



**THE ELECTION YEAR  
BUDGET FAVERS FOR  
MIDDLE CLASSES AND  
THE YOUTH**



Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Two new classes of beneficiaries, tax relief to the expanding middle class and direct benefit transfer to 47 lakh youth over the next three years stand out as major hallmarks of the last full Union Budget of the incumbent BJP government, which is facing elections in nine states this year followed by the General Election in 2024.

The first new category of beneficiaries the government has created is of traditional craftspeople who work with bare hands using tools. The second new class is the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) that are currently out of the ambit of government schemes.

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## THE HINDENBURG REPORT ON ADANI CONGLOMERATE

# Uproar in Parliament, Opposition seeks JPC probe: Houses adjourned without transacting business

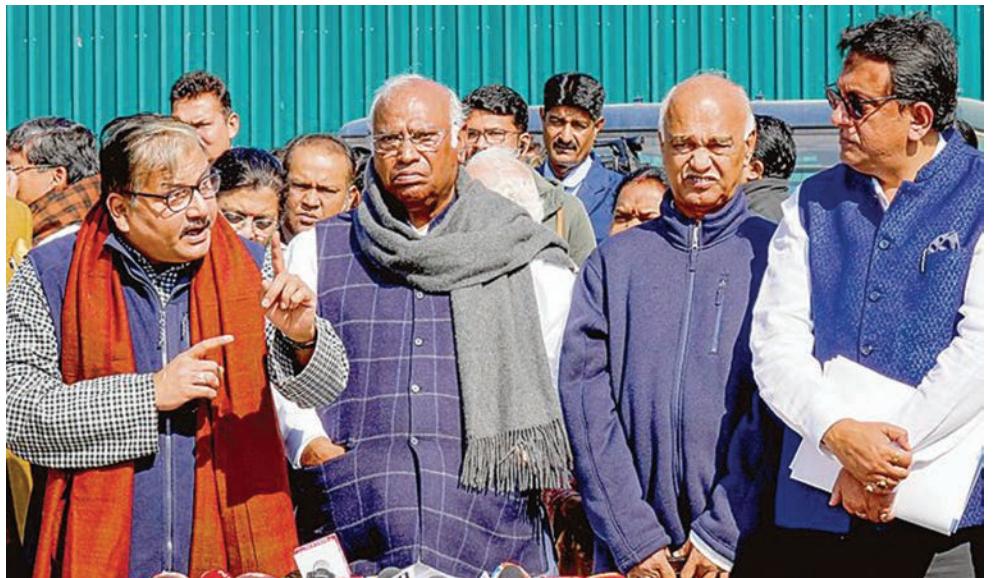
**RBI ASKS BANKS FOR DETAILS OF EXPOSURE TO ADANI GROUP  
BORIS JOHNSON'S BROTHER QUILTS LINKED FIRM; B'DESH QUESTIONS 'EXPENSIVE' POWER DEAL**

I.S. SALUJA

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Hindenburg-Adani issue rocked Parliament with both Houses adjourned for the day without transacting any substantial business. The Congress-led Opposition raised allegations of irregularities against the Adani Group, demanding a probe into the matter by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) or by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

Both Houses were adjourned until 2 pm after presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha rejected calls for deferment of proceedings to discuss the matter, prompting the Congress-led Opposition to demand a JPC probe or a day-to-day judicial probe headed by a Supreme Court judge.

**CONT'D ON PAGE 36**Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders of the Opposition address the media outside Parliament in New Delhi on February 2, 2023  
Photo credit / PTI

## NY governor proposes \$227 billion budget



Governor Kathy Hochul presented her fiscal year 2024 Executive Budget in Albany on Wednesday, February 1. Screenshot

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

**ALBANY, NY (TIP):** New York Gov. Kathy Hochul presented a \$227 billion state budget plan on Wednesday that includes more money for schools and public transit and raises taxes on cigarettes.

She also put the spotlight on public

safety, including another set of revisions to the state's controversial bail reform laws. The governor's plan includes a 10% increase in school aid, finally fulfilling a nearly 20-year-old court order that said more money needs to be invested in the state's poorest schools.

**CONT'D ON PAGE 36**

## The Indian Panorama Editor Indrajit S Saluja among Top Indian Americans honored as Jewels of India



**Former President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind released the book "Jewels of India" featuring 75 "Jewels"**

**PARVEEN CHOPRA**  
**JANUARY 28, 2023**

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** It was a superb celebration of India and the Indian diaspora. In a glittering, power-packed event organized by Maneesh Media here on January 28, 2023, none other than the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, congratulated 75 leading Indian Americans as the Jewels of India and released the lavishly mounted coffee table book profiling them.

**CONT'D ON PAGE 3**

The Indian Panorama chief editor and publisher Prof. Indrajit S Saluja receives the "Jewel of India" award from the Consul General of India at New York, Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal. Seen to his left are Dr. Bharat Barai, eminent oncologist and co-author of Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery, and Chairman of Maneesh Media Chandmal Kumawat. Seen sitting on the dais are (from L to R) Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, Business magnet and philanthropist, Dr. H.R. Shah, Chairman TV Asia, and Dr Kiran C Patel, top philanthropist.  
Photo / Maneesh Media

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**GUEST COMMENT**

# Hindenburg allegations

## IMPERATIVE FOR ADANI GROUP, INDIA TO SHORE UP INVESTOR TRUST

The turmoil in the stock markets, largely caused by the sell-off of the Adani Group shares since late last week, has brought into sharp focus India's regulatory framework, apart from the necessity of robust accounting practices. Investor sentiment suffered following the release of a report by New York-based Hindenburg Research - an investor research firm that positions itself as an investigator-activist - which alleged that the Adani Group had engaged in a brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of decades.<sup>1</sup> Even as it lost tens of billions of dollars in valuation, the Adani Group denied the accusations, calling them 'selective misinformation and stale, baseless and discredited allegations', and 'a calculated attack on India.' The report also raised questions

over the group's high debt levels and accused it of using shell companies based in tax havens. In the past, analysts have pointed at large investments in the Adani Group by entities such as the LIC and several public sector banks.

The allegations made by Hindenburg may be insufficient to prosecute Adani, but it's imperative that regulators such as SEBI and the Reserve Bank of India address the issue swiftly and decisively. This is important because at stake is India's reputation as an investment destination - India's is the fifth-largest economy in the world and many investors now look at the country as a more attractive option than China and other emerging economies. The episode also focuses the spotlight on audit firms - across the world, the unscrupulous

among these have been known to help big companies mislead investors by manipulating accounts. Just in the current century, many observers blamed audit firms for the collapse of Enron in 2002 and Lehman Brothers in 2008.

To shore up investor trust, the Adani Group and regulatory institutions must dispel fears of auditing fraud or any other malpractice. Probity in accounting safeguards institutional and individual investments, helping investors make informed decisions. The regulatory authorities and the government must ensure that the interests of the average investor are protected, and the country's reputation as an investment destination is not sullied.

(Tribune, India)

**OPED**

# G.E.O.R.G.E. Package

BY  
JOSH LAFAZAN

**M**ake lemonade out of lemons" is a saying ingrained from an early age in students across the country to teach perseverance in the face of adversity. In essence, when faced with a bad situation, navigate the current circumstances to imagine a positive outcome.

When it comes to George Santos, it's far easier to imagine a steady stream of lemon juice squirted directly into our eyes rather than heeding such an elementary maxim.

Each new day seems to bring a new lie with it, one more outrageous than the next. From a fake resume, to a fake address, to a fake religion, and more, George Santos remains defiant as ever in the face of his masterpiece: the most sophisticated web of lies ever created in the history of American politics.

The good news is that people of good conscience all across NY's 3rd District, irrespective of partisan affiliation, are exasperated by the "Talented Mr. Santos" and have had enough. Calls for Santos to resign ring out from the headquarters of both the Nassau Democrats and the Nassau GOP. But being outraged is not a sufficient enough solution to

our George Santos problem.

Yes, George Santos is an issue for the nation, but he's also a problem of our local creation. And therefore the burden lies with us here in NY-03 not just to destroy Frankenstein's monster, but to ensure that the next George Santos is barred from ever putting their name on the ballot.

And what George Santos, the long-lost brother of fake German heiress Anna Delvey, has shown us is that guardrails to prevent charlatans and liars from running for office simply don't exist in the 21st century.

That's why I've proposed the G.E.O.R.G.E. PACKAGE here in Nassau County, an eponymous series of laws named for Mr. Santos: Get Egregious Officials Removed from Government Elections.

This package includes several law proposals to safeguard against individuals like Mr. Santos from ever getting elected in the first place. They include:

Mandatory background checks for all candidates, just like every other employee is subjected to.

Barring anyone with an open foreign arrest warrant from holding office.

Making it a misdemeanor to lie about a candidate's education, employment history, address, and income sources.

The G.E.O.R.G.E. PACKAGE is not a guarantor against politicians lying to get elected. Rather it offers peace

of mind to residents that they have an honest choice between two candidates, and gives insurance to voters that if candidates don't play by the rules, they, like us, will also be held accountable.

When James Madison authored the Constitution, never in the wildest dreams of our Founders did they envision needing laws like the G.E.O.R.G.E. PACKAGE on the books. But so as the Constitution is a living document, our governments also must continue to evolve with the times.

And in the age of George Santos, where politicians take an "ends justify the means" approach to elevate lies over the truth and perpetrate fraud against the voters in order to win elections, these safeguards are needed now more than ever to protect our democracy.

My hope is that versions of the G.E.O.R.G.E. PACKAGE pass in Mineola, in Albany, and in Washington. Therefore all across this state voters can breathe a collective sigh of relief that no matter which candidate wins, at least someone as morally reprehensible as George Santos won't be representing them.

After all, while Santos may be the lemons, the G.E.O.R.G.E. PACKAGE is our lemonade. Let's drink up.

# The Indian Panorama Editor Indrajit S Saluja among Top Indian Americans honored as Jewels of India

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Lauding the achievements and contributions to society of the Indian diaspora and of Indian Americans in particular, were Hon. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York, MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora, Dr Bharat Barai, oncologist and co-author of *Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery*, and Dr Kiran C Patel, a top philanthropist.

Seated on the dais alongside those illustrious people were Chandmal Kumawat, Founder and Chairman of Maneesh Media; distinguished guests Dr Santosh Kulshrestha Kumar, Founder President, International University of Vedic Wellness; Haridas Kotahwala, Chairman of Navika Group of Companies; and Darshan Singh Bagga, real estate tycoon.

At the standing room only event the massive coffee table book, *Jewels of India* in America, was released simultaneously in the ballroom as well as by Honorable Ram Nath Kovind in India, who spoke live via video link from Kochi. The book contains profusely illustrated profiles of 75 leading Indian American personalities, out of which about 25 were present in person to receive the honors from Consul General Jaiswal and other distinguished guests.

Notable honorees included Naveen Shah, CEO of Navika group; Vijaydev Ratanjee Mistry, first trustee of the charitable foundation of his family that made a fortune in the hat business; Dr Vivek Lall, CEO, General Atomics Global Corporation, CA; Raj Gopal Asava, Founder, Hunger Mitao, TX; Kailash N Jhalani, President, Prompt Gem Importers; Dr Manbir Singh, Medical Director, McFarland Singh Medical Clinic, CA; Mohamad Faroqui, Founder, Print Early & New York Banner Stands; Dr Samin K Sharma, Director, Cardiovascular Clinical Institute Mount Sinai Hospital, NYC; Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, Editor-Publisher of *The Indian Panorama*; and Sparsh Shah, a child prodigy, rapper and motivational speaker.

Patrons, Sponsors and Supporters included Foundation for Global



Shri Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India addressed the gathering via satellite. He congratulated 75 leading Indian Americans as the Jewels of India and released the lavishly mounted coffee table book profiling them.

Photo / Maneesh Media



Dignitaries on the dais with the book "Jewels of India"

Photo/ Maneesh Media

Understanding, International University of Vedic Wellness, Indiaspora, Bulk Petroleum, Vijaydev Ratanjee Mistry Family Trust, Vardhamana Charitable Foundation and Print Early.

With the Jewels of India in America

Part 2 (part 1 was released 10 years ago) Maneesh Media also celebrated its 50th publication over a proud journey of 23 years. All of their publications have been often released and endorsed by top dignitaries such as US Presidents, Indian

President, Vice President, Prime Ministers and have reached the Indian community across the world. With offices in New York, Toronto and Jaipur, Founder Chandmal Kumawat is ably supported by his 3 sons, Maneesh Media directors Manish, Abhishek and Siddharth. Manish and Siddharth were at hand managing the event on January 28 which also celebrated India's Republic Day. Siddharth gave a vote of thanks.

Entertaining the 250+ guests in the overflowing ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental premier 5-star hotel in the heart of Manhattan were plumed showgirls, Arya Dance Academy's Bollywood performances, and Sparsh Shah belting out a patriotic song and a rap-raga fusion number.

(Parveen Chopra is founder of [alotusinthemud.com](http://alotusinthemud.com), wellness and spirituality web magazine. He can be reached at [editor@alotusinthemud.com](mailto:editor@alotusinthemud.com))



A group photo of awardees with dignitaries. Some awardees had left by the time the group photo was announced.

Photo / Maneesh Media

## INDIAN AMERICAN HARMEET DHILLON LOSES ELECTION TO HEAD REPUBLICAN PARTY



Chandigarh-born Harmeet Dhillon has lost her bid to head the Republican National Committee (RNC)

JANUARY 28, 2023

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Chandigarh-born Harmeet Dhillon has lost her bid to head the Republican National Committee (RNC) despite a spirited fight against the US party's establishment that drew broad support.

The current RNC chair Ronna McDaniels was re-elected on Friday, January 27, at the Committee's meeting in California despite criticism for having led the party through three successive defeats and an underperformance.

Dhillon, who polled 51 votes to McDaniel's 111 in the 168-member RNC, ran a grassroots campaign that brought out the discontent in the ranks of the party that must face a presidential election next year.

After the election, Dhillon said "At the end of the day, if our party is perceived as totally out of touch with the grassroots, which I think some may take away from this outcome, we have some work to do." The Republican Party has two high-profile women with roots in Punjab -- Dhillon, who proudly broadcasts it with the Twitter handle "@pnjaban"; and Nikki Haley, the first Indian American to be on the US Cabinet, who has said is "looking in a serious way" a run for the party's presidential nomination.

The run-up to the RNC election was marred by allegations that McDaniels's supporters had run a whispering campaign against Dhillon based on her Sikh faith.

Dhillon tweeted during the campaign: "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." McDaniels condemned the efforts to use religion against Dhillon citing her own membership in the minority Mormon faith that is often portrayed negatively.

Dhillon received the support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a rising figure in the party and a likely challenger to former President Donald Trump for the party's presidential nomination next year.

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

# Indian-origin Sikh volunteer Amar Singh gets Australian of the Year Local Hero award 2023 for community service

JANUARY 28, 2023

**CANBERRA (TIP):** Indian-origin Sikh volunteer, Amar Singh has been felicitated with Australian of the Year Local Hero award 2023 for supporting the community during floods, bushfires, drought and the pandemic.

The photos of the ceremony have been shared by the official Twitter handle of the awarding social enterprise.

The 41-year-old, who also experienced ethnic slurs because of his beard and turban, was conferred with the prestigious award on Nov 3 last year.

Amar Singh, a Sikh, founded a charity organization "Turbans 4 Australia" seven years ago and works towards supporting the displaced and the vulnerable impacted by natural calamities. He was also subjected to racial slur because of his beard and turban, a press release issued by the New South Wales government said. He wanted to show people they didn't need to be afraid and began helping struggling Australians.

Australian Department of Home Affairs also shared the news on its



Amar Singh has been felicitated with Australian of the Year Local Hero award 2023 for supporting the community during floods, bushfires, drought and the pandemic.

official Facebook account with picture of Australian PM Anthony Albanese congratulating Singh. "Amar Singh (NSW), founder of T4A - Turbans 4 Australia, is the#AusOfTheYearLocal Hero for 2023. Congratulations!!! As the proud sponsors of this Australian of the Year Awards category, we thank you for your tireless work promoting multicultural and religious tolerance in

our diverse society," the post reads.

Singh moved to Australia as a teenager. He said he was passionate about community service from very young age. He believes helping others should not be limited by religion, language or cultural background.

Every week, Turbans 4 Australia package and distribute up to 450 food and grocery hampers to people experiencing food insecurity in Western Sydney. They also raise awareness and funds for important causes while promoting multiculturalism and religious tolerance. But the organization is best known around Australia since its founding in 2015 for transporting emergency goods to those in need.

Turbans 4 Australia has delivered hay to farmers experiencing drought; supplies to flood victims in Lismore and bushfire-impacted people on the South Coast; food hampers to the isolated and vulnerable during COVID-19 lockdowns; and supplies to the Salvation Army in central Queensland in the devastating wake of Cyclone Marcia.

## Indian-origin Harjinder 'Harry' Takhar found dead in isolated woodlands of UK: Police Report



**JANUARY 29, 2023**  
**LONDON (TIP):** A 58-year-old Indian-origin man who had been missing since last year has been found dead in an isolated woodland in the West Midlands region of England.

Harjinder 'Harry' Takhar, a father of four, went missing in October and a body discovered recently in Telford was identified as him earlier this week, after formal identification by the local West Mercia Police.

The police said Takhar's family had been informed and his death was not being treated as suspicious.

"This is a sad outcome to what has been a challenging and emotional search, but I'm pleased that Harry's family now have some closure," Detective Inspector Jo Whitehead, who led the enquiries into the disappearance.

"I'd like to thank the public for their incredible response to our appeals to locate Harry and all the information that they provided to us during our enquiries. Harry's family have asked me to express their sincere thanks for the support they have received from the community since Harry's disappearance and have asked that their privacy is respected at this distressing time," he said.

According to local media reports, the disappearance was described as "completely out of character" by Takhar's family and mobilized the local community in the search. West Mercia Police issued several appeals over the months since Takhar's went missing.

A Facebook group was launched and attracted over 8,000 members with messages of support flooding in from friends and strangers. A social media campaign was also launched using the hashtag #HelpHarryHome.

"He was a family man, who was a very jolly character and full of energy and life," wife Ran told 'Birmingham Live'.

Takhar disappeared in the Stirchley Pools area of Telford in Shropshire.

## INDIAN COMMUNITY IN SHOCK AFTER A TEMPLE WAS VANDALIZED IN CANADA'S BRAMPTON



**JANUARY 31, 2023**  
**BRAMPTON (TIP):** A temple has been vandalized with 'anti-India' graffiti in Canada's Brampton City, leaving the Indian community in shock.

The Indian Consulate General in Toronto issued a statement on Tuesday, January 31, condemning the attack on the Gauri Shankar temple in Brampton.

"The hateful act of vandalism has deeply hurt sentiments of the Indian community in Canada. We have raised our concerns on the matter with Canadian authorities," the consulate office said in a statement.

The matter is being investigated by the Canadian authorities.

Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown condemned the defacing of the temple, which is a symbol of Indian heritage.

"This hateful act of vandalism has no place in our city or country," Brown tweeted.

He said he had raised his concerns over the hate crime with Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe in their place of worship," Brown said.

# Three Indian Americans get jobs in the US Government



Raghav Vajjhala, Priyanka Hooghan, and Shivani Vakharia are the three Indian Americans who have got jobs in the US government

JANUARY 30, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Three Indian Americans have got new jobs - two in government and one in a leading think tank.

Raghav Vajjhala has joined the US Securities and Exchange Commission as its senior officer and associate director for enterprise IT operations.

Priyanka Hooghan is now chief of staff for the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management at the Department of Energy, while Shivani Vakharia has joined the Center for Strategic and International Studies as associate director for congressional and government affairs.

Vajjhala most recently was chief information officer and chief data officer at the FTC. In that role, he "modernized all aspects of information technology and data management programs, and

rebuilt cyber-security programs," according to his LinkedIn profile.

Before joining the FTC, he was chief technology officer at the US Department of the Treasury. There, he established an IT Strategy and Technology Management Office to oversee the agency's \$3 billion in annual spending for technology services and manage agency-wide programs," it says.

He has a BSc in Aeronautical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas, Austin, and an MBA from Georgetown University.

Hooghan previously was staff director on the Subcommittee on Environment on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

She is "skilled at applying technical knowledge of environmental

regulations, field experience, and interpersonal skills from the environmental services industry to the development of public policy recommendations," according to her LinkedIn profile.

Prior to joining the US House of Representatives as a staffer, Hooghan was an APAICS STEM Fellow and an Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) STEM Legislative Fellow.

Before that, she worked as a Regional Environmental Engineer at SunCoke Energy, and as an Environmental Engineer with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. She has an MSc in Environmental engineering from Stanford and a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University.

Vakharia previously was a congressional affairs officer at the National Endowment for Democracy, where she served as "a storyteller" talking about "the importance of democracy assistance work led and championed by civil society organizations around the world."

Before that, she spent five years in the US House of Representatives as an intern in 2014, raising up the ranks as a staff assistant, legislative correspondent and press assistant.

She has a BA in International Affairs, Political Science, and Spanish from The University of Georgia, and an MA in International Affairs and International Economic Relations.

## First Indian American to win Miss World America Shree Saini joins prayer for World Peace



Shree Saini

JANUARY 30, 2023

**SEATTLE (TIP):** Shree Saini, the first Indian American to win the Miss World America title, joined a prayer for world peace at a function organized in Rajyoga Bhawan. She had come to meet her maternal grandparents Vijay Laxmi and Tilak Raj Sachdeva.

Saini represented the US at Miss World 2021, and was the 1st runner-up, Brahma Kumari's center in-charge Pushplata presented her with a bouquet and wished for a bright future.

## Indian American Shasti Conrad is the first South Asian elected for post of Washington State Democratic Party chair

JANUARY 30, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Indian American political consultant Shasti Conrad has been elected as the new chair of the Washington State Democratic Party, becoming the youngest and first Indian American woman to serve as a state party chair in the US.

Conrad, 38, a political consultant, ran unopposed, with the support of Gov. Jay Inslee, Washington's Democratic US senators, most of the state's Democratic congressional delegation and a majority of other elected Democrats.

"I'm so honored to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of our state party and build on the outstanding success Washington Democrats have earned at the ballot box for the last six years," said Conrad, who has worked on political campaigns since 2008 when she got her start as a field organizer working for then-Senator Obama's primary campaign. "I'm excited to work with Democratic leaders from every community to build an unprecedented field operation that will carry the message of how Washington



Shasti Conrad has been elected as the new chair of the Washington State Democratic Party, becoming the youngest and first Indian American woman to serve as a state party chair in the US.

Democrats are delivering for working families to each and every voter," she said in a statement issued on Saturday.

"Today, Shasti Conrad was elected Chair of the Washington State Democrats by affirmation. Conrad is the first woman of color and youngest person to be elected Chair of the Washington State Democrats as well as the first South Asian and first Indian American woman to serve as a State Democratic Party Chair in the country," according to a statement from the Washington State Democrats. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## British Indian Princess Sophia Duleep Singh to be honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque in UK



Sophia Duleep Singh is to be honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London.

JANUARY 28, 2023

**LONDON (TIP):** Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh - the last ruler of the Sikh empire - and the goddaughter of Queen Victoria, is to be honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London.

Princess Sophia was among the leading suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote in 1900s Britain.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honors the historic significance of particular buildings associated with historical figures and its 2023 cohort includes the 19th-century home of the British Indian Princess.

"Daughter of the deposed Maharaja Duleep Singh, who already has a plaque in Holland Park (London), and goddaughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was an active suffragette and made full use of her royal title to generate support for female enfranchisement," notes English Heritage in its Blue Plaque announcement this week.

"She was a dedicated member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and the Women's Tax Resistance League (WTRL). The plaque will mark the large house near Hampton Court Palace which was granted to Sophia and her sisters as a grace and favor apartment by Queen Victoria in 1896," it notes.

British Indian writer Anita Anand, the author of 'Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary', expressed her excitement at the historical heroine being recognized with a Blue Plaque.

"Princess Sophia Duleep Singh will finally get the recognition she deserves," said Anand.

It is among six new plaques unveiled for the year, including fellow suffragette Emily Wilding Davison's home in Kensington in London and violinist and composer Yehudi Menuhin's six-story house in Belgravia, where he lived for the last 16 years of his life. Others include anti-racism activist Claudia Jones, London's first female Mayor Ada Salter and Pre-Raphaelite model Marie Spartali Stillman. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

**SENATOR JOHN LIU  
COMMENTS ON  
EDUCATION ITEMS IN  
GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S  
PROPOSED BUDGET**



Senator John Liu welcomed the Governor's proposal for additional 2.7 billion for school funding but felt the attempt to remove the cap on charters in NYC "is a nonstarter".

**FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

**NEW YORK, NY(TIP):** Giving his comment on the Governor's proposed budget announcement, Senator John Liu thanked the governor "for honoring our collective commitment to fully funding foundation aid with an additional \$2.7 billion for school funding in your budget proposal. New York school kids can finally receive a sound, basic education as they are long owed under the New York State Constitution.

"However, the naked attempt to remove the cap on charters in NYC is a nonstarter. The cap has historically served to strike the balance between giving parents so-called 'choice' and the constitutional requirement to keep public schools open, and it's not common sense to upset that balance."

## 74th Republic Day Celebrated at Vaishnav Temple of New York

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Vaishnav Temple of New York, Inc, (VTNY) was established in December 1986 under the leadership of the late Dr. Arvind Shah. Vaishnav Temple of New York is the first traditional Pushtimargiya' temple in North America.

For more than 30 years, members of VTNY and Indians in the community have shown their patriotic spirit and celebrated India's Republic Day. For the past couple of years VTNY has partnered with The Gujarati Samaj of New York (GSNY) to organize and celebrate this day. On 29th January, 2023 almost 300 Indian "Desh Bhakts" gathered at VTNY to celebrate the 74th Republic Day of India.

The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Bobby Kalotee, Chairman of the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights and Mrs. Ragini Srivastava, serving as Town Clerk of the Town of North Hempstead was the guest of Honor.

The event was sponsored by Dr. Pratix Shroff and his family, who are devoted Vaishnavs. Dr. Shroff is a renowned General & Cosmetic Dentistry Practitioner and a longtime supporter of VTNY.

The event started with an Indian and American Flag parade with all the dignitaries, trustees, and executive committee members of VTNY and GSNY and fellow Indians joining the march. Kumar Mathuria, Secretary of VTNY welcomed everyone. Thereafter, Jaymin Shah, President of VTNY, Anil Shah, Chairman of VTNY, Harshad (Pakaji) Patel, President of GSNY and Co-Chairman of VTNY, Diyesh Tripathi, Program Manager of GSNY and Jignesh Gandhi, Jt. Secretary of VTNY introduced



The Chief Guest of the event Dr. Bobby Kalotee, Chairman of the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights and Guest of Honor Mrs. Ragini Srivastava, Town Clerk of the Town of North Hempstead are seen with the community at the Vaishnav Temple of New York

and felicitated the sponsor and chief guests of the event. All the senior members of VTNY and GSNY along with the dignitaries then joined on the stage for the Flag Hoisting Ceremony under the guidance of Champakbhai Parikh and his son Bharatbhai Parikh. Champakbhai has been guiding the flag hoisting ceremony for more than two decades. This ceremony started with the American National Anthem sung by Avantika Shah, followed by singing of Vande Mataram, Flag Hoisting by the dignitaries, Rashtra Dhwaj salami and singing of the Indian National Anthem- Jana Gana Mana- by all together.

Dr. Bobby Kalotee and Mrs. Ragini Srivastava then gave citations and recognized members of the community for their selfless service.

This was followed by some amazing patriotic song dance performances by young kids and teenagers from the community. This included kids from the

Gujarati Class of VTNY choreographed by Vaishali Shah and Arya Dance Academy led by Shilpa Zurani along with performance by kids choreographed by Sonal Shah and a performance by Prachi Shah. The members of the Karaoke group of VTNY then sang a medley of patriotic songs which reminded everyone of the sacrifices of the Indian Freedom Fighters and Independence Leaders and also highlighted the great heritage and culture of India.

The celebration concluded with update on future events of VTNY provided by the Jt. Secretary Jignesh Gandhi and update on future events of the Senior Community Center of VTNY provided by the President Chandrakant Shah followed by vote of thanks from Divyesh Tripathi, the Program Manager of GSNY and Kumar Mathuria, the Secretary of VTNY.

(Press Release & Pictures / courtesy Vijay Shah)

## Long Island couple organize eye camp in native India; provide free eyeglasses to the needy



Om Parkash Soni, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, with Satish Bhalla delivering groceries to needy women.



Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Member of India's Parliament joins Rajesh Bhalla and Satish Bhalla distribute food at the Langar, a community meal.



Optometrist Suresh Kamboj checking the eye sight of one of 200 people who attended CLB Eye Camp



After determining the approximate lens power of a patient, the optometrist Varun Devesar determines the exact power with trial set. surplus food from hotels, airlines and industry kitchens is distributed to the needy.

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

to the poor families in the area.

The event was conceived by Ratna Bhalla, former Deputy Commissioner of Nassau County who inspired her husband to commemorate the half century mark of his father who passed away on January 25, 1973.

The eye camp was supported by a team of eye specialists from the renowned BSLN Eye Hospital in Ganga Nagar, established by Shree Kumar Swami, a spiritual guru acclaimed for his charitable

JANUARY 26, 2023

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** Former Commissioner of Nassau County Varinder Bhalla, a native of Amritsar in the Punjab state of India celebrated the life and legacy of his late father on the 50th anniversary of his passing by organizing an eye camp for free eye exam and eyeglasses for the underprivileged. The event was also marked by a Langar, a community meal served to over 1000 people as well as distribution of groceries

Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Member of India's Parliament, Om Parkash Soni, former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab and Sandeep Rishi, Commissioner of Amritsar were the notables who gathered to pay homage to the late Chaman Lal Bhalla whose exemplary support of a local school for the blind inspired the Bhalla family to carry on his tradition of giving back to the society.

The Bhallas of Long Island also run a food bank in India's capital city where

# India's Republic Day celebrated in Long Island



Flag hoisting by Nassau County Controller Elaine Phillips and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino



Honorees: Mrs. Sujata Seth, Mrs. Anju Sharma, and Dr Sohita Mehra

JANUARY 26, 2023

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Presiding Officer Richard Nicollello, Chairman of Human Rights Commission Dr Bobby Kalotee joined with Indian American Forum Chairperson Indu Jaiswal and Indian American Community from

Long Island, celebrated the 74th Republic Day of India on January 26, 2023.

The national anthems of the US and India were sung, and the Indian national flag was hoisted.

Mrs. Sujata Seth, Public Affairs Associate for Parker Jewish Institute of Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Dr

Shaifali Karkare specializes in Pediatric Neurology in New Hyde Park, Dr Jagmohan Kalra, Specializes in Hematology and Medical Oncology, Dr Sohita Mehra is currently the Director of Breast imaging and started the Breast MRI institute, Mrs. Anju Sharma, active member known for her outstanding Community Services.,

Dr Swati Kumar, and Shilpi Kumar MBA were presented with India Republic Day Awards by Indian American Forum and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino.

Present on the occasion were elected officials and members of the Indian American community.

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# Allow it to reign Supreme

A 'committed judiciary' would spell the end of checks & balances in a democracy

"THE SCC SYSTEM, LIKE THE PROPOSED NJAC, OR THE SYSTEMS NOW PREVALENT IN ADVANCED DEMOCRACIES CAN NEVER BE PERFECT, BUT IT IS THE BEST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE JUDGES, AT LEAST, ARE NOT POLITICAL, THOUGH THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PREFERENCES. A CONSTANT CRITICISM OF THE SCC SYSTEM IS THAT IT IS OPAQUE. ONLY THE FIVE SENIOR-MOST JUDGES WHO CONSTITUTE THE COLLEGIUM CAN TELL WHY ONE CANDIDATE HAS BEEN SELECTED AND THE OTHER REJECTED, BUT WHEN THE SCC DECIDED TO MEET THAT CRITICISM BY PLACING THE PAPERS BEFORE THE PUBLIC, RIJIJU TOOK OFFENCE AT THIS UNEXPECTED MOVE AND PLEADED THAT INPUTS BY THE IB AND OTHER CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES SHOULD NEVER BE MADE PUBLIC."

Indira Gandhi was a born leader. Narendra Modi is a born leader. Indira wanted a committed judiciary. Modi wants a committed judiciary. Indira went about superseding judges who she knew would not support her



By sitting over SC Collegium's recommendations, the Law Ministry has proved that the final say on appointments is of the government.  
Photo credit / PTI

policies if those policies crossed the line drawn by the Constitution. Modi is more subtle in achieving his goal. He has Kiren Rijiju, his Law Minister, to ensure that all judges raised to the Bench in High Courts and the Supreme Court come to heel!

The Collegium system, like the proposed NJAC, or the systems now prevalent in advanced democracies can never be perfect, but it is the best in the circumstances.

Rijiju had done well in the sports and other ministries he was heading, but in the law and judiciary portfolio, he continues to convince, unsuccessfully so far, the Chief Justice and his brother judges of the Supreme Court to shift the balance of power to appoint High Court and Supreme Court judges from the Supreme Court's Collegium (SCC) into the hands of the government.

In Dr DY Chandrachud, he has met a doughty opponent who cannot be taken for a ride. Every few days, Rijiju tries a new tack. He has to prove himself to the 'one who decides his future'. I wish him well but not at the cost of the people. The citizens of the Republic must be assured of an independent judiciary. A 'committed judiciary' would spell the end of checks and balances that a democracy needs to be assured of a modicum of justice. If the judiciary is enslaved like some other institutions that have already succumbed or about to succumb (some against their wishes), this country will be on its way to become an autocratic state. We are already being told what we should wear, what we should eat and who we should love. If the judiciary ceases to think like it should - according to the law and the Constitution - our very life and liberty will be at stake.

Justice Madan Lokur, formerly of the SC, has in an essay in an online publication titled, 'The Government Wants a Committed Judiciary - And Could be Close to Getting One', spelt out

various untruths that Rijiju has been guilty of in the course of his campaign to malign the SCC system.

The SCC system, like the proposed NJAC, or the systems now prevalent in advanced democracies can never be perfect, but it is the best in the circumstances. The judges, at least, are not political, though they have their own preferences. A constant criticism of the SCC system is that it is opaque. Only the five senior-most judges who constitute the Collegium can tell why one candidate has been selected and the other rejected, but when the SCC decided to meet that criticism by placing the papers before the public, Rijiju took offence at this unexpected move and pleaded that inputs by the IB and other Central Intelligence agencies should never be made public.

Well, he cannot have it both ways. If he wants to hide the reasons for the government's distrust of certain nominees, it would help the government to say that it had rejected the nomination for reasons spelt out by the IB. That would dispel the popular understanding that the government wants only judges who toe its line and not those who are fair and just. Obviously, the government does not want to be told that its Intelligence agencies are also eager to toe its line! The disclosures that the SCC has now made because of its spat with the Law Ministry show that the objections voiced in the Intelligence reports are on the lines required by the government.

Ever since Justice Chandrachud became the CJI, the Law Ministry, with Rijiju to guide it, has become particularly hostile. Any recommendation that is reiterated after reconsideration on the government's urging has to be accepted in toto, according to rules. The government has been dragging its feet, making it abundantly clear that certain



BY  
JULIO RIBEIRO

THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM, LIKE THE PROPOSED NJAC, OR THE SYSTEMS NOW PREVALENT IN ADVANCED DEMOCRACIES CAN NEVER BE PERFECT, BUT IT IS THE BEST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

independent-minded legal luminaries are 'persona non grata'.

Justice Lokur has mentioned the case of Aditya Sondhi, who withdrew his consent when his appointment to the SC Bench was kept in cold storage for more than a year. The inter-High Court transfers of Chief Justices are also kept in cold storage if the government frowns on certain judges, like Justice Muralidhar, whose only fault was that he insisted on FIRs against a minister and other BJP bigwigs when they made hate speeches quite openly and brazenly in Delhi before the riots began three years ago.

Justice Lokur also mentioned about the case of legal luminary Gopal Subramanium, who withdrew his consent to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court after the government stalled his appointment by blatantly splitting the recommendation of the SCC, accepting one name and keeping quiet over the other, thus making it known that the government did not want a judge who was not in sync with its policies.

Justice Lokur proved through his dissertation that Rijiju's argument that India was the only country in the world where the government had no part to play in the selection of judges was totally false and misconceived. The examples he quoted proved the fact that the government was, in fact, neck and shoulders involved in the entire exercise. Moreover, said Justice Lokur, the procedure laid down for the appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court clearly shows that the government has its fingers immersed in the pie at various stages and there is no question of keeping them out. In fact, the final word is with the Law Ministry itself because by sitting over the recommendations of the SCC in many inconvenient (to the government) appointments and expediting others, it has proved that the final say is of the government, and the government alone.

The government obviously does not want independent-minded judges and it is only the present CJI and his senior colleagues, now in the SCC, who are effectively ensuring that this last bastion of democracy does not capitulate during their term in office.

(The author is a former governor and a retired IPS officer)

# Will Prime Minister Modi Restore Investors' Confidence in Indian Markets and Regulatory Mechanism, Investigate Adani Group ?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gautam Adani



The handshake with Gautam Adani need not prevent PM Modi from doing his duty to the nation

Since 2014 under PM Modi, it has become a fashion and accepted norm in India that if you are a criminal and you belong to RSS family of organizations; you can hide behind "Fake Nationalism" or behind a false cry of "Hinduism is in Eminent Danger". Under this magic formula, your every crime will go away and you can become a Central or State Minister or Chief Minister or member of legislative bodies in the center or state, or a State Governor. If you do not belong to RSS family of organizations and you are a rapist, murderer, bomb maker , terrorist, money launderer, drug dealer, mine mafia, arms dealer etc. by joining any of the RSS family of organizations; you can become sin aka crime free and now you are called Sanskari aka person of Good Character!

Disgustingly Adani Group founded by Gautam Adani, it's CFO Jugeshinder Singh has gone one step ahead of the above time tested Magic Formula used by criminals supported by RSS family of organizations; has found a new way to cover his Boss Gautam Adani's crimes. He has draped his boss, his family members and Adani Group's crimes behind the National Flag of India. No one from RSS family of organizations and their Godi Media has raised any objections or has said a word that it is an insult to every Indian, Indian National Flag and Mother India. Can the PM Modi's Government or RSS family of organization's top officials explain if the Indian National Flag is Adani Group's Corporate Logo?

This happened when Gautam Adani aka Adani Group though its CFO Jugeshinder Singh in a video for Media, defended himself against the accusations - leveled by US-based short sellers Hindenburg Research - that it had "engaged in a brazen stock price manipulation, stock parking, accounting fraud, round tripping of

cash, Import-Export scams, money laundering through 38 offshore shell companies etc. over the course of decades," the choice of décor was more persuasive than the denial of frauds.



Nationalism is not to be abused

CFO Singh stood in front of a giant Indian flag that made him look more like a very high level government official than an embattled company executive. His message was clear: If you are a "foreign entity" coming after Gautam Adani or Adani Group, you're coming after India.



No, sir; it's not an attack on India

CFO Singh while defending Gautam Adani aka Adani Group also said, "It does not surprise me. In Jallianwala Bagh, only one Englishman gave an order, Indians fired on other Indians. So am I surprised by the behavior of some fellow Indians? No."

Shamelessly CFO Singh has equated frauds committed by Gautam Adani aka Adani Group exposed by Hindenburg Research with the martyrs fighting for Indian independence from the British. At the same time, he is giving an open warning to every Indian if they believe in Hindenburg Research report and question Gautam Adani or Adani Group, they will be called traitors aka anti-Nationals.

Then on Jan 29th, 2023 Adani group in its 413-page written rebuttal, denounced Hindenburg's report as "baseless" and "malicious," and accused the firm of having an "ulterior motive" for publishing the "missive." "This is rife with conflict of interest and intended only to create a false market in securities to enable Hindenburg, an admitted short seller, to book massive financial gain through wrongful means at the cost of countless investors."

It said Hindenburg's actions represent a "calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity, and quality of Indian institutions, and the growth story and ambition of India."

Same day on Jan 29, 2023, Hindenburg Research replied, "Fraud cannot be obfuscated by Nationalism or

a bloated response that ignores every key allegation we raised.

Adani has stoked a nationalist narrative, claiming our report amounted to a "calculated attack on India." In short, the Adani Group has attempted to conflate its meteoric rise and the wealth of its Chairman, Gautam Adani, with the success of India itself.

We disagree. To be clear, we believe India is a vibrant democracy and an emerging superpower with an exciting future. We also believe India's future is being held back by the Adani Group, which has draped itself in the Indian flag while systematically looting the nation.

 Hindenburg Research [@HindenbugRes](#)

We have identified 38 Mauritius shell entities controlled by Vinod Adani and close associates.

We have also identified entities that are surreptitiously controlled by Vinod Adani in Cyprus, the UAE, Singapore, and several Caribbean Islands. (15/x)

8:15 AM · 25/01/23

Hindenbug investigation speaks of Adani Group's shell companies

We also believe that fraud is fraud, even when it's perpetrated by one of the wealthiest individuals in the world.

In terms of substance, Adani's '413 page' response only included about 30 pages focused on issues related to our report.

The remainder of the response consisted of 330 pages of court records, along with 53 pages of high-level financials, general information, and details on irrelevant corporate initiatives, such as how it encourages female entrepreneurship and the production of safe vegetables.

Within one week of the Hindenburg Research report, Adani Group companies have lost \$108 Billion in Market Cap, one of the biggest wipeouts in India's history. Gautam Adani himself lost \$48 Billion in personal wealth and now ranks 16TH in the Index of World's Richest from 3rd rank on Jan. 23, 2023. On Feb. 1, 2023 Credit Suisse stopped accepting Bonds of Adani Group collateral for margin loans to private banking clients. Citigroup Inc's (C.N) wealth arm also stopped accepting securities of Gautam Adani's group of firms as collateral for margin loans.

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) late on Feb. 2, 2023 decided to withdraw its Rs 20,000 crore (\$2.5 Billion) follow-on public offering (FPO), India's biggest such issue after claiming over subscription on Feb. 1, 2023 and announced that investors money will be returned. Sajjan Jindal and Sunil Mittal subscribed the Adani FPO in a last-minute push from their personal funds and do not involve listed businesses that they head like JSW Steel Ltd. and Bharti Airtel Ltd. FPO offering price band was Rs 3,112-3,276 per share while it was trading below Rs 3,000.00 in the market. The closing price of

COTND FROM PAGE 9

## Will Prime Minister Modi Restore Investors' Confidence in Indian Markets and Regulatory Mechanism, Investigate Adani Group ?

Hindenburg Research  @Hinde... · 5d  
Replying to @HindenburgRes

Many Vinod Adani-associated entities have no obvious signs of operations, no reported employees, no independent addresses or phone numbers and no meaningful online presence.

Despite this, they have collectively moved billions of dollars through Adani entities.  
(16/x)

Hindenburg report speaks of fraud by Adani Group

Gautam Adani's Flagship company closed at Rs 1,565.25 at BSE on Feb. 2, 2023 that is 52 weeks low from its high of Rs 4,190.00

The decision to withdraw the FPO issue came right after Forbes flash news that "there's evidence of wrongdoing that the Adani Group likely bought into its own \$2.5 Billion Share sale. It must be noted that despite the FPO being oversubscribed, its retail portion was subscribed only 0.12 times (12%) with investors bidding for only 2.74 million shares as against the quota of 22.9 million shares. The non-institutional investor category was over-subscribed 3.32 times while that of qualified institutional buyers (QIB) was also oversubscribed 126%.

Post Hindenburg Report , Value of LIC investment in Adani Group shares have fallen from ₹77,000 CR to ₹53,000 CR- loss of ₹23,500 CR. Also, LIC shares have lost ₹22,442 CR. SBI share's "market cap" has declined by a whopping ₹ 54,618 CR. The Loan Exposure of SBI and other Banks to Adani Group is ₹ 81,200 CR. SBI alone has ₹2.6 billion or Rs 21,000 crore of loans to Adani Group.



Indians wish they opened their eyes for the sake of India and the Indians

On Feb. 2, 2023, India's parliament was adjourned for the day after pandemonium broke out when the upper house chair rejected opposition lawmakers' demand for a debate on Billionaire Gautam Adani's dispute with a US short seller Hindenburg Research. They were demanding an investigation into accusations of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" made against Adani Group by the Hindenburg Research. Later Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Indian National Congress party and leader of the opposition, told reporters, "We want either a joint parliamentary committee ... or a committee headed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court to investigate this matter and release the day-to-day report."

It is a well-known fact that current Indian PM Narendra Modi and Gautam Adani are close friends for over 2 decades and both have helped each other in their respective professions. Adani from Diamond sorter became the 3rd richest person in the world. That position he held till the Hindenburg Research made disclosures of serious frauds by Adani Group. Despite having no apparent experience or expertise; he is in every field of India; right from ports, airports, military hardware, railways, mining, cement, power, real estate, fresh & processed food etc. mostly due to government favors.

Modi from menial RSS worker became its Pracharak aka "Messenger of RSS's misguided Hindutva and Hindu Rashtra Philosophy" to become the face along with L K Advani in the Rath Yatra for Ram Mandir, later to become the CM of Gujarat in 2001. So many independent Indian and foreign bodies hold CM Modi responsible for ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Gujarat riots in 2002. There was "widespread rape of Muslim women" and killing of Muslims. "Muslim businesses, including businesses partially owned by Muslims and their properties were systematically targeted and destroyed. "This was followed by calls for an economic boycott of Muslim owned businesses, denial of jobs, rentals & forcible sale of their properties in Hindu localities." As per official figures 1,044 dead, 223 missing, and 2,500 injured. Of the dead, 790 were Muslim and 254 Hindu. The Concerned Citizens Tribunal Report estimated that as many as 1,926 Muslims may have been killed. Over 140,000 people were displaced in the violence, of which 100,000 were Muslims. "Conditions in refugee camps were extremely poor for Muslims" and initially compensation offered by the Modi's Gujarat government was "discriminatory": Rs 200,000 for Hindu victims, and Rs 100,000 for Muslims. This was later modified "at the request of the Central government in Delhi". Still Modi remain Chief Minister of Gujarat till 2014 to become the Prime Minister of India by invoking fake nationalism. misguided Hindutva and his support to make India a Hindu Rashtra.



The loyalty to Gautam Adani should not deter the Prime Minister of India from doing his duty to the nation

If PM Modi's government has an iota of shame, care for international reputation of India, and even 0.1% faith in Democratic norms and love for India as per the Hinduism they swear by; Adani Group's founders, family members, top executives and enforcement agencies' top officials must be investigated. If they are found guilty, they must be given exemplary punishment to deter future financial crimes like this by anyone, including persons belonging to richest club or bureaucrats or politicians of India. In the meantime Adani Group's Chief Financial Officer Jugeshinder Singh must be arrested immediately for insulting Indian National Flag, Indians and Mother India. Singh should be arrested on non-bailable warrants and must do minimum 6 months rigorous imprisonment with regular criminals with no privileges for being a rich or highly educated man or a foreign national. Being a highly educated and ex-Indian citizen, he was fully aware of the rules and protocols about using the Indian National Flag by a common citizen. He cannot hide behind the fact by saying that he is an Australian citizen and gave up his Indian citizenship to give lectures on Indian Nationalism!

### ADANI GROUP: HOW THE WORLD'S 3RD RICHEST MAN IS PULLING THE LARGEST CON IN CORPORATE HISTORY

Published on January 24, 2023

<https://hindenburgresearch.com/adani/?fbclid=IwAR1o0U99rToDlcI8s38bG2uJ3tUzQd1ijT3R2Hi7KJke42u3aNkamshk>

### ADANI RESPONSE TO HINDENBURG RESEARCH:

(413 PAGES)

JAN. 29, 2023

<https://www.adani.com/-/media/Project/Adani/Investors/Adani-Response-to-Hindenburg-January-29-2023.pdf>

### HINDENBURG'S REPLY TO ADANI'S RESPONSE:

JAN. 29, 2023

Fraud Cannot Be Obfuscated by Nationalism Or A Bloated Response That Ignores Every Key Allegation We Raised

<https://hindenburgresearch.com/adani-response/>

(The special report has been compiled by Dave Makkar for The Indian Panorama. Mr. Makkar is a social activist based in New Jersey)

The Indian Panorama welcomes readers' comments which will be published in the next weekly editions.

# 'I Have a Dream' Song at Program Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King



The song "I have a Dream" being sung at the Sri Chinmoy Centre at its Headquarters in New York City

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Dr. Martin Luther King's spirit of brotherhood, his life and his ongoing legacy were honored January 14 at a program hosted by the Sri Chinmoy Centre at its Headquarters in New York City. Featured at the program was a new arrangement of the song "I Have a Dream", with words extracted from Dr. King's historic 1963 speech, melody by Sri Chinmoy, and a new piano arrangement. Recognized as a beacon of light and world leader, Dr. King received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. The song first premiered at a program held at the United Nations in 1977, with Coretta Scott King as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

In her closing remarks at that program,

Coretta Scott King thanked Sri Chinmoy and the Peace Meditation Group, as well as the many ambassadors and UN officials who paid tribute to her husband: "Your words have been, indeed, an inspiration to me. And to have heard what has been said by representatives of nations around the world, who have understood Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message and his great life commitment, certainly inspires me personally to continue in the struggle, which we are all a part of here....I feel that I am also a citizen of the world, as Martin Luther King, Jr. was a citizen of the world."

Coretta Scott King and Sri Chinmoy were later honored in 1994 by the



Sri Chinmoy with Coretta Scott King at the United Nations at a program honoring her husband on November 29, 1977

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, India's foremost and most respected cultural institution as the first two recipients of the Mahatma Gandhi Universal Harmony Award for their contributions to universal peace and harmony.

At this award ceremony, hosted at the Hilton Hotel in New York City, Sri Chinmoy and Coretta Scott King had the honor to meet with Ramaswami Venkataraman, former President of India, who took part in the ceremony of conferment by the Bhavan along with other tidings from respected top dignitaries and Bhavanites of India such as S. Ramakrishnan, C. Subramaniam, Vice president Palkhivala, Vice president

N. Gandhi. A poem dedicated to Dr. King by Dr. Gerald Deas, respected doctor and public health advocate, delighted the audience, and Dr. Ganapati John Coleman offered a thorough history of Dr. King, the civil rights movement, and influences by Mahatma Gandhi.

Ranjana Ghose, President of the Board of Directors of the Sri Chinmoy Centre, inspired the audience to follow in the footsteps of Dr. and Mrs. King and Sri Chinmoy, and to work towards a better world. Noting an often overlooked but essential factor to achieve success, she quoted Sri Chinmoy, "The first step towards world transformation, is self transformation."

## NJ councilwoman Dwumfour found shot to death outside of her home



Eunice K. Dwumfour, a councilwoman in Sayreville, N.J., was serving her first term in office when she was fatally shot on Wednesday.

Photo credit / Borough of Sayreville, N.J.

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**SAYREVILLE, N.J. (TIP):** A New Jersey borough councilwoman was found shot to death in an SUV outside of her home, authorities said. Eunice K. Dwumfour, a councilwoman in Sayreville, N.J., was serving her first term in office when she was fatally shot on Wednesday, February 1.

Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour, 30, was found at around 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, according to the Middlesex County prosecutor's office. She had been shot multiple times and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Dwumfour, a Republican, was elected to her first three-year term in 2021, when she

ousted a Democratic incumbent. Colleagues recalled her as a soft-spoken devout Christian who could maintain her composure in contentious situations.

"She was a 30-year-old woman. To have this happen in such a tragic way, I mean, our hearts are just broken and everybody wants an answer," said Karen Bailey Bebert, the local GOP chairwoman who served as her campaign manager. "So, we're waiting with bated breath."

Authorities have not made any arrests or said whether they believe the motive for the killing might be personal, political, or a random act. In a 2021 campaign interview, Dwumfour described herself as a proud graduate of Newark public schools who earned a degree in women's studies at William Patterson University while working part-time as an EMT.

She said she moved to Parlin, a section of Sayreville, after graduating "because of the tremendous public safety work the community does." That interest fueled her run for council, where she served as a liaison to the police department now helping to investigate her death.

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

## NEW JERSEY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OPENS APPLICATIONS TO INCREASE SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

GUTTENBERG, NJ

**(TIP):** The New Jersey Leadership Program (NJLP) announced that it has started accepting applications for the 2023 Summer Fellowship Program. The fellowship program seeks to introduce New Jersey-based South Asian youth to government and politics. Applications are due by Friday, February 28, 2023, and interested candidates may apply online at [www.njlead.org](http://www.njlead.org).



Summer Fellowship Program seeks to empower and develop the next generation of South Asian political leaders."

The NJLP Fellowship Program is entering its eighth year and the New Jersey Leadership Program as a whole has graduated over 70 South Asian youth fellows since its formation.

More information about the NJLP Summer Fellowship Program can be found at [www.njlead.org](http://www.njlead.org).

The New Jersey Leadership Program (NJ Lead) is a non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting South Asian American youth participation and education at the local level of government in the State of New Jersey. NJ Lead and its Fellowship Program focus on developing leadership skills, building public policy knowledge, and building the pipeline for South Asian Americans to work in government or pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels. To learn more about NJ Lead, please visit [www.njlead.org](http://www.njlead.org)

Contact: [info@njlead.org](mailto:info@njlead.org) / (201) 234-9261

# Doval meets Blinken, exchanges views on wide range of global and regional issues

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during which they exchanged views on a wide range of global and regional issues and discussed deepening the bilateral strategic partnership.

Blinken, who has just arrived from a trip to the Middle East, including Israel and Egypt, met Doval on Wednesday, February 1.

The United States is expanding cooperation with India to address global challenges, Blinken said in a tweet after the meeting.

"I had a good meeting with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval today to discuss deepening our strategic partnership," Blinken tweeted.

Both sides exchanged views on a wide range of global and regional issues of mutual interest and how to further strengthen the #India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, the Indian Embassy here said in a tweet.

Doval is leading a high-powered delegation to the US.

He also met his American counterpart Jake Sullivan on Tuesday.

During their meeting, India and the United States



India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington on Wednesday, February 1

elevated their strategic partnership with the launch of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology or iCET.

The discussions held during the visit of Doval form

the basis for intensifying India-US cooperation in cutting-edge sectors and are truly reflective of the maturity of a comprehensive and global strategic partnership, the Indian embassy said in a statement on Tuesday.

Doval and Sullivan co-chaired the inaugural iCET meeting at the White House on Tuesday, translating into action the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden during their meeting in Tokyo in May 2022.

iCET aims to position the two countries as trusted technology partners by building technology value chains and supporting the co-development and co-production of items. It also aims to address regulatory restrictions, export controls and mobility barriers through a standing mechanism, the embassy said.

During the meeting, the US side also assured support to ease export barriers to India in a few critical areas, including through efforts towards legislative changes.

Emphasis was placed on strengthening linkages between the startup ecosystems and building innovation bridges in key sectors between the two countries, through expos, hackathons and pitching sessions, according to the statement.

## US NGO based in Pakistan associated with terror organizations, alleges Congressman

**CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL MCCaul, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SEEKS A SUSPENSION OF THE FUNDING TO THE NGO PENDING A FULL AND THOROUGH REVIEW OF THESE ALLEGATIONS**

JANUARY 27, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A US NGO based in Pakistan and receiving humanitarian aid from the US Agency for International Development is associated with designated terrorist organizations, an American lawmaker has alleged.

In a letter to USAID Administrator Samantha Power on January 24, Congressman Michael McCaul, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sought a suspension of the funding to the NGO pending a full and thorough review of these allegations.

"This award must immediately be suspended pending a full and thorough review of these accusations," McCaul said.

The Congressman, in the letter, expressed concern that USAID received information from his office more than eight months ago regarding credible allegations that one of its grantees is associated with designated terrorist organizations.

In October 2021, USAID awarded USD 110,000 to Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) through the Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program. This award was made despite longstanding, detailed allegations that HHRD is connected to designated terrorist



US NGO based in Pakistan associated with terror organizations, alleges Congressman Michael McCaul  
Photo / Twitter

organizations, terror financiers and extremist groups, he said.

In November 2019, three Members of Congress requested that the State Department review these alleged ties to terrorism in a public letter, he wrote.

"Please immediately personally review this grant to HHRD. I strongly urge you to pause this grant while you complete a thorough review of the

allegations, to include coordination with the intelligence community, federal law enforcement, the State Department Counterterrorism Bureau, and the Department of Homeland Security," McCaul said.

The HHRD, a top 4-star rated USA NGO, is also registered in Pakistan with the Ministry of Interior. It is present in all four provinces -- Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -- of Pakistan, in addition to Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

According to the allegations and media reports, some sponsors of HHRD events in Pakistan include Falah-e-Insanit Foundation (FIF), the charitable wing of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terrorist outfit responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The US in 2016 had designated FIF as a terrorist organization.

(Source: PTI)

## AAPI's Women's Leadership Forum Deliberates on Ways To "Advancing Women's Health Through Awareness and Action"



JAN 29, 2023

**HOUSTON (TIP):** "Advancing Women's Health Through Awareness and Action" was the theme at the much-anticipated Women's Leadership Forum that featured extraordinarily successful Women Leaders representing a diversity of professions, involving public, private and government organizations, during the recently concluded Global Healthcare Summit organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI) in Visakhapatnam, India from January 6th to 8th, 2023.

Dr. Smt. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Honorable Governor of Telangana & Honorable Lt. Governor of Puducherry delivered the keynote address at the Women's Forum virtually. She urged everyone to "Pay attention to little things and how changes can be brought in. Ensure that the much-needed healthcare services reach everyone. There are many plans and programs initiated by the state government, but people need to be made aware of them and be helped to utilize the programs," she said. She lauded "the

great work by AAPI members for promoting health globally, particularly in India and the United States."

Shri. MVV Satyavathi, Member of Parliament, representing Anakapalli in Andhra Pradesh was the Guest of Honor at the Women's Forum. In her address, she congratulated AAPI, whose members having been born and educated in India, settled down in the US with success, have come back to India to serve the people of India, and work together for the betterment of humanity.

While congratulating the members of AAPI's Women's Forum and lauding them for some of the major initiatives of the Women's Forum, Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI said, "In collaboration with national AAPI, the Forum has successfully organized events like HPV vaccination drive, fundraiser for suicide prevention awareness, scholarship for medical students, and many others."

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

# Four Indian American lawmakers appointed members of key US House panels

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Four prominent Indian American lawmakers -- Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Ro Khanna -- have been appointed members of three key House panels, reflecting the growing influence of the community in US politics.

Congresswoman Jayapal has been named Ranking Member of the powerful House Judiciary Committee's panel on Immigration, making her the first immigrant to serve in a leadership role for the subcommittee.

Jayapal, 57, representing the 7th Congressional District of Washington State succeeds Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren to serve on the Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, a media release said.

"As the first South Asian woman elected to the US House of Representatives and one of only two dozen naturalized citizens in Congress, I am honored and humbled to serve as the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement," said Jayapal.

"I came to this country when I was 16, alone, and with nothing in my pockets. After 17 years on an alphabet soup of visas to become a US citizen, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to live the American Dream, a dream that is out of reach for too many immigrants today," she said.

"It is extremely meaningful to me that I will now be in this position to better move the needle and re-center our broken immigration system around dignity, humanity, and justice. As I step into this role, I would also like to thank Representative Lofgren for her years of



Four prominent Indian American lawmakers -- Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, and Raja Krishnamoorthi-- have been appointed members of three key House panels.

dedicated leadership on the Subcommittee, and look forward to continuing to work with her," Jayapal said.

Bera, 57, has been appointed as a member of a powerful US House committee handling intelligence-related matters.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with providing oversight of the country's intelligence activities, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), National Security Agency (NSA), as well as military intelligence programs.

"I am honored to be appointed by Leader (Hakeem) Jeffries to serve on the House Intelligence Committee, which plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and national security of the United States," Bera said.

A six-time Congressman, Bera represents the sixth Congressional District of California.

"At a time of increased threats, both at home and abroad, I take seriously this new role and the responsibility entrusted to me to protect and defend American families," he said.

"With my decade of experience working on critical national security issues, I look forward to working with Committee members from both sides of the aisle to ensure our intelligence agencies are operating effectively to keep our nation safe," Bera said.

Bera also serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

During the 117th Congress, Bera served as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation, where he spearheaded Congressional efforts to strengthen ties with Indo-Pacific allies and partners to advance the US economic and security interests.

Krishnamoorthi has been made

Ranking Member of a newly created House committee on China that will investigate various aspects of Chinese behavior, its threat being posed to the US and the world.

US House of Representatives Minority Leader Jeffries on Wednesday announced the appointment of Krishnamoorthi as Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Another Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna has also been made a member of this new committee, formed in the 118th Congress by Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy for the specific purpose of investigating and developing policy to address the United States' economic, technological and security competition with the Chinese Communist Party.

Krishnamoorthi, 49, is the four-term Congressman representing the eight Congressional districts of Illinois, while Khanna, 46, is the four-term lawmaker representing the 17th Congressional district of California.

"I am grateful to Leader Jeffries for appointing me to serve as Ranking Member on the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party," said Krishnamoorthi.

"The Chinese Communist Party poses serious economic and security threats to the United States and to democracy and prosperity across the globe, illustrated by its threats against Taiwan's democracy, its weaponization of TikTok, and its theft of hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of American intellectual property," he said.

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

## Indian diaspora in US holds protest in California against BBC documentary on PM Modi

JANUARY 29, 2023

**FREMONT (TIP):** The Indian diaspora in Fremont, CA, on Saturday January 28 held a protest against the BBC documentary series "India: The Modi Question".

About 50 members, under the banner of "Indian Diaspora", chanted slogans and marched through the streets of Fremont in San Francisco area of United States stating that they "reject BBC's sinister and biased documentary." While marching in Fremont, people were shouting slogans like "Biased BBC" and "racist BBC."

While protesting at Fremont, people carried banners which said, "BBC IS A BOGUS Broadcasting Corporation" and "Indian Diaspora rejects BBC's Sinister and Biased Documentary against Prime Minister Narendra Modi," "BBC Documentary spreading fake propaganda," "BBC is a fake news peddler."

UK's national broadcaster BBC aired a two-part series attacking PM Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister during the Gujarat riots of 2002. Prominent Indian-origin UK citizens condemned the series.



About 50 members, under the banner of "Indian Diaspora held a protest against the BBC documentary series "India: The Modi Question" in Fremont, CA on January 28

Prominent UK Citizen Lord Rami Ranger said the "BBC caused a great deal of hurt to over a billion Indians."

On January 19, India denounced the controversial BBC documentary series on Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and described it as a "propaganda piece" that is designed to push a discredited narrative.

Addressing a weekly media briefing External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi said this documentary show, based on some internal UK report, shows the colonial mindset. The documentary sparked outrage and was removed from select platforms.

"We think this is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias and the lack of objectivity and frankly continuing colonial mindset are blatantly visible," Bagchi said in response to the question on the PM documentary series.

The MEA spokesperson said the documentary is a reflection of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and individuals that are peddling this narrative again. He even raised questions on "the purpose of the exercise and the agenda behind it." "The documentary is a reflection of the agency and individuals that are peddling this narrative again. It makes us wonder about the purpose of the exercise and the agenda behind it; frankly, we do wish to dignify these efforts," he added.

# Boost to capex & pvt consumption, infra push, green growth



The Union Budget 2023-24 has tried to strike a balance between the imperatives of fiscal consolidation and boosting growth. The twin boosters of higher capex outlay and moderation in income taxes for the middle class are big positives at a time when global headwinds are expected to slow down growth. This has been done without losing sight of fiscal consolidation.

Impetus towards tourism, housing and urban infrastructure in small towns will help in generating employment opportunities. On the expenditure front, while the rationalisation in food and fertiliser subsidy is a welcome development, the cut in the allocation for the rural jobs guarantee programme may require an increase in the coming months.

#### Boost to capital expenditure

The allocation of Rs 10 lakh crore for capital expenditure is a welcome move at a time when private investment recovery is still uneven. With this enhancement, capex outlay has reached 3.3 per cent of GDP. This is also reflected in the quality of expenditure. The share of capital expenditure (including grants in aid for creating assets) in the total government expenditure is budgeted to increase to 30.4 per cent in 2023-24 from 25.2 per cent in 2022-23.

In another boost to infrastructure, the budget has proposed an urban infrastructure fund of Rs 10,000 crore. The fund will be managed by the National Housing Bank and will be used for the development of urban infrastructure in tier 2 and 3 cities. This will indirectly support employment generation in small cities.

States have also been incentivised to boost capital spending. The 50-year interest free loans to states has been continued for one more year with an enhanced outlay of Rs 1.3 lakh crore. While the central government has been fast-tracking capital expenditure, states are seen to be slow in capital spending. In addition to enhanced allocation, they need to step up their administrative capacity to expedite capital spending.

#### Steps to spur domestic consumption

The budget aims to spur domestic consumption at a time when external demand is likely to remain muted due to the global headwinds. This has been done through rationalisation and simplification of the personal income tax under the new tax regime.

The new tax regime was introduced in 2020 with six tax slabs. The rebate on personal income tax has been raised to Rs 7 lakh from Rs 5 lakh. Thus, persons in the new tax regime, with income up to Rs 7 lakh will not have to pay any tax. The Finance Minister has now proposed to reduce the number of slabs to five and increase the tax exemption limit to Rs 3 lakh. The maximum tax rate has also been reduced from 42.7 per cent to 39 per cent.

The changes are aimed to make the new tax regime the default one. No changes have been made to the old tax regime. However taxpayers who have parked funds in social security contributions, insurance premiums and are committed to housing loan repayments may continue with the old tax regime.

#### Fiscal consolidation backed by realistic revenue estimates & expenditure compression

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to adhere to the fiscal consolidation roadmap.

The government expects to achieve this year's target of 6.4 per cent of GDP. For the next year, the fiscal deficit target is fixed at 5.9 per cent of GDP. The deficit on the revenue account is projected to fall from 4.1 per cent of GDP in the current year to 2.9 per cent of GDP in the next year.

The targets for revenue receipts are broadly conservative and reflect the slowdown in nominal GDP growth which is expected at 10.5 per cent next year. Gross tax revenue is expected to grow at 10.4 per cent in 2023-24 as compared to 12.3 per cent in the current year.

The government has projected a lower growth in its expenditure. It projects its expenditure to grow at 7.5 per cent, lower than 10.4 per cent in 2022-23. The bulk of the compression in expenditure is coming from revenue expenditure. Revenue expenditure growth is pegged at a meagre 1.2 per cent for the next financial year, assuming that the unanticipated shocks that rocked the economy in the current year would not re-appear next year.

The allocation on both food and fertiliser subsidy has been slashed sharply in 2023-24. While the reduction in subsidy will provide the necessary fiscal space for capital expenditure, the cut in the allocation on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is puzzling.

This year, the government had to increase the allocation on the scheme. It might have to increase the allocation over the coming months if the demand for work remains

#### WHAT GETS EXPENSIVE, WHAT'S CHEAPER

##### Costlier

- Cigarettes
- Kitchen chimney
- Imported bicycles and toys
- Fully imported cars and Electric Vehicles
- Imitation jewellery
- Compounded rubber
- Silver dores
- Naphtha

##### Cheaper

- Domestically-manufactured TV sets
- Shrimp feed
- Fish lipid oil used in manufacturing aquatic feed
- Seeds for lab-grown diamonds
- Capital good
- Machinery for manufacturing lithium ion cell to be used in electric vehicles.

elevated.

The net market borrowings are expected to be Rs 11.8 lakh crore for the next financial year. Market borrowing, though elevated is in line with market expectations. As an outcome, the yield on the benchmark ten year bond did not see a jump post the announcement of budget.

Going forward, however borrowings need to see a dip for a material decline in the central government's debt-GDP ratio. This is important as almost 24 per cent of the expenditure of the central government goes towards interest payments.

#### Noteworthy initiatives for tourism and green growth

The Budget's focus on tourism is a positive move and will help in generating employment opportunities. The proposal to set up Unity Malls for promotion and sale of their one district, one product, GI products and other handicraft products will give an impetus to local handicrafts and help in boosting income and employment.

The emphasis on green growth is welcome. The various measures announced in the budget including an allocation of Rs 19,000 crore for the National Hydrogen Mission will help in reducing the carbon footprint of the economy and will help in moving towards the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2070.

The scrapping of old vehicles by the Centre and States is not only environment friendly but will also give a boost to the automobile sector.

*Source: The Print  
(Author Radhika Pandey is Senior Fellow at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy).*

# New I-T regime made attractive for high income individuals

From next financial year, the new income tax regime will be default regime with the changes proposed in the Budget intended to not only narrow the gap with the old tax regime but make it more attractive for the higher income brackets not bothered about long-term savings.

The Budget has proposed many big changes in the new regime. There is now a standard deduction of Rs 50,000, raising the basic tax exemption limit to Rs 3 lakh and reducing the surcharge for the super rich. The number of slabs has been reduced while nothing has changed for those in the old tax regime. Moreover, people in the new tax regime with income up to Rs 7 lakh will not have to pay any tax.

For those who don't want deductions and exemptions, the new tax regime has already become a more attractive choice with income of over Rs 5 crore annually.

But the new regime can also be an option for others as well. Individuals earning up to Rs 7 lakh will pay no tax in contrast with those earning the same amount under the old regime who will have to pay tax of Rs 22,901 after making payouts for house rent and investments under Sections 80C, 80CCD (1B) and 80D. Had there been no Budget concessions, new regime taxpayers would have had to pay Rs 33,800.

But for those earning Rs 10 lakh, the new regime taxpayer's outgo is Rs 54,600 as against Rs 31,221 which means a substantial gap of over Rs 23,000. Had there been no sops, the outgo under the new regime would have been Rs 78,000.

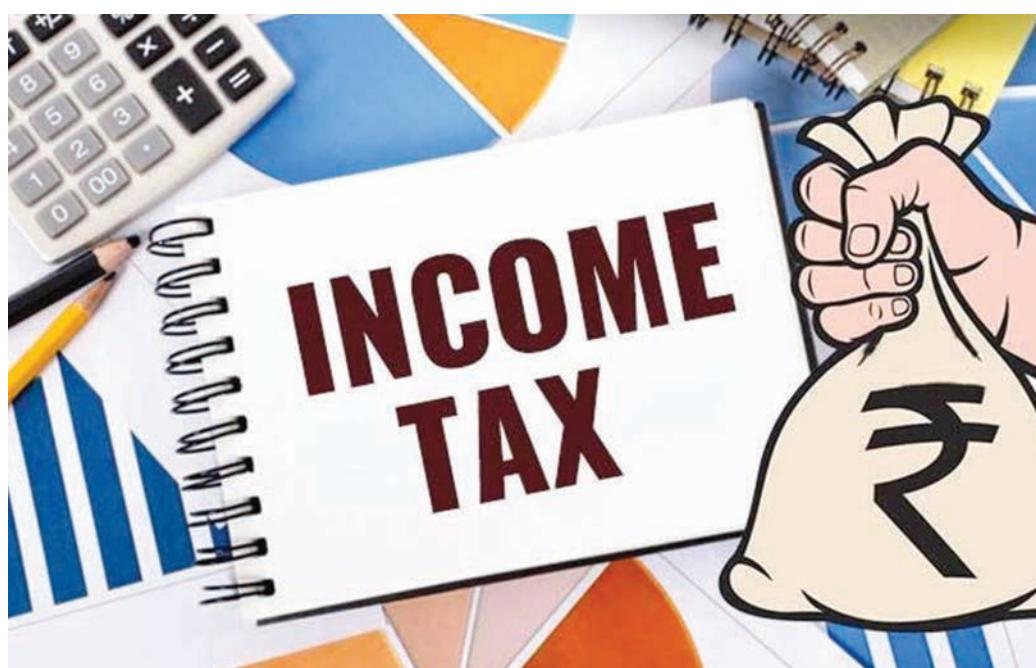
However, the picture again changes for those earning Rs 20 lakh. The gap between the two regimes narrows to just Rs 6,000. And for those earning Rs 35 lakh, the gap is just 1% of the tax outgo. The tax outgo definitely is less under the new scheme for those earning Rs 55 lakh, mainly because the highest surcharge rate has been reduced from 37% to 25%.

The benefits under the old scheme, though applicable to fewer slabs, is premised on the use of a raft of concessions such as medical insurance, NPS, up to Rs 1.5 lakh under 80C etc. None of this is a prerequisite for the new scheme which, however, conveys the message that instant consumption is better than prudent term savings for a rainy day.

## Surge in term insurance likely as rebate on high-value policies goes

The Budget has proposed to take away the tax-free advantage from traditional insurance plans if the annual premium is above Rs 5 lakh in a year on the policies issued on or after April 1. Insurers feel this may lead to surge in the purchase of term policies that are pure life insurance policies without the element of savings. The proposal, will, however, not impact taxation of unit-linked insurance plans (ULIPs), term insurance and old policies.

"With this announcement, the proceeds of these policies will be taxed as per an individual's tax slab, except in case of demise. This announcement is mainly for insurance policies which are purchased from the point of view of long-term savings. This may lead to an increase in the purchase of term insurance policies that are pure life insurance policies without the element of savings," said Sanjib Jha, CEO, Coverfox Group.



Life insurance policies are taken against the risk of life of a person. In order to curb blanket exemptions on such policies, the Finance Bill 2023 proposes to exclude policies (other than ULIP) which give insured investment-based returns from such exemptions.

## Agriculture gets raw deal

The government on Wednesday announced plans to make India the global hub of millets, push digital infrastructure in the farm sector and create decentralised capacities at the panchayat level, even as the allocation for the key sector has been reduced by Rs 9,000 crore.

To encourage agricultural startups in rural areas by young entrepreneurs, a new Agriculture Accelerator Fund has been announced to bring innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers.

Taking forward the cooperative-based economic development model to help small and marginal farmers, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced plans to set up a massive decentralised storage capacity for farmers.

"This will help farmers store their produce and get remunerative prices in time. The government will facilitate setting up of several multipurpose cooperative societies, primary fishery and dairy cooperative societies in villages in the next five years," she said, listing the goal of helping 1 crore farmers over the next three years to adopt natural farming through newly announced Bharatiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres.

Several new schemes, including the Rs 6,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, to further enable the activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro and small enterprises, notwithstanding, representatives of farmer unions who led a nearly year-long agitation against farm laws did not appear impressed with the Budget saying sector allocation was cut by Rs 9,000 crore.

The Budget estimate for 2023-24 is a substantial Rs 1.15 lakh crore, though it is down from over Rs 1.24 lakh crore allocation in 2022-23, a reduction of 6.8 per cent.

The allocation under the Pradhan Mantri

Fasal Bima Yojana has been cut from Rs 15,500 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 13,625 crore in 2023-24 Budget estimates (12 per cent reduction). The budget for the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, which offers an annual direct financial assistance of Rs 6,000 to farmers, has been pruned from Rs 68,000 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 60,000 crore in 2023-24, a decline of 12 per cent.

## Customs duty on silver hiked to 15%

Customs duty on silver has been hiked from about 10.75% to 15% to bring it on a par with duty on gold. Despite that, domestic silver prices saw an increase of only 1.5-2%, reflecting lower domestic demand.

## Deposit limit for senior citizens up

Deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme up from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh. Monthly Income Account Scheme limit up from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh for single a/c, Rs 9 lakh to Rs 15 lakh for joint a/c.

- Rs 15 lakh previous limit
- Rs 30 lakh revised limit

## Rs 52,937 cr push for BSNL revival

To provide high-speed internet in farthest corners of the country, the Union Government has allocated Rs 52,937 crore for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the state-run telecom carrier. This is primarily for 4G spectrum, technology upgrading and restructuring of the company. In July 2022, the Centre had announced a Rs 1.64 lakh crore revival package for the BSNL.

## Education set for hi-tech boost

Three centres of excellence in artificial intelligence (AI), an ambitious plan to skill lakhs of youths over the next three years, and development of new-age courses like coding, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing and drones are part of this year's Budget announcements for the education sector. The highlight of the sector is a record allocation of Rs 1.12 lakh crore. The Ministry of Education said while the school education has been allocated Rs 68,804.85 crore, higher education received Rs 44,094.62 crore.

Source: TNS

## REACTIONS

### 'NO Roadmap to Build India's Future': Rahul Gandhi

Hitting out at the Modi government, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Mitr Kaal Budget has: NO vision to create Jobs. NO plan to tackle Mehngai. NO intent to stem Inequality. 1% richest own 40% wealth, 50% poorest pay 64% of GST, 42% youth are unemployed yet, PM doesn't Care! This Budget proves Govt has NO roadmap to build India's future."

### 'Nothing for the Poor People': Congress chief Kharge

Hitting out at the Modi government, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Budget was presented by Modi govt keeping in view the upcoming Assembly polls in 3-4 states... There's nothing in the budget for poor people & to control inflation. No steps for jobs, to fill govt vacancies & MNREGA."

### 'This Budget will Touch 140 Crore Indians': Piyush Goyal

Praising the government, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, "This budget will touch 140 crore Indians & will impact their lives for a better future & prepare India to enter into Amrit Kaal with great confidence as a country which is working to a plan to make India a nation where everybody grows as the economy grows."

### 'Earlier Punjab was Missing From Republic Day, now Missing From Budget': Punjab CM

Hitting out at the government, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann said, "Earlier Punjab was missing from Republic Day, now Punjab is missing from the budget. As a border state, we demanded Rs 1000 cr for BSF's upgradation, modernisation, anti-drone system, but nothing has been talked about in the budget."

### 'Disappointing Budget': DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran

DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran termed the budget as disappointing. He said the schemes announced for the states, but they have been asked to take care of themselves.

### 'This budget will increase inflation': Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has slammed the Union Budget 2023 and said it does provide any relief from the increasing inflation. The AAP chief in a tweet said, "There is no relief from inflation in this budget. On the contrary, this budget will increase inflation. There is no concrete plan to remove unemployment. Unfortunate to reduce education budget from 2.64% to 2.5%. Reducing health budget from 2.2% to 1.98% is harmful."

*Foreigners can also move Indian courts in domestic abuse case, says Madras HC*

The Madras high court has said that even foreigners can invoke Domestic Violence Act, 2005 in Indian courts and that the residence of women is immaterial.

A single judge bench was hearing a case of an American couple holding Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards. The court has dismissed a plea moved by the husband seeking quashing of a domestic violence complaint filed by his wife in a Mahila court in Chennai. The husband had contended that he had obtained an ex-parte decree for divorce as well as custody of their adolescent twin boys from the Circuit Court in Farifax County in the USA.

Justice S M Subramaniam observed that Indian courts cannot shut out an independent consideration of the matter just because a foreign court has taken a particular view. The couple had been married in Chennai and it was registered under the provisions of the Hindu Marriages Act, 1955.

In orders passed on February 1, the court pointed out that under section 27 of the Domestic Violence Act, protection is extended to those who are temporary residents of India and Article 21 of the Constitution of India extends this protection even to a "person" who may not be a citizen of the country. "Thus looking from any angle, the respondent, who is aggrieved, is entitled to get protection under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005," the court said.

## Have asked Collegium to reconsider 18 proposals for judges' appointment: Rijiju

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Asserting that the Government can seek reconsideration on names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for appointment as judges of constitutional courts, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday, February 2, informed Parliament that it has asked the Collegium to reconsider 18 proposals.

"Government can seek reconsideration of names recommended by the SCC, and as on 31.01.2023 there are a total 18 proposals on which reconsideration of SCC has been sought. SCC decided to reiterate 06 cases, in 07 cases SCC has desired updated inputs from the High Court Collegiums, and 05 cases have been decided to be remitted by the SCC to the High Courts," Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha.

Responding to questions from MPs John Brittas and Raghav Chadha, he said as on January 30, 2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 27 Judges are working in the Supreme Court leaving seven vacancies. In response to a question from MP Ram Nath Thakur, he said the Centre had on January 6 suggested inclusion of a government nominee on a 'Search-cum-Evaluation Committee' which could assist the Supreme Court and High Court Collegiums in appointment of judges.

"Out of these 7 vacancies, a proposal for appointment of 5 judges in the Supreme Court is under consideration with the Government and in the meantime a proposal for remaining 02 (two) vacancies has been received on 31.01.2023 from the Supreme Court Collegium," the Law Minister said.

Amid ongoing stand-off with the Government over judicial appointments, the Supreme Court Collegium had on Tuesday recommended elevation of Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Aravind Kumar as judges of the top court.

However, the Government continued to sit over its December 13 recommendation for the elevation of Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Patna High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur High Court Chief Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Patna High Court Judge Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Allahabad High Court Manoj Misra for appointment as judges of the Supreme Court.

Regarding high courts, he said, as on January 30 this year, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 judges in various high



courts, 775 judges were working while 333 posts were vacant.

"Against these vacancies 142 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums (HCC) are at various stages of processing with the Government," Rijiju said.

While 67 proposals recommended by HCC were in the process of being sent to SCC, 74 HCC recommendations sent to SCC and recommended by SCC were under various stages of processing, he said, adding 11 proposals have been deferred by SCC.

As on January 30, recommendations in respect of 236 vacancies (191 existing and 45 anticipated vacancies during the next 06 months) were yet to be received from HCCs, which were in breach of a six months advance timeline for making recommendations for anticipated vacancies, he said.

As per records, from 2019 to January, 2023, 22 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court and 446 judges were appointed in various High Courts.

Source: TNS

## Sacred rocks for Lord Ram idol reach Ayodhya from Nepal; handed over to Ram Mandir Trust

AYODHYA (TIP)

Two 'sacred rocks' excavated from the Kaligandaki river of Nepal to build a statue of Lord Ram in Ayodhya was handed to the Ram Mandir Trust on Thursday, February 2.

At a ceremony in Ayodhya earlier in the day, Janaki Temple Mahantha Ram Tapeshwor Das handed over the rocks or "Shaligram" to the general secretary of Tirtha Chhetra Trust Champat Roy.

Senior Nepali Congress leader and former Home Minister Bimalendra Nidi had taken a lead to excavate the two rocks. "It took us eight days to reach Ayodhya from Nepal," he said at the ceremony. The eight-day journey was called 'Shila Yatra'.

Hindus consider rocks from the river, which started flowing south after the formation of the Himalayas 65 million years ago, as "very sacred".

The rocks would be used to sculpt a



Priests and local people offer prayers near the holy stone Shaligram after its arrival from Nepal, at Karsewak Puram in Ayodhya, on Thursday, February 2. PTI Photo

life-size statue of Ram Lala or Lord Ram as a child.

After a decision was taken to construct the temple, its construction organising committee had been looking for sacred rocks from Nepal and approached Nidi following which he found the sacred rocks.

Thousands of people welcomed and worshipped the rocks while they were being transported from Nepal to Ayodhya. Both the rocks are seven feet long, five feet wide, and 3.5 feet thick, according to the organising committee. They weigh between 16 and 18 tonnes.

On January 19, a team of temple trustees of Ayodhya arrived in Kathmandu in order to transport the rocks and met Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The river is famous for its ammonite fossils that Hindus worship as Shaligram, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Source: IANS



## India flags WB move on Indus row

India on Thursday, February 2, questioned the World Bank's decision to appoint a Court of Arbitration and a neutral expert under two separate processes to resolve differences between New Delhi and Islamabad over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in J&K.

Last week, India had issued a notice to Pakistan seeking a review and modification of the 62-year-old Indus Waters Treaty for management of cross-border rivers following Islamabad's "intransigence" in handling disputes. "I do not think they (World Bank) are in a position to interpret the treaty for us. It is a treaty between two countries and our assessment of the treaty is that there is a provision of graded approach," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

India took the significant step of sending the notice to Pakistan conveying its intent to amend the treaty months after the WB announced appointing a neutral expert and a chair of Court of Arbitration to resolve differences over Kishenganga and Ratle projects. New Delhi has been particularly disappointed over the appointment of the Court of Arbitration.

Source: PTI

# SC junks plea to stop candidates from contesting from two seats

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Thursday, February 2, rejected a petition to bar candidates from contesting from more than one constituency in the general or assembly elections, calling it a matter of "parliamentary sovereignty" and "political democracy".

A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, held that there is no manifest arbitrariness in the relevant provision in the Representation of People Act (RPA) that may warrant an intervention by the court in this matter, which, it said, falls "squarely within the legislative domain" and "realm of policy".

"It is a matter pertaining to legislative policy since it is ultimately it is parliament's will that determines whether the political democracy is furthered by granting such a choice," said the bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala.

Candidates may contest from different seats due to a variety of reasons, noted the bench, adding: "Whether this would further the course of democracy is up to the parliament...absent any manifest arbitrariness in the said provision, we cannot strike it down."

Dismissing a public interest litigation filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the bench also put on record in its order that a candidate may decide to contest from two seats for a variety of reasons apart from uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the political process.

"Contesting from multiple seats can be due to multiple reasons and there would be reason which weigh in the balance and whether it furthers parliamentary democracy is something which is in legislative domain. Absent any manifest arbitrariness for violation of Articles 14 and 21, it is not for this Court to strike down the provision as unconstitutional. This issue lies in the domain of parliamentary sovereignty," stated the order.

It highlighted that parliament did amend the law in 1996 to restrict the number of constituencies to two whereas earlier, a candidate could contest from any number of seats.



"The parliament has already intervened in the past. The parliament can certainly step in again. At the relevant time when the parliament deems it appropriate to do it, they will do it. There is no question of inaction on anybody's part," the bench observed.

Earlier, senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan, representing Upadhyay, had urged the bench to consider testing the validity of Section 33(7) of the RPA which permits a candidate to contest any election (parliamentary, state assembly, biennial council, or by-elections) from up to two constituencies. The provision was introduced in 1996 prior to which there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.

The lawyer argued that the provision has an adverse impact on the voters as well as public exchequer since the candidate must leave one constituency if he emerges victorious from both. He added that an unnecessary burden on the exchequer is imposed due to an imperative by-election and is also an injustice to the voters of the winning candidate.

Source: HT

## Two years on, Kerala scribe Siddique Kappan walks out of jail

LUCKNOW (TIP)

Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan walked out of jail on bail on Thursday, February 2, over two years after he was arrested for allegedly trying to instigate violence after the death of a woman at Hathras in UP.

The release came almost six weeks after the Allahabad High Court granted him bail in a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate. In September, the Supreme Court granted him bail in another case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Kappan was released from jail around 9.15 am, Lucknow district prison jailor Rajendra Singh said.

A day earlier, his lawyer submitted two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each at the special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court here, fulfilling a bail condition.

"I struggled," Kappan said minutes after he walked out. "It has been 28 months. I am out after a lot of fight. I am happy," he said.

He said, "I am coming to Delhi. I have to stay there for six weeks." The SC Bench headed by then Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit had directed Kappan to remain in Delhi for six weeks after his release from prison. Kappan and three others were arrested in October 2020 while they were going to Hathras where a Dalit woman died allegedly after being raped.

"This is half-baked justice. Journalism is not a crime. I will continue my fight against draconian laws. They kept me in jail even after I got bail... 28 months after a long fight. I don't know who's benefiting from my being in jail. These two years



Siddique Kappan

were very tough, but I was never afraid," he said after his release from the Lucknow jail.

Kappan was accused of sedition and charged under the tough anti-terror law UAPA. In February 2022, the Enforcement Directorate filed a money laundering case against him, accusing him of receiving money from the banned People's Front of India.

In September last year, the Supreme Court granted him bail after observing that no formal charges were filed against him and a document named "Toolkit" recovered by the state police only propagated a call for justice in the rape case.

## Africa in focus during G20 presidency: EAM

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's priorities for its G20 presidency are to ensure inclusive and resilient growth with a focus on challenges being faced by the countries of the Global South, said External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, February 2.

"India's G20 presidency priorities are inclusive and pragmatic progress on Sustainable Development Goals, green development and lifestyle for environment, technological transformation and public digital infrastructure, reforming multilateral institutions, women-led development, and international peace and harmony," said the minister in reply to a question.

"It is our endeavour that inputs generated from the 'Voice of Global South Summit' receive cognisance globally, including in G20 deliberations," he added, while pointing out that India's G20 presidency had the largest-ever representation from Africa with six participants.

In addition to South Africa, other African countries invited to G20 meetings and the summit are Egypt, the Mauritius, Nigeria, the Chair of African Union and the Chair of AU-NEPAD.

He said India had always been a voice of the Global South, including for "African friends". On January 12-13, India had hosted the "Voice of Global South Summit" in the virtual format with a focus on charting a new path of greater collaboration towards realisation of the priorities of developing countries.



Source: TNS

# India in history this Week

FEBRUARY 3, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 9, 2023

## 03 FEBRUARY

1934 The process of sending Paracel by airplanes for the first time began. It was started by the company which is today known as Lufthansa.

1963 Former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan was born.

1916 Banaras Hindu University started.

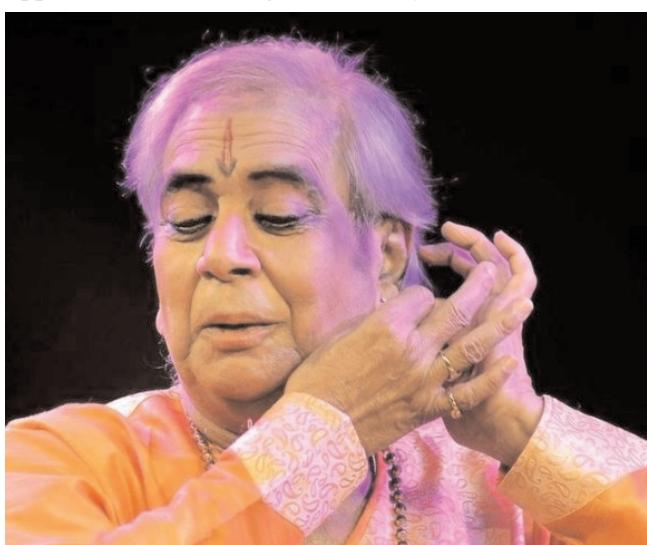


1988 The first nuclear submarine (INS Chakra) joined the Indian Army.

2008 There are indications that the stolen Nobel Prize of poet Guru Ravindra Nath Tagore was in Bangladesh.

## 04 FEBRUARY

1628 Shah Jahan was declared Emperor of Agra.  
1881 The first issue of the daily newspaper 'Kesari' appeared in the editing of Lokmanya Tilak.



1938 Birju Maharaj, the famous Kathak artist of the country, was born.

1974 Physicist Satendra Nath Bose, who discovered God Particle, died.



## 05 FEBRUARY



1630 The seventh Sikh Guru Har Rai was born in Kiratpur, Punjab.

1916 Popular Hindi poet Janki Vallabh Shastri was born.



2007 Sunita Williams of Indian origin became the most time woman in space.

1916 Famous poet Janaki Vallabh Shastri was born.

1915 Wireless message sent for the first time by a moving train was received to the railway station.

## 06 FEBRUARY

2002 India sneaks into the border, shoots down Pakistan spy plane.

1999 The country's first Pace Maker Bank was established in 1999 in Kolkata.

2009 On February 6, 2009, India provided financial assistance of Rs 9.45 crore for the construction of three large dams along its border with Nepal.

## 07 FEBRUARY



1931 Freedom fighter and lawyer Motilal Nehru

died.

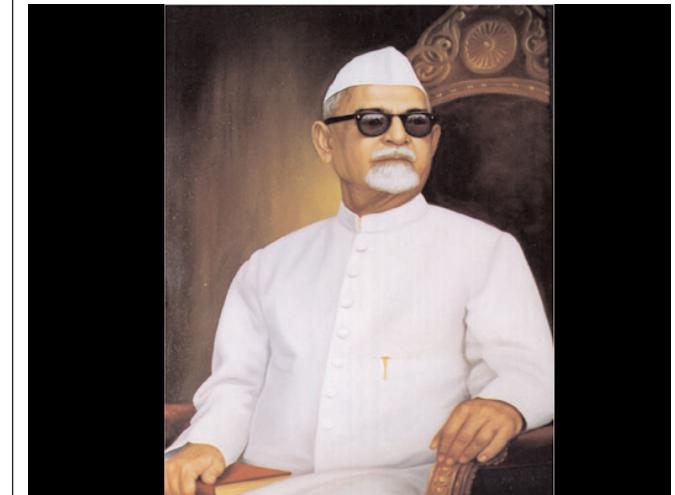
2000 The first meeting of the joint opposition between India and the United States began in Washington on February 7, 2000.

2009 Maharashtra Governor SC Jamir conferred the 12th and the first woman President of Independent India, Pratibha Patil, with the title of D.Litt.

2010 The 19th International Book Fair held at Pragati Maidan in Delhi ended on 7 February 2010. Let us tell you that this fair lasted for 9 days, in which about 2 thousand publishers took part.

1898 Ramabai Ambedkar, wife of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, was born in 1898.

## 08 FEBRUARY



1897 Zakir Hussain, the third President of the country, was born.



1941 Ghazal singer Jagjit Singh was born.

1943 Freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose left for Japan via a ferry from Kell, Germany.

1986 Prepaid taxi service was started for the first time at Delhi Airport.

## 09 FEBRUARY

1971 Apollo 14 mission returns to Earth from moon.

1960 Maratha general Dattaji Shinde died.

1951 In 1951, the task of making a list was started to conduct the first census in independent India.

1931 For the first time in India in 1931, a stamp with a picture was issued in honor of a person.

2009 The Supreme Court on 9 February 2009 gave notice to the UP government on illegal construction in and around the Taj.

2010 The Indian government banned commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal on February 9, 2010, indefinitely.

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# ENJOY A VARIETY OF EVENTS THIS WINTER AT MPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

**G**o out and enjoy the arts this winter at the Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) featuring February events from the death-defying acrobatics of Cirque Zuma Zuma to the blues of the legendary Keb' Mo', the comedy of Paula Poundstone to a celebration of Ray Charles.

## Pinkalicious

**Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm (Sensory Friendly)**

A girl finds herself in a colorful predicament after her indulgence in too many pink cupcakes causes a severe case of Pinkitis that turns her pink from head to toe! Ages 4-12

## Boat House Row: The Yacht Rock Experience

**Friday, February 10, 2023 at 8 pm**

The smooth yacht rock sounds of Boat House Row will make a cold winter night feel like a warm summer evening as you enjoy the best of 70s and 80s soft rock, featuring the music of Hall & Oates, Kenny Loggins, Steely Dan, Michael McDonald, Christopher Cross, Toto and other favorites. Learn more at boathouserowrock.com.

## Cirque Zuma Zuma

**Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 3 pm and 7:30 pm**



Cirque Zuma Zuma.

Photo credit / MPAC

As seen on America's Got Talent! This African-style Cirque du Soleil pushes the envelope of human possibility with astonishing and unbelievable human feats of balance, agility and flexibility, all set to African music, drumming and dance. Cirque Zuma Zuma is an exuberant and highly entertaining showcase of the African culture for people young and old. Learn more at zumazuma.com.

## Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine

**Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:30 pm**  
**Theodore Kuchar, Conductor**

The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine was established in Lviv in 1902, a city known as one of the great cultural centers of eastern Europe, where music has always occupied the center and spirit of its existence.

### PROGRAM:

1. Yevhen Stankovych Chamber Symphony No. 3 for Flute and String Orchestra
  2. Grieg Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16
  3. Beethoven Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92
- Learn more at philharmonia.lviv.ua

## Keb' Mo'

**Friday, February 17, 2023 at 8 pm**

With five GRAMMYS, 14 Blues Foundation Awards, and a groundbreaking career spanning nearly 50 years under his belt, Keb' Mo' stands as one of the most accomplished and respected artists working in contemporary roots music today. Keb' Mo's captivating new album, 'Good To Be,' is a celebration of roots and resilience, of growth and gratitude, of hope and memory, drawing on country, soul, and blues to weave a heartwarming tapestry that transcends genres. Learn more at kebmo.com.

## Paula Poundstone

**Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 8 pm**

Paula Poundstone is known for her smart, observational humor and a spontaneous wit that has become the stuff of legend. Paula can be heard weekly as the host of the comedy podcast, Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone and as a regular panelist on NPR's comedy news quiz, Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me! Learn more at paulapoundstone.com

## Ray on My Mind

**Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 3 pm**



Kenny Brawner as Ray Charles.

Photo credit / MPAC

Enjoy a high-energy celebration of the music and life of Ray Charles as performed by Kenny Brawner. Ray on My Mind includes his most popular hits such as 'What'd I Say,' 'I Got a Woman' and 'Georgia on My Mind,' interwoven with stories of his life, his many musical styles and more. Learn more at brawnerbrothers.com.

## Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn & Sarah Jarosz: Together In Concert

**Friday, February 24, 2023 at 8 pm**



Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn &amp; Sarah Jarosz

Photo credit / MPAC

Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn and Sarah Jarosz come together onstage for a special evening. Grammy winner Shawn Colvin's songs like "Sunny Came Home" are slow-release works of craft and catharsis that become treasured, lifetime companions for their listeners. After winning a Grammy for his soulful ballad "Walking in Memphis," Marc Cohn solidified his place as one of this generation's most compelling singer-songwriters. Though just barely in her thirties, Texas native Sarah Jarosz has compiled a remarkable career, winning four Grammy Awards in both the Americana and folk categories. For complete details, visit shawncolvin.com/tour, marccohnmusic.com/tour, and sarahjarosz.com/#tour.

**CONNECT WITH SHAWN COLVIN**  
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### TICKETS

For Tickets to all events, visit MayoArts.Org or call the box office at 973-539-8008.

Please note: MPAC's events are subject to change.

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

# DOC FILMS CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES

BY MABEL PAIS

## CALL ME DANCER



Manish Chauhan.

Photo Credit / callmedancer.com

**"I pay my respects to these dancers for their work, fight, and strength. I hope that their story will be known and their example will be followed by many young Indian dancers."** - Zubin Mehta, conductor & former Music Director, New York Philharmonic; and the Israel Philharmonic

Dir: Leslie Shampaine 1 India, UK, Israel &amp; USA 1

English & Hindi w/Eng subs 1 1h 24m - East Coast Premiere

Leslie Shampaine's 'CALL ME DANCER' is the Opening Night film at Dance on Camera Festival at Film at Lincoln Center, the world's longest-running dance film festival, on February 10th.

This is a heart-warming and uplifting story of struggle and tenacity, family, culture, rebellion, and an unlikely friendship. "Dance films convey the difficulty of the profession, but what is often lost is the passion and inner joy that pushes dancers past the pain. I knew, as a dancer, I could offer an insider's sensitivity and perspective," said first-time director Shampaine, and former professional dancer from New York City. "I gathered a talented international team made up of Indian film professionals with insights into the culture and socio-economic reality of Mumbai. This is a story that I hope inspires people across the globe." Learn more at [callmedancer.com](http://callmedancer.com).

Watch the trailer [youtu.be/7fwdiG1\\_X8o](https://youtu.be/7fwdiG1_X8o).

## WOMEN IN THE FRONT SEAT

Dir/Writ: Maninder (Indy) K. Saini 1 USA 1 Prods: (Indy) Saini, R.K. Janmeja Singh 1h 14m

'Women in the Front Seat' captures the growing movement of women hitting the throttle and riding into the wind, breaking social norms and shattering stereotypes about women and women riders. The filmmaker, herself, accomplished this as part of a



transformative solo cross-country quest she undertook, riding her Indian Scout motorcycle. During that journey, Saini challenges her own fears, facing harsh weather conditions, exhaustion, and an existential crisis, as she seeks to discover who these women are, one fascinating personal story after another.

"Women in the Front Seat" is a deeply personal film to me and my life's journey. Yet, what I, and each of the women discovered throughout the making of the film is how much we all share, while being thoroughly unique and fiercely independent," reveals Indy Saini. Learn more at [womeninthefrontseat.com](http://womeninthefrontseat.com)

Opening: Now streaming on Amazon.

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

# FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME TO NEW YORK'S IFC

BY MABEL PAIS

New Films from Japan' series is the latest presentation of the ACA (Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan) Cinema Project, representing the buzzworthy films of contemporary Japanese screen entertainment and highlighting the work of award-winning and celebrated filmmakers from Japan to film fans, industry insiders, dealmakers, and press in the United States. With these film series, ACA works to promote Japanese cinema internationally.

Screenings are at the IFC Center (323 Sixth Ave - at West 3rd St,) February 10-16. All films are English subtitled. The lineup includes Kei Ishikawa's 'A Man,' Shô Miyake's 'Small, Slow but Steady,' Nao Kubota's 'Thousand and One Nights,' Yuji Nakae's 'The Zen Diary,' and Juichiro Yamasaki's 'Yamabuki.' Yamasaki makes the trip to New York to participate in Q&As following the screenings of his film on Friday February 10, and Saturday February 11.

## SCREENING SCHEDULE & TICKETS

For the screening schedule and tickets, visit [ifccenter.com/series/aca-japan-2023](http://ifccenter.com/series/aca-japan-2023).

## A Man - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Director: Kei Ishikawa 1 Japan 1 2h 1m



'A Man.'

Photo Credit / ifccenter.com

comments on the collective existential crisis of Japan's "lost generation" via the journey of a troubled lawyer plunged into a web of mystery when he is asked to follow the trail of a deceased man who lived under a false identity. As he gets closer to the shocking truth, he increasingly finds himself haunted by his own unsteady place in the world.

Festivals/awards: Orizzonti Competition at the 79th Venice Film Festival, Naguib Mahfouz Award for Best Screenplay 44th Cairo International Film Festival

## Small, Slow but Steady

Director: Shô Miyake 1 Japan 1 1h 39m

A hearing-impaired woman with dreams of becoming a professional boxer discovers her fight isn't just in the ring with the next opponent, but she must push herself to the limit if she is to succeed.

Festivals/awards: the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival, the 27th Busan International Film Festival, the 66th London Film Festival, the 56th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

## Thousand and One Nights - US PREMIERE

Director: Nao Kubota 1 Japan 1 2h 6m



'Thousand and One Nights.'

Photo Credit ifccenter.com

A gently paced character-study of two women brought together by their shared experience of husbands who have gone missing, 'Thousand and One Nights' is set in a beautiful port town on a remote northern island. Thirty years have passed since Tomiko's husband suddenly disappeared. Then she meets Nami, a younger woman,

whose husband also disappeared, two years ago. The women connect over their shared loss, as Nami searches for the reason why her husband "disappeared" in order to come to terms with her situation and move on. Then, Tomiko happens to see Yoji, Nami's missing husband, on the street.

Festivals/awards: the FIPRESCI Award at the 27th Busan International Film Festival

## Yamabuki - US PREMIERE

Director: Juichiro Yamasaki 1 Japan/France 1 Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese 1h 37m

A story of finding a place to root yourself when life's obstacles have disheartened you. Everyone's frustration and loneliness that have been lying just under the surface, increasingly reveal themselves and are given a voice, which in turn begins to connect people in unexpected ways.

Festivals/awards: the ACID section of the Cannes International Film Festival

Trailer - [youtu.be/Q9iYMXaTzWo](https://youtu.be/Q9iYMXaTzWo)

## The Zen Diary - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Director: Yuji Nakae 1 Japan 1h 51m

Adapted from Tsutomu Mizukami's book, 'The Zen Diary' follows Tsutomu, a man who lives alone in the mountains, writing essays, cooking food with vegetables he grows and mushrooms he picks in the hills. His routine is happily disturbed when Machiko, his editor/love interest, occasionally visits to pester him for his next manuscript. She loves to eat, and he loves to cook for her. However, a close brush with death will now force him to decide on what he values most in life and what he must choose going forward.

Festivals/awards: the Culinary Cinema section of the San Sebastian International Film Festival and the Hawaii International Film Festival.

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



### Shamita Shetty dismisses dating rumours with Aamir Ali

**B**igg Boss 15 fame Shamita Shetty has been making headlines for her rumoured dating with television actor Aamir Ali, who was earlier married to Sanjeeda Sheikh.

The actress has now broken her silence on the reports and clarified that she is happily single. Shamita and Aamir were recently spotted at a party together and the latter was seen escorting the actress to her car and planting a kiss on her cheek.

Taking to her Twitter handle, Shamita wrote, "I'm baffled by society and its convenient prudish mindset all across. Why is every action and every person subjected to scrutiny or snap judgement with no reality check? There are possibilities beyond the narrow-minded assumptions of the netizens... It's high time we open our minds to it! Single and happy .. let's focus on more important issues in this country!"

## Vicky Kaushal says 'he isn't a perfect husband' to Katrina Kaif

**I**n a new interview, Vicky Kaushal spoke about life after marriage, and opened up about why he thinks he is not a 'perfect husband'. Speaking about Katrina, he said he 'loves' his wife, and added that 'a person in love is always the best version of themselves'. Vicky also added that he 'tries to be the best version of a husband he can be'.

Vicky and Katrina Kaif married in an intimate wedding ceremony in December 2021 in Rajasthan. Since then, the couple has been spotted out and about in Mumbai, attending events together. Vicky and Katrina have not yet collaborated for a film, but they were seen together in an advertisement last year, while promoting an online travel company. In a new interview, Vicky spoke about Katrina, and how he has 'learned so much more' in the past couple of years because of their marriage than he did, while he was single.

Vicky told Lifestyle Asia India, when asked about his 'ideal man' image, "I'm not perfect in any way. Not as a husband, a son, a friend or an actor. I think that's the ongoing quest and the process of reaching that is, I think, where I've always wanted to be. Being perfect is like a mirage, you know? You always feel you're reaching there but you're never quite there. So, I don't think I'm a perfect husband. I don't think I'm perfect in any way, but I try to be the best version of a husband I can be at any given moment. Of course, tomorrow I will be better than I was yesterday but I always try to do the best that I can."

He further reflected on his marriage with Katrina, and said, "You learn a lot when you start living with a person and when you have a companion. I think in the past year, I've learned so much more than the years I was single because it's just beautiful how you start understanding another person's perspective and that makes you truly grow as a person."

Vicky was last seen in Govinda Naam Mera, which was released on Netflix in December 2022. The film also featured Kiara Advani and Bhumi Pednekar. He is now working on Sam Bahadur, based on the life of India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. The film directed by Meghna Gulzar is scheduled to be released in December this year. *Source: HT*



## Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar Song Tere Pyaar Mein: Ranbir Kapoor Is Madly In Love With Shraddha

**T**he first song Tere Pyaar Mein from Shraddha Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor's upcoming film Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is out, and it's all about love. In the song, Ranbir, madly in love with Shraddha, is chasing her around the streets, beaches and other picturesque locations of Spain to woo her. Shraddha, on the other hand, is also shown enjoying the attention. The song also features some steamy moments between Shraddha and Ranbir. The peppy tunes, beachy vibes and Ranbir-Shraddha's crackling chemistry make this song the perfect love anthem.

Tere Pyaar Mein is sung by Arijit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi, while it is composed by Pritam. The lyrics are written by Amitabh Bhattacharya.

Shraddha Kapoor also shared the song on her Instagram handle and captioned it as "LOVE IS BACK! Mummy kasam iss statement mein na jhooth hai na makkaari hai (Mother swear, there is no lie and no cheating in this statement). #TerePyaarMein Out Now."

Helmed by Luv Ranjan, Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar also stars



Dimple Kapadia and Anubhav Singh Bassi in pivotal roles. A few days ago, the makers unveiled the trailer, which is all about love, breakup and revenge. The trailer describes the new-age relationship where it's easier to get into relationships but harder to get out

of them.

Produced by Luv Films and T-Series, the romantic comedy-drama Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is slated to release on the occasion of Holi, March 8, 2023. The movie also stars Boney Kapoor in a cameo role.

*Source: NDTV*

## Ananya Panday to star in cyber-thriller

**A**nanya Panday is all set to headline a cyber-thriller directed by celebrated filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane and produced by Nikhil Dwivedi of Veere Di Wedding fame.

After winning praise for critically acclaimed movies like 'Udaan', 'Lootera', 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero', and 'AK vs. AK', Vikramaditya Motwane is back in the director's seat for this gripping, edge-of-the-seat thriller. Produced by Nikhil Dwivedi's company -Saffron, the untitled film is a cyber thriller in which the young popular actress takes on a part she has never played before. Says Vikramaditya Motwane, "This is a thriller with modern-day appeal and very relevant to our times. It's going to be really interesting to see Ananya Panday in this role since it's something she hasn't attempted before." Says Ananya Panday, "When Vikramaditya Motwane approached me with this story, I just knew I had to be part of it. As a filmmaker, he has been on my wish list for as long as I can remember and I feel really lucky to be working with him this early in my career."



*Source: Mid Day*



### Jennifer Aniston wears a lehenga in Murder Mystery 2 trailer

Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler have been frequent collaborators. So when the Just Go With It co-stars reunited for Murder Mystery 2, of course they were bound to create buzz. The trailer of Murder Mystery 2 released recently. However, if there is one thing that eclipsed almost everything else is Jennifer Aniston in a lehenga. In the trailer, Jennifer Aniston is seen dressed in an ivory lehenga, which is reportedly designed by Manish Malhotra. Fans on Twitter were delighted to see the F.R.I.E.N.D.S star in a desi ensemble. Without much ado, take a look at the tweets. Jennifer Aniston became a star after starring in the iconic sitcom F.R.I.E.N.D.S. She also has a successful film career, having starred in romcoms such as We're The Millers, The Object of My Affection, Just Go With It, Along Came Polly, The Bounty Hunter and the Horrible Bosses series among many others. She reunited with her onscreen sister Reese Witherspoon for both seasons of The Morning Show. Reese starred as Rachel's spoilt sister Jill Green in F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

## Anne Hathaway dances her heart out in viral, mesmerising video

A video of actor Anne Hathaway dancing up a storm at the Paris Fashion Week is going viral. In the video which was shared by several fan accounts of the actor, Anne is seen dancing her heart out to the classic tune of 2001's Lady Marmalade from the Moulin Rouge soundtrack.

On Wednesday, February 1, The Devil wears Prada attended the Valentino Haute Couture show in Paris Fashion Week, in a head-to-toe leopard-print outfit, that included a matching clutch and matching leopard print heels. In fan videos shared on Twitter, Anne seems to dance at the after-party during Paris Fashion Week with a carefree abandon to Lady Marmalade. She flicked her hair across her face even as several phone cameras flashed at her. She lip-synced to the lyrics, "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi, ce soir?" and danced her heart out to the song with other party goers.

The viral TikTok video has since garnered more than 3 million likes, with many fans obsessing over Anne's moves. A fan said, "I wanna be her in my 40s," while another comment read, "I am in love w Anne Hathaway." One fan wrote, "Obsessed with her!" while another commented, "My toxic trait is thinking I look this good when dancing and singing along." A fan even responded to the video saying, "Day 2 and those videos of Anne Hathaway dancing have ruined my life my brain is physically incapable of thinking of anything else. I don't even know how to read anymore." Anne was last seen attending the Sundance Film Festival, where she debuted her new film Eileen. She stars alongside actor Thomasin McKenzie in the romantic psychological thriller film which opened to rave reviews for her performance. According to our review, "Eileen, for all its lush promise and pull, never really knows what kind of film it wants to be. You never quite know what you are watching either- a bitterly resolute queer romance, or a pulpy psychological thriller."

Source: HT



## Oscars 2023: Andrea Riseborough Will Keep Controversial Nomination After Academy's Review

Andrea Riseborough will keep her controversial Oscar nomination for To Leslie even though a review of the indie film's unorthodox promotional campaign uncovered concerns, the Academy said. The British star's best actress nomination, unveiled last week by Hollywood's most prestigious awards group, sent shockwaves through the industry.

While her performance was lauded by critics, the film had grossed just \$27,000 at the box office, and had not received the sort of expensive and highly visible marketing campaign that is widely seen as essential for Academy Awards glory.

The movie - about a Texas mother who won the lottery but squandered her fortune and descended into alcoholism - instead relied upon an intense, last-minute social media campaign mounted by prominent celebrities including Edward Norton, Gwyneth Paltrow and Sarah Paulson.

Debate has raged in Hollywood over whether any Academy rules against lobbying or disparaging rivals were broken. "The Academy has determined the activity in question does not rise to the level that the film's nomination should be rescinded," the Oscar-awarding group said in a statement.

"However, we did discover social media and outreach campaigning tactics that caused concern. These tactics



are being addressed with the responsible parties directly."

The Oscars are awarded based on the votes of the 9,500 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Nominations are determined by each Academy branch, meaning the Oscar nominations for actors including Riseborough were voted on by around 1,300 actor members of the group.

It is these members who were allegedly targeted with e-mails and social media posts, encouraging them to vote for Riseborough and ask others to do so.

At least one Instagram post supporting To Leslie suggested that Riseborough's rivals such as Danielle Deadwyler and Viola Davis were "getting nominated anyway," so members' votes could safely be directed elsewhere.

Neither Deadwyler nor Davis - who are both Black - ended up receiving nominations. No Black stars received lead actress nods this year.

"The purpose of the Academy's campaign regulations is to ensure a fair and ethical awards process - these are core values of the Academy," said the Academy statement.

The review made it clear that "components of the regulations must be clarified to help create a better framework for respectful, inclusive, and unbiased campaigning."

Source: AFP



## AUSTRALIA TO REPLACE MONARCH ON BANKNOTE WITH DESIGN HONOURING INDIGENOUS CULTURE

FEBRUARY 2

**SYDNEY (TIP):** Australia will replace the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II from its A\$5 currency note with a new design to reflect and honour the history of its Indigenous culture, the country's central bank said on February 2.

The decision follows consultation with the federal government, which supports the change, the Reserve Bank of Australia said in a statement. The other side of the note will continue to feature the Australian Parliament, it said.

Queen Elizabeth's death last year has reignited debates in Australia about its future as a constitutional monarchy. Voters narrowly chose to maintain the British monarch as its head of state in a 1999 referendum.

King Charles III, who became British monarch after his mother's death, is the head of state in Australia, New Zealand and 12 other Commonwealth realms outside the United Kingdom, although the role is largely ceremonial.

Australia in September 2022 said the image of King Charles would not automatically replace Queen Elizabeth on A\$5 notes, and that she might be replaced by Australian figures.

Authorities have said the decision to include the queen's image on the A\$5 dollar note was about her personality as opposed to her status as the monarch.

The decision to update the note comes as Australia's centre-left Labor government pushes for a referendum, required to alter the constitution, to recognise Indigenous people in the document and require consultation with them on decisions that affect their lives.

In 2021, Australia officially amended its national anthem to remove reference to the country being "young and free" amid calls to recognise that its Indigenous people are the oldest civilization in the world.

The Reserve Bank said it would consult with Indigenous groups in designing the A\$5 banknote. It will take a number of years to design and print the new banknote. Until then, the current note will continue to be issued. (Reuters)

# Rishi Sunak marks 100 days as UK PM with pledge to deliver change

FEBRUARY 2

**LONDON (TIP):** Rishi Sunak marked his 100th day in office as the first non-white British Prime Minister on February 2 with a slick new video for social media pledging to deliver change, amidst multiple challenges, including spiralling inflation.

The UK's first Indian-origin Prime Minister took charge at 10 Downing Street a day after Diwali last year on October 25 in the wake of intense political turmoil following the unceremonious exit of his predecessors – party-gate scandal-hit Boris Johnson and the country's shortest-serving Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Since then, Sunak has laid out his top priorities with a particular focus on cutting soaring inflation to tackle the crippling cost of living crisis in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Others may talk about change. I will deliver it," he wrote on Twitter on Thursday.

The accompanying video captures a montage of his historic selection for the top job as the "youngest in modern history", aged 42, and also the first non-white politician at No. 10 Downing Street. It goes on to reiterate his new year commitments of five key priorities: to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut National Health Service (NHS) waiting lists and stop the illegal migration via small boats crossing the English Channel.

Among the scenes of his meetings with key world leaders, there is shot of him shaking hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 Summit in Bali,



Indonesia, last November where the two leaders greenlit the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme – a reciprocal scheme offering 3,000 18-30-year-old degree-educated youth visas every year to live and work in either country for two years.

"I know first-hand the incredible value of the deep cultural and historic ties we have with India. I am pleased that even more of India's brightest young people will now have the opportunity to experience all that life in the UK has to offer – and vice-versa - making our economies and societies richer," he said at the time.

Sunak, who is married to Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty, has also committed to working towards a free trade agreement (FTA) with India but reiterated that his government would not compromise "quality over speed" after the Diwali deadline set for the deal was missed due to the political turmoil in the UK.

On the domestic front, Sunak faces multiple challenges and pressures, including having to recently sack Conservative Party chair Nadhim Zahawi as a minister without portfolio in his Cabinet after an investigation found he had breached the ministerial code over his tax affairs.

He faced intense Opposition pressure over the issue and continues to be challenged over his decision to keep his deputy prime minister, Dominic Raab, in the post while he is being investigated over multiple bullying allegations by civil servants.

"Integrity is really important to me," he said recently, pledging to "take whatever steps are necessary to restore the integrity back into politics".

"The things that happened before I was prime minister, I can't do anything about. What I think you can hold me to account for is how I deal with the things that arise on my watch," he added.

Besides, his government is facing some of the biggest strikes in British history as nurses, teachers, transport workers and civil servants take industrial action demanding better pay and working conditions.

The spectre of Brexit, which also marked its third anniversary this week after Britain formally left the European Union (EU) on January 31, 2020, continues to loom large over his leadership as he works on signing off on a new deal over the Northern Ireland Protocol. The unresolved issue of goods traded between the UK region and EU member-state Ireland has continued to cause great discontent on all sides. (PTI)

## Teachers, civil servants join mass strike in UK

FEBRUARY 1

**LONDON (TIP):** Up to half a million British teachers, civil servants, and train drivers walked out over pay in the largest coordinated strike action for a decade on February 1, with unions threatening more disruption as the government digs its heels in over pay demands.

The mass walkouts across the country shut schools, halted most rail services, and forced the military to be put on standby to help with border checks on a day dubbed "Walkout Wednesday".

According to unions, as many as 300,000 teachers took part, the biggest group involved, as part of wider action by 500,000 people, the highest number since 2011, when civil servants walked out en masse.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak condemned the strikes which forced



millions of children to miss school. "I am clear that our children's education is precious and they deserve to be in school today being taught," he said.

His government has taken a hard line against the unions, arguing that giving in to the demands would fuel the inflation problem. — Reuters

# Erdogan says Turkey positive on Finland's NATO bid, not Sweden's

FEBRUARY 1

**ANKARA (TIP):** Turkey looks positively on Finland's application for NATO membership, but does not support Sweden's bid, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on February 1.

"Our position on Finland is positive, but it is not positive on Sweden," Erdogan said of their NATO applications in a speech to his AK Party deputies in parliament.

Sweden and Finland applied last year to join the trans-Atlantic defence pact after Russia invaded Ukraine, but faced unexpected objections from Turkey and have since sought to win its support.

Ankara wants Helsinki and Stockholm in particular to take a tougher line against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is considered a terror group by Turkey and the European Union, and another group it blames for a 2016 coup attempt.

The three nations reached an agreement on a way forward in Madrid last June, but Ankara suspended talks last month as tensions rose following protests in Stockholm in which a far-right Danish politician burned a copy of the Muslim holy book, the Koran.

"Sweden should not bother to try at this point. We will not say 'yes' to their NATO application as long as they allow burning of the Koran," Erdogan said.

Sweden's Foreign Minister said there could be no compromise over freedom of speech, but that Sweden would continue to implement the Madrid agreement.

"It is very clear what is necessary for Sweden to become a member of NATO and that is that we meet the requirements which are present in the



trilateral agreement," he told national news agency TT.

"Religion is not part of the agreement."

At the weekend, Erdogan signalled that Ankara could agree to Finland joining NATO ahead of Sweden. But Finland's Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said on Monday his country was sticking to its plan to apply jointly with Sweden.

Of NATO's 30 members, only Turkey and Hungary are yet to ratify the Nordic countries' memberships.

Asked whether Turkey had plans for separate processes for Finland and Sweden, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said it was NATO and the two Nordic countries who would decide on any separate ratifications.

"If NATO and the two countries decide for separate membership processes, Turkey will of course reconsider Finland's membership separately and more favourably," Cavusoglu said at a news conference with his Estonian counterpart in Tallinn.

Finland on Wednesday repeated its position that it will move in step with its Nordic neighbour.

"Finland continues to advance the membership process together with Sweden," the joint presidential and government committee on Finnish security and foreign policy said in a statement.

"The fastest possible realisation of both countries' memberships is in the best interest of Finland, Sweden and the whole NATO," it added. Reuters

## RADIOACTIVE CAPSULE THAT FELL OFF TRUCK FOUND IN AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 1

**PERTH (TIP):** Authorities in Western Australia on February 1 recovered a tiny but dangerous radioactive capsule that fell off a truck while being transported along a 1,400-kilometer (870-mile) Outback highway last month in what an official said was like finding the needle in the haystack.

Officials said the size of a pea was found south of the mining town of Newman on the Great Northern Highway. It was detected by a search vehicle travelling at 70 kilometers (43 miles) per hour when specialist equipment picked up radiation emitting from the capsule.

Portable search equipment was then used to locate it 2 meters (6.5 feet) from the side of the road. "This is an extraordinary result ... they have quite literally found the needle in the haystack," said Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson. Chief Health Officer Andy Robertson said the capsule did not appear to have moved and no injuries had been reported.

It contains the caesium 137 ceramic source, commonly used in radiation gauges, which emits dangerous amounts of radiation, equivalent of receiving 10 X-rays in an hour. It could cause skin burns and prolonged exposure could cause cancer. Search crews had spent six days scouring the entire length of the highway.

The capsule measures 8 millimeters by 6 millimeters (0.31 inches by 0.24 inches), and people have been warned it could have unknowingly become lodged in their car's tires. A government investigation has been launched into how the capsule fell off the truck and a report will be provided to the health minister. Defense officials were verifying the identification of the capsule, which has been placed into a lead container for safety.

It will be stored in a secure location in Newman before being transported to a health facility in the city of Perth.

The capsule got lost while being transported between a desert mine site and Perth on January 10. The truck transporting the capsule arrived at a Perth depot on January 16. Emergency services were notified of the missing capsule on January 25.

The chief executive of the mining giant Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Simon Trott, has apologised for the incident and expressed gratitude for the find.

"A pretty incredible recovery when you think of the distances involved, and also the remoteness of the terrain, and I think that really speaks to the tenacity of all those who were involved in the search," Trott said.

"The simple fact is this device should never have been lost. We're sorry that that has occurred and we're sorry for the concern that that has caused within the Western Australian community," Trott added. (AP)

## Crypto hacks stole record \$3.8 billion in 2022, led by North Korea groups: Report

FEBRUARY 1

**SEOUL (TIP):** Last year was the worst on record for cryptocurrency heists, with hackers stealing as much as \$3.8 billion, led by attackers linked to North Korea who netted more than ever before, a US-based blockchain analytics firm said in a report on February 1.

The report by Chainalysis found hacking activity that "ebbed and flowed" throughout the year, with "huge spikes" in March and October. October was the biggest single month ever for cryptocurrency hacking, with \$775.7 million stolen in 32 separate attacks, the report said.

The cryptocurrency market floundered in 2022, as risk appetite diminished and various crypto firms collapsed.

Investors were left with large losses and regulators stepped up calls for more consumer protection.

At the time, Chainalysis and other firms confirmed to Reuters that North Korean-related accounts had lost millions of dollars in value.

But that did not deter hackers.

North Korea-linked hackers such as those in the cybercriminal syndicate Lazarus Group have been by far the most prolific cryptocurrency hackers, stealing an estimated \$1.7 billion worth of in multiple attacks last year, the report said.

"In 2022, they shattered their own records for theft," it said.

North Korea has denied allegations of hacking or other cyberattacks.

According to a panel of experts monitoring United Nations sanctions, North Korea has increasingly relied on hacking to fund its missile and nuclear weapons programmes, particularly as publicly declared trade dwindled under sanctions and Covid-19 lockdowns.

"It isn't a stretch to say that

cryptocurrency hacking is a sizable chunk of the nation's economy," Chainalysis said.

For the first time last year, US law enforcement seized \$30 million in stolen funds from North Korea-linked hackers.

"These hacks will get harder and less fruitful with each passing year," Chainalysis predicted.

Targets in "decentralized finance" or DeFi, a thriving segment in the cryptocurrency sector, accounted for more than 82% of the cryptocurrency stolen in 2022, the report said.

DeFi applications, many of which run on the Ethereum blockchain, are financial platforms that enable crypto-denominated lending outside of traditional banks.

Last year saw a record amount of crypto transactions related to illicit activity overall, reaching \$20.1 billion, Chainalysis said in January. (Reuters)

**17 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN PAKISTAN****FEBRUARY 2**

**PESHAWAR** (TIP): At least seventeen people have been killed after a truck hit a bus coming from the opposite direction in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on February 2, police said.

The tragic accident occurred near the Kohat tunnel on Indus Highway some 40km southwest of Peshawar.

One person has been injured in the accident, police said, adding that the injured and the dead bodies have been shifted to a district headquarters hospital.

The accident occurred due to the brake failure of the truck, police said.

Haji Ghulam Ali, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan have expressed profound grief and sorrow over the fatal accident.(PTI)

**IRAN SUSPENDS POWER SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN****FEBRUARY 1**

**ISLAMABAD** (TIP): Power supply to Turbat, Panjgur and Gwadar districts of Pakistan's Makran division has been badly affected after Iran suspended power supply to these areas, the Dawn reported.

Power supply to Turbat, Panjgur and Gwadar was badly affected. As per the news report, Iran supplies 100 Megawatt of electricity to the Makran division.

A spokesperson for the Quetta Electricity Supply Company (Qesco) on Monday said that Iran's energy officials restored only 20MW of power for Makran after Pakistan officials contacted them for power restoration, as per the Dawn report.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Afzal Baloch said that Makran is receiving only 20 MW out of 100 MW of electricity for the past 24 hours. (ANI)

**Nepal seeks 90 MW power supply from Bihar**

**KATHMANDU** (TIP): The Nepal Electricity Authority has reportedly urged the Bihar government to supply an additional 90 Mega Watt (MW) of power. This is to deal with the power deficit that the country is currently going through. This is excluding the 90 MW that Nepal has currently been importing from India. ANI

**'Silent strike': Myanmar resistance steadfast against army rule two years later**

**BANGKOK** (TIP): The prospects for peace in Myanmar, much less a return to democracy, seem dimmer than ever two years after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, experts say.

On Wednesday, legions of opponents of military rule heeded a call by protest organizers to stay home in what they termed a "silent strike" to show their strength and solidarity.

The opposition's General Strike

**Peshawar suicide attacker entered high-security zone in police uniform****FEBRUARY 2**

**PESHAWAR** (TIP): A suicide bomber who killed 101 people at a mosque inside a major police facility in Peshawar had disguised himself in a police uniform to sneak into the high security zone and was riding a motorcycle with a helmet and mask on, a top police official said today.

The guards at the security checkpoint at the main entrance of the Police Lines area did not check the bomber dressed in police uniform and let him go inside, Inspector General of Police of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari told the media here.

The CCTV footage shows that the bomber entered the Police Lines area via Khyber Road, he said.

He added that the attacker had also asked about the way to the mosque from a police officer. The bomber asked a 'havaldar' where the mosque was in Pashto language, he said, adding that the motorcycle registration number has been traced.

He said the attacker was not an individual, but rather had a whole



network supporting him. He said the police were close to the terrorist network responsible for the bombing.

The suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers on Monday in the mosque in the Police

Lines area, killing 101 people, including 97 policemen, and injuring more than 200 others. The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack. (PTI)

**Nepal's former deputy PM Lamichhane re-acquires nationality certificate after SC nullifies his citizenship****JANUARY 29**

**KATHMANDU** (TIP): Nepal's former deputy prime minister and home minister Rabi Lamichhane on Sunday reacquired his citizenship certificate, two days after he had to resign following a decision by the country's Supreme Court to scrap his status as a member of the House of Representatives for not producing a valid nationality certificate.

Lamichhane on Friday 3 tendered his resignation after the apex court's verdict.

He re-acquired a citizenship certificate from District Administration Office Kathmandu by producing the necessary documents.

According to Lamichhane's Press Advisor Navaraj Pande, Lamichhane "re-acquired a Nepali citizenship certificate on Sunday." After re-acquiring the citizenship certificate,



Lamichhane was re-elected as the president of the Rastriya Swatantra Party.

Lamichhane was stripped of all positions, including the posts of Deputy Prime Minister, Home Minister, member

of the House of Representatives and party president after the Supreme Court's decision.

Lamichhane had in February 1994 acquired citizenship by descent from the District Administration Office, Kathmandu. In 2014, he got American citizenship. His Nepali citizenship was automatically scrapped the day he became an American citizen, as per Nepal's Citizenship Act.

Section 10 of the Act says any Nepali citizen who voluntarily obtains citizenship of a foreign country will automatically lose citizenship of Nepal. The Act also makes it mandatory to apply for reclaim Nepali citizenship if one renounces his/her foreign citizenship. But Lamichhane didn't apply for Nepali citizenship after renouncing his American citizenship. (PTI)

Coordination Body, formed soon after the 2021 takeover, urged people to stay inside their homes or workplaces from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Photos posted on social media showed empty streets in normally bustling downtown Yangon, the country's largest city, with just a few vehicles on the roads, and there were reports of similar scenes elsewhere.

Small peaceful protests are an almost-daily occurrence throughout the country, but on the anniversary of the Feb. 1, 2021, seizure of

power by the army, two points stand out: The amount of violence, especially in the countryside, has reached the level of civil war; and the grassroots movement opposing military rule has defied expectations by largely holding off the ruling generals.

The violence extends beyond the rural battlefields where the army is burning and bombing villages, displacing hundreds of thousands of people in what is a largely neglected humanitarian crisis. It also occurs in the cities, where activists are arrested and

tortured and urban guerrillas retaliate with bombings and assassinations of targets linked to the military. The military, after closed trials, have also executed activists accused of "terrorism."

According to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a watchdog group that tracks killings and arrests, 2,940 civilians have been killed by the authorities since the army takeover, and another 17,572 have been arrested—13,763 of whom remain detained. (AFP)



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# Skipping meals can increase belly fat

If you are dieting with a size zero figure in mind, think again! Researchers have found that skipping meals can ultimately result in abdominal weight gain.

"This does support the notion that small meals throughout the day can be helpful for weight loss, though that may not be practical for many people," said senior author of the study Martha Belury, professor of human nutrition at The Ohio State University in the US.

"But you definitely do not want to skip meals to save calories because it sets your body up for larger fluctuations in insulin and glucose and could be setting you up for more fat gain instead of fat loss," Belury explained.

In the study, mice that ate all of their food as a single meal and fasted the rest of the day developed insulin resistance in their livers.

When the liver does not respond to insulin signals telling it to stop producing glucose, that extra sugar in the blood is stored as fat.

These mice initially were put on a restricted diet and lost weight compared to controls that had unlimited access to food.

The restricted-diet mice regained weight as calories were added back into their diets and nearly caught up to controls by the study's end.

But fat around their middles - the equivalent to human belly fat - weighed more in the restricted-diet mice than in mice that were free to nibble all day long.

An excess of that kind of fat is associated with insulin resistance



and risk for Type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

## What happens to your body when you skip a meal?

Skipping meals can also cause your metabolism to slow down, which can cause weight gain or make it harder to lose weight. "When you skip a meal or go a long time without eating, your body goes into survival mode," says Robinson. "This causes your cells and body to

crave food which causes you to eat a lot!

## Why is it bad to not eat?

when our metabolism thinks we are starving, it gets rid of calorie-hungry muscle tissue. Studies show that up to 70% of the weight lost while eating less comes from burning muscle—not body fat! ... And that is why eating less is not an effective long-term fat loss approach.

## FOOD

### Cashew chicken fried rice

#### Ingredients

1 lb. chicken breasts, cut into cubes 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided 2 eggs, beaten with a dash of soy sauce 1 1/2 cups cubed fresh or canned pineapple 1 large red bell pepper, diced 1/2 cup frozen peas, defrosted 3 green onions, green and white parts, thinly sliced 2 cloves garlic, finely minced 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh ginger 1/2 cup chopped raw, unsalted cashews 2 cups cooked and chilled rice, white or brown 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons reduced-sodium tamari or soy sauce 1 to 2 teaspoons chili garlic sauce 1 small lime, juiced 1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves, finely chopped



#### Directions

- Step 1: Marinate chicken in 2 teaspoons of soy sauce and freshly ground black pepper and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
- Step 2: Heat one tablespoon of oil in a large skillet or wok over medium high heat. Add the chicken to the pan and cook until the chicken is no longer pink, about 7 to 8 minutes. Remove from pan and set aside.
- Step 3: In the same pan, add a teaspoon of oil and gently scramble the eggs. Scoop the eggs into a bowl and set aside.
- Step 4: Add one tablespoon of oil to the pan and add the pineapple and red pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, until the pineapple is caramelized on the edges and the red pepper has softened, about 3 to 5 minutes. Then add the green onion, peas, ginger and garlic. Cook, while stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds or longer. Transfer the contents of the pan to your bowl of eggs.
- Step 5: Add the remaining two teaspoons of oil to the pan. Pour in the cashews and toast them, stirring constantly, until the cashews smell fragrant and have turned golden brown, about 30 seconds. Add the rice to the pan and stir to combine. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the rice is hot, about 3 minutes.
- Step 6: Pour the cooked vegetables and eggs back into the pan with the rice and stir to combine. Season with soy sauce, chili garlic sauce, and lime juice. Taste and adjust seasoning as necessary. Garnish with fresh cilantro.

# Natural ways to make your hair grow faster

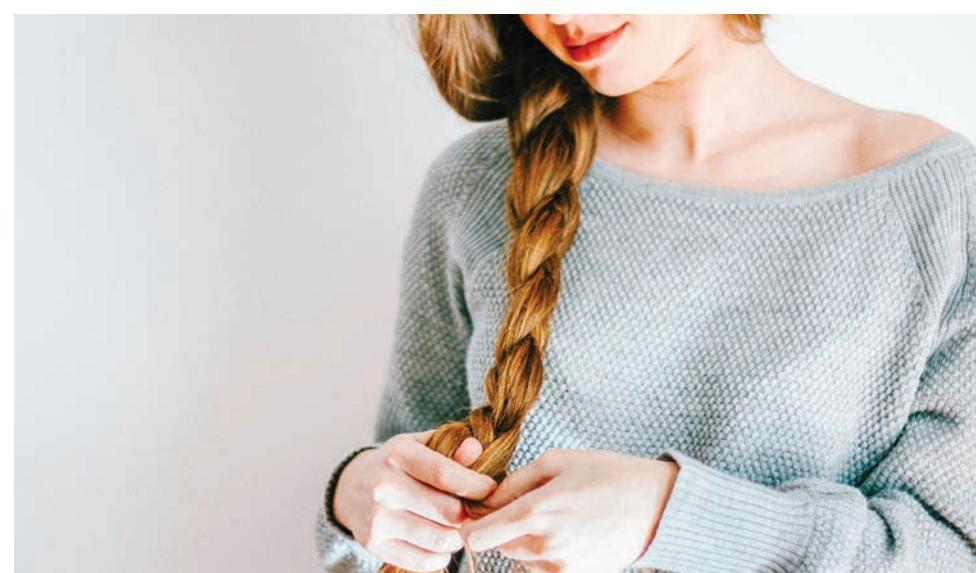
Who doesn't yearn for long lustrous hair? But often due to inadequate nourishment and damage, our natural hair growth is hindered. So what can we do so as to increase the pace of our hair growth? Just follow these simple tips and see the astounding results on your own.

#### Trimming to the rescue

Yes, you heard it right. Regular trimming of hairs every eight to ten weeks ensures fast hair growth. What happens is that due to excessive dirt and sun, the end of the hair usually gets damaged and rough, inducing split ends. When you regularly trim your hair, those split ends get cut off, leaving your hair to breathe and grow without any hurdle.

#### Make conditioner your friend

You might have noticed that often the ends of the hair are thinner and damaged when compared to the root end connecting to the scalp. This is because the lower end doesn't get nourished well. Conditioning after every hair wash helps seal the cuticle at the end and prevents the hair from



further damage. This makes your hair healthier; and healthier hair grows faster.

#### Relaxing hot oil massages

A good hot oil massage can be a perfect stress buster for you. Massaging your hair

with a good hot oil every week ensures that your hair is healthy and there are no more hair strands lying on your floor or brush. Try using coconut, olive or lavender oil so as to bring that beautiful luster to your hair and help you hair grow.

#### Regular brushing every night

You must have heard that excessive brushing can cause hair fall and physically harm your hair. Well, not always. It simply depends on the brush you use. Using synthetic bristles can create friction in hair and thus actually damage hair. Instead, using the right brush such as the boar bristle brush can actually increase the blood circulation of the scalp. Make sure that you are combing your hair for at least 50 times before you retire for the night. Brushing the hair makes your roots stronger and hair grow faster.

#### Don't wrap your wet hairs in towel

Most of us have a habit of wrapping our wet hairs in a towel just after shampooing, little realizing about the drawbacks of this habit. Wet hair is prone to even more hair fall and wrapping them in a towel can make this even worse. Our hairs get rubbed with those massive towel fibers making those strands of hair to fall. Instead, go for a microfiber towel, if you simply can't resist this habit.

# Moderate exercise encourages restful sleep: Research

Humans need a sufficient amount of high-quality sleep to maintain their physical and mental health. For instance, getting enough quality sleep can help treat a number of conditions, such as dementia, mental illness, and metabolic, cardiovascular, and metabolic disorders. On the other hand, sleep disorders like insomnia, narcolepsy, and excessive drowsiness are very common all over the world and may cause major health problems.

50 to 70 million adult Americans from sleep disorders, particularly insomnia. Meanwhile, a meta-analysis of 17 research found that 15 per cent of people in China suffer from sleeplessness. It's crucial to research the elements that support high-quality sleep in order to comprehend such conditions better. According to earlier studies, leading a healthy lifestyle that includes eating well and exercising frequently is beneficial.

Previous studies have indicated that a proper lifestyle, including a healthy diet and regular physical activity, is beneficial for good sleep. However, a systematic comprehensive study is lacking in this area of research.

To this end, a team of researchers from Japan, Canada, and Taiwan -- led by Associate Professor Javad Koohsari from the School of Knowledge Science at Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), who is also an adjunct researcher at the Faculty of Sport Sciences at Waseda University, has probed the inter-relationship between sedentary behaviour, physical activity, and sleep quality in a sample of the middle-aged Japanese population.

The research group, comprising Professor Yukari Nagai, also from JAIST; Professor Akitomo Yasunaga from Bunka Gakuen University; Associate Professor Ai Shibata from the University of Tsukuba; Professor Yung Liao from National Taiwan Normal University; Associate Professor Gavin R. McCormack from the University of Calgary, and Professor Koichiro Oka and Professor Kaori Ishii from Waseda University, based their study on Japanese adults between 40 and 64 years of age -- a crucial time window which often marks the onset of various health issues. Their work has been recently published in *Scientific Reports*.



The researchers used an isotemporal substitution approach, which estimates the effect of replacing one activity type with another for the same amount of time. Dr Koohsari said, "We replaced 60 minutes of sedentary behaviour or light-intensity physical activity with moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in the participants' schedules."

An accelerometer monitored the participants' level of physical activity for seven consecutive days. A questionnaire was then used to assess the participants' quality of sleep and rest.

The replacement of sedentary behaviour with moderate-to-intense exercise indeed improved sleep quality. Interestingly, this association was seen to be gender-based and was only found in women. This is in agreement with reports that have shed light on gender-based differences in sleep disorders. More studies are, however, required to understand why these gender-based dissimilarities occur.

Source: ANI



## Children, teens aren't doing enough physical activity—new study sounds a health warning

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. It's also associated with chronic illness and disability.

Recent research estimates that the world could see close to half a billion new cases of major chronic diseases by 2030 if people don't get more active.

Regular physical activity helps to prevent and manage many chronic diseases. Popular ways to be physically active include walking, cycling, and playing sports.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that children and adolescents (5-17 years old) get an average of at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity.

This should incorporate vigorous aerobic activities, as well as those that strengthen muscle and bone, at least three days a week. It's also recommended that children spend no more than two hours a day on recreational screen time.

These recommendations aim to improve children's physical and mental health, as well as cognitive outcomes.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, physical activity among children and adolescents was already below the recommended levels. In 2016, 81 per cent of adolescents around the world aged 11-17 were considered physically inactive. Girls were less active than boys.

The pandemic has made matters worse. Physical inactivity in children and adolescents has become a global public health priority. It is now included in global action plans.

For example, using 2016 as baseline, the WHO through its Global Action Plan on Physical Activity targeted a 15 percentage point reduction in prevalence of physical inactivity among adolescents by 2030.

This call to action also implored other international organisations and governments to help track progress in physical activity promotion among children and adolescents.

# Weight loss: Fattening food combinations you should avoid at all costs

## 1. Rice and potato

Rice is a high source of carbohydrates, and consuming rice in larger quantities may lead to weight gain. Although rice is easily digestible, one needs to be careful about the quantity of it. Rice, along with potato, is not a healthy combination as both of them can be fattening. Potato is starch-based which, mixed with rice, can be responsible for excessive calorie gain. Individually, having them in small quantities is not harmful to the body.

## 2. White bread and frozen yogurt

Often, in want of saving time, we grab a sandwich and frozen yogurt as a form of dessert. However, white bread has a high glycemic index which contributes to high blood sugar levels and is also not good if you want to lose weight. Go for multi-grain bread or brown bread, which are more nutritious. Also, frozen yogurts have high sugar content.

## 3. Chicken and lentil

Sometimes too much protein can mess up your digestion system, which will lead you to unnecessary weight gain without your fault. So, if you want to consume protein-based foods like chicken and daal or lentil, have them in different meals. Try to avoid having them together, as it can make you feel bloated and lead to indigestion.

## 4. Processed snacks with beverages



It is a common habit to have some kind of snack with tea or coffee. This combination can not only lead to acidity, but highly processed snacks like biscuits, cookies, and savories are high in sugar and preservatives, which are damaging to your body weight.

## 5. Milk and banana

Milk and banana are two excellent foods that have amazing nutritional benefits. However, consuming them together not only kills their nutritious quotient but also makes you gain weight.

Source: HT

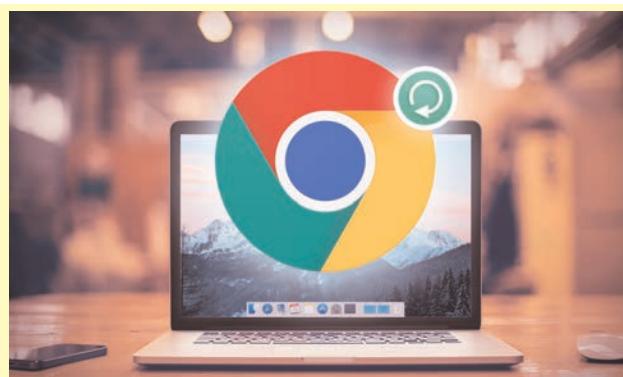
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## Google Chrome Is Working on Ability to Translate Text Within Images: Report

Google is reportedly working on a new feature for Chrome that will let users translate text within images with ease. The web browser currently allows users to translate text for an entire page. However, the same translation features don't work to translate content from posters, banners, and other images currently. The search engine may reportedly soon introduce a new feature that will allow users to detect the text within the image and translate them. As of now, users can translate text within an image by using Google lens.

According to the report by Android Police via Chrome feature researcher Leopeva64, Google has been developing a new feature to translate text within an image in the web browser. The said feature has been spotted in a new Chromium source code, hinting that a new option will be added to Chrome's translation feature. Once added, the image text translation feature can be activated with a feature flag. The report also adds that the new translation option will appear in Chrome's context menu after the rest of the text on the page will be translated by the browser. It is to be noted that the new image translation tool is not live yet in Chrome Beta or Canary. It is still under development. Currently, one can only translate the entire web page by tapping on the translate option available under the menu.

Last month, Google was spotted testing a new "Search" button for its Photos app on Android enabling users to view photos and recognise faces. It will reportedly replace the Lens button on the Photos app that users need to get more info about a particular subject in the photo. The new generic "Search" button will not only scan the faces in a photo but will also do a reverse search for them in the users' Google Photos Library.

Source: NDTV

## Scientists release the most accurate map of all the matter in universe

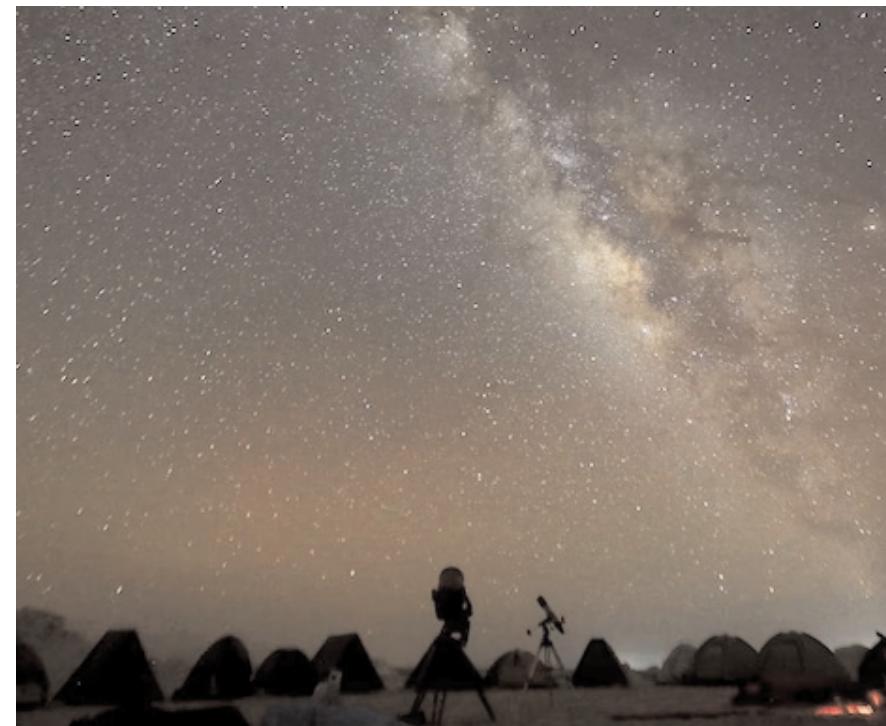
We are all made of matter. This matter was first thrown outwards in the moments after the Big Bang when our universe came into existence. Over centuries it all packed together to form planets and eventually our Solar System and Earth as well. Scientists have now revealed a map of the matter in the universe to better understand the story of evolution.

Researchers have released one of the most precise measurements ever made of how matter is distributed across the universe today. The team from the University of Chicago and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) have tried to understand the forces that shaped the evolution of the universe.

The team combined data from two major telescope surveys of the universe, the Dark Energy Survey and the South Pole Telescope, which looks for the faint traces of radiation that are still traveling across the sky from the first few moments of the universe. The team of 150 researchers has released the details of their findings in a series of three different papers in Physical Review D.

They found that matter in the universe is not as clumpy as was expected in the current model of the universe. The current model indicates that at the time of the Big Bang, the universe was condensed into a single point of infinite density and extreme heat that bursts suddenly and combined to form protons, neutrons, and nuclei. A few thousand years later, hydrogen and helium atoms originated.

"The analysis indicates that matter is not as "clumpy" as we



would expect based on our current best model of the universe, which adds to a body of evidence that there may be something missing from our existing standard model of the universe," researchers said in a release.

Scientists are interested in tracing the path of the matter, as by seeing where all the matter ended up, they could try to recreate what happened and what forces would have had to have been in play after the Big Bang.

Chihway Chang, one of the lead authors of the studies said that the data from two different telescopes functions like a cross-check, so it becomes a much more robust measurement than if you just used one or the other. The team looked at gravitational lensing, the slight

bending of light as it passes objects with lots of gravity, like galaxies.

By rigorously analyzing these two sets of data, scientists could infer where all the matter ended up in the universe. It is more precise than previous measurements—that is, it narrows down the possibilities for where this matter wound up—compared to previous analyses, the authors said.

The analysis is a landmark as it yielded useful information from two very different telescope surveys. "I think this exercise showed both the challenges and benefits of doing these kinds of analyses. There's a lot of new things you can do when you combine these different angles of looking at the universe," Chang added.

Source: India Today

## Microsoft Rolls Out ChatGPT-Powered Teams Premium

Microsoft on Wednesday, February 1, rolled out a premium Teams messaging offering powered by ChatGPT to simplify meetings using the AI chatbot that has taken Silicon Valley by a storm. The premium service will cost \$7 (roughly Rs. 600) per month in June before increasing to \$10 (roughly Rs. 800) in July, Microsoft said.

OpenAI-owned ChatGPT will generate automatic meeting notes, recommend tasks and help create meeting templates for Teams users.

Microsoft, which announced a multi-billion dollar investment in OpenAI earlier this month, has said it aims to add ChatGPT's technology into all its products, setting the stage for more competition with rival Alphabet's Google.

The chatbot, which can produce prose or poetry on command, is at the forefront of generative AI, a space where more and more big tech companies are funneling their resources in. ChatGPT on Wednesday announced a \$20

(roughly Rs. 1,600) per-month subscription plan, which will let subscribers receive access to faster responses and priority access to new features and improvements. ChatGPT owner OpenAI launched a pilot subscription plan for its popular AI-powered chatbot, called ChatGPT Plus, for \$20 (roughly Rs. 1,600) per month. Subscribers will receive access to ChatGPT during peak times, faster responses and priority access to new features and improvements.

In a blog post published by OpenAI on Wednesday, the company introduced ChatGPT Plus, which will be initially rolling out only for the customers in the United States. The company will soon extend the access availability through inviting people from its waitlist, probably over the coming weeks. OpenAI will also be rolling out ChatGPT to more regions in the near future.

Source: Reuters



## Bank of England raises borrowing costs to 4%, hints rates near peak

The Bank of England raised interest rates for the 10th straight time on Thursday and signalled the tide was turning in Britain's battle against high inflation, forcing investors to dial down bets on a more aggressive tightening of policy.

Softening their forecasts of recession this year, the BoE's nine interest rate-setters voted 7-2 to increase Bank Rate to 4.0% – its highest since 2008 – from 3.5%. The move had been expected by most investors and economists.

The announcement comes a day after the U.S. Federal Reserve slowed the pace of its rate hikes with a smaller quarter-point move, but said it expected further increases would be needed.

The BoE – which is trying to smother the risks from Britain's 10% inflation rate without deepening the expected recession – said its run of rate hikes going back to December 2021 were likely to have an increasing impact on the economy.

That should help to bring inflation down to about 4% by the end of this year, it said. Previously the BoE had forecast 2023 inflation at around 5%.

"Since the November monetary policy report we've seen the first signs that inflation has turned the corner," Governor Andrew Bailey said in a speech following the rate hike. But it's too soon to declare victory just yet, inflationary pressures are still there."

He said members of the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would need to be "absolutely sure" that inflation was receding. They said further interest rate hikes would hinge on evidence of more persistent price pressures appearing. That represented a signal to investors that its sharp run of rate hikes might be coming to an end.

Previously the BoE had said it would "respond forcefully, as necessary" to signs of further inflation pressure, and that "further increases in Bank Rate may be required".

## Google's parent announces 'meaningful' slowdown in hiring pace for 2023

Alphabet Inc. will "meaningfully" slow its pace of hiring in 2023, Chief Financial Officer Ruth Porat said.

The severance charge for the job cuts will range from \$1.9 billion to \$2.3 billion and will be reflected in this quarter's results, Porat said on the company's earnings call Thursday.

Google's parent made its largest job cuts just last month — 6% of its global workforce, or 12,000 jobs.

Alphabet's headcount rose in the past quarter, reaching 190,234, but the recent round of layoffs was not included in this figure. Porat said a majority of the hires were for technical roles.

# Stock Exchanges put 3 Adani Group companies under short-term surveillance

NEW DELHI (TIP)

As many as three Adani group companies, including Adani Enterprises, have come under short-term additional surveillance measure (ASM) framework of the BSE and NSE, according to the latest data available with the exchanges on Thursday, February 2.

Apart from Adani Enterprises, the other two firms listed by the exchanges are – Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Ambuja Cements.

The parameters for shortlisting securities under ASM include high-low variation, client concentration, number of price band hits, close-to-close price variation and price-earning ratio.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE said these companies have satisfied the criteria for inclusion in short-term additional surveillance measure or ASM.

Under the short-term ASM, the exchanges said, "applicable rate of margin shall be 50 per cent or existing margin whichever is higher, subject to maximum rate of margin capped at 100 per cent, with effect from February 6, 2023 on all open positions as on February 3, 2023 and new positions created from February 6, 2023".

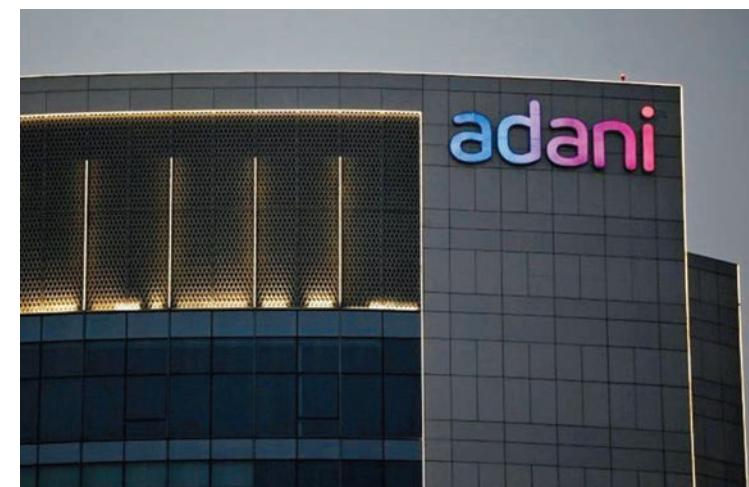
Market experts believe that putting in this framework means intra-day trading would require 100 per cent upfront margin.

The exchanges also noted that the shortlisting of securities under ASM is purely on account of market surveillance, and it should not be construed as an adverse action against the concerned company or entity.

Meanwhile, shares of Adani Enterprises tumbled over 26 per cent on Thursday, a day after the firm said it has decided not to go ahead with its Rs 20,000-crore Follow-on Public Offer (FPO) and will return the proceeds to investors. The counter had plunged more than 28 per cent on Wednesday.

Most of the other group firms also declined for the sixth day in a row on Thursday and 10 listed Adani Group firms have faced a combined erosion of over Rs 8.76 lakh crore in past six days.

Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after US-based Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations in a report, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group. Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.



Adani's market losses top \$100 bn as shelved FPO spooks investors

Adani Group's market losses swelled to more than \$100 billion and sparked worries about their potential systemic impact on Thursday, February 2, a day after its flagship company abandoned a \$2.5-billion stock offering.

The withdrawal of Adani Enterprises' share sale caps a dramatic setback for founder Gautam Adani, the school dropout-turned-billionaire whose fortunes rose rapidly in recent years but have dwindled over the past one week after US-based short-seller Hindenburg published a critical research report.

Cancelling the share sale saw Adani stocks plunge, Opposition lawmakers call for a wider probe and the central bank spring into action to check on banks' exposure.

Citigroup's wealth unit has stopped extending margin loans to its clients against securities of Adani Group and cut the loan-to-value ratio for credit against Adani securities to zero on Thursday, a source said.

Adani late on Wednesday, February 1, called off the share sale as a stocks rout sparked by short-seller Hindenburg's criticisms intensified, despite the offer being fully subscribed.

## Energy giant Shell makes record \$40 billion profit in tumultuous 2022

LONDON (TIP)

As many as three Adani group companies, including Adani Enterprises, have come un

Shell delivered a record \$40 billion profit in 2022, the energy giant said on Thursday, capping a tumultuous year in which a surge in energy prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine allowed it to hand shareholders unprecedented returns.

The British company's record earnings, which more than doubled from a year earlier, mirror those reported by U.S. rivals earlier this week and are certain to intensify pressure on governments to further raise taxes on the sector.

"We intend to remain disciplined while delivering compelling shareholder returns," Chief Executive Wael Sawan said in a statement on the first set of earnings since he took the helm on Jan. 1.

Shell also posted record fourth-quarter profit of \$9.8 billion on the back of a strong recovery in earnings from liquefied natural gas (LNG) trading,



beating analyst forecasts for an \$8 billion profit.

Annual profit reached \$39.9 billion, more than doubling from a year earlier and far exceeding the previous record of \$31 billion in 2008.

Shell shares were up 1.3% at the opening of trade in London.

The gains were driven by higher oil and gas prices, robust refining margins and a strong performance from Shell's trading business.

Earnings from its LNG division reached \$6 billion, a record high, boosted

by strong overall trading earnings on the back the gas price volatility, despite recording a loss in the third quarter and a sharp drop in liquefaction volumes due to outages at LNG facilities.

Russia's war in Ukraine has sparked huge volatility in oil, gas and power markets around the world, from which Shell and its rivals benefited through their large global footprint and leading trading operations.

Governments struggling with soaring energy bills responded by imposing windfall taxes on the energy sector. Shell said it expects to incur around \$2.4 billion in accounting costs related to the levies in 2022.

As previously announced, Shell boosted its dividend by 15% in the fourth quarter, the fifth increase since it delivered a more than 60% cut in the wake of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

The company also announced a new \$4 billion share buyback programme over the next three months, unchanged from the previous three. It bought back \$19 billion in shares in the year to February 2023, nearly double the total in pre-pandemic 2019.

Source: Reuters

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

**The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla****WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - FEBRUARY 6 - 12, 2023**

**ARIES** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll put your bad habits behind and prepare for a new beginning. You'll also waste a bunch of energy reviewing tasks that you started but never completed. Using the aid of a trusted friend, gathering supplies will be simpler. You'll experience greater accepting when your lover is around. In a relationship, your companion is more likely to make you experience at peace regarding your fears. You'll be prepared to look out for oneself this week. This next week will be devoid of sickness for you.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says, your natural tendency is always to help everybody, even if doing so throws you in danger. This week, you'll make decisions that are in your better position and avoid being taken advantage of. You'll think much healthier this next week. This week you'll hurt somebody to protect your objectives, but your companion will show you that taking care of yourself is just as vital as taking care of others. Husbands and wives will make time for one another. You'll be fully fine this week, both emotionally and emotionally. Anything of the sort won't annoy you.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says, you'll spend your energy this week exploring all of your interests. You'll speed around your work and studies if you're impatient. You will get some great tidings this week regarding your academic battlefields if you're a teacher. This week, you'll need more time to think things through, which might postpone your romantic endeavors. You must go cautiously since your husband will be questioning you. You won't experience much psychological tugging this week, which will assist you remain collected and in control. This week, stay out of the gym.



**CANCER** : Ganesha says, this week, Venus and the Moon will align in a manner that makes you seem more energetic and alive. This week, your approach toward other people's difficulties will astound many surrounding you. Establish no connections this week if you're unmarried since Mercury isn't in your favor. If you're married, you and your partner will have in-depth conversations about how to manage your money. You ought to meditate this week in order to maintain your composure.



**LEO** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be able to tilt even farther in the direction of your preferences. Because you'll be capable of expressing your thoughts clearly, you won't need to be as adaptable with them. Catch pace with your fantastic work this week, Leo. This week, you won't be able to be there for your partner when they need you most, and as a consequence, your companion will think very poorly of you. You will need to pay close heed to your wellness because traveling carelessly will have a detrimental impact on it.



**VIRGO** : Ganesha says, you'll feeling energized and ready to take on anything this week that comes your way. Your sentiments of hopelessness will be defeated. Virgo, it's time to celebrate. This week's lunar phases will make you unhappy. This week, you'll feel a little perplexed. You'll have encouragement from your buddy, who will also make you feel better. Take care to exercise caution. You'll likely neglect your fitness regimen this week since you'll feel drained and lethargic in the evenings, but it's acceptable.



**LIBRA** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll make the most of the beneficial and advantageous Astrological position. You will be granted the courage to stand up for oneself, and you won't settle for similarly finest any further. This week, Libra, no one will be allowed to force you back. This week, you'll confess your love to anyone. This week, don't anticipate anything from your connections; alternatively, learn to be patient. By eating a nutritious meal this week, you'll be capable of making oneself feeling wonderful.



**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll feel totally secure in who you are. While you'll require additional opportunity to organize your affairs, God will surprise you this week with considerably better and larger rewards than you anticipated. This week, you'll detect optimism in your own atmosphere. All seems to be working fine this week. Your partner will pamper you like someone special this week. They will laud you for managing your emotional and professional life so successfully. You'll need to be more cautious regarding your migraine concerns this week. This week, you may well not need to see a physician.



**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says, this week, your mind and heart will work like a shell; you will have a hard exterior but a soft spot inside for success will rule. This week, you'll need to be similarly forceful on the inside to crush any pessimism. People's opinions of you will change if they believe you to be a dependent individual. This week, negligence may cause you to squander either income or valuables. This week, keep a watch on your relationship because Jupiter is not in your favor. This week, you'll start to be really reckless with your food. This week, be careful to eat healthfully.



**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says, you'll make your decision this week on wise counsel. The teacher in your life will be replaced by somebody else. This week, you'll also manage your finances rather well. This week, Venus will be in your sixth house, which will assist you earn more income. Your job will be impacted by time limitations. To get better results on the other end, you must sacrifice at minimum one end. Everything seems going well in your relationships; nothing major has happened this week in your romantic life. You'll feel a touch more self-conscious this week about your physique shape and bodyweight. Don't allow this to undermine your confidence.



**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be capable of feeling comfortable in your own skin. Lately, you've started comparing yourself to other people, which has left you feeling unsatisfied. You'll feel happy this week because of your sense of gratitude for oneself. You'll get weary of carrying on extra responsibilities this week, so communicate with your partner regarding it and take a break. This week, your spouse will also provide you with the assistance you need. You'll be in improved health this week, according to your fitness graph. This week, you should exercise additional caution around slopes to keep yourself secure.



**PISCES** : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be able to spend most of your time with your family and youngsters. You haven't been able to join it recently due to your recent hectic schedule, but you will be able to do so this week. This week, you'll complain about unimportant issues. Keep your mind under command. This week, you and your partner will organize a trip and seasonal activities that will help you get to know one another better. The interpersonal facades seem to be stable. Your wellness will be OK this week, and you'll think great.

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : FEBRUARY 6 - 12, 2023

### BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

#### February 6

Ganesha says you should embrace any change that occurs in your life to demonstrate your adaptability. Simply follow your doctor's advice, and you'll soon be able to recover from all of your ongoing illnesses. If you have obesity, which is the absolute last thing anyone wants in their life, you must take extra care of yourself. Love will lead you where it needs to go. Conflicts involving ego, love, and deception could all be present in your family, so take caution.

#### February 7

Ganesha says everyone is riveted by your impromptu talks, and they leave the audience wanting more. You will always be in the news because of your connections to powerful players in your industry. Your statesmanship and diligence earn you respect in addition to power. More than ever, those close to you show interest in you. You provide them with the support they need to solve their challenges. In your family, you are a skilled mediator.

#### February 8

Ganesha says you have an artistic intellect, and one of its beauties is to appreciate and laud the lovely things. You put your all into your work, allowing you to savor each and every moment. For any of your

investments, focused governance will yield significant returns. Your life will be luxurious, and you will soon achieve great achievement. You resemble a spider that enjoys making difficult efforts to achieve its goals. Your love may seem to be far away, but if it is yours, it will find you on its own.

#### February 9

Ganesha says your enthusiasm and outlook on life are admirable. A concerted effort is required to pursue a passion for learning and exploration. All of your coworkers fall under your wing due to your unpopular and logical demeanor. You've learned from a young age that patience is the key to success. Keeping a constant eye on your kids' education will help them succeed in life. Your films in a variety of genres will now be enjoyed by the audience. With your family and friends, you are extremely close.

#### February 10

Ganesha says your unique characteristics will make you well-known in your field. Because of your always expanding ideas, people will like your business. Never forget that those who dare to dream and think unconventionally are the ones who succeed. Therefore, if you are self-assured, believe in your abilities, and pursue your goals in life, success will undoubtedly be yours. Business travel will be

goal-oriented, although it may cause some health issues.

#### February 11

Ganesha says no matter how the odds are stacked against you, you always attempt to fight back in life. You have an abundance of stimulating and difficult feelings inside of you, which drives you to take actions that most people wouldn't even consider. Your continued relationship can end up turning into a lifetime kinship. You try to get in touch with folks in your contacts, but you can come up empty-handed. You can avoid further hassle from your bad habits, such as drinking alcohol and other vices, by combining meditation with medical treatments.

#### February 12

Ganesha says you have a very positive outlook on your academic career. You must control your impulsive tendency to seek retribution over insignificant issues. To taste success, you must be on the same wavelength as it. You always follow the rules and regulations of the system you choose to realize your deepest desires. To get your creative work started, you must attend intensive workshops. To quell your enemies' bad spirits, you must open your hawk-eye. Avoid interacting with other group members who might represent your anxiety to you.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥



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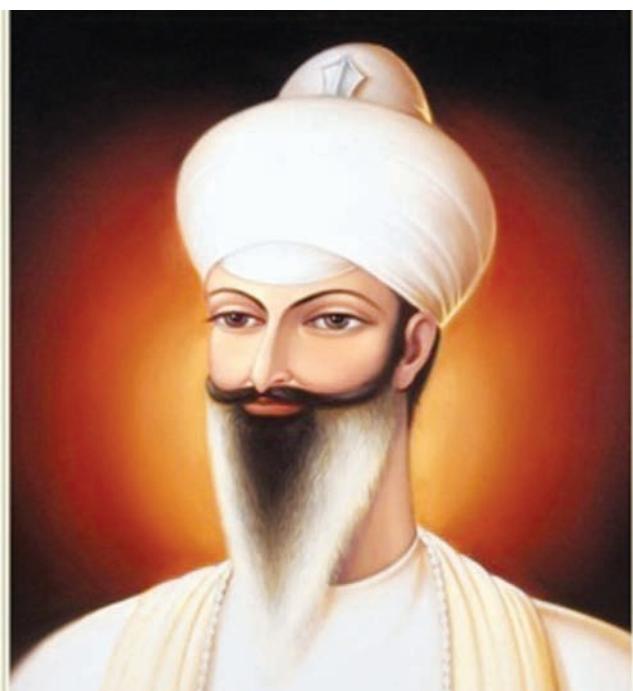


Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

# Sikh History This Week

FEBRUARY 3, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 9, 2023

## 3rd February



1816 Baba Ram Singh Namdhari was born.

BABA RAM SINGH was born in village Rayia, Ludhiana, to father Jassa Singh and mother Sedha Kaur. Since early childhood, Ram Singh was inclined to reciting God's name (Vaaheguru's Naam simran). For a while, he served in the forces of Lahore darbar. However in 1841 he left active service and joined the company of Baba Balak Singh, whose preachings had enlightened thousands. Upon receiving Naam Updaesh, Ram Singh settled in Bhaenni village and engaged in extensive preaching of Sikh faith. On the Baisakhi day of 1857, Baba Ram Singh administered Pahul to teh Sikhs in his village and created 22 centres in different parts of the country. He started the Kuka branch. Kuka Sikhs wear white attire and a malla made from white wool. Their practices include, giving Vaaheguru Gurmantar in individual's ear; amrit is not partaken together, rather given to individuals in isolation; practice of Hawaan ceremony; rather than the traditional Parikarma around Guru Granth Sahib during marriage ceremony, they recite lawan in presence of fire (Agni Haum). During religious ceremonies, they yell, shout, and dance out of love. The punjabi term for their yelling and shouting is Kukeh. Hence they are popularly known as Kukas.

## 4th February

1764 Khalsa fought against Ruhaliya forces in which Ruhalae lost and left the battle grounds.

1853 John Lawrence was appointed the Chief Commissioner of Punjab.

1975 As a result of representation made by The Sikh Dharma Brotherhood (USA), the Labor department of US Government exempted the Sikh workers employed in workshops from wearing safety helmet which are required to be worn by all the labourers in carpentry trade and construction (an OSHA program Directive of 1972). The exemption to Sikh employees was granted under the provisions of the United States Constitution relating to free exercise of religion.

## 5th February

1762 Ahmad Shah invaded for the 6th time. This invasion was primarily against the Sikhs. The Sikhs had besieged Jandiala. Ahmad Shah reached Jandiala by forced marches. In the meantime Sikhs had moved to Malerkotla. Ahmad Shah surprised the Sikhs at Kup Raheera near Malaerkotla (now in Sangrur district) and the two armies met in a straight fight. Sikhs were encumbered with families and camp followers and lost

more than 30,000 Sikh – mostly old men, women, and children, out of a total of 50,000. However, the main body of the Sikhs fighting force remained intact. However, the hand written copy of the Holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib had to be lodged near here in the house of a muslim, who kept the holy scripture respectfully for about two centuries. It is said to have been taken to Pakistan by that family at the time of India's Partition in 1947. This battle is known as the "Wada Ghallughar." Ahmad Shah reached Amritsar and destroyed Hari Mandir and the holy tank. Ahmad Shah stayed the entire year 1762 in Panjab to subdue and crush the Sikhs, but he totally failed in the objective. Despite the heavy loss of life and the Holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikhs fought several subsequent wars with Ahmed Shah Abdali and eventually convinced him to leave Punjab. Soon they recuperated and established their own kingdom, the Khalsa rule in Punjab. With the establishment of the Sikh rule, the Western borders of India were sealed forever to the Mughal invaders.

1921 The famous Sikh shrine, Punja Sahib was brought under management control of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC)



## 6th February

1921 SGPC asks government to safeguard Sikh institution of Nankana Sahib.

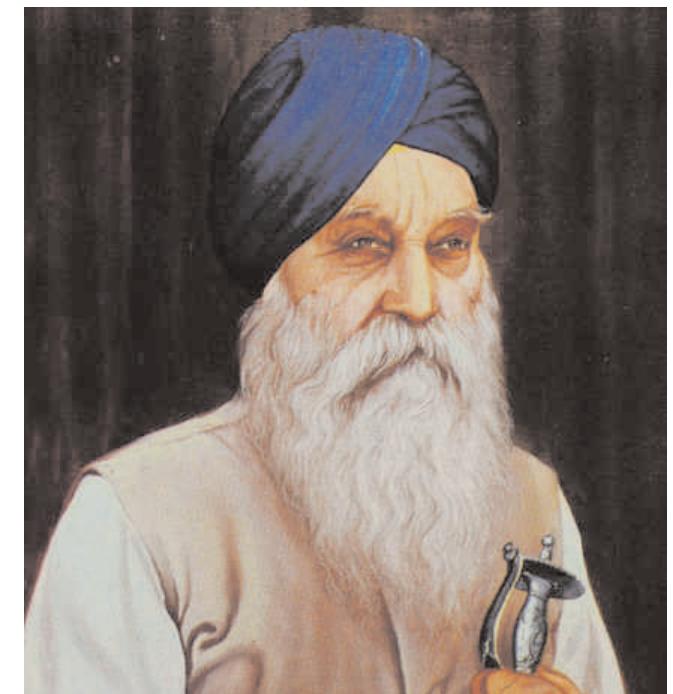


1926 Kahan Singh Nahba's monumental work, "Mahan Kosh", Encyclopedia of Sikh Religion was published.

## 7th February

1955 Master Tara Singh was elected President of SGPC for the third time.

Master Tara Singh was born on 24 June, 1885, in Haryal in Rawalpindi district of North Western



Province of undivided India. His mother, Moolan Devi, was a pious lady and his father, Bakshi Gopi Chand, was a patwari of the village and was a well known and respected person. Tara Singh's original name was Nanak Chand. In 1902 Nanak Chand embraced Sikhism and came to be called Tara Singh.

## 8th February

1780 Sikhs fought Timur near Multan during his 2nd invasion but lost Multan city and the fort.



1961 Fateh Singh and Nehru held talks on Punjabi Suba. Talks followed on March 1 and May 12. As expected, these talks failed to materialize anything and a "failed talks" was announced.

## 9th February

1924 1st Shaheedhi Jatha of 500 Akali Sikhs, under the command of Jathedar Udham Singh of village Verpal, marched from Sri Akal Takhat for Gangsar, Jaito. It reached Jaito on Feb 20-21, the third anniversary of Nankana tragedy.

1992 Expressing their desire to live free of India, Sikhs overwhelmingly boycotted elections under the Indian constitution. Despite efforts by government troops to force Sikhs to vote at gunpoint, less than 3.4 percent of the Sikhs in villages voted.

The full moon day that falls in the month of Maghi (that is the month of January or February in the English calendar) is known as Maghi Purnima according to the Hindu Panchang. Maghi Purnima has special significance from a religious and spiritual point of view according to Hindu scriptures. Bathing, charity and chanting on this auspicious day of Purnima, are said to be very virtuous and fruitful. Magh bath is also very important on this day.

The special bath, which takes place in the month of Magha, normally starts from the full moon of the Posh month and continues till Maghi Purnima. For the Triveni Sangam bath, Maghi Purnima is the last day that follows after performing Kalpas in the pilgrimage place of Teerthraj Prayag. According to the beliefs of Sanatan Dharma, the grace of Lord Madhav that is Shri Krishna showers on the people who take baths during the month of Magha. Also, they will be blessed with happiness, prosperity, children and salvation.

Bathing, charity and chanting on this date are said to be very virtuous and fruitful. Magh bath also has special significance on this day.

#### Significance of Maghi Purnima

According to the Hindu texts and scriptures, it is said that bathing in the holy river on the eve of Maghi Purnima is considered really auspicious. After taking the bath and then giving alms is considered to wash away all your sins of the present life and past sins.

Additionally, on the day of Purnima, Lord Vishnu and Lord Hanuman are worshipped to receive their blessings. Also, it is believed that on this day all the wishes of the devotees who worship Lord Vishnu and Lord Hanuman are fulfilled.

According to mythology, Magh Purnima is considered a holy day to perform various spiritual and religious rituals and ceremonies. It is also believed that during this month the deities descend from heaven to spend some time on earth and stay on the banks of the river Ganges. The popular 'Magh Mela' and 'Kumbh Mela' are also organised during this month, where hundreds of devotees from all over the country come to take the auspicious plunge in the holy river of the Ganges in the beaming rays of Maghi Purnima.

#### Astrological Significance Of Magha Purnima

The day of Maghi Purnima is also significant in astrology. On this day, the Sun enters Capricorn and the Moon moves into the Cancer constellation, according to legend. Hence, it is believed that taking a holy dip on Maghi Purnima will solve all difficulties associated with the Sun and Moon. From a scientific standpoint, the month of Magha is also helpful. This month is thought to aid the human body in adjusting to the changing seasons. As a result, bathing on Maghi Purnima will provide the body with strength and power.

Moreover, if Pushya Nakshatra falls on the same day as the Magh Purnima Ganga Bath Purnima, then the day becomes more auspicious. Interestingly, in the regions of Tamil Nadu, on the day of Magha Purnima, a known float festival is organised.

#### Maghi Purnima Vrat Katha

According to the legend, a Brahmin known as Dhaneshwar used to reside in Kantika Nagar. He used to beg for dakshina and donations for his livelihood. In spite of sheer poverty, both husband and wife were happy in their own little world. The only thing that made both Brahmin and his wife unhappy was that they didn't have any kids. One day his wife went to the city to beg for alms, but everyone refused to give alms to her as she did not have any children, which broke her heart and made her very sad and gloomy. Seeing her grief and distress, someone told her to worship Maa Kali for 16 days. The Brahmin couple worshipped Maa Kali for continuous 16 days. Seeing their penance and severe devotion, goddess Kali blessed them and gave a boon to Brahmin's wife that she will conceive and she became pregnant. But, told the Brahmin's wife that according to her capacity, she should light a lamp on every full moon day and she should go on adding one lamp on every full moon day.

In this way, she should keep on increasing the number of lamps on every full moon day till there are at least 32 lamps. The Brahmin brought raw mango fruit from the tree for his wife to worship. His wife performed the puja as a result of which she became pregnant. On every full moon, she kept lighting the lamp as per the instructions

# Maghi Purnima



#### Important information

**Magha Purnima 2023**

**Sunday, 05 February 2023**

**Purnima Tithi Begins: 04 February 2023 at 09:29 PM**

**Purnima Tithi Ends : 05 February 2023 at 11:58 PM**



of Mother Kali. By the grace of Mother Kali, a son was born to her, who was named Devdas. When Devdas grew up, he was sent to Kashi to study at his maternal uncle's house. An accident happened with mother and nephew in Kashi, due to which Devdas got married by fraud.

Devdas did not want to marry so requested to stop this marriage as he was young but still he was forced to get married. After some time Yamraj came to take his life in the form of Kaal, but on that day the Brahmin couple had kept a fast of Purnima, so Kaal could not harm Devdas. Since then it is said that fasting on the day of Maghi Purnima leads to freedom from all troubles and fulfills all wishes.

#### Maghi Purnima Vrat Puja Vidhi & Rituals

Bathing, charity, homa (havan), fasting and chanting are performed on Magha Purnima. On this day Lord Vishnu should be worshipped, Shraddh-tarpan and donated to poor people.

The worship method of Maghi Purnima Vrat is as follows:

On the day of Maghi Purnima, one should take a bath in a holy river, reservoir, well or stepwell before sunrise in the morning. After bathing, offer arghya to the Sun God while reciting the Surya Mantra.

After taking a bath, one should worship Lord Madhusudan/Lord Krishna by taking a vow of fasting. During the mid-day period, poor people and Brahmins should be given food and donations and dakshina.

Sesame and black sesame should be specially donated to charity. In the month of Magha, havan should be done with black sesame seeds and ancestors should be offered with black sesame seeds.

Gayatri Mantra or 'Om Namo Narayan' mantra should be chanted 108 times continuously.

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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**

## Uproar in Parliament, Opposition seeks JPC probe: Houses adjourned without transacting business

When the two Houses again met at 2 pm, the ruckus over the issue did not abate, and Parliament was adjourned for the day, a Tribune News Service report said.

Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge led the demand for the JPC or a Supreme Court-monitored probe, with the DMK, TMC, SP, JD(U), Shiv Sena (Uddhav), CPI(M), CPI, NCP, IUML, NC, AAP and Kerala Congress joining the issue. The decision to press for an investigation came after a meeting at Kharge's chambers in the morning which was attended by opposition parties. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar had earlier said the notices were not in order, but Opposition leaders vowed to keep raising the matter till they were allowed a discussion. Kharge later told reporters that nine party leaders, including him, had given notices for adjournment of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha to discuss the issue but the proposal was rejected by Dhankhar.

Derek O'Brien of the TMC said: "Opposition leaders are being continuously harassed for no reason by the ED and the CBI. Now, the government must take action against the perpetrators of this monumental scam and ensure that they do not flee the country. The hard-earned money of millions of Indians is in peril."

Ram Gopal Yadav of the SP said the matter was very serious as "people were being sent home by the SBI in several districts, saying that there's no money."

The Opposition has been alleging that public money of the LIC and SBI invested in Adani firms is in danger of sinking.

AAP's Sanjay Singh asked: "Why is the government silent on this mega scandal? Adani is the scandal kingpin and the treasurer of the BJP. He has formed shell companies abroad, overvalued his shares and looted people's money."

Keshav Rao of the BRS questioned the RS Chairman's rejection of the adjournment notices. "The Chairman says the notices are not in order. There's no pro forma as far as adjournment notices are concerned," he noted.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and DMK's Kanimozhi also demanded a probe.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said, "We have to run the House smoothly. A good Budget has been presented under the guidance of PM Modi. If they have constructive suggestions about the President's Address, they should give. I urge them to run the House smoothly and put forth their arguments."

### CONGRESS: WHY GOVT MUM?

Modi govt is maintaining silence on the Hindenburg report. We will not remain quiet if you cheat Indian investors, consisting of 29 crore LIC policy holders and 45 crore SBI account holders.

Meanwhile, the RBI has asked banks for details of exposure to Adani Group.

As the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday, February 2, sought details about lenders' exposures to the Adani Group, chairman Gautam Adani cited market volatility for the decision to withdraw the follow-on public offer (FPO) of its flagship firm Adani Enterprises. His companies continued to lose on the stock market with the cumulative rout nearing USD 108 billion in a week - one of the biggest wipeouts in India's history.

The RBI is seeking details both from private and public banks with the total exposure to the group estimated at Rs 75,000 crore. It has also sought to know special arrangements extended to the companies such as collaterals in the form of bonds.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) too has put shares of three group companies under the additional surveillance mechanism (ASM). The move indicates the company's shares are in trouble and require special

monitoring. In a media message, Adani claimed the fundamentals of the company were strong.

A day after Swiss lender Credit Suisse stopped accepting bonds by Adani Group companies as collaterals for margin lending, Norges Bank Investment Management from Norway followed suit. Citigroup also stopped extending margin loans against securities of the group.

### BORIS JOHNSON'S BROTHER QUILTS LINKED FIRM

Meanwhile, Lord Jo Johnson, younger brother of former British PM Boris Johnson, quit his non-executive directorship of a UK-based investment firm linked with the Adani Group's now-withdrawn FPO. Johnson junior had taken the position in June last year and said he sat on the board after having been assured that the company "is compliant with its legal obligations and in good standing with regulatory bodies".

### BANGLADESH QUESTIONS 'EXPENSIVE' POWER DEAL

Bangladesh too has sought a revision of a 2017 power purchase agreement with Adani Power after local media said the price was high and the issue had been earlier raised by PM Sheikh Hasina. The Bangladesh power company is seeking a 40 per cent downward revision in the price. (Source: Agencies)

## The Election Year Budget favors for middle classes and the youth

The 2011 Census puts the number of PVTGs at 75, spread over 17 states and one UT.

PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM VIKAS) scheme, first, will offer a package of assistance to Vishwakarmas, a social group, which may belong to any marginalized caste - Backward, SCs or STs. The community mainly comprises carpenters, blacksmiths, bronze smiths, goldsmiths and stonemasons.

Another Rs 15,000 crore allocation for improving the socio-economic conditions of the PVTGs through a new Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission seeks to saturate vulnerable tribal families and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation.

Besides creating the above two new segments of beneficiaries, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in line with the BJP government's pro-youth pitch, announced a maiden direct benefit transfer plan of a stipend support to 47 lakh youth over the next three years. A pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out for this purpose.

Relief to the middle class in the form of tax rebates was much anticipated after the ruling party's ideological mentor RSS' clear signals to the government that the middle class could not be ignored.

Middle class push, new beneficiary classes, DBT for youth in poll year and further consolidation of existing 'labhartis' - women, SCs, STs & OBCs - meet the BJP's urge to touch all segments. ( Source: Tribune news Service)

## NY governor proposes \$227 billion budget

Health care spending would be increased by about 8%, with \$1 billion used for more psychiatric beds and residential mental health treatment facilities.

The governor is able to add the money because of larger-than-expected tax collections and funds remaining from federal pandemic relief programs that have led to an over \$8 billion budget surplus.

"We've set the table for what should be one of the most prosperous times in our state's history," Hochul said. "But if New Yorkers don't feel safe, they can't afford to buy a home, they can't pay their rent, the cost of everything keeps rising, then nothing we've done will make a difference."

To that end, Hochul is proposing that 800,000 new housing units be built in the state over the next decade, financed mostly by private developers, but with 100,000

units of affordable housing paid for by the state.

No new broad-based taxes are proposed, but she wants to extend a temporary corporate tax surcharge. She'd add a payroll tax surcharge for businesses in the regions served by the downstate Metropolitan Transit Authority to help stem pandemic-related losses for the transit agency. Hochul also wants to raise taxes on a pack of cigarettes by \$1 to \$5.35.

The governor also detailed a public safety plan that includes \$337 million to fight a surge in gun-related violence and provides \$80 million to district attorneys to hire more prosecutors and to better follow recent statutes that require them to turn over evidence to defendants in a timely way.

She also wants to revise the state's controversial bail reform laws to allow judges more discretion to set bail when people are charged with serious crimes. Hochul portrays the changes as an attempt to clear up confusion caused by previous changes to the 2019 laws that she said conflict with each other. A standard imposed during changes made last year requires judges to choose the "least restrictive means" to ensure that someone accused of a crime returns for court dates.

"We looked at this very thoughtfully, and realize what judges are telling us that they don't have the clarity that they need to have, when someone's before them, and meets the standards of being bail-eligible," Hochul said.

**MTA :** Hochul wants to create a new revenue stream for the MTA that would keep massive service cuts and layoffs from going into effect.

"We have to face the harsh reality of MTA's fiscal cliff," Hochul said.

To offset this budget gap, Hochul is proposing a hike on the MTA payroll tax for New York City companies and would direct revenue from new casinos in the city towards funding the MTA.

However, even if this is approved, the MTA will still be moving forward with its 5.5% fare hikes this year.

There are legal snags in Hochul's plan, under current state law, casino revenue is flagged for educational purposes, but MTA Chair Janno Lieber says businesses should be responsible for funding MTA service.

"We need them to pay a little slice of the cost of maintaining five days a week service when people are only coming in 2-4 days," Lieber said. "That's the rationale."

**NY SCHOOLS :** Hochul wants to eliminate the regional cap on charter schools, which would allow more charter schools to open in the city.

Per pupil funding for charter schools would increase by 4.5%.

"What we're trying to do is something that is just common sense," Hochul explained.

However, this already is kicking off a fierce fight with the state's powerful Teacher's Union.

In a statement, NYSUT President Andy Pallottaq said, "This will have a devastating impact on our public schools, especially for our state's most underserved students. History shows that the corporate charter school industry is interested in making profits, not in the well-being of all students, educators, and families."

Hochul is also proposing a \$3.1 billion or a 10% increase to annual School Aid, the largest School Aid increase in history, for a total of \$34.5 billion.

This includes fully funding the Foundation Aid formula for the first time in its 17-year history.

**NY MIGRANT CRISIS :** Hochul is proposing to direct \$1 billion in state aid to fund resettlement costs for migrants. This includes reimbursing the city for a share of shelter and relief centers, health care costs and National Guard members who have been assisting with this crisis.

Hochul also wants to set up a future funding formula so that costs are split evenly between the city, state, and federal government.

However, the federal government still has not committed to providing resources to aid in the migrant crisis.

Hochul said she spoke with the President on Wednesday.

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

By Murli Menon

One is writing this from one's garden facing suite at Orchard Palace Resort at Gondal which is a heritage hotel managed by the Royal family of Gondal. The most exciting part of the visit to Orchard Palace, is its location. Orchard Palace is adjacent to Gondal antique and classic cars museum of the erstwhile Gondal State.

This royal collection of cars - Forty impressive vehicles, from a 1907 car made by the New Engine Company Acton and a 1935 vintage Mercedes saloon to racing cars raced by the present Maharaja of Gondal. Most are still in pristine working condition. The Delage D8, Daimler, and the grand 1935 Mercedes seven-seater saloon are some of the numerous heritage European cars of the 1920s and '30s, which can be seen at Gondal Heritage and Classic Cars Museum. The car collection was owned by Maharaja Bhagwan Sinhji who ruled the region in early 19th century and was a visionary leader.

The Gondal Antique Car Museum in Gujarat, India is a must-see destination for car enthusiasts and history buffs alike. The museum houses a collection of over 50 vintage cars and motorcycles, all beautifully restored and maintained to their original condition.

One of the highlights of the museum is the collection of cars from the 1920s and 1930s, including a 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and a 1931 Studebaker President. Visitors can also see a 1948 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith, a 1951 Chevrolet Styleline, and a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL Gullwing.

The museum is located in the historic town of Gondal, which is known for its palaces and havelis. Visitors can take a tour of the town and see the beautiful architecture of the buildings, many of which have been converted into heritage hotels. The museum is open to the public every day except Monday and visitors can take a guided tour of the museum, which is conducted in English and Hindi.

Overall, Gondal Antique Car Museum is a unique and interesting destination that offers a glimpse into the history of transportation and a chance to see some truly beautiful and rare vehicles. It's definitely worth a visit for anyone interested in cars and their history.

The Maharajah of Gondal had his own vintage and classic Car collection displayed at the heritage Orchard Palace Hotel at Gondal and the museum manager Mr. Bhavesh escorted me to photograph and carefully took me for an ambling walk through the antique cars, each parked in a private garage. The circumambulation of the garage allows tourists to appreciate nearly forty antique, classic and racing cars. Lunch over, we walked across the lawn and watched one garage door. There was a gorgeous, bright orange 1930 Delage designed by Maurice Gaultier and founded in 1905 by Louis Delage is part of the collection.

A 1947 top-of-the-line Frazer (Kaiser Buick convertible) and Studebaker are also seen. A 1935 Packard, Ford convertible and Rolls Royce besides 1930 Daimler rub shoulders with one another in adjacent private garages. The most unusual "car" from 1907 was made in the United Kingdom and called "New Engine". Rather than a "car", it resembled a railroad or trolley car. This car not only could run on a street but also on train tracks! The Gondal Antique Car Museum in Gujarat, India is a must-see destination for car enthusiasts and history buffs alike. The museum houses a collection of over 50 vintage and classic cars, all beautifully restored and maintained to their

# Gondal - vintage car enthusiasts dream



original condition. One 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and a 1948 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith, a 1951 Chevrolet Styleline, and a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL Gullwing can also be seen.

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Overall, Gondal Antique Car Museum is a unique and interesting destination that offers a glimpse into the history of transportation and a chance to see some truly beautiful and rare vehicles. It's definitely worth a visit for anyone interested in cars and their history.

## How to get there?

Gondal is located 40 km. from Rajkot. And 60 km. from Junagadh making it a convenient base to visit this historic city by bus.

## By Train:

Gondal Railway Station is located about 42km from Rajkot Railway Station.

## By Air:

Gondal is about 41km from Rajkot Airport.

## Museum Ticket:

Ticket price is Rs 120 per person plus Rs 280 for photos and video recording per camera. A few cars are behind glass windows so it is not possible to click photos of some of the antique cars. You need to pay extra to go to other palaces.

## Where to stay?

Many budget hotels ranging from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/- dot Gondal. Several temple guest houses offer free accommodation for pilgrims. The Circuit House is an option for Government employees.

However, Bhubaneshwari Residency and Tulja Residency at Gondal are the accommodation of choice for European tourists who would like to stay in the town. A family of four can rent twin sharing rooms with hot water showers and vegetarian food for 50 Euro per night. Advance booking is recommended during festivals or weekends.

## Where to eat?

Several restaurants offering Indian vegetarian cuisine are located around Diu. Several make-shift stalls selling idlis, dosas, khaman and dhoklas are also found here. Dhabas serving Gujarati and Kathiawari vegetarian fare are found both at Gondal and all along the highway from Ahmedabad to Gondal.

*Murli Menon, is a travel writer, stress management consultant and author based at Ahmedabad, India. He is the author of "ZeNLP-Learning through stories" published by The Written Word Publications, "ZeNLP-the power to succeed" published by Sage publications and "ZeNLP-the power to relax" by New Dawn Press. He can be reached at ceo@tips4ceos.com*

# History This Week

**FEBRUARY 3**

President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens

February 3, 1865 - A four-hour peace conference occurred between President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens at Hampton Roads, Virginia. The meeting was unsuccessful as President Lincoln insisted there could be no armistice until the Confederates acknowledged Federal authority. The Confederates wanted an armistice first. Thus the Civil War continued.

February 3, 1870 - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

February 3, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

February 3, 1943 - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.

Birthday - The first female physician in the U.S., Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) was born near Bristol, England. As a girl, her family moved to New York State. She was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, in 1849. She then established a hospital in New York City run by an all-female staff. She was also active in training women to be nurses for service in the American Civil War.

Birthday - American artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) was born in New York City. Best known for depicting ordinary scenes from

small town American life for the covers of Saturday Evening Post magazine.

**FEBRUARY 4**

Apache Chief Cochise

February 4, 1861 - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.

February 4, 1985 - Twenty countries in the United Nations signed a document entitled "Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."

Birthday - Thaddeus Kosciusko (1746-1817) was born in Poland. He served in the American Revolution, building the first fortifications at West Point. He then returned to Poland and fought against a Russian invasion.

Birthday - Aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) was born in Detroit, Michigan. He made the first non-stop solo flight from New York to Paris, May 20-21, 1927.

**FEBRUARY 5**

February 5, 1917 - The new constitution of Mexico, allowing for sweeping social changes, was adopted.

**FEBRUARY 6**

February 6, 1788 - Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the new U.S. Constitution, by a vote of 187 to 168.

February 6, 1933 - The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted. It set the date for the Presidential Inauguration as January 20th, instead of the old date of March 4th. It also sets January 3rd as the official opening date of Congress.

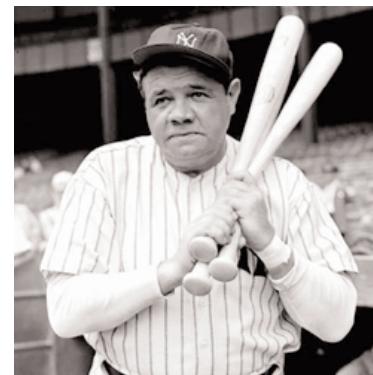
February 6, 1952 - King George VI of England died. Upon his death, his daughter Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



King George VI

Her actual coronation took place on June 2, 1953.

Birthday - Aaron Burr (1756-1836) was born in Newark, New Jersey. In 1804, Vice President Burr challenged Alexander Hamilton to a duel over Hamilton's negative remarks and mortally wounded him. Burr was later tried for treason over allegations he was planning to invade Mexico as part of a scheme to establish his own empire in the Southwest, but was acquitted.



Thomas More

Birthday - Thomas More (1478-1535) was born in London, England. He was a lawyer, scholar, and held the title Lord Chancellor of England. As a devout Catholic, he refused to acknowledge the divorce of King Henry VIII from Queen Catherine, thereby refusing to acknowledge the King's religious supremacy. He was charged with treason, found guilty and beheaded in 1535, with his head then displayed from Tower Bridge. Four hundred years later, in 1935, he was canonized by Pope Pius XI.



critic and novelist Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951) was born in Sauk Center, Minnesota. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1930. His works include; Main Street, Babbitt, and It Can't Happen Here.

**FEBRUARY 8**

Mary Stuart

February 8, 1587 - Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay, England, after 19 years as a prisoner of Queen Elizabeth I. She became entangled in the complex political events surrounding the Protestant Reformation in England and was charged with complicity in a plot to assassinate Elizabeth.



William Boyce

February 8, 1910 - The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts.

Birthday - Union Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) was born in Lancaster, Ohio.

**FEBRUARY 9**

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

Birthday - William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) the 9th U.S. President was born in Berkeley, Virginia. He took office on March 4, 1841 and died only 32 days later after developing pneumonia from the cold weather during his inaugural ceremonies.



Ronald Reagan,

Birthday - Ronald Reagan, (1911-2004) the 40th U.S. President, was born in Tampico, Illinois. Reagan spent 30 years as an entertainer in radio, film, and television before becoming governor of California in 1966. Elected to the White House in 1980, he survived an assassination attempt and

**FEBRUARY 03 - 09, 2023**

became the most popular president since Franklin Roosevelt.

**FEBRUARY 7**

February 7, 1795 - The 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the powers of the Federal Judiciary over the states by prohibiting Federal lawsuits against individual states.



Charles Dickens

Birthday - British novelist Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born in Portsmouth, England. He examined social inequalities through his works including; David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, and Nicholas Nickleby. In 1843, he wrote A Christmas Carol in just a few weeks, an enormously popular work even today.

Birthday - American social



## Juventus beat Lazio to reach Italian Cup semi-finals

Juventus will face Inter Milan in the last four of the Italian Cup after beating Lazio 1-0 in Thursday's, Feb 2, final quarter-final tie.

The Brazilian's second goal of the season won a tight contest in Turin and set up a two-legged semi-final against Juve's biggest rivals Inter.

Victory and a clean sheet came after a 2-0 home defeat by promoted Monza at the weekend which meant they had conceded 10 goals in their three most recent league matches.

"You need the right tactics and play but above all you need the right spirit," said coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"We were coming off that Monza defeat so it wasn't an easy situation for us... now we've laid the foundations to recover our league form as well."

April's semi-final will be crucial to Juve's season as should they get past Inter, who beat Atalanta on Tuesday, they will be favourites for the win the final in May against either Fiorentina or Cremonese.

Winning the cup would qualify them for the Europa League and that is their most realistic route to continental competition next season after being hit with a 15-point penalty for illicit transfer activity last month.

Juventus are 14 points away from Serie A's European spots and a further point off the Champions League places.

## Lionel Messi has doubts about playing 2026 World Cup at age 39

Lionel Messi may be in doubt as to whether he'll be still playing for Argentina at the 2026 World Cup but he's sure about one thing: he wants Lionel Scaloni to stay on as head coach until then, regardless.

The 35-year-old Messi led Argentina to the title in Qatar last December and wasn't entirely sure if his fifth trip to the World Cup would be his last. The next edition will take place in Mexico, Canada and the United States when Messi is 39.

Messi told newspaper Olé in an interview published Thursday that he'd regularly said his age would make it difficult to play another World Cup.

"I love playing soccer, I love what I do and while I am feeling well and feel I am fit and continue to enjoy it, I will do it. But it seems to be too much until the next World Cup," he told the newspaper. "I have to see where my career goes, what I will do. It depends on many things."

In the near future, he suggested he wants to play in next year's Copa America in the U.S. to help Argentina defend its title.

"I will stay a little longer, I have to enjoy this," he said.

Scaloni is negotiating an extension of his contract with the Argentinian soccer federation and Messi thinks the coach should remain on the job.

# Gill hits maiden T20I ton as India beat NZ with biggest run margin

## AHMEDABAD (TIP)

Shubman Gill smashed a whirlwind unbeaten maiden century in the shortest format as India thrashed New Zealand by 168 runs, their biggest-ever win in terms of runs, in the third and final T20 International to pocket the hard-fought series 2-1 here on Wednesday, February 1.

India's second highest margin of victory was 143-run win over Ireland in Dublin in 2018.

It was also the highest margin of victory between two full member teams.

Gill continued his fine form and showcased his array of shots, hitting the New Zealand bowlers to all parts of the Narendra Modi Stadium to score 126 not out off just 63 balls with the help of 12 fours and seven sixes.

Riding on Gill's brilliance, India posted 234 for 4 after electing to bat. New Zealand never got going in the huge chase as Indian bowlers performed in unison to bowl out the visitors for a mere 66 in 12.1 overs, the third lowest score for the Kiwis in this format.

Skipper Hardik Pandya led the bowling department with figures of 4/16, while Umran Malik (2/9), Shivam Mavi (2/12) and Arshdeep Singh (2/16) scalped two wickets each. New Zealand lost Finn Allen in the fifth ball of the opening over bowled by Pandya, caught by Suryakumar Yadav. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep struck with his first delivery, as Devon Conway lobbed a fuller delivery to Pandya at mid-off.

New Zealand continued to lose wickets as Mark Chapman got a faint inside edge which went straight to Ishan Kishan off Arshdeep's last delivery of the over.

Wickets kept on tumbling like a pack of cards for New Zealand with Glenn Phillips becoming the next victim, caught by Suryakumar at slips off Pandya.

Down at 13 for 4 after three overs, it was all but over for New Zealand.



Shubman Gill is the fifth Indian to have scored hundreds in all three international formats.

The situation became even worst for New Zealand when Michael Bracewell was cleaned up by a fast delivery from Umran Malik.

New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner (13) and Daryl Mitchell (35) then added 32 runs for the sixth wicket before Shivam Mavi dismissed the former, caught by Suryakumar at deep midwicket fence as the left-hander tried to heave a short ball.

Mavi struck again a ball later, removing Ish Sodhi (0) caught by Tripathi at backward point as New Zealand slumped to 53 for seven in nine overs. Thereafter, it was just a formality for India and the hosts romped home in style.

Earlier, the start was far from rosy for India after electing to bat as Mitchell Santner made a master-stroke decision by handing Michael Bracewell the second over and the off-spinner repaid his captain's faith by removing an out-of-form Ishan Kishan, who was adjudged

LBW with the second ball of the over.

In-form Gill struck two boundaries off Lockie Ferguson in the next over.

Gill was at his ominous best, be it pick up hits, drives or pulls to continue his onslaught.

He hit Blair Tickner for three fours in the fifth over as India reached 44 for 1.

Young Rahul Tripathi (44 off 22), who has immense potential but yet to fire in the series, then struck Ferguson for a boundary and a six in consecutive balls to keep up the tempo.

Tripathi then pulled Santner over short-fine leg before coming down and lofting the left-arm spinner for a straight six.

Tripathi showed his attacking class and dispatched Ish Sodhi over extra cover for his third six of the innings but perished in the next ball in search of one too many, holing out at deep square leg to Ferguson.

Source: PTI

## Indian batters falter as SA win women's tri-series

### EAST LONDON (TIP)

A poor batting performance cost India dear as they lost to hosts South Africa by five wickets in the final of the women's tri-series final here on February 3.

Chloe Tryon (57 not out off 32 balls) counterattacked with great gusto, hitting six fours and two sixes, to chase down a meagre 110-run target with two overs to spare.

What made Tryon's innings special was the degree of difficulty the other batters encountered due to the slowness of the track. India's spinners Deepti Sharma, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Sneh Rana tried their best but the target was always going to be difficult to defend despite South Africa being reduced to 47/4. "Unfortunately today we were not able to bat the way we wanted and the bowlers did well," India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said.

Earlier, Harleen Deol scored 46 off 56 balls to get the team past the 100-run as India's batters struggled to break loose.

Brief scores: India: 109/4 (Deol 46, Harmanpreet 21; Mlaba 2/16); South Africa: 113/5 (Tryon 57\*; Rana 2/21)



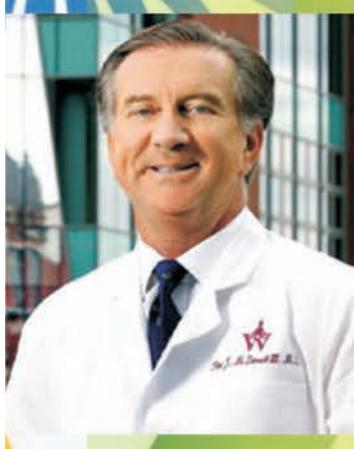


## A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda



**Message from  
Peter J. McDonnell,  
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye  
Institute, Johns Hopkins  
University, USA on the  
occasion of laying the  
foundation stone on  
December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO ,I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener  
revelation of a society's soul  
than the way in which it treats  
its children". - Nelson mandela



**POST  
SURGERY**



**PRE  
SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः: Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,

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May all be prosperous and happy!

May all be healthy!

**The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)**