrait of a pair of Muslim brothers who tend to sick birds (primarily predatory kites) that fall from the polluted sky in New Delhi and are nursed to health in their small basement clinic."

'All That Breathes' took the top prize for Outstanding



'All that Breathes,' poster

Credit / allthatbreathes.com

Achievement in Non-Fiction Feature Filmmaking as well as the award for Cinematography.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

'LAST FILM SHOW'

DIR/WRIT: PAN NALIN L GUJARATI L 1H 51M



Last Film Show

Credit / lastfilmshow.net

In the 'Last Film Show,' Samay, a 9-year-old boy living with his family in a remote village in India discovers films for the first time and is absolutely mesmerized. Against his father's wishes, he returns to the cinema day after day to watch more films, and even befriends the projectionist, who, in exchange for his lunch box, lets him watch movies for free. He quickly figures out that stories become light, light becomes films, and films become dreams. Samay and his wild gang of friends move heaven and earth to catch and project light to achieve a 35mm film projection. But little do they know that soon they'll be forced to make heartbreaking choices as an era is approaching to annihilate everything they love about their 35mm dreams...

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SONG)

"NATTU NATTU" (FROM FILM "RRR")

DIR: S.S. RAJAMOULI L 2022 L INDIA L TELUGU W/ENG SUBS L 3H 2M



Naatu Naatu dance scene

Credit /RRR.

The music for "Naatu Naatu" is composed by M.M. Keeravani with Lyrics by Chandrabose.

From writer-director S. S. Rajamouli (Baahubali) comes the international blockbuster that has enchanted movie audiences of all ages with its jaw-dropping action sequences, swooning romantic intrigue, infectious musical numbers- including the sensation "Naatu Naatu"-and rousing central friendship between two pre-Independence revolutionaries, played by Telugu-language megastars Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao, Jr. (better known as Jr. NTR).

From an original story by V. Vijayendra Prasad, the historical action epic RRR (short for Rise, Roar, Revolt) follows the fictionalized paths of real-life freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju (Charan) and Komaram Bheem (Rama Rao) as they come together in 1920s Delhi to battle the nefarious British Raj for the rescue of a kidnapped girl from Bheem's tribe.

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

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Salman Khan has a 20-minute extended cameo in Pathaan

It has been widely reported that Salman has a cameo in the film but as per trade analyst Amul Mohan, Salman's cameo is of around 20 minutes and not a short appearance. In conversation with Faridoon Shahryar for Connect FM Canada, Amul revealed, "We all are aware that Salman Khan has an extended cameo in the film." He added, "Shah Rukh coming (in a film) is a big event anyway and if Salman is in an extended cameo in the film, it's not a five minute role, it's a twenty minute role apparently." When Shah Rukh Khan hosted an Instagram live in June, the actor said that Salman is a part of Pathaan. "We haven't done a full-fledged film together apart from Karan Arjun, which also was not full-fledged as we were not together in it for too long. So, we get to work four-five days in a year sometimes. Last two years have been fantastic as I got to be in one of his films. I had a couple of days role with Kabir Khan. And he came in Zero and did a song with me. Now, in Pathaan. I don't know if this is a secret but inshallah, I will try to in Tiger 3 also. So, it is great fun working with him," he said.

Madhuri Dixit dances to Qala's Ghodey Pe Sawaar



Actor Madhuri Dixit took to Instagram and shared video as she grooved to Ghodey Pe Sawaar. She left fans impressed with her dance moves on Wednesday as she grooved to the popular song, Ghodey Pe Sawaar from Tripti Dimri, Babil Khan and Varun Grover's movie, Qala. The original dance video featured Anushka Sharma in special appearance. Reacting to Madhuri's dance, fans felt that she danced better than Anushka. Many fans reacted to her dance post.

In the video, Madhuri decked up in green ethnic outfit with white embroidery on it, and wore matching bracelet. She left her hair loose. She danced and gave perfect expressions while Ghodey Pe Sawaar played in the background. She was all smiles and lip-synced to the song as well. The song is sung by Sireesha Bhagavatula and penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya, and music is directed by Amit Trivedi.

Sharing the clip, Madhuri wrote, "Balma ghodey pe kyu sawar hai (why is my lover in a hurry)?" She used 'wednesday', 'wednesday mood', 'ghodey pe sawaar', 'trending reels', 'reels instagram' and 'explore page' as the hashtags. Singer Sireesha Bhagavatula commented, "OH MY GOD!!! The best (three red heart emojis) My mom would be on cloud nine seeing this!!! Fav fav." Actor Chitrangda Singh wrote, "You're love (red heart emoji)."

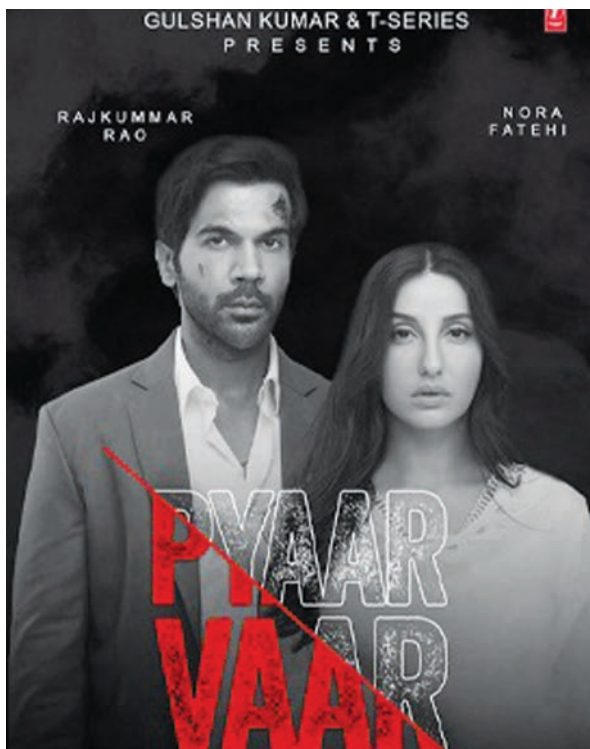
Reacting to Madhuri's dance video, one of her fans wrote, "She did it better than Anushka." Another fan commented, "The queen of Reels is back." Other fan wrote, "You are made for this song (smiling face with red heart eyes emoji)." A fan commented, "No one can defeat you." "The epitome of grace and beauty", added one. *Source: HT*

Nora Fatehi and Rajkummar Rao pair up for Achha Sila Diya

Another B Praak and Jaani collaboration, a song about betrayal and love, is out. Called 'Achha Sila Diya', the track is a revamped version of the Sonu Nigam number from the movie Bewafa Sanam. The song was originally sung by Pakistani singer Ataullah Khan. The overlong video features Rajkummar Rao and Nora Fatehi as romantic partners, in which once again Nora ends up betraying the male lead, much like she did in the hit Arijit Singh song Pachtaoge.

Here, instead of poisoning Vicky Kaushal, she gets Rao 'killed' by her secret boyfriend. The whole thing reeks of a Hindi daily soap, or a scene from a Bollywood movie in the 80s and 90s. Although truth be told, there is actually little that differentiates the two.

One can only hope that the big folks at T-Series one day get the memo of how we live in 2023 and not in an India from the 80s, or just the simple fact that a song or a music video can just be that, there is absolutely no need of a 'plotline.' Nora does what she does well, dancing and over-acting, and Rajkummar Rao has also channeled his more melodramatic side in the music video. The lyrics and music are mediocre at best, but still somewhat better than those vapid Tanishk Bagchi remixes.

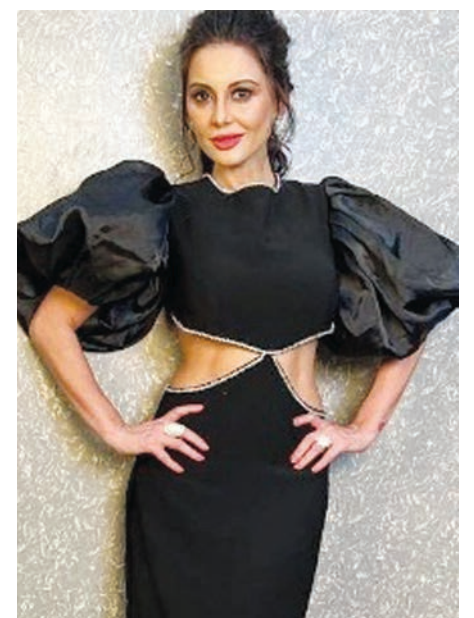


Minissha Lamba calls Sajid Khan 'creature' as she talks about Me Too movement

Actor Minissha Lamba in a new interview talked about the Me Too movement. Talking along the lines of the movement in India and elsewhere in the world, the actor called Sajid Khan a 'creature.' Sajid made his first television appearance on Bigg Boss season 14 after multiple women accused him of sexual harassment during the Me Too movement.

Minissha made her acting debut with Shoojit Sircar's Yahaan in 2005. She later appeared in films like Honeymoon Travels Pvt Ltd, Bachna Ae Haseeno, Kidnap and Bheja Fry 2. Minissha was also a part of the reality show Bigg Boss 8.

During a recent interview, Minissha was asked about the ongoing season of Bigg Boss, Sajid Khan and the Me Too movement. She said, "The Me Too movement is and has been so important in changing the conversation around the world about women. It was just a revolution that was on the brink that was waiting to happen. It just needed that one boiling point, that one



catastrophe to change the world and that is what revolutions are all about. Regarding the creature (Sajid Khan) you are talking about, the less about the person the better."

Sajid Khan took a voluntary exit from Bigg Boss 16 recently.



Selena Gomez has found love in *The Chainsmokers'* star Drew Taggart

Singer-actress Selena Gomez, who recently slammed netizens over body-shaming, is said to be enjoying time with *The Chainsmokers* star Drew Taggart. The couple is apparently not afraid to showcase their "casual" relationship.

The singer, 30, had recently joked she was in a 'thruple' with Nicola Peltz-Beckham and her hubby Brooklyn, but it appears she's now potentially found a man of her own!

The former Disney Channel star is said to be "so affectionate" with her fellow musician as the pair enjoy regular date nights. A source claimed, "Selena can hardly keep her hands off him...They are having a lot of fun together."

The news comes after Selena admitted she is 'a little big right now' in a response to fans who tried to body-shame her following her appearance on the red carpet for this year's Golden Globe Awards.

Jennifer Lopez's film *Shotgun Wedding* to premiere on Lionsgate Play

The much-anticipated rom-com *Shotgun Wedding* will premiere exclusively for Lionsgate Play members starting from January 27 exclusively on Lionsgate Play in India, via Prime Video Channels with add-on subscriptions. It stars Jennifer Lopez, Josh Duhamel, Jennifer Coolidge, Sonia Braga, Cheech Marin, Selena Tan, D'Arcy Carden, Callie Hernandez, Desmin Borges, Steve Coulter, Alberto Isaac and Lenny Kravitz. It is directed by Jason Moore and written by Mark Hammer.

In *Shotgun Wedding*, Darcy (Jennifer Lopez) and Tom (Josh Duhamel) gather their lovable-but-very-opinionated families for the ultimate destination wedding, just as the couple begins to get cold feet. And if that wasn't enough of a threat to the celebration, suddenly everyone's lives are in danger when the entire party is taken hostage and 'Till death do us part' takes on a whole new meaning in this hilarious, adrenaline-fueled adventure as Darcy and Tom must save their loved ones.

The story goes this way Darcy and Tom are about to get married on an island. Everything is done; the arrangements, dress, and guests everything is done. On the day of the wedding, the whole family and guests are captivated and everything is spoiled. Darcy and Tom somehow escape and now they have to rescue everybody along with their beautiful day. The movie goes on with lots of humor, drama, and action; with Jennifer Coolidge, the movie is going to be filled with laughing gigs.

Prime Video released the trailer for *Shotgun Wedding* in October. The trailer introduces us to the beautiful couple from the film, Darcy (Jennifer Lopez) and Tom (Josh Duhamel), who is about to have the island wedding of their dreams. Of course, no special day is complete without the couple's eccentric families, a handsome ex on the guest list, and cold feet, but it's probably just butterflies.



Channing Tatum to reprise Patrick Swayze's role in 'Ghost' remake

Actor Channing Tatum is ready to get into pottery-making after stripping onstage for his next movie. The actor, who is set to reprise his role as the titular character in *Magic Mike's Last Dance*, is keen on stepping into the shoes of the late Patrick Swayze in a *Ghost* remake.

The 42-year-old hunk revealed that he was developing a reboot of the 1990 romantic film. "Now I know why they put this in 'Ghost'. This whole process is very, very sexual," he said.

While Tatum has opened up about his desire to play Gambit and star in *Ghost*, he had some resentment about his role in the G.I. Joe film franchise. He admitted that he was initially reluctant to star in the first film, *G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra*, and subsequently asked that his character be killed off in the sequel, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* (2013).
Source: IANS



Kim Kardashian buys famous pendant worn by Princess Diana for \$200,000

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has bought a necklace once owned by Princess Diana for almost \$200,000.

The 42-year-old reality superstar has reportedly purchased the diamond-encrusted amethyst Attallah cross pendant once worn by the late royal, who died in a car crash in 1997 at the age of 36, for \$197,453 (160,000) at Sotheby's annual Royal and Noble auction, 'People' has confirmed.

In a statement, Sotheby London's Head of Jewellery, Kristian Spofforth, said: "This is a bold piece of jewellery by its size, colour, and style which cannot fail to make a vibrant statement, whether it be of faith or fashion -- or indeed both. We are delighted that this piece has found a new lease of life within the hands of another globally famous name."

The outlet went on to allege that "The Kardashians' star is "honoured to own a fine piece of jewellery owned by the late princess", who wore the necklace to a 1987 charity gala in London and matched it with a purple Victorian velvet gown which was designed by Catherine Walker.

A press release describing the pendant, which has not been seen in public since



before Diana's death, read: "The cross-shaped pendant, thought to be a one-off private commission by Garrard for one of their regular clients, is a bold and colourful piece set with square-cut amethysts and accented by circular-cut diamonds." "The cross has a total diamond weight of approximately 5.25 carats and measures approximately 136 x 95mm. It is understood that the cross was only ever worn by the princess, and following her death, it was never seen in public again until now."
Source: IANS

EX-PREZ MEDVEDEV WARNS OF N-WAR IF RUSSIA LOSES

JANUARY 19

MOSCOW (TIP): Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, an ally of Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin, warned NATO on January 19 that the defeat of Russia in Ukraine could trigger a nuclear war.

Striking a similar tone at what he described as an anxious time for the country, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church said trying to destroy Russia would mean the end of the world.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Medvedev has repeatedly raised the threat of a nuclear apocalypse, but his admission now of the possibility of Russia's defeat indicates the level of Moscow's concern over increased Western weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

"The defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war," Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Putin's powerful security council, said in a post on Telegram.

Medvedev said NATO and other defence leaders, due to meet at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Friday to talk about strategy and support for the West's attempt to defeat Russia in Ukraine, should think about the risks of their policy.

Meanwhile, European Union chairman Charles Michel met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in Kyiv on Thursday to discuss EU support for Ukraine as it fights a Russian invasion, as well as reforms needed for Ukraine to join the EU after the conflict ends.

Britain plans to send 600 Brimstone missiles to Ukraine to support the country in its fight against Russia, defence secretary Ben Wallace said on Thursday.

Putin casts Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine as an existential battle with an aggressive and arrogant West, and has said that Russia would use all available means to protect itself and its people from the prevailing western threat. — Reuters

UK PM RISHI SUNAK APOLOGISES FOR REMOVING CAR SEAT BELT

JANUARY 20

LONDON (TIP): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised for a "brief error of judgment" in removing his seat belt to film a social media video while driving to a destination in north-west England.

Sunak's Downing Street spokesperson on January 19 said he had only briefly removed his seat belt and admits he made a mistake.

In the UK, passengers caught failing to wear a seatbelt while in a car, unless covered by a valid medical exemption, can be given an on-the-spot fine of 100 pounds, increasing to 500 pounds if the case goes to court. (PTI)

UK PM Rishi Sunak defends PM Modi over BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots

JANUARY 19

LONDON (TIP): Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has come out in defence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after a controversial BBC documentary claimed that the British government was aware about the Indian leader having an alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Sunak said he does not agree with the characterisation of Prime Minister Modi by Pakistani-origin Imran Hussain, an Opposition Labour Party MP, when he asked if the British Premier agreed with claims in the BBC programme that some UK Foreign Office diplomats believed that "Modi was directly responsible".

During Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons on January 18, Hussain raised the claims made in the first part of 'India: The Modi Question' that UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) knew the "extent of Narendra Modi's involvement", then Gujarat Chief Minister, in the communal clashes that claimed hundreds of lives.

"The UK government's position on that is clear and long standing, and it has not changed," Sunak responded.

"Of course, we do not tolerate persecution anywhere, but I am not sure that I agree at all with the characterisation that the hon. gentleman has put forward," the British Prime Minister said.

The Indian government has, meanwhile, condemned the BBC Panorama programme, which has not been screened in India, as a "propaganda piece" with a questionable agenda behind



it.

"We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told reporters during a press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday when asked about the controversial series.

The first part of the two-part 'India: The Modi Question' programme, which aired on BBC Two on Tuesday, was categorised by the UK taxpayer-funded broadcaster as "a look at the tensions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and India's Muslim minority, investigating claims about his

role in 2002 riots that left over a thousand dead".

The second part of the series, scheduled to be aired next Tuesday, is pegged as a "look at the troubled relationship between Indian PM Narendra Modi's government and India's Muslim minority following his re-election in 2019".

"We strongly condemn the BBC's malicious documentary, 'India: The Modi Question', said Insight UK, among several diaspora groups who have taken to social media to condemn the documentary.

"Riddled with antisemitism, anti-Hindu and anti-India biases, they have lost many viewers and yet continue spreading their hate without consequence or accountability," it added. (PTI)

Usain Bolt's \$12 million is missing from his bank account: Lawyers

JANUARY 19

SAN JUAN (PUERTO RICO) (TIP): Lawyers for Usain Bolt, one of the world's greatest sprinters, said that more than USD 12.7 million is missing from his account with a private investment firm in Jamaica that authorities are investigating.

Attorney Linton P. Gordon on Wednesday provided The Associated Press with a copy of a letter sent to Stocks & Securities Limited demanding that the money be returned.

Gordon said Bolt's account once had USD 12.8 million but now reflects a balance of only USD 12,000.

"If this is correct, and we are hoping it is not, then a serious act of fraud larceny or a combination of both have been committed against our client," Bolt's attorneys say in the letter.

They threaten civil and criminal

action if the money is not returned within 10 days.

Stocks & Securities Limited did not immediately respond to a request for comment. On its website, the company asked that clients direct all urgent queries to Jamaica's Financial Services Commission, which is investigating the firm.

"We understand that clients are anxious to receive more information and assure you that we are closely monitoring the matter throughout all the required steps and will alert our clients of the resolution as soon as that information is available," the company said.

The company has said that it discovered the fraud earlier this month and that several of its clients may be missing millions of dollars.

Jamaica's finance minister, Nigel Clarke, called the situation alarming

but noted it was unusual.

"It is tempting to doubt our financial institutions, but I would ask that we don't paint an entire hard-working industry with the brush of a few very dishonest individuals," he said.

Bolt's lawyers sent the letter Monday, the same day that Jamaica's Financial Services Commission announced it was appointing a special auditor to look into fraud allegations at Stocks & Securities Limited, which is based in the capital of Kingston.

On Tuesday, financial authorities said they were assuming temporary management of the private investment firm. It is allowed to keep operating but needs approval from the government for any transactions.

Bolt, who retired in 2017, holds the world records for the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres. AP

Meteorites found in Antarctica, could hold answers to Earth's formation

JANUARY 19

ZURICH (IP): In a rare discovery that could hold answers to the Earth's formation, scientists have found meteorites from the depths of Antarctica Blue Ice, an area with strong winds where the glaciers get ablated, with one of them weighing 7.6 kg.

An international team of scientists went on a reconnaissance mission to Antarctica with the objective of finding new areas of meteorite accumulation around the Belgian Princess Elisabeth Antarctica (PEA) Station, according to a statement.

The exploration was from December 11, 2022 to January 11.

"Meteorites are rocks fallen from space as a shooting star. Previously, three successful Belgian-Japanese missions to the Nansen Blue Ice Field near the Belgian station in Antarctica collected more than 600 meteorites. Using satellite images and GPS coordinates, the team set out to discover the potential of several areas of interest by searching them for meteorites," said professor Maria Schoenbaechler, department of earth sciences at ETH-Zurich in Switzerland, told PTI.

The blue ice zone of Nils Larsen, about 60 km from the station, has been recognised as an accumulation zone worthy of revisiting, the statement said.

"But above all, the team returns with a very nice surprise in its luggage: a 7.6 kg meteorite! Such big meteorites are very rare in Antarctica," it said.

"At the moment it looks like an ordinary chondrite. This type of meteorite comes



from the asteroid belt and ended its travel in the Antarctic blue ice, waiting several tens of thousands of years in the ice before discovery.

"It belongs to the oldest material that can be found on Earth and is similar to the building block of the Earth," said Schoenbaechler.

So, what does this mean for the Earth science research? "This means we can study planet Earth's formation with this type of meteorite," said Schoenbaechler.

The meteorites were found on the blue ice or in the moraines. The scientists documented them without touching them and packed them directly into plastic bags or aluminium foil to avoid contamination, she said in an email.

Differentiating between meteors and meteorites, Schoenbaechler said, "The rocks, which we found, are called meteorites. The shooting star is the trail which it generates while falling onto the Earth and is called a meteor."

When asked how the meteorites were identified as such, she said, "The meteorites were first identified by looking at them -- our big meteorite has a very typical dark fusion crust, which is formed during the fall of the rock onto earth.

"This generates a shooting star (meteor), in which the upmost surface of the rock is heated by aerodynamical friction and melted. We also used a handheld tool to test the magnetic properties of the rock." (PTI)



China's 1st population dip in 6 decades

JANUARY 17

BEIJING (TIP): China's demographic crisis deepened in 2022 as its population declined for the first time since 1961 due to a plunging birth rate, the country's statistics office said on January 17, amid a forecast that India is poised to overtake the Communist giant as the world's most populous country.

According to a recent report by the World Population Prospects 2022 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.

According to the report, India is projected to have a population of 1.668 billion in 2050, more than China's 1.317 billion by the middle of this century.

"China and India are countries with a big population and the two countries should take advantage of their population dividend to develop each other's respective national development and make greater contributions to the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

According to the NBS, China registered about 9.56 million new-borns last year, down from 10.62 million in 2021. China's birth rate stood at 6.77 births per 1,000 people in 2022, down from 7.52 in 2021, it said.

The death rate nationwide stood at 7.37 per 1,000 people last year, putting the natural growth rate at negative 0.6 per 1,000 people. The last time China reported a population decline was in 1961.

China's concern is not simply a declining population, which was accentuated by the decades-old 'one child policy', scrapped in 2016, but also a rapidly ageing population. As per the revised policy, Chinese people can now have up to three children. China conducts a nationwide population census every decade, with the latest being done in 2020.

China's total population size peaked in 2022. (PTI)

Qantas flight lands safely at Sydney airport after issuing distress signal

JANUARY 18

SYDNEY (TIP): A Qantas Airways flight from New Zealand landed safely at Sydney airport on January 18 after the airline said it had issued a distress signal due to an issue with one of its engines.

The Boeing 737-800 jet from Auckland had an in-flight engine shutdown and issued a "mayday" call while flying over water an hour from its destination of Sydney, a Qantas spokesperson said in a statement.

The mayday signal, which indicates grave and imminent danger, was downgraded to "Possible Assistance Needed" before landing, the spokesperson added.



All 145 passengers disembarked normally when the plane landed in Sydney around 3.30pm local time (0430 GMT).

"While in-flight engine shutdowns are

rare, and would naturally be concerning for passengers, our pilots are trained to manage them safely and aircraft are designed to fly for an extended period on one engine," the airline said.

Passengers told local media they heard a loud bang mid-flight but had not realised there was a problem until the pilot made an announcement on landing.

"I turned on my phone and my wife had called me 18 times, 'Have you landed, have you landed?'" an

unnamed passenger told reporters at the airport.

Qantas said it would share more information once engineers had finished inspecting the aircraft. (Reuters)

PROTESTS IN POK AS LOCALS GRAPPLE WITH FLOUR CRISIS

JANUARY 17

MUZAFFARABAD (POK) (TIP): Frustrated residents in the illegally-occupied region of Muzaffarabad staged a protest against the spike in the prices of flour, according to a Pakistan media report.

Trade associations and other groups have warned the government if the prices do not come down, they will launch a movement after January 19, it said. The flour dealers have rejected the government's plan to form municipal committees to control the supplies.

PAKISTAN IS FACING ITS WORST-EVER FLOUR CRISIS, WITH PARTS OF THE COUNTRY REPORTING A SHORTAGE OF WHEAT AND STAMPEDES REPORTED FROM SEVERAL AREAS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, SINDH AND BALOCHISTAN PROVINCES. TENS OF THOUSANDS SPEND HOURS DAILY TO GET THE SUBSIDISED BAGS OF FLOUR THAT ARE ALREADY IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE MARKET, ACCORDING TO ANOTHER REPORT.

The residents also suffered an electricity shortage. People in Muzaffarabad took to the streets to protest against increasing load-shedding hours. In Hanza, residents and trade unions were protesting against no electricity, no water, no doctors in hospitals and no medicines in the area. (ANI)

TALIBAN PUBLICLY FLOG 9 FOR ROBBERY

JANUARY 18

KANDAHAR (TIP): The Taliban on February 18 publicly flogged nine convicted of robbery and "sodomy" in Ahmad Shahi Stadium in Kandahar. "The Supreme Court said in a statement that nine people were punished in Ahmad Shahi Stadium in Kandahar on Tuesday on charges of robbery and "sodomy", tweeted Tolo News.

Local authorities and Kandahar residents were in attendance during the lashing. The convicts were reportedly lashed 35-39 times.

Meanwhile, former Policy Advisor to Minister for Afghan Resettlement & Minister for Refugees in the UK, Shabnam Nasimi said that the Taliban have reportedly cut off the hands of four persons accused of theft in a football stadium in Kandahar.

Despite international condemnation, the Taliban has resumed flogging and public execution of criminals. — ANI

French expert team begins probe into Yeti Airlines plane crash in Nepal's Pokhara

JANUARY 18

KATHMANDU (TIP): A team of experts from France, which is in Nepal to help the government investigate the crash of Yeti Airlines' aircraft with 72 people on board, on January 18 began its probe and visited the accident site in the resort city of Pokhara, officials said.

The nine-member team is enquiring with the airlines' staff and concerned authorities in Pokhara to understand details of the ATR-72 aircraft crash, which has left 71 people dead, including five Indians, according to the Yeti Airlines official.

The aircraft that took off from Kathmandu at 10:30 am crashed into Seti river gorge on Sunday, killing all 4 crew members and 68 passengers. One person on board the aircraft is still missing.

The Nepal government has formed a five-member probe committee to investigate the crash. The probe panel headed by former aviation secretary Nagendra Ghimire has been asked to investigate the accident and submit its report within 45 days.

The ATR-72 is a twin-engine turboprop, short-haul regional airliner developed in France and Italy by aircraft manufacturer ATR, which is a joint venture between French aerospace company Aerospatiale and Italian aviation conglomerate Aeritalia.

Meanwhile, the Nepali Army team continued search operations in the Seti gorge to look for the remains of the



aircraft, an Army personnel said.

As one more dead body was on Wednesday brought to Kathmandu from the air crash site, the medical team performed postmortem on 49 other corpses.

Twenty-two bodies of Nepali nationals have already been handed over to their relatives by the Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences, where the doctors completed the postmortem on Tuesday.

Many bodies are burnt or split in parts, thus making it challenging to identify.

The bodies went through DNA tests after postmortem before they were

handed over to their family members, Yeti Airlines spokesperson Sudarshan Bartaula said.

The DNA identification formality has thus caused a delay in handing over the dead bodies to the family members, who have been complaining about the lengthy procedure.

According to Nepal's civil aviation body, 914 people have died in air crashes in the country since the first disaster was recorded in August 1955.

The Yeti Airlines tragedy in Pokhara on Sunday is the 104th crash in Nepali skies and the third biggest in terms of casualties. (PTI)

3 cops die in TTP militants attack on police station in Pakistan

JANUARY 14

PESHAWAR (TIP): Some six to seven militants attacked Sarband police station bordering Khyber tribal district with hand grenades, automatic weapons and sniper shots and three policemen were killed in the cross-firing, SSP Operation Peshawar Kashif Abbasi said.

THE TEHRİK-I-TALIBAN PAKISTAN (TTP) TERROR GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK.

THE THREE SLAIN POLICEMEN INCLUDE THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SARDAR HUSSAIN AND TWO CONSTABLES.

Kher Pakhtunkhwa Police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari said the policemen successfully foiled the terrorist attack on the station and



fought valiantly.

The DSP was injured in the firing while entering the building. He succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Mehmud Khan condemned the incident and said sacrifices of the police in the war against terror will not go to waste.

A search operation to locate the

attackers is underway.

In a statement, Muhammad Khurassani pokesman for TTP said their Mujahideen attacked two police posts in Peshawar last night with laser guns.

The TTP claimed killing four policemen, including a DSP rank police officer, and injuring three in the attack, along with seizing two Kalashnikovs, two magazines and Rs 47,000.

In another statement, its spokesman also claimed responsibility for the attack on a joint security checkpoint of police and CTD in tehsil Tunsar Sharif of Dera Ghazi Khan district Southern Punjab, killing two cops.

TTP, commonly known as the Pakistani Taliban, is an umbrella organisation of various Islamist armed militant groups operating along the Afghan-Pakistani border. Formed in 2007, the group shares a common ideology with the Afghan Taliban and assisted them in the 2001-2021 war. (PTI)

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Anti-ageing myths we need to stop believing

Green juices are blood cleansers that can help your face glow and having a certain quantity of water will help you attain clean skin are some of the anti-ageing myths that people are following blindly.

Make-up experts debunk some of the anti-ageing myths.

- A daily green juice is essential to get glowing skin: Green juices are blood cleansers which help in giving glowing and radiant skin. It is one of the best things to follow in a beauty regime to help your skin look youthful, but it is not necessarily the only thing one has to do get glowing skin. CTM (Cleansing, toning, moisturising) routine, using a sunscreen, exercising, having a balanced diet are essential too. It is about the complete lifestyle and not one particular habit.
- Water is the fountain of youth and three litres is essential for everyone: Water helps keep your body and skin hydrated and helps release toxins in your body. Having three litres of water is good for us but then again it's more than just consuming water that our body needs.
- A moisturiser will help eliminate all wrinkles: A moisturiser helps hydrate your skin from the outside. A nourished skin works longer to keep skin youthful, but to reduce appearance of wrinkles one needs the correct day or night creams, serums, oils in terms of cosmetics and a healthy lifestyle.
- You should start using anti-ageing products as a teen: One should start anti-ageing products as you see the signs. First signs being dull and dehydrated skin which results in loss of elasticity or wrinkles. Ideally, the age when one sees the need to use anti-ageing products is 30+, but then it may vary by skin type and lifestyles of people.
- You don't need sunscreen when it's cloudy: One needs to wear sunscreen when there is light, i.e. day time, because UV rays are present when there's day light/sun light even if it's cloudy.
- Ageing is linked to our genes: Not necessarily, if your parents/grand parents lead a healthy lifestyle and you do not, your skin age will be different than theirs. Climate, pollution, stress,



skin care, lifestyle are the factors governing your skin age.

- The more expensive a product, the better the results: Not necessarily, stress more on the ingredients and quality than the price range. Sometimes expensive products have rich ingredients which might be the reason for its higher price, but not always.
- Frowning or smiling gives you wrinkles: Frowning and Smiling are just facial exercises, in no way can they give someone wrinkles. Being stressed, smoking, dry skin, dehydration can be some of the reasons that can give you wrinkles.
- Your diet is the cause of how much you age: Your overall lifestyle, including your diet of course, but also exercising, stress, etc., are responsible
- Makeup with SPF is as good as a sunscreen: Makeup with sunscreen is a good alternative to using too many products and layering it up. It is good to keep your skin light and protected but can't be as powerful as an individual sunscreen.

Source: IANS

FOOD

Punjabi Creamy Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 1 kilograms washed & dried chicken boneless
- 2 finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder
- 1 tablespoon dried fenugreek leaves
- 2 sprigs crushed lightly mint
- 100 gm fresh cream
- 1/4 tablespoon ginger
- 2 green chilli
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sliced & slit almonds

Method

To make this Creamy Chicken, first put a pan on medium flame and heat a little oil in it. Put ginger, garlic and green chillies in it and saute till they become golden brown. Then add chopped onions to it and saute till they turn light brown.

Now add the washed chicken and cook for around 10 minutes.

Add salt, black pepper powder and garam masala into the chicken, and cook till chicken turns golden and is cooked.

If you think your chicken is ready and tender, go ahead and add the fresh cream. Mix well, cover and cook for around 6-10 minutes. When it's almost cooked, add kasoori methi powder and cover it for about 2 more minutes.

Your Creamy Chicken is prepared. Garnish it with almonds and lightly crushed mint leaves. Serve it hot with butter naan or stuffed naan along with raita of your choice!



Add volume and thickness to fine hair

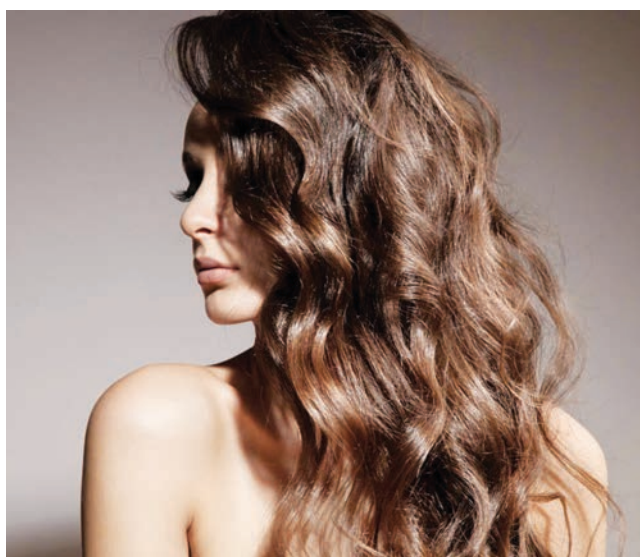
Losing your hair might cause you to lose confidence and cause emotional stress. There are several reasons why you can be dealing with a receding hairline; history of the family, stress, inadequate nutrition, too much perspiration, illness, age, treatments or medications, and changes in hormones.

Some of the reasons are difficult to deal with but mostly a lot are under our control and can be reversed to a lot of extents. There are a lot of medical treatments available in the market that you can try but why go for extreme steps when you can try natural ways of treating your problem?

Hair Growth Tips

Having the right diet that promotes hair growth, you should also create a healthy meal plan with a dietician if you're experiencing hair loss, especially one that is high in protein and iron. Consuming a quality multi-vitamin daily will help keep your nutrition levels in check, which will in turn promote hair growth. Including fish, meat, and pulses in your diet can bring a lot of changes

There is nothing that a good oil massage can't cure. We have heard of a variety of oils to promote hair growth but Bhringraj oil isn't the kind that you hear about every day, it is quite popular in Ayurveda therapy



as well as medical science. This oil really has the best reputation for all that it can do for your hair. The oil overall helps to treat dandruff and dry scalp, reduce hair fall, increase blood circulation, add sheen, promote hair growth, and even prevent premature greying. You can simply warm it up, apply it on your scalp and roots

thoroughly and keep it on for 30 minutes before rinsing it off

Over-treated hair can lead to hair loss due to the toxic chemicals found in dyes and styling products. Choose your hair styling products wisely. Research and consult the specialist to choose the right product. Take extra care of your hair in winter, and use homemade hair masks by mixing a banana with milk or cream to moisturise your hair and prevent breakage

Amla, the Indian gooseberry is a treasure trove of benefits for health and beauty. To combat thinning hair, use dry gooseberry powder to shampoo your hair. You may alternatively use it as a hair tonic to make the most of the amla benefits for hair

Aloe vera has long been used for treating hair loss and hair thinning. It also soothes the scalp and conditions hair. It can reduce dandruff and unblock hair follicles that may be blocked by excess oil. You can apply pure aloe vera gel to your scalp and hair a few times per week. You can also use shampoo and conditioner that contain aloe vera.

Onion juice has been to promote hair growth and successfully treat patchy alopecia areata -- an autoimmune condition in which the body attacks the hair follicles and causes hair loss on various parts of the body. Onion juice is also thought to improve circulation.

Source: India.com

Factors that might increase risk of getting heart attack

Cholesterol

Uncontrollable variables can alter blood cholesterol levels, however, there are measures you can undertake to ensure that your cholesterol level is healthy. If necessary, ask your doctor for assistance on how to lower your cholesterol. Increasing your consumption of dietary fibre, choosing nutritious, low-fat foods, and engaging in regular exercise can all help lower your cholesterol.

Diabetes

Diabetes can harm your heart, particularly if it is not under control. Over the age of 65, heart disease claims over 68% of the lives of diabetics. To better control, your blood sugar levels, adhere to your doctor's treatment plan and make the necessary lifestyle adjustments.

Hypertension

One very prevalent risk factor for heart disease is high blood pressure. Your heart has to work harder when your blood pressure is up. Heart attacks may result from this stiffening of the heart muscle. Find out what you can do to lower your blood pressure by speaking with your doctor. Your blood pressure may decrease with appropriate exercise, a low-salt and low-fat diet, moderate alcohol consumption, a healthy weight, and stress management.

Obesity

Increased cholesterol, blood pressure, and heart attack risk are all associated with excess body fat. To reach and stay at a healthy weight, one must follow a balanced diet and engage in appropriate activity. Consult your doctor to find a weight-loss solution if you are having problems losing weight.

Smoking

Smoking is to blame for one in every five heart attack deaths. Your chance of suffering a heart attack can increase by two to four times if you smoke cigarettes. Smoking reduces the quantity of oxygen that gets to



your heart, raises blood pressure, harms blood vessels, and increases the risk of blood clots, therefore the risk is higher for smokers. If you currently smoke, there is still time for you to quit and lower your chance of developing heart disease.

Insufficient exercise

Coronary heart disease is at risk due to an inactive lifestyle. Regular moderate to strenuous exercise can lower your chance of developing cardiovascular disease. Obesity, diabetes, and blood cholesterol can all be managed with physical activity. For certain people, it can also help reduce blood pressure. Adults should aim for 75 minutes of strenuous activity (such as jogging) or at least 150 minutes of moderate activity (such as brisk walking) per week, or a combination of the two.

Stress

A heart attack risk factor is a poor reaction to stress. Test out various stress-reduction strategies to see which ones are most effective for you. Participating in yoga, doing breathing exercises, and using better time management are some strategies for reducing stress.

Source: NDTV

COPD patients are 61% more likely to die within a year after major surgery

According to a recent study published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who undergo major surgery are more likely to die in the year following surgery and have greater health-care expenses than equivalent patients without COPD.

"Because patients with COPD are often frail and have many health problems, their management around the time of surgery should address not only COPD but all their health issues," says Dr. Ashwin Sankar, an anesthesiologist at St. Michael's Hospital, a site of Unity Health Toronto, and the University of Toronto.

The study included 932 616 patients aged 35 years and older in Ontario who underwent major surgery, including total hip or knee replacement, gastrointestinal surgery, vascular surgery and other elective noncardiac surgeries. Of all patients, about 1 in 5 (170 482) had COPD. Patients with COPD were older, and more likely to be male, frail, have lower income and have pre-existing conditions such as coronary artery disease, diabetes and lung cancers. Researchers found that compared with demographically similar patients without COPD undergoing similar surgery, people with COPD had a 61% increased risk of dying and a 13% increase in health care costs in the year after surgery. These increased risks and costs were evident long after the immediate 30-day postoperative period.

"Patients with COPD typically have concurrent comorbidity, biopsychosocial issues and frailty," write



the authors. "Our findings highlight the importance of careful risk prediction and decision-making for patients with COPD who are considering surgery."

They hope that their findings of increased health care costs will help with system-level planning by policy-makers and hospital administrators to better respond to the postsurgical needs of people with COPD.

Source: ANI

'Isolate for 10 days': WHO issues fresh Covid-19 guidelines

Covid-19 continues to spread en masse in several countries across the globe. While the scare of another probably pandemic wave has not died down, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued new guidelines with respect to people who get infected by the deadly virus.

WHO informed that they have updated its guidelines on 'mask wearing in community settings, Covid-19 treatments, and clinical management.'

Amid spread of newer variants of Covid-19, WHO has urged everyone to continue wearing masks and take the booster doses of vaccine in order to curb the spread of the virus.

Here is a detailed look at WHO's updated guidelines

ISOLATION PERIOD

- WHO has said that if Covid-19 patients are displaying symptoms of the virus they will have to be isolated for at least 10 days from the date of onset of the symptoms
- Earlier WHO's guidelines had stated that Covid-19 patients who displayed symptoms of Covid-19 be discharged after 10 days of onset of symptoms, along with a vigilance of at least 3 days after the symptoms have disappeared
- WHO has mentioned that if a Covid patient tests negative with an antigen-based rapid test, they can be discharged early from isolation
- Asymptomatic Covid patients or individuals who have tested positive for the virus, but do not experience any symptoms, should be isolated for 5 days, WHO mentions in their updated guidelines
- Earlier the isolation period for these patients was ten days

WEARING MASKS

The WHO recommends the use of masks 'irrespective of the local epidemiological situation, given the current spread of the Covid-19 globally.'

- WHO says wearing a mask in public spaces is still key against the prevention of the deadly virus
- In their statements, WHO recommended the use of masks 'irrespective of the local epidemiological situation, given the current spread of the Covid-19 globally.'
- WHO also says that one should wear masks in the following situation
- If one has recently been exposed to Covid-19
- When someone has or suspects they have Covid-19
- When someone is at high-risk of severe Covid-19
- Anyone in a crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated space

TREATMENT OF COVID-19

- WHO has extended its strong recommendation for the use of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir
- WHO also reviewed the evidence on two other medicines, sotrovimab and casirivimab-imdevimab, and maintains strong recommendations against their use for treating COVID-19

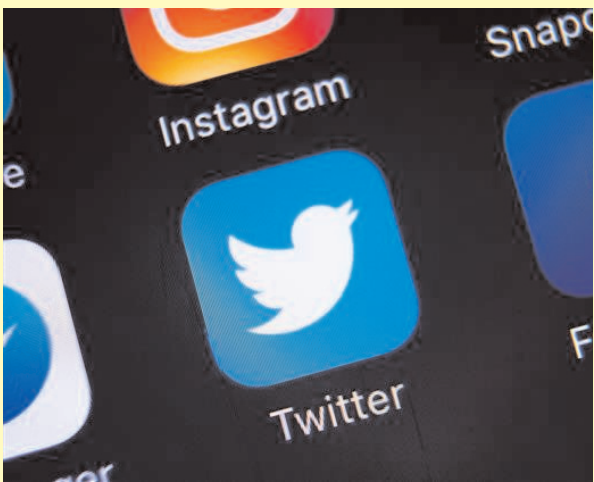
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Twitter set to launch 'verification for organisations' feature

Elon Musk-owned Twitter has announced to soon launch the 'Verification for Organisations' feature which was earlier called 'Blue for Business.' The company said that it will review applications and allow a limited set of organisations to use the feature.

"We will soon launch Verification for Organisations, formerly known as Blue for Business. You can apply for early access via our waitlist," Twitter posted.

As a subscriber, you and your business will receive business accounts and affiliation badges through our self-serve administrative portal, according to the company.

"We'll be reviewing applications and opening up access to a limited group on a rolling basis in the coming weeks," said the micro-blogging platform.

The company is frantically trying to monetise its platform via various means.

Since Musk's takeover, the billionaire has been aiming to boost the company's revenue, including charging money for its \$8 Blue subscription service with verification.

Twitter will soon start selling usernames via online actions that have remained inactive in order to boost its revenues.

It is unclear how much Twitter will charge for selling inactive usernames.

Several advertisers have left the micro-blogging platform, as the company cuts internal revenue projections.

Meanwhile, Musk said that Twitter will soon publish tweet recommendation code and make account/tweet status visible "no later than next month".

Source: IANS

Apple iOS 16.3 update releasing next week with new features

Apple is set to release the latest iOS 16.3 update for iPhone users next week. The new update is coming with a major security feature for global users. It includes end-to-end encryption for many additional iCloud data categories, including Photos, Notes, Voice Memos, Messages backups, device backups and more.

The latest iOS 16.3 update also includes a few other changes and features - Security Keys for Apple ID, Advanced Data Protection, support for the new second-generation HomePod, a new Unity wallpaper and more.

With Security Keys for Apple ID feature, You can now use a physical hardware security key to serve as the second layer of authentication for your Apple ID, 9to5mac reported. Also, iPhone will now wait until you release the buttons to call emergency services, even after the countdown.

Apple iOS 16.3 Update: Advanced Data Protection On iCloud

iCloud Advanced Data Protection feature was rolled out at the end of last year with iOS 16.2 in the United States. Now, Apple is expanding this feature beyond the United States. Starting with iOS 16.3, the security feature will be available globally.

As per the report, all users will be able to activate iCloud Advanced Data Protection, an end-to-end encryption feature for almost all data stored in iCloud, including messages, photos, and device backups. iCloud already provides end-to-end encryption for 14 data categories without Advanced Data Protection turned on. Now, Advanced Data Protection expands this protection to the vast majority of iCloud categories, with major exceptions including the Mail, Contacts, and Calendar apps.

How To Enable iCloud Advanced Data Protection



If you want to enable iCloud Advanced Data Protection, open Settings -> [your name] -> iCloud -> Advanced Data Protection and follow the steps to turn it on.

Apple is also fixing the big display issue on iPhone 14 Pro Max with the iOS 16.3. The company recently acknowledged the issue in an internal memo last week and said a fix was incoming. As per MacRumors, the bug fix indicates it's a software issue, rather than a hardware defect.

Only iPhone 15 Pro Max May Come With Periscope Camera Lens

The US-based tech giant Apple is likely planning to bring the periscope camera lens system to the iPhone 15 Pro Max models only. According to a new report, the Pro Max variant will be the sole Apple smartphone of 2023 to get a periscope camera. A periscope lens offers optical zoom capabilities.

Apple intends a 'Folded Zoom' periscope telephoto lens to be an exclusive feature in the iPhone 15 Pro Max this year, The Elec, a South Korean publication, reported. The report corroborates the earlier predictions by the analyst Ming

Chi-Kuo who had previously suggested that the periscope camera would remain exclusive to the bigger of the two Pro iPhone models this year. The US-based tech giant is tapping new suppliers for the OIS actuators that will be used in the periscope lens destined for this year's iPhone 15 Pro Max. The brand will rely on Korean companies LG Innotek and Jahwa Electronics to supply the actuators. The report also claimed that Apple will then make the periscope lens system a feature of both iPhone 16 Pro models in 2024.

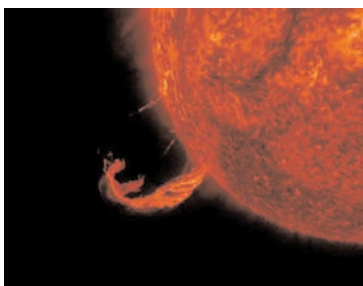
In a periscope system, light entering the telephoto lens is reflected by an angled mirror towards the camera's image sensor. The change in direction in which the light travels allows for a longer "folded" telephoto setup inside phones, enabling users to zoom in further without any blurriness.

Reports have suggested that there will be increased differentiation between the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro. Bloomberg's Mark Gurman has said the iPhone 15 Pro Max could potentially be renamed the iPhone 15 Ultra, like the Apple Watch Ultra.

Source: News18

Scientists find clues that could help predict next violent explosion on the Sun

The Sun exploded with a partial halo Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on January 14 and it hit Earth on January 17, causing an abrupt shift in the Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF) near Earth. While it only sparked auroras, stronger eruptions on the Sun have the tendency to damage electronic grids and satellites, and even cause power outages.



the Sun are more likely to produce energetic bursts of light and particles known as solar flares. The team from NorthWest Research Associates found the corona produced small-scale flashes above the regions about to flare. These were like small sparklers before the big explosion.

"We can get some very different information in the corona than we get from the photosphere, or 'surface' of the Sun. Our results may give us a new marker to distinguish which active regions are likely to flare soon and which will stay quiet over an upcoming period of time" KD Leka, lead author on the new study who is also a designated foreign professor at Nagoya University in Japan, said in a statement.

Scientists are now a step closer to predicting when and where the next eruption of the Sun will happen. They have found new clues in the blazing upper atmosphere of the Sun that could help solve the riddle. They have identified small signals in the upper layers of the solar atmosphere, the corona.

These signals can help identify which regions of

WhatsApp to let you set voice messages as status

WhatsApp keeps testing a lot of features and a new one has now been spotted in the beta version of the app. The platform is testing a Voice Status update, which sounds pretty cool because WhatsApp currently lets you send voice messages to regular chats. The feature is pretty self-explanatory. It lets you share a voice note as status update. Here is everything we know about the latest update on WhatsApp. WaBetaInfo has spotted the new feature in 2.22.21.5 Android beta update, and eligible users will see it in the text status section of the app.

The messaging app even lets you configure who all can check out your Voice Status update. People will also get control over their voice recordings as the app will also give the ability to discard a recording before making it public. It is unknown whether the play pause process will be as seamless as the one WhatsApp offers for regular chats. The app automatically saves your voice messages even if you close WhatsApp while recording something and lets you continue recording the messaging where you left.



Adani Enterprises submits papers for Rs 20,000-cr FPO

Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) has filed an offer letter with stock exchanges for a Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offer (FPO) which will open on January 27 and close on January 31. Anchor investors can bid on January 25.

Of the expected Rs 20,000 crore proceeds from the FPO, almost half or Rs 10,869 crore will be used for green hydrogen projects, work at the existing airports and construction of a greenfield expressway. Another Rs 4,165 crore will go towards repayment of debt taken by Adani Airport Holdings, Adani Road Transport and Mundra Solar. The company has a debt portfolio of Rs 40,023.50 crore as of September 30, 2022. AEL operates seven airports. It is also developing infrastructure projects such as roads. AEL plans to invest over Rs 4 lakh crore in the green hydrogen ecosystem for the production of green hydrogen. It also plans to expand the solar module manufacturing capacity at Mundra SEZ to up to 10 GW per annum.

Budget 2023: India's buzzing economic activity belies fears of slowdown

India's economy picked up speed in December as business conditions improved, marking a rebound for the South Asian nation that had showed signs of a slowdown the preceding month.

The needle indicating so-called animal spirits moved right after holding steady for five straight months - indicating stronger overall economic activity as 2022 drew to a close. Consumer spending boosted tax collection and manufacturers signaled optimism about the future, while services sector saw expansion of new businesses.

The reading comes ahead of the unveiling of India's budget on Feb. 1, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to highlight India's potential to grow at a world-beating pace in the year beginning April. The performance of Asia's third-largest economy contrasts with that of many developed nations, which face recessions this year.

India still has some vulnerabilities on the path ahead. Exports contracted in two of the past three months, leaving several companies struggling to secure new work from key overseas markets. Prices of finished products rose as firms passed on higher input costs and business expenses. Among the eight indicators tracked by Bloomberg, India's unemployment inched up and banks witnessed lower demand for credit.

Bloomberg's animal spirits barometer uses a three-month weighted average to smooth out volatility in single-month readings. Below are more details:

Business Activity

A purchasing managers' survey reflected robust activity in both manufacturing and services in December. The composite index climbed to an 11-year high. Output rose sharply. New orders in manufacturing also climbed the fastest since February 2021, while services firms saw new businesses increasing for the seventeenth straight month in December.



"While some may question the resilience of the Indian manufacturing industry in 2023 amid a deteriorating outlook for the global economy, manufacturers were strongly confident in their ability to lift production," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Exports

Exports fell 12.2% in December compared to a year ago, but at \$34.5 billion were still at a three-month high in value terms, data released by the trade ministry showed. Exports remain competitive despite global headwinds, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said. Imports fell 3.46% from the previous year, narrowing the trade gap for the second month to \$23.76 billion. Moderating commodity prices and a broader weakening of the dollar have helped lower India's import bill, but a continued weakness in exports could hinder recovery from a record-high current account gap seen during the July-September quarter.

Source: Bloomberg

China's GDP growth falls to 3% in 2022, second lowest growth in 50 years

BEIJING (TIP)

Hit hard by the zero-Covid policy and slump in the real estate market, China's economy shrank to three per cent in 2022, registering its second lowest growth rate in 50 years in the world's second-largest economy, according to official data.

The annual GDP of China totalled 21.02 trillion yuan (USD 17.94 trillion) in 2022, falling below the 5.5 per cent official target, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

The slow pace was blamed mainly on the strictly implemented zero-Covid policy leading to periodic lockdowns and the ruling Communist Party's crackdown on big industrial firms besides the lingering real estate crisis.

This is the slowest growth of the Chinese economy since the 2.3 per cent registered in GDP in 1974.

Significantly this year, China's GDP in terms of dollars declined from USD 18 trillion in 2021 to USD 17.94 trillion last year mainly due to a sharp rise of the dollar against RMB (the Chinese currency) in 2022.

In RMB terms, the Chinese economy last year posted 121.02 trillion yuan against the 2021 figure of 114.37 trillion yuan.

The GDP growth in the fourth quarter was 2.9 per cent year-on-year, compared with 3.9 per cent in the third quarter as it was hit hard by recurring covid lockdowns of various urban centres, including the top industrial and

business hubs like Shanghai.

Industrial output, an important economic indicator, expanded by 3.6 per cent year-on-year in 2022 and 1.3 per cent in December.

China's fixed-asset investment went up 5.1 per cent in 2022.

The NBS said "despite the overall stable economic performance", the foundation for economic recovery remains "unstable".

The country will comprehensively deepen reform and opening-up and focus on strengthening market confidence to promote improvements of the economy to revive the economy, it said.

Last year's annual GDP growth of 3 per cent marked a slowdown from 8.4 per cent in 2021, a sharp decline blamed on a host of factors mainly China shutting itself from the outside world due to zero Covid policy.

China had set a modest economic growth target of around 5.5 per cent for last year, but it remained unattainable due to the impact of the coronavirus.

The urban surveyed jobless rate, meanwhile, stood at 5.5 per cent in December, down from 5.7 per cent in November amid reports that one among five persons in China was unemployed.

But according to NBS data, China's job market remained generally stable in 2022.

A total of 12.06 million new urban jobs were created last year, exceeding the annual target of 11 million, the data showed.

Source: Agencies

Microsoft to lay off nearly 11,000 employees this week: Report

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP)

Tech giant Microsoft is joining the ongoing layoff season at tech companies, and is reportedly set to fire nearly 11,000 employees this week amid the global economic slowdown.

Sky News reported that Satya Nadella-run company is "finalising plans to become the latest technology giant to reduce its workforce during a global economic slowdown".

Microsoft employs more than 2,20,000 people, including 6,000 in the UK.

The company's contemplating reducing roughly 5 per cent of its workforce, "which, if

accurate, would equate to approximately 11,000 jobs".

The company will likely announce layoffs on Wednesday (US time), ahead of its quarterly earnings next week.

Nadella recently warned of two years of challenges ahead for the tech industry.

In an interview with CNBC, he admitted Microsoft wasn't "immune to the global changes".

"The next two years are probably going to be the most challenging," said Nadella.

In recent weeks, a slew of large tech companies have laid off employees, with Amazon slashing 18,000 jobs.

Salesforce, the cloud software provider, would cut more than 7,000 jobs.

More than 1,600 tech employees are being laid off per day on average in 2023 globally including in India, and the sacking episodes have gained speed amid global economic meltdown and recession fears.

The year 2023 has begun on a bad note for tech workers globally and 91 companies have laid off more than 24,000 tech employees in the first 15 days this month, signalling worse days ahead.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JANUARY 23 TO JANUARY 29, 2023

**Aries**

Ganesha says, Tension will abandon your edge this week. My dear Aries people. Your latent vitality will be revived and used effectively. People who will eventually aid in your growth will be drawn to you by your magnetism. Owing to Ketu's improper impact, you will need to be extremely selective and cautious about your actions and language this week when speaking to your spouse. This week, try to keep your wellness in good shape by keeping your kids out of risky activities.

**Taurus**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll concentrate more on oneself. You'll discover who you truly are. Your nature of getting anxious over petty issues will go, and this week, you'll surely begin afresh. Take advantage of the week. You'll always have needless worries hanging over your shoulders when you're in the thick of something. This week, you'll be able to read between the words in your connection because of your innate sense. You'll discover what a jewel of a person your mate really is. This week, matrimonial facades appear to be fine. You must take care of your wellness, particularly if you have a vital signs problem.

**Gemini**

Ganesha says, let your confidence lead you this week. This week, you're eager to rise off the couch. Your goals are more likely to be realized this week. Start taking it leisurely will be the catchphrase for this week. This week, you'll have self-aware ideas that will make you less mindful. With the aid of a particular individual who always supports you, you will recover from your tension and worry this week. Your attitude around that individual will alter for the better. Your wellness will also become better this week, and it will be the highlight of the week.

**Cancer**

Ganesha says, you'll focus on organizational and learning this week. You'll prioritize keeping the harmony over all altogether. Additionally, you'll take a more proactive role in several of the previous goals you established. This week don't worry; simply go with the breeze. This week, you'll devote more energy appreciating minor triumphs, which will make it difficult for you to concentrate on the big vision. This week, you and your companion will both need counselling and your connection will require care from an outsider. Try to see things from a different person's viewpoint and refrain from becoming angry about anything. This week, you'll also be required to take care of your wellness.

**Leo**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll see an increase in warmth and happiness. You won't relate pleasure to a particular person or thing anymore. You will make excellent use of your newly discovered confidence, Leo. You'll be hampered this week by a household member's stereotypical perspective. Ensure sure your household understands the importance of your achievements. Owing to lower emotions in the 8th house, neither you nor your spouse will be unable to resolve the conflicts you have been experiencing this week. This week, your fitness will be excellent, but at the end of the week, you could still experience a bit uncomfortable.

**Virgo**

Ganesha says you will take in the excitement of the spirit this week. The strategies that got you results in the previous will be repeated. Rahu will be in a pretty cozy situation this week. This week, you could notice that you're compromising a small bit on matters that put your beliefs in jeopardy. You will be capable of experiencing stronger than ever during this week since your romantic relationship will be brimming with delight. Insignificant actions will cause you to feel special thanks to your mate. This week, your parents will be prepared to appreciate your companion. This week, pay greater consideration to your wellness by drinking more liquids.

**Libra**

Ganesha says, most issues that have remained murky for a while will finally be clear this week. Your disposition will gradually but consistently become better. This week, you will radiate an aura that will leave everybody in amazement. Your romantic life won't have any significant problems this week. This week, you'll have the chance to mend your relationship. You will get sore muscles this week, which will cause some slight medical difficulties.

**Scorpio**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll start to recognize who you really are and as new energy will sink in. Your intuition will awaken your energy. You're going to make a huge shift this week. You'll be capable of plainly identifying your important goal this week. This week, your lover and you won't be capable of resolving your love issues amicably on the connection battlefields. This week, try to avoid forming snap judgements. You don't need to bother at all about your wellness this week. Black should be avoided this week.

**Sagittarius**

Ganesha says, starting this week, you won't be powerless anymore. The less you anticipate from those other people, the more conscience you will develop. You'll reward yourself with minor accomplishments, which will inspire you to pursue bigger goals. You and your companion will handle your connection this week with wisdom and grace. If you're wedded, this week may bring along some small arguments, but don't worry-everything will be well once Mercury reaches the eighth house. Although there won't be anything wrong with your wellness, this week try to stay out of the sun as much as possible.

**Capricorn**

Ganesha says, this week, you will be showered with accolades on all frontiers. The family's issues will start to go away. You will especially control your schedule well this week as well. The last time you will doubt yourself is this next week. This week, you'll fail milestones because of your insistence on accomplishing everything in a specific way. This week, you and your companion will be occupied talking about your career objectives and how you both plan to handle your free time. These conversations may cause a few fleeting, irrational sensations, but by the end of the week, everything will be alright. This week, your psychological state will be in good shape.

**Aquarius**

Ganesha says, this week, you'll be capable of keeping things really calm. You will concentrate on your assumed comprehension to get the best results. You will also engage in advantageous pursuits this week. Your progress will be stymied by your enthusiasm about your capacity to know certain subjects this week. You've been asking God to bring an amazing companion into your life. This week is the one for which you should finally express how you believe to anyone. Your wellness will be negatively impacted this week, as predicted by Ketu's placement in your astrological sign, so take precautions and avoid using heavy machinery.

**Pisces**

Ganesha says, your ability to interact with others will be your biggest benefit this week, Pisces natives. Your delicate demeanor will make it simple for you to get confidence. Individuals will view you more highly this week. Your romantic relationship won't undergo any significant adjustments this week. You'll be able to manage their fears because of your dedication to your lover. Couples who are already married will enjoy organizing their household. This week, your condition will be OK; try not to respond to any little impairments.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JANUARY 23 TO JANUARY 29, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JANUARY 23 : Ganesha says different sources will provide financial rewards. Your financial situation will be improved by finding new sources of revenue, and ongoing initiatives will see a significant boost. It is advised to invest in certain stocks and a home. Your thoughts will be bothered by unforeseen costs brought on by a family member's health issue. Legal issues will cost money. The purchase of a home or a vehicle will be high on your priority list. Work-related travel will be advantageous and extremely gratifying.

JANUARY 24: Ganesha says a day full of honors and gifts. Your confidence and spirit will be boosted by new proposals and assignments. You'll make good returns on your property transactions, and they'll also enable you to raise money. Later in the day, some people will be married, while others will discover romance to keep them going. Patients with chronic conditions require further attention for their health. Travel will be done in order to make money and develop significant relationships. For some people, an overseas trip or commercial transaction will happen. Avoid borrowing and lending money.

JANUARY 25 : Ganesha says you have a kind heart and are very helpful, but in order to be

successful in your endeavors, you must learn to control your tendency to act impatiently and with a short fuse. Thanks to the assistance supplied by your family members, the entire period will be one of success and enjoyment. Investments will produce profitable outcomes. Due to your improved abilities and skills, you will also become more respected by your peers. Although you may work long hours at the office, your health will improve.

JANUARY 26 : Ganesha says you glow with fresh confidence and vigor during a stable phase of progress and wealth. It will bring consolation and relief to receive a saint's blessing. Long-term investment is also advised, but speculation will likely be more lucrative. You'll feel relieved when long-standing issues are resolved. Avoid interacting with extra-friendly strangers, and be understanding of those who ask you for money. You'll feel quite confident. Though demanding, friends will be encouraging.

JANUARY 27 : Ganesha says you have good control over your work, and as a result, it earns you praise and rewards. However, you should monitor your tendency to act jealous and vindictive at times. This day will provide financial success and recognition for those working in the arts and other

creative fields. For those who qualify, matrimonial unions. Despite the fact that your health will be fine, it will be crucial to take the appropriate safety measures. The accomplishments of children will fill you with pride. You'll priorities travelling for pilgrimage or other long-distance purposes.

JANUARY 28 : Ganesha says achievements and awards are anticipated in the upcoming time. Entrepreneurs will diversify their businesses into new, lucrative fields. Your moods will be lifted by some exciting news from your kids. Travel abroad or international financial operations will pay off. Property conflicts will be resolved to your satisfaction. There will undoubtedly be a greater emphasis on health. Yoga and meditation should be performed for spiritual growth.

JANUARY 29 : Ganesha says you will invite your close ones to celebrate your accomplishments at any five star restaurants. Your family's needs come first, and you always think about how to meet them. A reward or incentive may be waiting for you in your mailbox as compensation for your long-term contribution to the company. It won't be long before you experience inner peace, which is what the world needs right now. Spending quality time with your spouse will make for a long and fulfilling existence.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sikh History This Week

JANUARY 20, 2023, TO JANUARY 26, 2023

20th January



1706 Guru Gobind Singh Sahib reached Talwandi, where he set camp, outside the village, is the location of Gurduara Damdamaa Sahib. Dam damaa means breathing place. That is take a breather after the many battles he had been through.

1841 After Gulab Singh left Lahore, Sher Singh occupied the fort. Dhian Singh became the Wazir. The Sandalwalia Sardars, hostile to the ruling group, started entering into intrigues.

1926 The British Government announced the judgement in Babbar Akali case. As a result, 5 Babbar Akalis were ordered to be hanged, 11 were sentenced to life imprisonment, and 38 were imprisoned four years. Approximately 90 religious, high spirited, daring fighters formed the Babbar Akali group. They had promised freedom to the masses and vigorously fought the British, especially in the Duaba and Malwa regions.

1986 Sentences handed in the case of Indian Airline hijacking.

21st January



1831 The King of England sent valuable gifts to Maharaja Ranjit Singh as a gesture of friendship. The gifts were really meant to be a bate of friendship! The British had encroched into his territory and came all the way to the other side of river Satluj and finally attacked the Sikh kingdom as soon as he breatherd his last, after buying all the Dogras. What followed afterwards is a history!

1846 Budhowal battle was fought and won by the Sikh troops against the East India Company. Sikhs defeated Harry Smith at Budhowal and captured his baggage. Sikhs also attacked and burned down large part of Ludhiana cantonement. HARRY Smith fought a minor skirmish with Ranjodh Singh at Atwal.

22nd January

1848 Mool Raj, Governor of Multan, revolted against the British but was defeated.

MOOL RAJ: During Maharaja Ranjit Singh's reign, Mool Raj was an efficient and loyal Governor of Multan, He was the son of Diwan Sawanmal Chaupadhae and appointed Governor by the Lahore darbar. During his reign, two British officers were

killed by the Lahore forces. As a result, the British Resident of Lahore, John Lawrence, wanted to dismiss Mool Raj. On account of his loyalty to the kingdom of Ranjit Singh, he revolted against the British East India Company who were forcibly annexing Ranjit Singh's Punjab. He put up a brave defense of the fort of Multan but was defeated on this day. The British arrested and imprisoned him in Calcutta jail, where he died in 1850.

1849 Multan fell to the British.
1986 The additional session judge announced his judgement in the case of Indira Gandhi's murder. Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh were to be hanged. The sentence was carried out on Jan. 6, 1989. Indira Gandhi was gunned down at her resident on Oct. 31, 1984, as a retribution for her role in operation Bluestar, during which the Indian Army attacked and desecrated Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar.

23rd January

1923 Dhanna Singh Behbalpur joins the Babbar Akali Jatha.

1923 Second attempt to kill Arjan Singh Patwari of Haripur also ends in a fiasco. He was alledged to be responsible for Master Mota Singh's arrest.

1948 Dr. B.R. Ambedkar suggested the Sikhs to struggle for a Punjabi speaking state.

1960 Sirdar Tirath Singh accepted shahadat in Delhi, in connection with the Punjabi Subha morcha.

24th January

1849 Chatter Singh joined with Sher Singh against the British while the British forces spared from Multan battle joined their forces.

1923 Praggur is raided to arrest Kishan Singh Garhgaj.

1928 Raghbir Singh RajaSasi formed the Central Sikh Association.



1943 Maharaja Ripudaman Singh of Nabha passed away at Kadia-Kunal.

Among the 12 Sikh misls, Nabha reign represented the major branch of Phullkiyan misl. The Nabha family began with Gurdit Singh, the eldest son of Chaudhary Tilok Singh, who in turn was the eldest son of Baba Phull. As a result, Nabha is also known as Chaudhary da Garh (house of Chaudhary).

1960 129 members of the SGPC and over 100,000 GurSikhs took a vow to lay lives for Punjabi Suba.



1993 Kesri Nishan hoisted at The Hague.

25th January

1921 Morcha of Taran Taran marked the beginning of Gurudwara Reform Movement. Hazara Singh became the first martyr of the movement.

1922 Karam Singh of Daulatpur arranged diwan at Nawanshehar.

1936 The Nankana Sahib Committee established the Guru Nanak Prachar Trust.

26th January

1720 Nadir Shah attacked, ransacked, and looted Delhi.

Pandits and Brahmins suffered extensively under Aurangzeb, Bahadur Shah, Forkhshayer, Nadar Abdali, etc. and Guru's Sikhs rescued their daughters, sacrificed their own lives for saving their Dharam. Then these decepers used to honor the Sikhs as "saintly rulers."



1921 Sikhs assume control of Sri Darbar Sahib, Taran Taran.

1950 Republic day of India. But the Sikh Nation's aspirations remain unfulfilled.

1986 The Sarbat Khalsa, gathered together at Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar resolved to establish a sovereign State, Khalistan and elected a Panthic Committee to coordinate the movement for national independence.

1986 Work was initiated to dismantle Akal Takht constructed under government's forcible "Kar Sewa" after Bluestar Operation. This work was carried out by Baba Santa Singh, who was excummunicated from the Panth for his cooperation.



Vasant Panchami

Vasant Panchami is a famous festival of North India. This festival belongs to Hindus, some Hindus know this festival as Saraswati Puja. Vasant Panchami is also called Basant Panchami. It is a festival that marks the initial preparations for the arrival of spring. Which is celebrated in different ways in different regions in India. This festival is celebrated every year on the Shukla Panchami of the month of Magha.

Goddess Saraswati is called the Goddess of Vidya. Saraswati is worshiped on this day, since ancient times it is considered to be the birthday of Saraswati, the mother goddess of knowledge and art. Vasant Panchami festival is a festival dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge, language, music and all arts. On this festival, women wear yellow clothes, and cook yellow dishes. In India, the whole year is divided into six seasons, of which spring is the favorite season of all. In this month, the field is filled with mustard yellow flowers.

This day is also considered as an auspicious day to begin work. It is also considered very auspicious to get married or perform house warming ceremony (griha pravesh) on the day of Vasant Panchami.

Interestingly, the color yellow holds great significance during Vasant Panchami as it is associated with the colour of mustard flowers that bloom during this season, so wearing the hue is also encouraged.

Celebrations and traditions

- In addition to Saraswati Puja celebrations, people across Punjab and Haryana observe the Basant Festival of Kites with great enthusiasm. At Amritsar's Harmandir Sahib the Sikhs initiate singing of the Basant Raga that continues till the first day of Vaisakh. Also, in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, the Sikhs organise a fair at the renowned gurudwara of Guru-ka-Lahore.
- Basant Sufi is also celebrated by Muslims at Delhi's Nizamuddin Dargah and the dargah of Chishti.
- In Bihar's Aurangabad district, people celebrate this day as the birthday of Deo Sun-god, whose shrine was set up by King Aila of Prayagraj on the day of Vasant Panchami.

As 'Diwali' - the festival of light - is to Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, and 'Navaratri' is to Durga, goddess of power and valor, Vasant Panchami is to Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and arts. This festival is celebrated every year on the 5th day or 'Panchami' of the bright fortnight of the lunar month of Magha, which falls during January-February, (see calendar). 'Vasant' comes from the word 'spring' as this festival heralds the beginning of the spring season.

Birthday of Goddess Saraswati

It is believed that on this day goddess Saraswati was born. Hindus celebrate Vasant Panchami with great fervor in temples, homes and even schools and colleges. Saraswati's favorite color white assumes special significance on this day. Statues of the goddess are dressed in white clothes and are worshiped by devotees adorning white garments. Saraswati is offered sweets which are given away as 'prasad' to all people attending the ritual worship.

There is also a custom of ancestor worship, known as 'Pitri-Tarpan' in many parts of India during Vasant Panchami.

The Foundation of Education

The most significant aspect of Vasant Panchami is that it is also the most auspicious day to begin laying one's foundations of education - of how to read and write. Pre-school children are given their first lesson in reading and writing on this day. All Hindu educational institutions conduct special prayer for Saraswati on this day. It is also a great day to inaugurate training institutes and new schools - a trend made famous by the renowned Indian educationist Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861-1946), who founded the Banaras Hindu University on Vasant Panchami day in 1916.

A Springtime Celebration



Important information

Vasant Panchami 2023, Basant Panchami 2023

Thursday, 26 January 2023

Panchami tithi start : 25 January 2023 at 09:29 pm

Panchami tithi end : 26 February 2023 at 10:28 am

During Vasant Panchami, the advent of spring is felt in the air as the season undergoes change. New leaves and blossoms appear in the trees with the promise of new life and hope. Vasant Panchami also announces the arrival of another big springtime event in the Hindu calendar - Holi, the festival of colors.

Saraswati Mantra: Sanskrit Prayer:

Here is the text of the popular 'pranam mantra' or Sanskrit prayer, Saraswati devotees utter with utmost devotion on this day:

*Om Saraswati Mahabhagey, Vidye Kamala Lochaney |
Viswarupey Vishalakshmi, Vidyam Dehi
Namohastutey ||*

*Jaya Jaya Devi, Charachara Sharey, Kuchayuga
Shobhita, Mukta Haarey |*

*Vina Ranjita, Pustaka Hastey, Bhagavati Bharati Devi
Namohastutey ||*

Saraswati Vandana: Sanskrit Hymn

The following hymn is also recited on Vasant Panchami:

*Yaa Kundendu tushaara haaradhavalaa, Yaa
shubhravastraavriitha |*

*Yaa veenavara dandamanditakara, Yaa shwetha
padmaasana | |*

*Yaa brahmaachyutha shankara prabhritibhir
Devaisadaa Vanditha |*

*Saa Maam Paatu Saraswatee Bhagavatee Nihshesha
jaadyaapahaa | |*

English Translation

"May Goddess Saraswati,
who is fair like the jasmine-colored moon,
and whose pure white garland is like frosty dew
drops; who is adorned in radiant white attire,
on whose beautiful arm rests the veena,
and whose throne is a white lotus;
who is surrounded and respected by the Gods, protect
me. May you fully remove my lethargy, sluggishness,

and ignorance."

Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and arts, represents the free flow of wisdom and consciousness. She is the mother of the Vedas, and chants to her, called the 'Saraswati Vandana' often begin and end Vedic lessons. Saraswati is the daughter of Lord Shiva and Goddess Durga. It is believed that goddess Saraswati endows human beings with the powers of speech, wisdom and learning. She has four hands representing four aspects of human personality in learning: mind, intellect, alertness and ego. She has sacred scriptures in one hand and a lotus - the symbol of true knowledge - in the second.

The Symbolism of Saraswati

With her other two hands she plays the music of love and life on a string instrument called the veena. She is dressed in white - the symbol of purity - and rides on a white swan - symbolizing Sattwa Guna or purity and discrimination. Saraswati is also a prominent figure in Buddhist iconography - the consort of Manjushri.

The learned and the erudite attach greater importance to the worship of goddess Saraswati.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall
guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are
one."

contd from page 1

World plagued by perfect storm on...

But we can work to control the damage and seize opportunities," he added.

Now more than ever, it is time to forge the pathways to cooperation in our fragmented world, he said.

"I am not here to sugarcoat the scale of that challenge, or the sorry state of our world. We can't confront problems unless we look them squarely in the eye. And we are looking into the eye of a Category 5 hurricane," he said.

"Our world is plagued by a perfect storm on a number of fronts. Start with the short-term, a global economic crisis. The outlook is bleak. Many parts of the world face recession. The entire world faces a slowdown," Guterres warned.

He further said COVID-19 is still straining economies while the world's failure to prepare for future pandemics is straining credulity.

"Somehow, after all we have endured, we have not learned the global public health lessons of the pandemic. We are nowhere near ready for pandemics to come," he said.

In addition to that, there is an existential challenge with the world flirting with climate disaster, he said.

"Every week brings a new climate horror story. Greenhouse gas emissions are at record levels. The commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is going up in smoke. Without further action, we are headed to a 2.8 degree increase," he added.

"The consequences will be devastating. Several parts of our planet will be uninhabitable. And for many, this is a death sentence," he cautioned.

"But it is not a surprise. The science has been clear for decades... We learned last week that certain fossil fuel producers were fully aware in the 1970s that their core product was baking our planet," he said.

"Just like the tobacco industry, they rode rough-shod over their own science. Big Oil peddled the big lie. And like the tobacco industry, those responsible must be held to account. Today, fossil fuel producers and their enablers are still racing to expand production, knowing full well that their business model is inconsistent with human survival," he said.

Guterres said all these challenges, including violence and war, are inter-linked and they are piling up like cars in a chain reaction crash.

"It would be difficult to find solutions to these global problems in the best of times -- if the world was united. But these are far from the best of times, and the world is far from united," he said.

"We risk what I have called a Great Fracture -- the decoupling of the world's two largest economies," he said, adding that it would result in a tectonic rift that would create two different sets of trade rules, two dominant currencies, two internets and two conflicting strategies on artificial intelligence.

There are many aspects in which US-China relations diverge -- particularly on questions of human rights and regional security. But it is possible and essential for the two countries to have meaningful engagement on climate, trade and technology to avoid the decoupling of economies or even the possibility of future confrontation, Guterres said.

He also said that a "morally bankrupt financial system" is amplifying systemic inequalities and called for a new debt architecture that would provide liquidity, debt relief and long-term lending to enable developing countries to invest in sustainable development.

According to him, the multilateral development banks must also change their business models and must concentrate on systematically directing private finance towards developing countries, providing guarantees and being first risk takers. (Source: Agencies)

Sexual harassment allegations...

The wrestlers, who have accused the WFI president of sexual exploitation and intimidation, continued their dharna for the second day as more grapplers joined them in what they called was a fight to give "a

new life to Indian wrestling".

They have also been supported by seven khaps in Charkhi Dadri who will march to Delhi on Friday, January 20, to express solidarity with the wrestlers.

Late in the evening, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur rushed back to Delhi from Hamirpur to hold talks with the wrestlers. He assured them of "action if anyone is found guilty". Earlier in the day, several wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia, said they would file an FIR and, if need be, approach the court to press their sexual harassment allegations against the WFI chief.

"We never wanted to turn it into a legal matter. All we wanted was to meet them (PM Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah). I dare the president to sit across me and tell me that our accusations are untrue. If we are forced, we will file an FIR," Vinesh said during the second day of their dharna at Jantar Mantar here today. "He ruined UP women's wrestling with sexual abuse. Now he is targeting Maharashtra girls, and we got calls from Kerala girls as well. They want us to keep the fight going," Vinesh added. "Five-six girls will file an FIR tomorrow. It will be a black day in the history of this country. If girls like us can face such harassment then no girl is safe in this country."

Bajrang said they wanted the WFI to be disbanded. "If he (Brij Bhushan) resigns, he will hand over the reins to his own people. Even the state associations are being run by his people, they have to go as well," he said.

Rio Olympics bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, who was part of the delegation that met Sports Ministry officials, including Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi, said: "We were not told what action they will take against him. We are not satisfied with the response."

"We want the federation to be disbanded. We need a new start," she added.

A fiery Vinesh said that none of the wrestlers at the protest site would fight under the WFI as long as it was run by Brij Bhushan or his aides. Anshu Malik, among the youngest at the protest, said that during a tournament in Bulgaria, Singh Brij Bhushan made young female wrestlers, including her, "uncomfortable". Incidentally, veteran CPM leader Brinda Karat, who tried to join the protest, was politely asked to stay away. "Neeche chale jaaiye please madam.... We request you, madam, please don't turn this into a political matter. It's an athletes' protest," Bajrang requested her. She quietly complied.

The wrestlers will continue the protest until their demands are met. (With inputs from PTI and TNS)

Three Indian Americans among...

A partnership among the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson, the PLS program kicks off in Washington, DC, on Jan 24.

"Scholars were selected based on their leadership growth potential and their personal leadership projects aimed at improving civic engagement or social good by addressing a problem or need in their community, the country, or the world," according to a PLS news release.

Over the course of several months, Scholars will travel to each participating presidential center to learn from former presidents, key former administration officials, business and civic leaders, and leading academics, it said.

They will study and put into practice varying leadership principles and exchange ideas to help maximize their impact in the communities they serve.

The latest class joins an active network of more than 400 Scholars who are applying lessons learned through the program to make a difference in the United States and around the world, the release said.

Scholars have consistently reported remarkable growth in skills, responsibilities, and opportunities for impact since the program began in 2015, it said.

For example, 94% of Scholars said their confidence in how they lead social change has improved as a

result of PLS, and 98% of Scholars reported they are inspired to accomplish more since beginning the program.

2023 Indian American scholars

Anahita Dua, Associate Professor of Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Newton, Massachusetts.

She completed her vascular surgery fellowship at Stanford University Hospital, and her general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

At Massachusetts General Hospital, she is the director of the Vascular Lab, and co-director of the Peripheral Artery Disease Center and Limb Evaluation and Amputation Program.

Last August, the 39-year-old Newton resident, a mother to two young children, took the plunge into politics, forming the Healthcare for Action PAC, "a federal political action committee that aims to elect Democratic health care workers to Congress," as reported by the Commonwealth.

She told the media she started the PAC because of personal experiences she had with her patients and her 5-year-old daughter. "What I'm noticing is in each realm I'm not able to do what I want to do to protect these people, whether my patients or my daughter," she said.

Sonia Singhvi, Global Head of Culture, Inclusion, & Diversity at the Boston-based Alexion Pharmaceuticals. A strategic, patient-centric, biopharmaceutical executive with over 20 years of industry experience across multiple therapeutic and functional areas, Singhvi joined the company and rose through the ranks, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Singhvi says she's "excited" to be accepted into the 2023 Presidential Leadership Scholars Program. "PLS serves as a catalyst for a diverse network of leaders to collaborate and create meaningful change in the United States and around the world as they learn from former US Presidents and their administrations."

"I will leverage these insights to advance health equity, improve patient outcomes, and enhance diversity in clinical trials," she wrote in a LinkedIn post.

Neil Vora, a physician with the New York-based Conservation International where he leads its efforts on pandemic prevention.

"Throughout his career, he has focused on the link between human health and the health of the planet - particularly as it relates to the increasing threat of 'spillover' of viruses from animals to humans because of the destruction of nature," according to his Conservation International profile.

He served for nearly a decade with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and a Commander in the US Public Health Service (USPHS).

He deployed for CDC to Liberia in 2014 and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019 to assist in the responses to the two largest Ebola outbreaks ever.

He previously led the investigation of a newly discovered virus in the country of Georgia related to the smallpox virus. For his work, he has received numerous accolades including the USPHS Physician Researcher of the Year Award, CDC James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award, CDC Donald C. Mackel Memorial Award, and CDC Alexander D. Langmuir Prize Manuscript Award.

From 2020-2021, Vora developed and led New York City's Covid-19 contact tracing program, overseeing a team of over 3,000 people. His program traced more than half a million people who had contracted the virus. He still sees patients in a public tuberculosis clinic in New York City.

He has published over 60 articles in various medical journals. He's an Adjunct Professor of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Columbia University, and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He completed medical school at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in 2009 and his Internal Medicine training at Columbia University in 2012.



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Voice of Global South Summit 2023: A summary of deliberations



Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the Inaugural Leaders' session on 12 January, 2023

JANUARY 23, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): India hosted a two-day Voice of Global South Summit on 12-13 January 2023. The Summit was held in virtual format, with 10 sessions in total. It saw participation of Leaders and Ministers from 125 countries of the Global South.

India convened this one-of-a-kind Summit to focus international attention on priorities, perspectives and concerns of the developing world.

This is particularly relevant as the world passes through a difficult period marked by challenges to health, food security, affordable access to energy, climate finance and technologies, and economic growth.

This Summit is a timely reminder of what is at stake for over three fourths of the planet's population that is most vulnerable to the deleterious impact of the several interlinked risks we confront.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presided over the Inaugural Leaders' session on 12 January. This was followed by eight Ministerial-level thematic segments dedicated to addressing the most pressing concerns of the developing world. The Summit wrapped up on 13 January with a Concluding Leaders' Session also hosted by the Prime Minister.

The participating Leaders appreciated and congratulated the leadership of Prime Minister in hosting the Summit at a crucial juncture. They expressed hope that the Summit would serve as a catalyst for building a prosperous and inclusive future for the world that takes into account the needs of the Global South.

In his inaugural remarks, Prime Minister framed the key issues at stake for the developing world. He highlighted the opportunity for uplifting societies and economies of the Global South through a shared vision and agenda for change. In this endeavor, he offered to share India's experiences through simple, scalable and sustainable solutions. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Resistance in writing also attracts forgetfulness, distraction, neglect: Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah

JANUARY 19, 2023

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, JAIPUR JAIPUR (TIP): Inaugurating the 16th session of Jaipur Literature Festival here, Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah on Thursday, January 19, said that writing is not just a form of resistance but it is also about resistance to distraction, neglect, and forgetfulness.

In his keynote address on 'writing as a form of resistance', the Tanzanian-born British author of 10 novels and Nobel Laureate in literature in 2021, said, "It is a good way of describing what writing is. It sounds noble, brave and taking on whatever-resisting. But resisting what? Or what is it that writing is resistant to? Or can there be resistance too?"

"It really is not about nobility or bravery alone. It is also about just working. And working at perhaps things which go on over time, rather than inspirations or sudden epiphanies", he said.

Probably resistance to forgetfulness, resistance to distraction and resistance to neglect were the three other forms of writing as a form of resistance, Gurnah said.

"It is resistance to neglect, to ensure that the things we care for, the things that are important, are not neglected, are not distorted by other narratives, are not pushed away by people who wish to



Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah lights a lamp to inaugurate the 5-day Jaipur Literary Festival
Photo / courtesy JLF Media

inform us that the world is different from what all knowledge tells us", he who has been professor of English at Cantt University, explained.

Above all, he said, "It is upholding those ideas and beliefs that we think are important and that we value. So if somebody says writing is resistance, those are the kind of things I think of, rather than necessarily fighting tyrants or necessarily standing on platforms and making powerful speeches to energize people".

"Writing is a continuous process. This should be a part of your daily routine... While writing, don't think that you have to become someone's inspiration, or that you will get an award, or that you will ever be noticed. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

contd from page 1

Collegium junks objections to Kirpal's appointment: Reiterates names for appointment in Madras, Bombay High Courts

Kirpal, an openly gay person, as a judge of the Delhi High Court and reiterated its recommendations for four other appointments.

Maintaining that Kirpal's appointment would "add value to the Bench and provide inclusion and diversity," the Collegium has reiterated its November 11, 2021, recommendation for his appointment.

"The fact that Mr Saurabh Kirpal has been open about his orientation is a matter which goes to his credit. As a prospective candidate for judgeship, he has not been surreptitious about his orientation. In view of the constitutionally recognized rights which the candidate espouses, it would be manifestly contrary to the constitutional principles laid down by the Supreme Court to reject his candidature on that ground," a three-judge Collegium led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said.

Brushing aside the IB reports, the Collegium reiterated its recommendations for appointment of advocate R John Sathyam as a judge of the Madras High Court and advocate Somasekhar Sundaresan as a judge of the Bombay High Court.

Sathyam had posted certain material on social media, including one critical of the PM, while Sundaresan was "selectively critical" on social media on important policies, initiatives and directions of the government. "Expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit and integrity," said the three-member Collegium -

which also includes Justice SK Kaul and Justice KM Joseph. It made a second reiteration of its recommendation to elevate advocates Amitesh Banerjee and Sakya Sen as judges of the Calcutta High Court.

"...after the Supreme Court Collegium reiterated the proposal on 01 September 2021, it was not open to the Department (of Justice) to repeatedly send back the same proposal which has been reiterated by the Supreme Court Collegium after duly considering the objections of the government," it said regarding the recommendations for two appointments to the Calcutta High Court.

The Delhi High Court Collegium had on October 13, 2017, unanimously recommended Kirpal - son of former CJI BN Kirpal - for elevation to the Bench and it was approved by the Supreme Court Collegium on November 11, 2021. However, the Law Ministry sent back the recommendation to the Collegium on November 25, 2022, for reconsideration, raising objections about his partner being a Swiss national and his sexual orientation.

Noting that Kirpal possessed "competence, integrity and intellect", the Collegium said his "conduct and behavior have been above board. The Collegium said, "...it needs to be noted that the decisions of the Constitution Bench of this court have established the constitutional position that every individual is entitled to maintain their own dignity and individuality, based on sexual orientation."

The Collegium, however, said it may have been advisable for the candidate (Kirpal) not to speak to the press regarding the reasons which may have weighed in the recommendations of the Collegium being sent back for reconsideration

In a letter dated April 1, 2021, the Law Minister had said: "Though homosexuality stands de-criminalized in India, nonetheless same-sex marriage still remains

bereft of recognition either in codified statutory law or uncodified personal law in India". Moreover, it had been stated that the candidate's "ardent involvement and passionate attachment to the cause of gay rights" would not rule out the possibility of bias and prejudice."

(With inputs from TNS and PTI)

New Zealand PM quits ahead of Oct elections: Feb 7 last day in office

prospects of her party winning the next elections, according to a TNS report.

A teary-eyed Ardern said in Napier that February 7 would be her last day as PM. "I know what this job takes, and I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It's that simple," she said.

"The pressures on PMs are always great, but in this era of social media, clickbait and 24/7 media cycles, Jacinda has faced a level of hatred and vitriol which in my experience is unprecedented in our country," said former New Zealand PM Helen Clark in a statement.

In 2018, she became the second world leader to give birth while holding office (after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto) and in September of that year, she had brought her infant daughter to the floor of the UN General Assembly in New York.

In 2019, Arden was lauded for handling the killing of 51 worshippers in two Christchurch mosques by a white supremacist. She also wanted tertiary education partially free, was focused on child poverty and decriminalized abortion besides calling out sexism in politics.

She also said the next General Election would be held on October 14 but her Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson too has said he won't contest the leadership of the Labour Party. Ardern's popularity had declined due to rising living costs, growing crime and concern about social issues.

Churu: Gateway to Thar Desert

At the edge of the Thar desert and situated amidst the shifting golden sand dunes, lies a small city called Churu, resplendent with havelis, fresco paintings and unique architecture. Known as the 'Gateway to the Thar desert', Churu lies in the historic Shekhawati region in northern Rajasthan.

Churu is a popular attraction for tourists due to its architecture - the grand palaces of havelis of Kanhaiya Lal Bagla and Surana, and its 400-year-old fort, among other things.

Black Buck Sanctuary

Talchhapar Sanctuary, situated in Churu is famous for endangered black-buck. Other wild animals found in the sanctuary are chinkara, fox, jungle cat, rojra along with many resident and migratory birds. It lies on the way of migratory pass of many birds and therefore it is also popular with bird lovers. Talchhapar, actually a flat saline depression, has a unique ecosystem.

Talchhapar area was a game reservoir for the erstwhile Maharaja of Bikaner State and was declared a reserved area for the protection of wild animals and birds in the year 1962. Total area of Talchhapar Sanctuary is 719 hectare. The sanctuary area is mostly covered by grasses with a very few and sparse trees of Khejri, Salvadora, Ber, Ker and Neem. Main grasses found in the area are Sewan, Doob, Dhaman Lampla, Lana and Moth etc. The area gives a lush green look during rainy season but again dries up during summer season.

Chhatris (Cenotaph)

Churu has some good memorial domes, mostly raised to rich merchants, north of the town. Historically the most significant is 'Aath Kambh Chhatra' (Eight Pillar Dome) west of the vegetable market. Built in 1776 on a Rajput's cremation site. Its base has been virtually buried by windblown sand. The interior is covered with murals, one detail depicting an early European mercenary on foot, bearing a musket. Further north are chhatris of the Mantri, Bagla and Lohia merchant families.

Dudhwa Khara

Just 36 kms from Churu It is an historical village which lies on Thar desert. The village has enticing topography and have huge beautifully designed havelis. One can enjoy the rural life and camel safaris in the village.

Gogaji

Gogaji also known as Gugga is a folk deity of Rajasthan state in India. He is an eminent warrior-hero of the region. Hindus and Muslims alike honor him. He is also venerated as a saint and even as 'snake-god'. He is known as Goga among the Hindus and Jahar Peer among the Muslims. Gogaji is popular as a snake-god and almost every village in Rajasthan has a Than (sacred place) dedicated to him. Rabari community in Gujarat and Rajasthan is great believer in Gogaji.

It is believed that Gogaji went into samadhi at Gogamedi. Thousands of devotees gather to pay homage at this memorial annually in the month of Bhadrapada during the Gogaji fair, which lasts for 3 days. The fair is held from the ninth day of the dark half of Bhadrapada (Goga Navami) to the eleventh day of the dark half of the same month.



Kanhaiyalal Bagla Haveli

Just south of the main bazaar, this haveli built around 1880 boasts the finest frieze in all the Shekhawati region. It illustrates Dhola and Maru on a camel fleeing the wicked Umra-Sumra, Sassi and Punu side by side on horseback, two set of lovers from folk tales. To the southwest is a mosque, Jama Masjid, and a little Muslim haveli decorated with non-figurative work.

Kothari and Surana Haveli

A group of handsome painted havelis built by two prominent Oswal Jain merchant families, the Kothari and Surana clans. Amongst them are 'Malji Ka Kamra' (Malji's Haveli), an exotic stucco extravaganza built by Malaji Kothari around 1925 and the massive Surana Double Haveli, said to boast 1111 windows and doors built in the 1870s.

Mantri Haveli

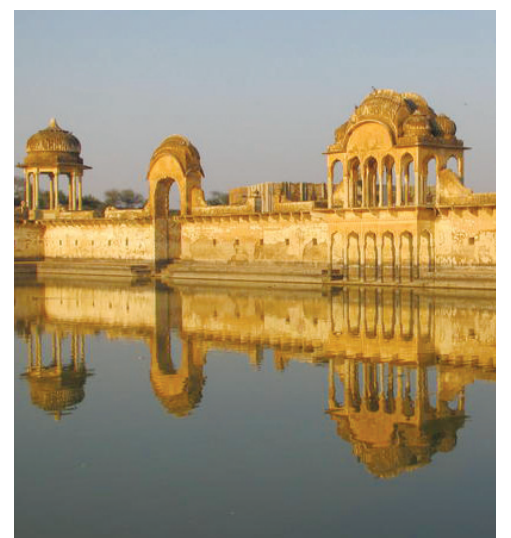
The Mantri Haveli is one of the most beautifully designed Havelis in India. The Mantri Haveli, Churu reflects the rich grandeur and splendor of the Rajput era. One of the major tourist attractions of Rajasthan, the Mantri Haveli, Churu attracts tourists from all over to Rajasthan. The Mantri Haveli is truly a beautiful symbol of Rajput grandeur and beauty. In the Mantri Haveli, Churu you can get to see beautiful paintings and exquisite mirror work that brings travelers from all over.

Mantri Haveli, Churu was built in the 18th century and is completely covered with paintings. From exotic images to beautiful and unique silhouettes the paintings are simply a class apart. One



of the oldest Havelis in Churu, the Mantri Haveli is an art gallery. Dedicated to one of the ministers of the royal family the Mantri Haveli in Churu attracts tourists for its beauty and uniqueness.

From floral swirls, motifs, and excellent mirror work, to balconies and alcoves, the exquisite artistry of the Rajputs are explicitly reflected in its artwork as well as architecture. From lavish ornamentation, spacious courtyards to sprawling areas, the Mantri Haveli, Churu attracts people from all over. However the front facade is completely worn out and you can feel the medieval aura and ambience once you enter inside the Mantri Haveli.



History This Week

JANUARY 20 TO JANUARY 26, 2023

JANUARY 20



King George V

January 20, 1936 - King George V of England died at age 71. The grandson of Queen Victoria, he had reigned since 1910. He renamed his line as the House of Windsor, breaking his association with the family's German line of descent. He was succeeded by his son King Edward VIII who abdicated in December and was succeeded by George VI.

January 20, 1942 - During the Holocaust, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS, convened the Wannsee Conference in Berlin with 15 top Nazi bureaucrats to coordinate the Final Solution (Endlösung) in which the Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons.

January 20, 1945 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933.

January 20, 1981 - Ronald Reagan became president of the United States at the age of 69, the oldest president to take office. During his inauguration celebrations, he announced that 52 American hostages that had been seized in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, were being released after 444 days in captivity.

January 20, 1996 - Yasir Arafat became the first democratically-elected leader of the Palestinian people with 88.1 percent of the vote.

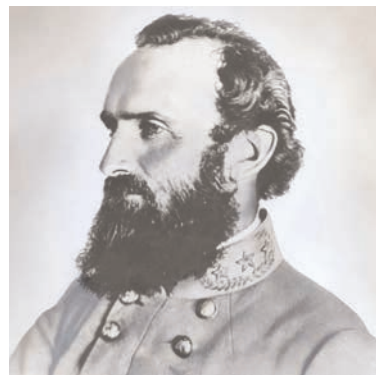
JANUARY 21

January 21, 1924 - Soviet Russian leader Vladimir Lenin died of a brain hemorrhage. He led the Bolsheviks to victory over the Czar in the October Revolution of 1917 and had then established the world's first Communist government. Lenin's body was placed in a tomb in Red Square in Moscow and was a much venerated national shrine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in

1991.

January 21, 1954 - The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.

January 21, 1976 - The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.



Army General "Stonewall" Jackson

Birthdays - Confederate Army General "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863) was born in Clarksburg, Virginia (as Thomas Jonathan Jackson). He was a West Point graduate who served in the Mexican War then resigned to teach at the Virginia Military Institute. He sided with the South and became a Brigadier General, earning his nickname at the first battle of Bull Run as his troops held firm while others wavered. "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall," a fellow general commented. He was shot in 1863 by a Confederate lookout who had mistaken him in the dark. "I have lost my right arm," lamented General Lee upon his death.

JANUARY 22



Queen Victoria of England

January 22, 1901 - Queen Victoria of England died after reigning for 64 years, the longest reign in British history, during which England had become the most powerful empire in the world.

January 22, 1905 - Five hundred protesting Russian workers were killed by the

troops of Czar Nicholas II in St. Petersburg. The event became known as "Bloody Sunday" and marked the beginning of the violent revolutionary movement of 1905 which ultimately failed. A second revolutionary movement in 1917 succeeded and the Czar abdicated.

January 22, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.

January 22, 1973 - Abortion became legal in the U.S. as the Supreme Court announced its decision in the case of Roe vs. Wade striking down local state laws restricting abortions in the first six months of pregnancy. In more recent rulings (1989 and 1992) the Court upheld the power of individual states to impose some restrictions.

Birthdays - British essayist, philosopher and statesman Francis Bacon (1561-1626) was born in London. Best known for his philosophical works concerning the acquisition of knowledge; Novum Organum and The Advancement of Learning.

JANUARY 23



Charles Curtis of Kansas

January 23, 1907 - Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first person of Native American ancestry to serve in the U.S. Senate. He later served as vice president under President Herbert Hoover from 1929-33.

January 23, 1937 - In Moscow, 17 leading Communists went on trial, accused of participating in a plot engineered by Leon Trotsky to overthrow Stalin's regime and assassinate its leaders. After a seven-day trial, 13 of them were sentenced to death. Trotsky fled to Mexico where he was assassinated in 1940.

January 23, 1943 - In North Africa, British forces under General Bernard Montgomery captured Tripoli in Libya.

January 23, 1968 - The American ship USS Pueblo was seized by North Koreans in the

Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying. The ship was confiscated and its crew held in captivity until December, with one fatality.

Birthdays - Russian film director Sergei Eisenstein (1898-1948) was born in Riga, Latvia. He developed a new way of film making utilizing artistic montages (a series of arbitrary images) to deliver an emotional impact. Prior to him, most film makers showed scenes in strictly chronological sequences. His classic films include Potemkin, Alexander Nevsky, and Ivan the Terrible.

JANUARY 24

January 24, 1895 - Hawaii's monarchy ended as Queen Liliuokalani was forced to abdicate. Hawaii was then annexed by the U.S. And remained a territory until statehood was granted in 1959.



Winston Churchill

January 24, 1965 - Winston Churchill (1874-1965) died. He had been Britain's wartime prime minister whose courageous leadership and defiant rhetoric had fortified the British during their long struggle against Hitler's Germany. "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat," he stated upon becoming prime minister at the beginning of the war. He called Hitler's Reich a "monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime." Following the war, he coined the term "Iron Curtain" to describe the barrier between areas in Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control and the free West.

January 24, 1972 - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

JANUARY 25

January 25, 1947 - Gangster Al Capone, who once controlled organized crime in Chicago, died in Miami at age 48 from syphilis.

January 25, 1959 - An American Airlines Boeing 707 made the first scheduled transcontinental U.S. flight, traveling from California to New York.



President John F. Kennedy

January 25, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy conducted the first live televised presidential news conference, five days after taking office.

January 25, 1971 - In Uganda, a military coup led by Idi Amin deposed President Milton Obote. Amin then ruled as president-dictator until 1979 when he was ousted by Tanzanian soldiers and Ugandan nationalists. During his reign, Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda, and ordered the execution of more than 300,000 tribal Ugandans.

JANUARY 26

January 26, 1943 - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.

January 26, 1994 - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.



President Bill Clinton

January 26, 1998 - President Bill Clinton made an emphatic denial of charges that he had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky and had advised her to lie about it. "...I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky..."

Top wrestlers allege harassment by wrestling federation chief

India's top wrestlers, including two Olympic medallists, rebelled against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Wednesday, accusing its president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of running the body in a "dictatorial" manner, and alleging "sexual exploitation and mental harassment" at national camps.

In an unprecedented sit-in at the Capital's Jantar Mantar area, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia, Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik, and two-time world championships medallist Vinesh Phogat led a group of around 30 wrestlers. In a media conference at the venue, they demanded the immediate removal of Singh to "save wrestling from his clutches". Wrestling is India's most successful individual Olympic sport with seven medals, including two at Tokyo in 2021.

The protesting wrestlers alleged that Singh, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BP) MP from Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh, in his third term as federation president (his tenure ends this year), has been running the body as his fiefdom. They also accused him of "sexual harassment" and using "abusive language" against wrestlers.

The wrestlers -- the group included young stars Anshu Malik, the 2021 world championships silver medallist, and Tokyo Olympian Sonam Malik -- said they will take up the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah.

Speaking to reporters hours later, Singh denied the accusations of sexual harassment, and alleged the revolt was part of a "conspiracy" to unseat him.

Vinesh said during the sit-in that she was "mentally tortured" after the Tokyo Olympics, where she lost in the quarterfinals. She alleged that she received death threats from people in the federation because she had complained about the conditions in the sport to the Prime Minister during a meeting. "The WFI president is a very powerful man and wrestlers are scared to talk against him. Now we have gathered courage because the situation is going out of hand," said Vinesh. She also alleged that "girls are sexually exploited" at the women's national camp in Lucknow.

"Coaches are sexually harassing girls and ill-treat women coaches in the camp. I am not saying this about all the coaches but a few of them who are close to the federation chief. I complained against the chief coach Jitender Yadav but despite that he has not been removed. WFI president has sexually exploited girls," Vinesh said. *Source: HT*

FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup

England, India win their last matches



By: Prabhjot Singh

The hosts India and England won their last round of group matches to march into the knockout round of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup at iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on January 19. While England by finishing at the top of Group D has assured itself a direct place in the quarter-finals, India, in spite of its 4-2 win over winless Wales, failed to finish at the top. It now has to play crossover matches to progress to quarter-finals.

Though both England and India finished with seven points each, England took the spot with a better goal difference. It scored nine goals without conceding any while India aggregated six goals in its three games and conceded two against Wales to finish at number two position. The outcome of today's game was inconsequential as it remained number two in the group. It needed to score eight goals without conceding any to head the group.

As expected India did not field injured Hardik Singh. He was on the ground when the team started its warm up. He, however, was without a stick. He was seen cheering team mates. At the time of introduction of ceremony, he came with a stick but went to sit with the reserves on the sidelines. His absence was largely felt during the game.

Akashdeep Singh, who smacked two brilliant "D" top strikes, was



adjudged man of the match on a day when the Wales surprised Indian defence with two penalty corner conversions while India could also manage only two, including one in the dying moments of the game when skipper Harmanpreet Singh stuck with a deep low flick. In all India got seven penalty corners. Aware of the style and strategy of Wales, the Indian team was unable to break the solid Wales defence in the first half as it struggled hard to open scoring. It was Shamsher Singh playing his 50th international who opened scoring for India in the 23rd minute by retrieving a rebound and shot into the net from the stop of the striking circle. The goal sent the packed Stadium wild. The roars got a boost three minutes into the second half when Akashdeep Singh after intercepting a brilliant D top pass from Mandeep Singh smacked home a lightning shot that had the Wales goalkeeper beaten. Once India had a 2-0 lead, the crowd started demanding more as it cheered all good moves of the home team. However, it was Wales that stole the thunder for most of the time in the third quarter. Goals by Furlong

Gareth in the 43rd minute followed by a flawless conversion by Jacob Draper in the 45th minute had the stadium in pin drop silence. Though India managed to beat the Wales defence when Abhishek had a powerful reverse flick from D top but the goal was disallowed by video referee after Wales asked for a review. Earlier, it was Akashdeep, who repeated his earlier drill, this time from the right flank, to notch up the home team's third goal. Before the game concluded, India had the consolation of scoring its fourth goal when skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored his first direct goal from a penalty corner.

Earlier, England was a convincing 4-0 winner over Spain in its last game.

Phil Roper opened the scoring for England in the 11th minute following a penalty corner. Nicholas Bandurak and Liam Ansell scored third and fourth goals for the English to take it to the top of the group.

Now India and Spain will play crossovers with teams finishing second and third in group C. India takes on New Zealand and Malaysia plays Spain.

Shubman Gill sizzles with double ton as India claim nervy win vs Kiwis

HYDERABAD (TIP)

Shubman Gill dazzled by hammering a sublime maiden double century as India beat New Zealand by 12 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal on Wednesday, January 18.

India rode on Gill's 208 (149b, 19*4, 9*6) to post a mammoth 349 for the loss of eight wickets. When the lights came on, the bowlers picked wickets upfront but stumbled against a counter-attacking century from Michael Bracewell before bouncing back to clinch the thriller. The match went tantalisingly close with Bracewell keeping the visitor in the hunt with a breath-taking 140 off 78 balls and New Zealand requiring 20 runs in the final over.

Shardul Thakur was taken to the cleaners; he leaked 47 runs in seven overs. He was entrusted to bowl the final over with Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj finishing their quota of overs.



Bracewell welcomed Thakur by smoking the medium pacer high into the wide long-on stands for a maximum. Shardul followed it up with a wide but the murmur rose to a din when the medium pacer trapped the centurion plumb in front with a yorker to bundle out the Kiwis for 337.

After Gill's heroics with the bat, Siraj, playing his first international match at home, starred with the

ball by taking a four-wicket haul. On a day where 686 runs were scored on a track that aided bounce and turn, Bracewell steered New Zealand from a precarious position and almost won the match for the Black Caps. But Siraj returned to bowl an inspiring spell at the death and registered figures of 10-2-46-4 at an economy of 4.60 - the best figures at this venue, eclipsing Umesh Yadav's figures of 9-0-53-4 against Sri Lanka in November 2014. Finn Allen and Devon Conway failed to give New Zealand a fiery start as Siraj made an early breakthrough by dismissing Conway. The fast bowler has built a reputation of striking inside the PowerPlay and the pattern continued. The end of PowerPlay saw Thakur dismissing Allen with a well-planned short ball strategy as Shahbaz Ahmed took an excellent catch with a dive in the deep. Kuldeep Yadav found his mojo back with a three-wicket haul against Sri Lanka and playing in place of Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep struck immediately on arrival.



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



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