



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

Will bring out a fully illustrated special edition on the occasion of Vaisakhi, April 14, 2023. Articles and advertisements are invited by April 6, 2023.

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Silicon Valley Bank collapse sends shockwaves across the banking industry

SVB IS ONE OF THE LARGEST LENDERS TO FAIL SINCE THE 2008 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

MARCH 10, 2023

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): The collapse on Friday, March 10 of Silicon Valley Bank that catered to many of the world's most powerful tech investors sent shockwaves across the banking industry, hammering shares of other smaller and regional lenders.

SVB is one of the largest lenders to fail since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.

California's banking regulators shut down Silicon Valley Bank and put it into receivership under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC).

That effectively gives control of the bank to the FDIC, which created a new entity to oversee it.

Regulators announced the takeover after what was effectively a run on the bank. *contd on page 36*



INDIA, US INK MOU ON CHIP SUPPLY CHAIN



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo during the India-US Commercial Dialogue. Photo credit / PTI

MARCH 10, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the US on Friday, March 10, inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on establishing semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who was present along with her counterpart Piyush Goyal, said the MoU was designed to help India achieve its aspirations to play a larger role in the electronic supply chain.

The MoU was signed under the framework of India-US Commercial Dialogue which is being held for the first time since 2019.

The US Commerce Secretary said the MoU had tasked semiconductor industries of both nations to prepare an assessment of gaps and the lack of resiliency in the supply chain.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

British, French leaders seek migration deal; aim to beat Brexit tensions



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron

Photo credit / AFP

MARCH 10, 2023

PARIS (TIP): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed a new pact to stop illegal cross-Channel migration after a summit in Paris on March 10, 2023 aimed at overcoming years of Brexit tensions. Both leaders hailed a new start in relations between the two neighbors, after intense talks in Paris which were also marked by expressions of unity in their support for Ukraine in fighting the Russian invasion.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday met French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris for a bridge-building summit, aimed at overcoming years of Brexit tensions and agreeing a new pact on cross-Channel migration.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Trump may be charged in connection with hush money paid to adult film star Stormy Daniels

MARCH 10, 2023
NEW YORK

(TIP): Throwing a huge question mark over the 2024 election, former President Donald Trump may be criminally charged in connection with hush money he allegedly paid to



US President Donald Trump and adult film actress/director Stormy Daniels. File photos

silence Stormy Daniels, an adult film star, who said she had an affair with him, according to news reports.

A city prosecutor has "signaled" Trump's lawyers that he could face criminal charges in the 2016 incident, The New York Times reported on Thursday evening citing unnamed sources.

NBC news also reported quoting his lawyers that Trump had been asked to appear before a grand jury investigating the case, which is usually an indication that an indictment or framing of charges was likely.

But he is not obligated to appear before the grand jury.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

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VICE PRESIDENT:

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CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

CONSULTING EDITOR :

Deepak Dwivedi Chairman,

Editor-In-Chief

Blitz India Media Group

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING**PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

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Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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GUEST COMMENT

Xi tightens grip

INDIA NEEDS TO BE WARY OF CHINESE PRESIDENT'S ABSOLUTE POWER

In an inevitable outcome, Xi Jinping has been 'unanimously elected' Chinese President for a historic third term. This makes him the country's longest-serving leader since the Chinese republic's founding father Mao Zedong and paves the way for his lifelong rule. Around 3,000 members of China's parliament, the National People's Congress, voted for him in an apology for an election that had no other candidate. Xi has also been re-elected Chairman of the Central Military Commission, thus ensuring his continuation as the head of the People's Liberation Army, the largest military in the world.

Xi has consolidated his hold on China amid increasingly strained relations with the US and the West over Taiwan

and the Ukraine war and far-from-friendly ties with India in the backdrop of the lingering Ladakh standoff. The 7.2 per cent hike in the military budget makes it obvious that there will be no let-up in China's muscle-flexing, even as the world's second-largest economy faces the uphill task of making a robust recovery from the upheaval caused by the draconian zero-Covid policy in the past three years. Striking a balance between military augmentation and economic revival will be a major challenge for the Chinese President.

India needs to be wary of Xi's absolute power. The latest report by the US intelligence community states that China will continue its efforts to achieve his vision of making the country emerge

as a 'major power' globally by undermining US influence. Xi is keen on 'the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation' by 2049, the centenary year of the people's republic. The two neighbors have held a series of talks in recent years in connection with the border stalemate, but China has not done enough to reduce the trust deficit as well as hostilities. With Xi more firmly in the saddle, China won't hesitate from making provocative moves in retaliation for the growing closeness between India and the US. While keeping all communication channels open, New Delhi needs to be well prepared - militarily as well as diplomatically - for any eventuality.

(Tribune, India)

OPED

State Must Revise Affordable Housing Proposal

BY DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR

As an elected official and a fellow Democrat, I urge New York State Governor Kathy Hochul and our state representatives not to adopt the housing proposal in its current form as part of the forthcoming state budget.

One of the most amazing things about New York State is the diverse options of places to live, including rural towns, suburban bedroom communities, bustling metropolitan areas and everything in between. As a result of this diversity, communities across our state are presented with different and

unique challenges.

On Long Island, we face a unique issue of living on top of our drinking water, and the threat of saltwater intrusion caused by overdrawing from our single-source aquifer something we must always be vigilant about preventing. We must also be especially cognizant of traffic problems. Anyone traveling, especially at rush hour, knows how congested our roadways have become - and sometimes, it has taken me 40 minutes to travel from Mineola to Glen Cove. And last but certainly not least, many of our schools face budget concerns and overcrowding and would struggle to take on more students.

Local governments are very well attuned to the specific needs and challenges facing the communities they serve. Unfortunately, the Governor's current proposal would undermine local control by establishing minimum benchmarks for affordable housing growth - and creating a mechanism by which developers can do an end-run around local zoning if those benchmarks are not met. To have the state come in and impose a one-size-fits-all mandate is,

in my opinion, truly irresponsible and counterproductive.

Much like bail reform in previous years, the crucial issue of affordable housing is being linked to the Governor's budget proposal, placing undue duress on state representatives to make an all-or-nothing vote for or against the entire budget. I once again implore our state officials to hear the voices of local community leaders, environmental experts, first responders and their partners in government to oppose the proposal in its current form.

Let's instead go back to the drawing board, take away the threats of state mandates, and work more closely with local towns, counties, villages, and cities to identify community-driven opportunities to incentivize revitalization, smart growth, and new transit-oriented development that will carry us all toward a more prosperous future.

(Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, of Glen Cove, a Nassau County legislator representing the 11th District, is the ranking member of the Legislature's Committee on Health & Social Services)

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TWO INDIAN AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE



Suhas Subramanyam and Kannan Srinivasan have said they would run for Virginia legislature

MARCH 7, 2023

VIRGINIA (TIP): Two Indian American Democratic candidates have announced their bids for the Virginia Senate and the House of Delegates.

Suhas Subramanyam, of Ashburn, a two-term delegate who currently represents the 87th House district, announced March 2 that he will run in the 32nd Senate District.

Kannan Srinivasan, of Potomac Falls, announced Monday, March 6 that he will run for the open 26th House District, which includes the South Riding and Brambleton areas, instead of the 27th District, where he had previously filed to run, local Loudon Times reported.

Subramanyam's campaign, according to a press release would focus on "creating a robust economy that works for Loudoun families and businesses alike, protecting our freedoms like reproductive rights and voting rights from extremism, delivering a world-class education to our kids, and keeping our community safe and healthy."

The redrawn 32nd District is much more geographically compact than the former boundaries of the 13th District and includes all of eastern Loudoun south of Route 7 and east of Evergreen Mills Road and Lenah Road.

Subramanyam, will face former Delegate Ibraheem Samirah, a Herndon Democrat who served one term representing the Sterling area and western Fairfax County before losing a primary in 2021, in a likely June primary for the Democratic nomination in a district where voters have favored Democratic candidates by more than 20-point margins in recent elections.

Loudoun County Supervisor Sylvia Glass said March 3 that she is endorsing Subramanyam.

Republican Greg Moulthrop, of Stone Ridge, previously announced that he is running in the 32nd Senate District. Moulthrop ran for the 87th House District seat in 2021, losing to Subramanyam by 17 percentage points.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Biden appoints two Indian-Americans to Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations

MARCH 11, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden on Friday, March 11 named two Indian-Americans -- Revathi Advaiti, CEO of Flex, and Manish Bapna, CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council -- to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

On Friday, Biden announced his intent to appoint 14 people to the Advisory Committee, which provides overall policy advice to the United States Trade Representative on matters of development, implementation, and administration of the US trade policy.

Among these include negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before entering into trade agreements, the impact of the implementation of trade agreements, matters concerning the operation of any trade agreement once entered into, and other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation, and administration of the trade policy of the United States, the White House said.

Revathi Advaiti is CEO of Flex, "the global manufacturing partner of choice that helps a diverse customer base design and build products to improve the world".

Since assuming the role in 2019, Advaiti has been responsible for architecting the company's strategic direction and leading Flex through a transformation that is defining a new era in manufacturing, the White House said.

Prior to Flex, Advaiti was president and Chief Operating Officer for the electrical sector business for Eaton, a company with more than USD20 billion in sales and 102,000 employees.



President Joe Biden has named Revathi Advaiti and Manish Bapna to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

She has also worked at Eaton's electrical sector, Americas, and Honeywell, and serves on the Board of Directors of Uber and Catalyst.org.

Advaiti is a Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Advanced Manufacturing CEO Community and joined the WEF Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders.

She was recognized on Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business list for four consecutive years and named one of Business Today's Most Powerful Women in India. She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Manish Bapna is president and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has been behind many of the most significant environmental milestones of the last half century - from the creation of bedrock environmental



laws, to landmark legal victories, and foundational research, the White House said.

During his 25-year career, Bapna's leadership roles have focused on tackling the root causes of poverty and climate change with strategies that are equitable, durable, and scalable. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the World Resources Institute, a research organization focused on the intersection of the environment and human development, for more than 14 years.

An economist by training, he got his start at McKinsey & Company and the World Bank before pursuing a career in advocacy at the Bank Information Centre. He has master's degrees in Business and Political and Economic Development from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from MIT, the White House said. (Source: PTI)

British Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill gets threatening email

MARCH 5, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Britain's first female Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has said she was forced to contact police after receiving a threatening email message saying: "watch your back".



Britain's first female Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has said she was forced to contact police after receiving a threatening email message saying: "watch your back".

The senior Labor MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston said that following the email, she is forced to keep a bodyguard at her constituency surgery meetings.

"It was very direct. It's a worry because I'm with my daughters in the constituency all the time. My family lives there. It really puts into context the kind of job that you do. It's tough enough as it is, but then when you're faced with that, there's very little support. This latest direct threat has really worried and concerned me," Gill told the media on Saturday, March 4.

"As a woman, when you put yourself forward and you want to address injustices and you care about issues that affect your constituents, you're then faced with people that think it's okay to say this sort of stuff to you."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin professor Lakshmi Balachandra files lawsuit against US college alleging racial discrimination

MARCH 9, 2023

BOSTON (TIP): An Indian-origin associate professor at the Wellesley Business School, Massachusetts has filed a lawsuit alleging that she was subjected to racial and gender discrimination, according to a media report.



Lakshmi Balachandra has filed a lawsuit alleging that she was subjected to racial and gender discrimination

Lakshmi Balachandra, associate professor of entrepreneurship at Babson College alleged she lost career opportunities and faced economic losses, emotional distress, and harm to her reputation because of mistreatment and administrators' failure to investigate her concerns, The Boston Globe newspaper reported on February 27. Balachandra joined Babson's faculty in 2012 and earned tenure in 2019. In her lawsuit, she called out Andrew Corbett, a professor and former chair of the college's entrepreneurship division, as the "primary direct perpetrators of the discriminatory work environment."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Tejal Mehta becomes first justice of Massachusetts court

MARCH 6, 2023

BOSTON (TIP): Tejal Mehta, an Indian American judge has become the first justice of Ayer District Court in Massachusetts. She was sworn-in by Stacey Fortes, chief justice of the District Court.

"As a lawyer you can help people, but you can only help them to a point," Mehta said after taking her oath Thursday. "As a judge, you can do so much more and get to the root of issues and talk to people in such a way that really gets through to them."

Mehta's goal to focus on one place and to become the first justice of the Ayer District Court rested in a desire to make a positive impact on the community she has grown close to, Lowell Sun reported.

"I have seen the same hopes and despairs in every court I have sat in as a traveling judge," Mehta was quoted as saying. "But when you are the first justice, then you can really get to know the community and make a real impact."

Mehta also referenced a quote from writer C.S. Lewis: "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending," according to the Sun.

Mehta told the crowd the quote was spoken to her recently by a man on probation for a criminal conviction as he stood before her in court. According to



Tejal Mehta has become the first justice of Ayer District Court in Massachusetts.

Mehta, the man used the quote to express the revelation he experienced following his conviction.

"His probation had a positive impact on him," Mehta was quoted as saying. "He had a turning point and realized he had a purpose to fulfill, and that purpose was to treat people with compassion, kindness and empathy."

"That is the theme of what we do here in Ayer," she added. "Help people see the potential in themselves - to start where they are and change their endings."

Among those in attendance were several members of Mehta's family, including her 14-year-old daughter, Mena Sheth, who is one of the three children shared by Mehta and her husband, Ketan Sheth.

Mena, who was among the ceremony speakers, quoted US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg when discussing her mother:

"RBG said, 'Fight for things you care about, but do so in a way that will lead others to join you,'" Mena said. "My mom is the exact embodiment of this quote. Through her kindness and outgoing personality, she encourages people to share her understanding of the world. Being a judge has given her the ability to see and do what's best and I can't think of anyone better to have that responsibility."

Mehta, a resident of Concord, started her career in civil work, before becoming a prosecutor with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, where she served for more than a decade.

She went on to open her own practice, becoming a public defender, before pursuing a position on the bench as a circuit judge.

A founding board member of the South Asian Bar Association and a board member of the Board of Bar Overseers, Mehta is involved in her community as a troop leader for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts and is a former executive board member of the Bedford Montessori School.

She graduated from Notre Dame University and received a JD from Boston University School of Law.

Ayer District Court serves Ashby, Ayer, Boxboro, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Westford and Devens.

INDIAN AMERICAN SEAN DESAI NAMED AS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR



Sean Desai has been named the next defensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles

MARCH 3, 2023

PHILADELPHIA (TIP): Indian American Sean Desai has been named the next defensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles, the team announced Tuesday, February 28.

Desai, 39, was a high school teammate of Dan Orlovsky, and played defensive back for the Shelton High School team that went undefeated and won the Class LL championship in 2000. He will replace Jonathan Gannon, who was hired as the head coach of the Arizona Cardinals two days after the Eagles' 38-35 loss in Super Bowl LVII, according to an Eagles press release.

"His overall knowledge of football and football IQ are extremely high," Head Coach Nick Sirianni said. "Great detail. He's a really sharp coach. I'm excited that he's on our staff."

Desai served as the Seattle Seahawks' associate head coach-defense in 2022. The Seahawks reached the playoffs as a Wild Card despite finishing second in the league in both snaps and games started by rookies.

While the addition of Desai presents a mystery for opposing offenses to prepare for this upcoming season, Sirianni said he liked some of the similarities to what the team has done that have been successful.

2023 will be Desai's 11th season as a coach in the NFL. He started his coaching career at Temple (2007-10), where he was a graduate assistant for the defense and special teams while earning his doctorate in educational administration.

He entered the NFL ranks in 2013 as the quality control coach-defense for the Bears, working with the defensive backs/linebackers/special teams.

Desai was named Bears' safeties coach in 2019 and was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2021 becoming the first Indian American coordinator in NFL history. The Bears ranked sixth in total defense and third in passing defense that season.

In Chicago, Desai coached under noted defensive minds, including Vic Fangio, John Fox, Mel Tucker, and Chuck Pagano. Desai was a part of three different coaching staff with the Bears.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Professor Ganesh Sitaraman to lead policy accelerator at Vanderbilt



Ganesh Sitaraman will lead Vanderbilt University's newly created Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator for Political Economy and Regulation

MARCH 6, 2023

NASHVILLE, TN (TIP): Ganesh Sitaraman, an Indian American professor of law at Vanderbilt University will lead its newly created Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator for Political Economy and Regulation, a \$6 million effort to advance research, education and ideas.

The Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator based in the Law School is part of Discovery Vanderbilt, a groundbreaking

initiative to bolster innovative research and education at the private research university in Nashville, Tennessee, according to a press release. Sitaraman, New York Alumni Chancellor's Chair and Professor of Law, brings extensive experience in politics and public policy and will collaborate with peers within Vanderbilt Law School and across the university, it said. "I am honored to lead the Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator," he said. "We plan to cultivate, grow and spread innovative research and policy ideas-and at a rapid pace that aligns with the urgency of the challenges we face."

"Discovery Vanderbilt provides the resources and support to empower cutting-edge research that can make significant impact locally and globally," Provost C. Cybele Raver said.

"Ganesh is a dynamic, highly accomplished scholar in law, government and political thought; he'll bring tremendous expertise in leading this innovative new effort to solve some of the most important policy challenges of our time."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Sonya Christian named as first woman chancellor of California Community College

MARCH 3, 2023

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Dr Sonya Christian, a distinguished academic leader, has become the first person of South Asian heritage to be appointed as the permanent chancellor of California community colleges which is the largest and most diverse system of public higher education in the US. The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, composed of 73 districts and 116 colleges.

Christian, who is the 11th permanent chancellor of the college system was unanimously selected by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors on February 23, an official release said. She received her B.S.C degree from the University of Kerala. For more than 30 years, Christian has actively engaged in policies and practices related to state and national completion, quality and equity agendas, it said.

In July 2021, Christian was named the sixth chancellor of the Kern Community College District, where she implemented a call to action with a focus on advancing student success and closing achievement and equity gaps, the release said. "On behalf of the 1.8 million students of the California Community Colleges, our faculty, staff and the Board of Governors, we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Sonya Christian as the newest chancellor," said Board of Governor's President Amy M Costa.



Dr Sonya Christian has become the first person of South Asian heritage to be appointed as the permanent chancellor of California community colleges which is the largest and most diverse system of public higher education in the US.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

IAF honors distinguished women at 12th Outstanding Women's Achievement Awards Gala

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The community stood together in joy and pride at the celebration of 12th Outstanding Women's Achievement Gala on March 5, a part of Women's History Month and International Women's Day Celebrations.

At the gala, attended by over 300 guests, five distinguished women with the highest caliber were honored for their achievements.

Chairperson Indu Jaiswal and Gala Chair Shammi Singh, both known for their strong commitment and dedication to the community cause, along with the entire team of IAF, were the organizing force behind the GALA.

New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and Town of North Hempstead Clerk Ragini Srivastava were described as symbols of woman empowerment and success in his welcome address by Dr. Bobby Kalotee.

Five distinguished women who had excelled in their profession and community services were presented with Outstanding Women's achievements Awards. They were also presented with Citations from Deputy Supervisor Dorothy Goosby from Town of Hempstead, Joseph Saladino, Supervisor Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County Comptroller Office Elaine Phillips, Town of North Hempstead Clerk Ragini Srivastava.

The honorees included Sandhya Bhatia, Branch Manager, Vice president of Flushing Bank, Nayana Brahmhatt - a BAPS Volunteer, Vandana Jauhar, a leading musical artist and singer, Dr.



Vandana Jauhar, Sandy Bhatia, Jenifer Rajkumar, Ragini Srivastava, Dr Parul Dua Makkar, Nayana Brahmhatt, Ria Parashar, Dr Purvi Parikh, Sanju Sharma, Jyoti Gupta, Roopam Maini, Chanbir Kaur, Beena Kothari, Shammi Singh, Indu Jaiswal, Dr Meena Jaiswal, Purvi Parikh, Flora Parikh

Parul Dua Makkar, the owner of PDM Family Dental in Long Island, and Dr. Purvi Parikh, an allergist and immunologist at Allergy and Asthma Associates of Murray Hill.

Young Achiever Ria Parashar is a volunteer at Children's Hope and helps the Special Needs Community. The honorees were graciously moderated by Ratna Bhalla, Inesha Joneja, Chanbir Sethi, Roopam Maini, Dr. Prachi Dua, Dr. Pallavi Singh and Sunita Manjrekar.

This was followed by a special Bare Foot - Special presentation by Nilima Madan.

Bare Foot Empress follows the remarkable journey of Karthyayani Amma, who having never access to education as a girl finally gets to join a first-grade class at the age of 96 years. Written and directed by Michelin Star Chef Vikas Khanna it is produced by Oscar nominated Doug Roland. Video clips were provided by well-known TV anchor Ms. Renee Mehrra.

Among those present during the event were Honorable Padma Shri Dr Sudhir Parikh, Dr Sudha Parikh, Dr Bobby Kumar Kalotee Founder of IAF, Dr Urmilesh Arya, Dr Bhupendra Patel, Mr



A dance performance



Dr. Bobby Kalotee addresses the gathering



IAF Board Members at the Diya Lighting Ceremony

Surinder Rametra, Beena Kothari, Vijay Goswamy, Anju Sharma, Sanju Sharma, Jasbir Jay Singh, Flora Parekh - President of Gift of Life USA, Anil Shah from VTNY, Sunil Jain from Vass Pipe, Rizwan Qureshi from HAB Bank, Madhu Pareek from Navika, Anuj Rihal, Dr. Harshad Bhatt from BAPS, Gobind Munjal President National AIA, Smriti Khanna, Dr Dina Pahlajani President Children's Hope, members of AAPIQLI, Harry Malhotra several past honorees and many distinguished community and organizational leaders.

JUS Punjabi TV anchor Aashmeeta Yogiraj emceed the event.

The entire IAF team with several volunteers were instrumental in making the event a grand success.

Manny Saez to lead facilities management at NYC Health+ Hospitals

As Vice President of Facilities, Saez will oversee an approximately \$10 billion-dollar portfolio consisting of over 300 projects



Saez will be instrumental in the health system's effort to upgrade its aging infrastructure

MARCH 9, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals announced, March 9, Manny Saez has been tapped as head of facilities, overseeing 20 million square feet of real estate across the health system. As Vice President of Facilities, Saez will oversee an approximately \$10 billion-dollar portfolio consisting of over 300 projects, spanning from opening the recently constructed NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health to

upgrading and maintaining critical hospital infrastructure throughout the system, in addition to a dedicated team of 100 facilities staff and 700 full-time engineers and tradespeople. Saez has more than 25 years of experience in the health care industry with 11 years at NYC Health + Hospitals, and he has been serving as Senior Assistant Vice President for the past year. His appointment was effective February 24.

"Manny is an inspirational, hands on leader with deep experience managing our demanding facility operations," said NYC Health + Hospitals Senior Vice President for Managed Care and Patient Growth Matthew Siegler. "He played a central role in our system's heroic COVID response - keeping critical systems on line under enormous strain, rapidly adapting our facilities, and responding to the many unprecedented emergencies and curve balls during that horrible time. Manny will be a tremendous leader and a steady hand as we move forward with an ambitious infrastructure improvement agenda in the years ahead."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Nassau County Legislator Solages pleads for Renewal of Five Towns Community Center Lease

LAWRENCE, NY (TIP): On Tuesday, March 7, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced that the County would not renew the lease of the Five Towns Community Center. Following his announcement, Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Lawrence) issued the following statement:

"For months, the process of determining the future of the Five Towns Community Center has been marred by a lack of communication from the County Executive's office and this has caused many residents to feel like their voices are not being heard. I am concerned that yesterday's announcement by the administration that they will not renew the Five Towns Community Center's lease will only further exacerbate their existing fears and frustration," Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Lawrence) said.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that thousands of families depend upon the Five Towns Community Center for nutrition assistance, healthcare services, affordable childcare, afterschool programs, addiction treatment and recovery resources, and so much more. The County must



Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Lawrence)

guarantee these families that they will continue to receive these crucial resources without interruption and at a center that is free and open to the public," Legislator Solages said.

"While I truly believe that we all want a community center that serves the needs of all our residents, that will not happen without collaboration. I urge the County Executive to immediately bring community stakeholders together and begin the process of developing a shared vision for the future of this vital community hub," Legislator Solages concluded.

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The CBI's fishing expedition

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT OFFENCES PUNISHABLE BY LAW SISODIA IS BEING CHARGED WITH



BY
JULIO RIBEIRO

“EVEN IF KICKBACKS ARE ACCEPTED AND THEN CREDITED TO THE PARTY'S COFFERS, AN OFFENCE WOULD BE MADE OUT UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT. IT MAY NOT BE EASY TO GARNER THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE RECEIPT OF MONIES BUT ADEQUATE EVIDENCE TO PIN MORAL CULPABILITY MUST BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BEFORE TARRING SISODIA WITH THE ACCUSING BRUSH. PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY FORGIVE EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE FATTENED THEMSELVES ON CORRUPT PRACTICES. THEY WILL FORGIVE SISODIA ALSO EVEN IF THE MONEY HAS NOT GONE TO HIS PERSONAL ACCOUNT BUT TO THE PARTY. HIS REPUTATION, HOWEVER, WILL THEN BE TAINTED WITH A SMALL STAIN ON A WHITE SHIRT.”



Manish Sisodia, Delhi's former Deputy CM, is presently in judicial custody after being arrested by the CBI. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah will breathe a little easy now! Sisodia's popularity with the poorer population of Delhi surpassed Modi's popularity with the affluent. With Sisodia out of commission, the AAP machine in Delhi will slow down or that, it appears, is the intent!

To a neutral observer, it appears that the intent of the government is to rob the man and his party of any halo of respectability he or the party may be sporting.

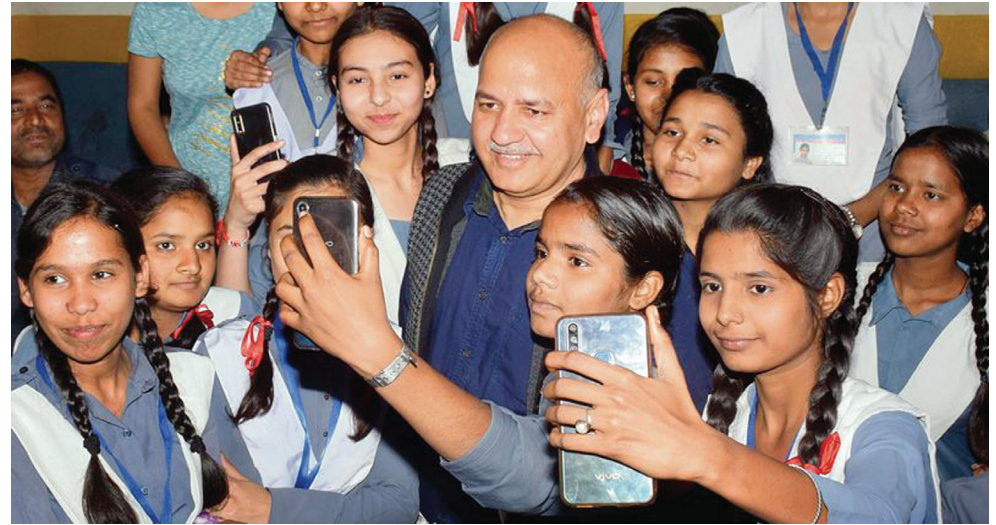
The Kejriwal government had concentrated on education and healthcare, the two subjects any government, either at the Centre or in the states, should pay particular heed to. It had done very well in both spheres, especially in education. That subject was handled by Sisodia. But the Rhodes scholar now in the AAP think tank, Atishi Marlana, will take care of that now.

Instead of neutralizing those whose extraordinary talents and good work keep the AAP ahead of its political competitors, Modi and Shah should advise the double-engine governments in BJP-ruled states to emulate AAP's achievements. Future generations of voters will surely discard such divisive politics. Revolutions in education and healthcare will appeal to all generations.

I have always suspected that successive governments, starting with the Congress which was in power for decades after Independence, may not have wanted the masses to be fully literate. The uneducated blindly follow what is told to them by those with the 'gift of the gab'. Literate individuals may not be really educated but they listen to news on the television and many of them decide to form her or his own opinion on important issues. Politicians cannot take their support for granted. Religion and caste will remain factors to contend with but votes cast without considering the pros and cons will reduce when people can read and write.

It is not clear, to me at least, what offences punishable by law Sisodia is being charged with. An accused not cooperating with the police is certainly not an offence under any law. The police and the courts can draw an inference from the accused's silence or refusal to answer questions but cannot force him to admit something that could later implicate him in an offence.

Another complaint against Sisodia is that he was in the habit of using multiple phones at any one time and that he had obliterated call data. Again, inferences can be drawn from such practices but where is it laid



There is no doubt that Manish Sisodia has done exemplary work in the education sector in Delhi.
Photo credit / Tribune

down in law that one cannot use more than one phone at one time and that a record of calls needs to be kept?

To a neutral observer, it appears that the sole intent of the government is to rob the man and his party of any halo of respectability he or the party may presently be sporting. To that end, the investigative agencies have been sent on a 'fishing' expedition that is not going to end till some fish, even a tiny one, is finally and firmly in the net.

Investigative journalists are adept at ferreting out the truth. They manage to get hold of the remand applications that usually disclose the grounds for asking the court to give a few days of remand to force the truth out of the arrested individual. An insight into the remand application has not been established in Sisodia's case. The public has not yet learnt of the grounds for his arrest!

What the people have been told is that Sisodia, the man they admire and even love, is involved in a massive scam involving a hundred crores! As Excise Minister, he took decisions on his own without involving the Council of Ministers and the Lt Governor in the decision-making process. He allegedly tweaked the policy to benefit a group of licensees known to the investigators as the 'South Group' in which the daughter of Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao and an MP representing that state were members.

The profit allowed to be earned by the group had been increased from 5% to 12%. This was sanctioned by Sisodia, who was asked to explain this decision but was unable to give a satisfactory explanation, according to the media.

Lobbying for relaxations or workable policies is a common feature of working life in the Mantralayas, the seats of state governments. It was even more prevalent in the ministries of the Central government till the Modi administration discouraged the lobbyists. It is also true that a group

like the Adanis could not have achieved success (now notoriety) without approaches to the ultimate power.

Even if Sisodia had met someone from the South Group, that in itself would not inculcate him in a crime unless it is proved that he benefited personally from the interaction. The raids on his office, his home, his bank and the bank locker have drawn a blank.

The party may have received kickbacks. It is a given that all political parties need money to run their business. The BJP at the Centre has electoral bonds, but in Karnataka, for instance, some ministers in the BJP government have been accused by contractors of demanding 40% cuts from contracts instead of the standard 15% (the figure quoted in the Mumbai MC is less, only 10%, and since the money is paid to the corporators, all parties benefit. Parties with a greater number of corporators benefit more!). The allegations by contractors against BJP leaders in Karnataka have been reinforced lately with the arrest of one of its prominent legislators and the recovery of crores of rupees from the home of his son.

Even if kickbacks are accepted and then credited to the party's coffers, an offence would be made out under the Prevention of Corruption Act. It may not be easy to garner the evidence to prove the receipt of monies but adequate evidence to pin moral culpability must be disclosed to the public before tarring Sisodia with the accusing brush. People in our country forgive even those who have fattened themselves on corrupt practices. They will forgive Sisodia also even if the money has not gone to his personal account but to the party. His reputation, however, will then be tainted with a small stain on a white shirt.

(The author is a former governor and a highly decorated retired Indian Police officer)

The unchallenged run of majoritarian encroachments



BY ASIM ALI

INDIAN CIVIL SOCIETY REMAINS HIERARCHICAL AND FRAGMENTED, DESIROUS MORE OF INTEGRATING ITSELF INTO RULING POWER STRUCTURES THAN CHALLENGING THEM. THEREFORE, ANY RESISTANCE TO MAJORITARIAN ENCROACHMENTS ON OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IS NOT LIKELY TO COME FROM CIVIL SOCIETY FORMATIONS OR THE INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS THAT RELY ON THEIR SUPPORT.

In a recent speech, senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India, Dushyant Dave, expressed his anguish at the seeming co-option of independent institutions to the will of a powerful executive. Mr. Dave contrasted the passivity of India's civil society and public institutions with the protests that have paralysed Israel. These protests are the widespread demonstrations that have broken out against Israel's right-wing government over its stated plans that are aimed at restricting the autonomy of the country's Supreme Court.

The parallel with Israel (made in the speech) does illuminate a necessary precondition for the healthy functioning of democratic institutions. This precondition is the existence of a civil society base which fortifies the political legitimacy of autonomous institutions in their confrontation with an overbearing executive. In Israel, the civil society base (which has made its presence felt on the streets), in support of the Supreme Court, is made up of the professionalised middle classes, who zealously guard their individual liberties. In the absence of a written Constitution, it is this social base which has kept mainland Israel (excluding the militarised zone of the occupied territories) a relatively free and democratic space. Meanwhile, right-wing parties such as Benjamin Netanyahu's populist-nationalist Likud draw their support overwhelmingly from the economically marginalised and the less educated segments of Israeli society.

The difference in India

Unlike Israel, Hungary and Turkey, where resistance to the populist right wing has come from the educated middle classes, the Indian case is peculiar because the middle classes here have tended to be its most resolute ideological backers. As a Lokniti survey of 2017 noted, the educated classes displayed the greatest penchant for coercive violence on dissenting individuals (those who ate beef or refused to say 'Bharat Ma ki Jai', for instance), along with a higher level of empathy for dictatorship and suppression of speech than found among the cohort of illiterates.

B.R. Ambedkar once explained the importance of a liberal-secular civil society to an American radio broadcaster this way: "The roots of democracy lie not in the form of Government, Parliamentary or otherwise... The roots of Democracy are to be searched [for] in the social relationship, in terms of associated life between the people who form a society."



'Unlike Israel, Hungary and Turkey, where resistance to the populist right wing has come from the educated middle classes, the Indian case is peculiar'

Has such a civil society base evolved in Indian democracy over the last seven decades? In several States of northern India, the collective retribution of "bulldozer justice", stringent laws over the conspiratorial fantasy of "love jihad", and the unremitting stream of "police encounters" have certainly shown up the hollowness of the social and institutional support undergirding our constitutional order.

In his work, *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (1966), political sociologist Barrington Moore identified the liberal bourgeoisie as the historical agents of democratisation. According to Moore, at least in the western democratic tradition, these industrial and professional middle classes played a crucial role in constraining state authority and ensuring democratic freedoms partly by pushing their interests through civil society institutions such as the press and trade associations. The Indian path towards modern democracy confounded Moore because, as he wrote in his book, the country "experienced neither a bourgeois revolution, nor a conservative revolution from above, nor so far a communist one". Perhaps the case of Indian democracy was best captured by Sudipta Kaviraj's memorable phrase of "passive revolution", characterised by an absence of substantive democratic struggle and the entrenchment of ruling class dominance through modest reforms and co-option of the symbols of the opposition.

The thesis of a passive revolution was particularly useful in understanding the Congress's phase of dominance, where the middle classes and labor unions were

firmly integrated into the statist model of nation-building.

Democratisation, in U.P. and T.N.

This lack of space afforded to an independent and oppositional civil society has plagued not just the Congress's vision of democracy but also later models of democratization that came up to challenge its hegemonic rule. We can summarize here two such contrasting routes of democratization: the Mandal route in Uttar Pradesh and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) route in Tamil Nadu.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) relied excessively on a top-down fabrication of electoral alliances between backward caste groups, while placing little emphasis on nurturing the political space for a democratic civil society. As political scientist Gilles Verniers argued in the paper, *Conservative in Practice: The Transformation of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh* (2018), the SP turned increasingly socially conservative by the turn of the century, moving away from its socialist and progressive roots. The political capital made from the Mandal agitation was fed into the construction of a powerful electoral machine, which came to rely on locally dominant social groups for its electoral mobilization, rather than on a political programme for democratic emancipation. The paper, "Caste and the Power Elite in Allahabad" (2015), written by Jean Dreze et al. conclusively demonstrated how the commanding positions of civil society continued to be dominated by upper castes.

In contrast, the DMK anchored its political mobilisation on a radical re-

conceptualisation of the basis of politics, as the political scientists R. Sriramachandran et al. have illustrated in their recent book, *Rule of the Commoner: DMK and Formations of the Political in Tamil Nadu, 1949-1967*. The thesis of the book revolves around the concept of a counter-hegemonic struggle, theorised by the socialist political philosopher Ernesto Laclau.

The DMK, in this formulation, spurned the path of liberal reforms to the political order and waged a struggle on behalf of the 'people' (the majority of the backward castes) against the political elite represented by the Congress. The Dravidian movement succeeded precisely because the conception of the 'political' was not confined to elections or democratic procedures but encompassed the transformation of the social and economic relations of power.

However, the DMK, much like the Left in Bengal, also did not put too much store by an independent civil society as a guarantor of substantive democracy. Both parties sought to capture state power and then fashion their own civil society, embedded into various ruling party structures.

Indian civil society remains hierarchical and fragmented, desirous more of integrating itself into ruling power structures than challenging them. Therefore, any resistance to majoritarian encroachments on our constitutional order is not likely to come from civil society formations or the independent institutions that rely on their support.

(The author is a political researcher and columnist)

Media raids and breaking the silence on press freedom



BY APAR GUPTA

THE SUPREME COURT NEEDS TO REVIVE AND APPLY THE DOCTRINE OF "EFFECT AND CONSEQUENCE" TO CONSIDER A BROADER CANVAS OF EXECUTIVE ACTIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE PRACTICES OF OUR CRIMINAL COURTS. FOR INSTANCE, IN THE BBC CASE, A RELEVANT FACT FOR A COURT TO DETERMINE IS NOT LIMITED TO ALLEGATIONS OF TAX EVASION BUT WHETHER THE SCRUTINY IS PROMPTED BY A DOCUMENTARY THAT IS CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER. TODAY, FOR A FREE AND FAIR PRESS, NOT ONLY JOURNALISTS BUT EVEN OUR COURTS NEED TO ACT WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR.

On February 14, 2023, the Income Tax Department carried out a "survey action" on the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in New Delhi and Mumbai. After continuing this survey for three days, a press release was issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) citing an alleged evasion of taxes on remittances and discrepancies in BBC's transfer pricing mechanism. Many media organizations such as the Press Club of India have described the raids as "deeply unfortunate"; the Editors Guild termed them as "intimidation". Even those who may favor the tax survey will confess that the tax scrutiny is a natural outcome of the BBC's two-part documentary series, "India: The Modi Question", which the BBC released on January 17, 2023. In an emergency secret order issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the documentary's web links were blocked on January 20, 2023. The timing and nature of the events points to something being rotten in the state of Denmark.

Chilling message

At the root of these "survey actions" is an attempt to instill fear and self-



At the BBC's office, in Mumbai

Photo Credit / AFP

ensorship that begins with knocking on the doors of the offices of journalists. Today, these actions have become sinister as they now involve the seizure of devices. Hence, an unpleasant surprise turns into severe shock when journalists, as in the case of the BBC, are treated as potential criminals.

The CBDT press release gives us clues when it states that "crucial evidences by way of statement of employees, digital evidences and documents" were gathered. There are more pointers such as the one provided by the BBC which said that on February 19, 2023, "journalists' computers were searched, their phones were intercepted and information was sought from them about their working methods". Even if the case of the CBDT is perceived as legitimate, it would at its very best be limited to an accounting and financial investigation. Without any clear and compelling reasons to extend a digital dragnet on working journalists, this is what can be defined as a fishing expedition. It becomes important here to consider the wider trend of the extraction of sensitive data from journalists by using the tax and police departments across India.

Since 2018, there have been at least 10 reported instances of device searches that impact press freedom. Beginning with the Quint, they have gone on to include the proprietors and senior editors of publications such as Alt News, Bharat Samachar, Dainik Bhaskar, NewsClick, The Wire, the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPMSF) and journalists such as Fahad Shah, Rupesh Kumar Singh and Siddique Kappan. This anecdotal list presents an incomplete data set as the Union government has stoutly defended its inability to keep count.

Half truth in the executive response

In a parliamentary response dated August 10, 2022, the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that since "police" and, "law and order", are topics within the competence of State governments, it cannot "centrally maintain" device

seizures of journalists. This is a half truth for two reasons. The first is that the Crime in India report queries data from State governments and can easily be extended to include data on device seizures of journalists. Second, many of the searches and seizures have been performed by central agencies such as the Income-Tax Department and such a record can be maintained and published by the Ministry of Finance. Such institutional evasion only increases suspicion about the bona fides of prosecutions and also represents a lack of intent for any studied consideration by the executive, particularly the Union government. It also unearths a myopic, yet widely held, belief that protection of freedom of speech, especially its most critical voices, is a democratic duty limited to the courts.

Here, the popular view of trial courts as a bulwark against threats to our constitutional rights is rhetorical to legal academics and trial court practitioners who honestly assess their role. Their underlying institutional cultures are what lawyer Abhinav Sekhri terms as "rooted in the avowed colonial mentality of maximizing state interests while depriving any semblance of protection to the accused persons".

This analysis has been dealt with in a paper that specifically looks at powers to unlock smartphones, drawing from the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 - the procedural law to govern criminal cases in India. It indicates that specific legal provisions provide for unfettered discretion to police officers apart from a carceral spirit that resides within our criminal justice system, deeply ingrained and practiced for decades. This results in outcomes where criminal courts rarely check the police for their investigatory practices and evidence collection.

It is here that one may find an answer to the questionable legality of the CBDT's "survey action", as pointed out by tax experts such as Deepak Joshi. Without any fear of sanction, or checks on their powers, investigating officers in

a "survey action" will freely conduct a more invasive, "search and seizure". Oblivious to the limitations and spirit of the text in the Income Tax Act, 1961, abuses will only increase given the perceptible political interests and the impossibility for any real sanction.

A way out

In the absence of such checks and balances and also the unlikely event of systemic reforms, what is the role that constitutional courts play? Here, there is adequate room for the application and development of doctrines for press freedom. The first cluster requires the application of the fundamental right to privacy drawn from the Supreme Court's judgment in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2017). More than five years since the judgment was first pronounced, its application to the criminal justice system here is awaited in cases of electronic evidence. Resurrecting the D.K. Basu guidelines as relevant for a digital India may also be a way out. Stricter procedural safeguards are required today due to digitization, as the Supreme Court of the United States noted in *Riley vs State of California*. It said: "Cell phones differ in both a quantitative and a qualitative sense from other objects that might be kept on an arrestee's person."

Such guidelines will only provide partial relief. It will require case specific and clear pronouncements on facts that consider how legal processes are abused in the device seizures of journalists. This recent trend is an adaptation of an old template where a muscular executive sidesteps a direct response to a critical article and in bad faith directs legal scrutiny on the publication itself. Such mischievous government actions have been considered by the Supreme Court in several press freedom cases, leading to the partial expansion of the "direct and inevitable" to the "effect and consequence" test.

However, as jurist Rajeev Dhawan observed in 1986, "the partial attention paid to the operational and institutional needs of the press... seems to have died out". There has indeed been a long and tragic silence on press freedom over decades.

The Supreme Court needs to revive and apply the doctrine of "effect and consequence" to consider a broader canvas of executive actions that will shape the practices of our criminal courts. For instance, in the BBC case, a relevant fact for a court to determine is not limited to allegations of tax evasion but whether the scrutiny is prompted by a documentary that is critical of the Prime Minister. Today, for a free and fair press, not only journalists but even our courts need to act without fear or favor.

(The author is the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation, India)

St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. At age 16 he was torn by Irish raiders from the villa of his father, Calpornius, a deacon and minor local official, and carried into slavery in Ireland. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which he turned with fervour to his faith. Upon dreaming that the ship in which he was to escape was ready, he fled his master and found passage to Britain. There he came near to starvation and suffered a second brief captivity before he was reunited with his family. Thereafter, he may have paid a short visit to the Continent.

The best known passage in the *Confessio* tells of a dream, after his return to Britain, in which one Victorinus delivered him a letter headed "The Voice of the Irish." As he read it, he seemed to hear a certain company of Irish beseeching him to walk once more among them. "Deeply moved," he says, "I could read no more." Nevertheless, because of the shortcomings of his education, he was reluctant for a long time to respond to the call. Even on the eve of reembarkation for Ireland he was beset by doubts of his fitness for the task. Once in the field, however, his hesitations vanished. Utterly confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. In diplomatic fashion he brought gifts to a kinglet here and a lawgiver there but accepted none from any. On at least one occasion, he was cast into chains. On another, he addressed with lyrical pathos a last farewell to his converts who had been slain or kidnapped by the soldiers of Coroticus.

Careful to deal fairly with the non-Christian Irish, he nevertheless lived in constant danger of martyrdom. The evocation of such incidents of what he called his "laborious episcopate" was his reply to a charge, to his great grief endorsed by his ecclesiastical superiors in Britain, that he had originally sought office for the sake of office. In point of fact, he was a most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped "idols and unclean things" had become "the people of God."

The phenomenal success of Patrick's mission is not, however, the full measure of his personality. Since his writings have come to be better understood, it is increasingly recognized that, despite



their occasional incoherence, they mirror a truth and a simplicity of the rarest quality. Not since St. Augustine of Hippo had any religious diarist bared his inmost soul as Patrick did in his writings. As D.A. Binchy, the most austere critical of Patrician (i.e., of Patrick) scholars, put it, "The moral and spiritual greatness of the man shines through every stumbling sentence of his 'rustic' Latin."

It is not possible to say with any assurance when Patrick was born. There are, however, a number of pointers to his missionary career having lain within the second half of the 5th century. In the Coroticus letter, his mention of the Franks as still "heathen" indicates that the letter must have been written between 451, the date generally accepted as that of the Franks' irruption into Gaul as far as the Somme River, and 496, when they were baptized en masse. Patrick, who speaks of himself as having evangelized heathen Ireland, is not to be confused with Palladius, sent by Pope Celestine I in 431 as "first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ."

Toward the end of his life, he retired to Saul, where he may have written his *Confessio*. It is said that an angel conveyed to him that he was to die at Saul, the site of his first church, despite his wishes to die within the ecclesiastical metropolis of Ireland. His last rites were administered by St. Tussach (also spelled Tassach or Tassac).

It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most



extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has coloured its river green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the colour traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.

Legends

Before the end of the 7th century, Patrick had become a legendary

figure, and the legends have continued to grow. One of these would have it that he drove the snakes of Ireland into the sea to their destruction. Patrick himself wrote that he raised people from the dead, and a 12th-century hagiography places this number at 33 men, some of whom are said to have been deceased for many years. He also reportedly prayed for the provision of food for hungry sailors traveling by land through a desolate area, and a herd of swine miraculously appeared.

Another legend, probably the most popular, is that of the shamrock, which has him explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, three persons in one God, to an unbeliever by showing him the three-leaved plant with one stalk. Traditionally, Irishmen have worn shamrocks, the national flower of Ireland, in their lapels on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.



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ABOUT THE MASTERS

The Dr. Sharma Couple is founder chairmen of the world's largest reiki group (Reiki Healing Foundation) which has transformed millions worldwide through their mass awakening training workshops. They have created history and world record in the field of energy healing and have been honored by more than 175 national & international awards for their great contribution to society. They are the first couple to start raw food movement in India. They have shattered all age old myths & superstitions related to health, healing, nutrition, God, Hell & Heaven, planetary fears, black magic, bacterial hoax, fake spiritual and miracle performers. They have established the supremacy of eternal natural laws, natural healing powers and supreme human potentials. They have been consultants and spiritual guides to many prominent personalities of the world and have also authored several enlightening books. Their message is:

***"Never Follow Anyone, Never hang on Other's Wings,
Open your Own Gifted Wings & find Your Own Sky,
We are second to God, empowered with all His powers
To manifest our dreams, come and open all your petals."***

UNLOCK YOUR HIDDEN POWERS

- Hands on Healing
- The power of Telepathy
- The power of Intention
- The power of Intuition
- The power of Third Eye
- The power of Subconscious
- The power of Aura & Chakra
- The power of Telekinesis
- The power of Self Healing
- The power of Live Food
- The power of Astral Traveling
- The power of Kundalini

AND MANY MORE....

ENLIGHTEN WITH ETERNAL LAWS

- How destiny is Formed?
- How we Attract Accidents?
- How Circumstances are created?
- How to die maturely w/o Disease
- How to develop Desired Future?
- How to Prevent all Bacteria and negative forces?
- How to become Rich & Affluent?
- How to Develop true Relationship?
- How to Meditate to know self?
- How to Win in every field?
- How to perform the impossible
- How to release suppressed emotions

AND MANY MORE....



Reiki Healing Foundation (New Delhi, INDIA)

(World's Largest Institute of Healing Sciences)

Mob.: +91 9999 33 1113, +91 9990 77 1116,

Email: info@rhfglobal.net Website: www.reikihealingfoundation.net

President Biden, VP Harris and US lawmakers extend Holi greetings

MARCH 09, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris led the country in sending greetings to the Hindu community in the United States, in India and across the world on the occasion of Holi.

While for several years now the festival of colors has been observed in various parts of the country, which many a times attracts thousands of participants like the one at Barsana Dham in Texas or in Atlanta and Florida, and lawmakers have been sending their greetings for quite some time now, this is for the first time probably the greetings of Holi has been broadcast from the White House.

"I wish the happiest Holi to those celebrating love, laughter, goodness, and the arrival of spring during today's Festival of Colors," Biden said in a presidential tweet.

"As we come together to mark the arrival of spring and celebrate the triumph of good over evil, may the vibrant colors of Holi brighten our world with joy, hope, and positivity. Happy Holi to all who celebrate," tweeted Vice President Kamala Harris. Both of them had a colorful picture of Holi with the logo of the White House on it.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken soon followed with his own tweet. "Wishing all celebrating a very happy Holi. May this festival of colors fill you with joy," he said.

As images of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo playing Holi at the residence of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi went viral, several lawmakers extended greetings on the festival.

"Happy Holi to everyone celebrating across the world! Hoping you have a bright and peaceful Festival of Colors!" said Senator Mark Warner, co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus and Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Congresswoman Judy Chu said "Happy Holi" to the millions that celebrate in the United States and around the world! "Let us commemorate this festival of colors by remembering to see the light even in the face of darkness and to celebrate our differences as strengths. May the arrival of spring bring new beginnings, hope, and happiness to all," she said.

Congresswoman Grace Meng said Holi is a joyous



US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris led the country in sending greetings to the Hindu community in the United States, in India and across the world on the occasion of Holi.

File photo

occasion to revel in the arrival of spring and to celebrate the victory of good over evil. "In the spirit of Holi, I hope we can all find optimism in the conviction that good will prevail when we stand by our beliefs and step forward in unity. I am grateful for all things that bring our communities joy, peace, and strength. Happy Holi!" she said.

Holi is a joyous celebration that welcomes spring and reminds us that good will always triumph over evil, said Congressman Ted Lieu. "As we celebrate the renewal of life that spring brings, I am hopeful that 2023 will bring us more light, peace, and joy. Wishing a happy and prosperous Festival of Colors to all!" he said.

Ami Bera, the longest serving Indian-American Member of Congress, said Holi is the celebration of light vanquishing darkness and the triumph of good over evil. "This new spring season, let us recommit to spreading love and tolerance within our communities and celebrate the ties that bind us closer together," the Congressman said.

Influential Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal wished a happy Holi to all who celebrate in Seattle and around the world! "This is such a powerful time of year, as we come together to welcome in spring and new growth and celebrate the triumph of good over evil. I hope this holiday brings us all communion, love, and gratitude. Happy Holi," she said.

"Happy Holi to everyone in CA-17 and around the world celebrating. Holi is a reminder of the triumph of good over evil and that there's a bright future ahead for our country. I hope this year's celebration brings you joy, renewal, and hope for the coming year," said Congressman Ro Khanna.

Congressman Andy Kim said even through the most challenging times, Holi signals a brighter future and reminds of the lasting triumph of good. "We hope this vibrant, spring celebration brings you and your loved ones together, to celebrate love and hope for a brighter future," he said.

Powerful Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said during this festival of colors, "let us take a moment to celebrate the arrival of spring and renew our commitment" to bringing peace and prosperity to all.

"Happy Holi to Hindu communities in the East Bay and across the globe! The Festival of Colors is a celebration of good over evil, of light over darkness. May this special time bring you and your loved ones peace and joy as we enter spring," Congresswoman Barbara Lee said.

"As we celebrate the start of Holi, let us boldly affirm our commitment to unity, diversity, and inclusivity. This festival of colors reminds us that our differences are a source of strength, and that by coming together with love and respect, we can overcome any obstacle. Let us pledge to continue spreading the vibrant hues of happiness and togetherness, and to stand up against hate and division in all its forms. Happy Holi to all in Michigan and around the world!" said Congressman Shri Thanedar.

"Happy Holi to all those celebrating in Southern California and across the country! This colorful festival brings communities together to celebrate the new spring season and its fortunes. I join my CAPAC colleagues in sending joy, positivity, and good wishes to you and your family," said Congresswoman Linda Sanchez.

Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel also sent in her Holi message. "Happy Holi to all Hindu, Sikhs, and Jains who are celebrating today. May this festival of colors bring much joy as you mark the arrival of spring and celebrate the triumph of good over evil. Happy Holi!" she said.

Coalition of Nobel laureates, economists & academics endorse Ajay Banga for World Bank president



Ajay Banga was nominated by President Joe Biden as the next President of the World Bank last month. File photo

MARCH 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A coalition of 55 leading academics, economists, including three Nobel laureates, have endorsed the nomination of Indian-American Ajay Banga as the

next President of the World Bank, describing him as the right person to lead the international financial institution as a "force multiplier" at a critical moment for the world economy.

Banga, 63, was nominated by US President Joe Biden as the next President of the World Bank last month.

In an open endorsement letter published on Thursday, 55 advocates, academics, executives, luminaries, and former government officials supported the business leader's nomination to the post of President of the World Bank, indicating that the former MasterCard CEO's candidacy is gaining ground.

The four Nobel laureates to endorse Banga are Dr Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences; Dr Michael Spence, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economic

Sciences and Professor Muhammad Yunus, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

"A truly global citizen, Ajay has extensive experience living and working in developing economies. Importantly, as a leader with a deep appreciation for the global south, he intuitively understands that economic growth can only be sustained if people and nature thrive together, not apart," the letter said.

It added that Banga understands the World Bank must serve as a force multiplier by setting the correct agenda and then catalyzing action across governments, the private sector, multilateral development banks, civil society, and philanthropies.

"Banga possesses a rare combination of leadership; track record of building successful alliances across the public,

private, and social sectors; and experience working in developing countries for tackling some of the most critical challenges facing our world," the endorsement letter added.

"He is the right person to lead the World Bank at this critical moment," the open letter from the world leaders of diverse backgrounds said.

"Ajay built a regenerative agriculture partnership in Latin America to help farmers shift their practices toward long-term sustainability in a region at high-risk for climate disaster," the letter said, adding that the business leader also shaped a crop insurance programme with the World Food Bank and a coalition of private and social sector partners, to insure two million farmers against the risks of climate disaster. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Biden unveils USD 6.9 trillion budget, raises taxes on rich, boosts spending on social programs, infrastructure

MARCH 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

President Joe Biden on Thursday, March 10 unveiled a USD 6.9 trillion annual budget for the year 2024, which proposes a hefty tax on the rich, massive spending on social measures and investment on building key infrastructure.

The budget was termed a "non-starter" by the Republicans who have a majority in the House of Representatives.

Biden at a rally in Philadelphia asserted that his budget reflects what "we can do to" lift the burden on hard working Americans and it would reduce the deficit this year by USD 160 billion.

"To support working parents, my budget expands access to affordable childcare for millions of families. And it's going to invest in paid family medical leave," Biden said, adding that his budget also invests in elder care and home care and restores the child tax credit.

Biden said the budget will deliver funding to help the US lead the world again. "My budget also invests in critical issues that matter to families, increasing the supply of affordable housing, lower rental costs, and make it easier to buy a home, all of which will generate

economic growth and prosperity," he said.

Asserting that he brought down the deficit of USD 1.7 trillion more than any president in American history, Biden said his latest budget is going to reduce the deficit by nearly USD 3 trillion over 10 years.

The budgetary proposals call for imposing a 25 per cent minimum tax on the wealthiest 0.01 per cent of households, quadrupling a one per cent surcharge on corporate stock buybacks, restoring the top marginal income tax rate to 39.6 per cent. It proposes to raise the corporate income tax rate from 21 per cent to 28 per cent.

"No billionaire should be paying a lower tax than somebody working as a schoolteacher or a firefighter or any of you in this room. So, my plan is to make sure the corporations begin to pay their fair share. It used to be 35 per cent. We cut it down to 21 per cent. I think we should be paying 28 per cent," he said.

"There's going to be a real fight in that but we should be paying more than 21 per cent. And I made clear under my plan, and I made this commitment when I ran and I haven't broken it yet and I never

will," he said.

Acknowledging that there are sharp differences with the Republicans, Biden said he is willing to sit down with them to talk and negotiate.

"My budget is about investing in America and all of America, including places and people and folks who have been forgotten. Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades, too many people have been left behind or treated like they're invisible. Not anymore," he said.

The opposition Republican party was very critical of the budget. "President Joe Biden's budget is a reckless proposal doubling down on the same Far Left spending policies that have led to record inflation and our current debt crisis, said Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Majority Whip Tom Emmer, and Republican Conference Chairwoman Elise Stefanik in a joint statement.

"After passing trillions of dollars in new deficit spending that we cannot afford, over the next 30 years, the national debt will be nearly twice the size of the entire economy. In the next ten years, the federal government will spend



President Joe Biden on Thursday, March 10 unveiled a USD 6.9 trillion annual budget for the year 2024
Photo / Facebook

over USD 10 trillion on interest alone," they said.

Vice President Kamala Harris said the administration is investing in the full potential of the American people. "Our budget will lower costs, invest in workers, and strengthen Medicare and Social Security. It does all of this while cutting the deficit and making sure billionaires pay their fair share," she said. (Source: PTI)

Bipartisan bill introduced in US House to improve legal immigration

MARCH 11, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): A bipartisan bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives on Friday to properly utilize the employment-based visas currently allocated each year under existing federal immigration law.

Introduced by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi from

the Democratic Party and Larry Bucshon from the GOP, the Eliminating Backlogs Act of 2023 would give greater flexibility to use existing allotted work visas that employers desperately need, its authors said.

"Even as our country's high-skilled immigration system helps us draw top talent from around the world, current law caps the number of employment-based visas available based on workers' country of origin, leaving thousands of visas that would otherwise help our economy unused," Krishnamoorthi said.

The legislation is aimed at ending country-based discrimination in high-skilled immigration to ensure use of all allotted visa to draw skilled workers from across the globe to help strengthen the American economy and create jobs while they also continue to invest in the domestic workforce, he said.

"Under current federal immigration law, there are a certain number of visas



Introduced by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi from the Democratic Party and Larry Bucshon from the GOP, the Eliminating Backlogs Act of 2023 would give greater flexibility to use existing allotted work visas that employers desperately need

allocated annually for skilled workers, such as doctors and engineers, to ensure our workforce can meet the demands of our economy in Indiana and across the country," Bucshon said.

Unfortunately, bureaucratic policies and delays have prevented hundreds of thousands of these visas from being used, despite

a serious need for more skilled workers across the country, he said.

The bill helps eliminate this backlog and ensure that visas allocated under existing federal immigration law can be properly used. "This will help support an immigration system that incentivizes and rewards legal applicants and boosts our economy," said Bucshon.

Every year, the Congress allows for a set number of foreign nationals with specific skills and training to come to the US for work. This helps ensure that American businesses have access to the skilled labor force they need to succeed.

Each nation is capped at receiving only seven per cent of the allotted employment-based slots in any year. Due to this per-country limitation and bureaucratic delays, US immigration officials failed to utilize approximately 9,100 employment-based visas in FY2020 and over 66,000 in FY2021, the media release said. (Source: PTI)

Cloture motion filed for Garcetti's nomination; moves step closer to confirmation by US Senate

MARCH 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): The nomination of Eric Garcetti for US Ambassador to India moved a step closer to being confirmed by the Senate as it adopted a cloture motion, indicating that the ruling Democrats have the support of a super-majority for his selection for the key position.

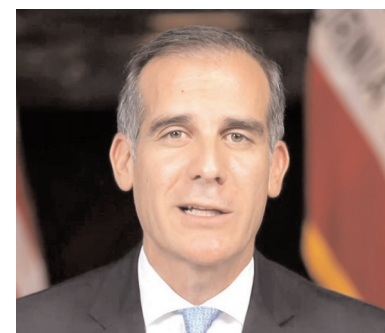
Such a move by Senate Majority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer came a day after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at its business meeting voted 13-8 in favor of his nomination.

Garcetti's nomination is pending before the US Congress since July 2021, when he was nominated for the prestigious diplomatic posting by President Joe Biden.

His nomination was not brought to the Senate floor for a vote during the last Congress as the ruling Democratic Party did not have enough support to get the 52-year-old close aide of Biden through.

On Thursday, March 9 afternoon, a Senate clerk read and brought the nomination of Garcetti to be Ambassador of the US to India on the Senate floor.

"I send the cloture motion to the desk," Schumer said on the floor which was adopted by a voice vote.



Eric Garcetti

A cloture motion is a procedural motion that, if adopted, limits further debate on the matter at hand. It allows the majority to defeat efforts by the minority to delay or obstruct proceedings on a matter by showing the matter has the support of a super-majority.

After that, the clerk read a message from 16 senators.

"We, the undersigned senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule 22 of the standing rules of the Senate do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of executive counter number 65, Eric Garcetti of California to be ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India," the clerk said.

Schumer sought and received consent that the names of the 16 Senators are not read, following which the cloture motion was agreed to.

Kenneth Juster, the last occupant of the ambassadorial residence of the US in New Delhi, stepped down in January 2021 after the change of government in America. During Thursday's session, Schumer also got a similar cloture motion passed on the nomination of Indian-American Ravi Chaudhary to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.



RJD cries foul as ED raids premises of Lalu's kin and close aides

The Rashtriya Janta Dal on Friday flew off the handle over raids conducted by the Enforcement Directorate on premises owned by family members and close aides of the party's national president Lalu Prasad.

Leaders of the RJD alleged that the BJP, which rules the Centre and has an axe to grind against the ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' in Bihar, was providing agencies like CBI, ED and the Income Tax Department with "scripts" to settle scores with political opponents.

Senior RJD leader and former assembly Speaker Uday Narayan Chaudhary said, "Only a few days ago did the CBI visit Rabri Devi (Prasad's wife and ex-CM) here and our national president in Delhi for questioning. I wonder why these central agencies never act against BJP leaders suspected of corruption".

Rajya Sabha MP and RJD national spokesman Manoj Kumar Jha said the BJP should fight its political opponents politically and "stop this game of raids".

"The central agencies have become a butt of ridicule," he said.

The RJD leader claimed that the BJP is "not able to shake off the trauma of having lost power in Bihar" in August last year.

"Some pliable officials in central agencies, who might be wanting some plum post-retirement assignments, seem to have fed the idea into the BJP's minds that they can destabilise the 'Mahagathbandhan'," Jha alleged.

Govt amends anti-money laundering rules, brings 'politically exposed persons' under PMLA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The government has amended rules under the anti-money law, making it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to record financial transactions of politically exposed persons (PEP).

Also, financial institutions or reporting agencies will be required to collect information about the financial transactions of non-profit organisations or NGOs under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Under the modified PML Rules, the Finance Ministry defined PEPs as "individuals who have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the heads of States or Governments, senior politicians, senior government or judicial or military officers, senior executives of state-owned corporations and important political party officials".

The financial institutions will also have to register details of their NGO clients on the Darpan portal of the Niti Aayog and maintain the record for five years after the business relationship between a client and a reporting entity has ended or the account has been closed, whichever is later, the amendment said.

Following this amendment, banks and financial institutions will now have to not only maintain records of financial transactions of PEPs and NGOs but also share them with the Enforcement Directorate, as and when sought.

The amendments to PMLA rules also include tightening of the definition of beneficial owners under the anti-money laundering law and mandating reporting entities like banks and crypto platforms to collect information from



their clients.

As per the amendments, any individual or group holding 10 per cent ownership in the client of a 'reporting entity' will now be considered a beneficial owner against the ownership threshold of 25 per cent applicable earlier.

Under the anti-money laundering law, 'reporting entities' are banks and financial institutions, firms engaged in real estate and jewellery sectors. They also include intermediaries in casinos and crypto or virtual digital assets.

So far, these entities were required to maintain KYC details or records of documents evidencing the identity of their clients as well as account files and business correspondence relating to clients. They are required to maintain a record of all transactions, including the record of all cash transactions of more than Rs 10 lakh.

They will now have to also collect the details of the registered office address and principal place of business of their

clients.

The powers of the ED stand vastly expanded by this move.

In July 2022, in what the BJP had held as a "landmark judgment", the Supreme Court bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar had already upheld the ED's sweeping powers relating to arrest and attachment of property, and its ability to search and seize under the PMLA.

The apex court also said the supply of Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory. The ECIR is the ED's equivalent of a police FIR.

Several opposition parties – including the Congress, Trinamool Congress and Aam Aadmi Party – expressed "deep apprehension on the long-term implications" of the judgment.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana of the apex court, a month later, said that the same court's judgement on the ED's powers to take possession of a property before trial in exceptional cases leaves scope for arbitrary application and needed further explanation.

The Supreme Court is also hearing the case against the tenure extension granted to ED director Sanjay Kumar Mishra in 2021. The Union government has called the petitions against the extensions "politically motivated".

Mishra was first appointed the ED director for a period of two years by an order on November 19, 2018. He was set to demit office in November, 2020, and in May that year, he had reached the retirement age of 60. But, through an office order on November 13, 2020, the appointment letter was modified retrospectively by the Union government and Mishra's term of two years was replaced by three years.

Centre blocks 6 YouTube channels streaming pro-Khalistan content

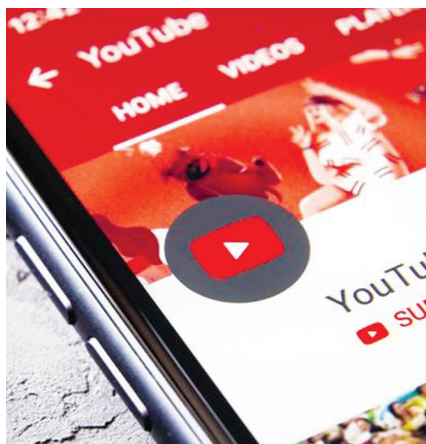
NEW DELHI (TIP)

At least six YouTube channels allegedly promoting pro-Khalistan sentiments have been blocked at the instance of the government, a senior official said on Friday.

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said six to eight YouTube channels, operating from foreign countries, have been blocked over the past 10 days.

He said the channels with content in Punjabi language were trying to foment trouble in the border state.

The government action came in the wake of supporters of radical preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh storming a police station in Ajnala



with swords and guns to demand the release of one of their aides.

Singh was last year anointed head of 'Waris Punjab De', which was founded by actor and activist late

Deep Sidhu, at an event held at Moga's Rode, the native village of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Another senior official said YouTube has been taking action on the government's requests to block channels within 48 hours.

The official said that the government has also asked YouTube to use artificial intelligence and algorithms to identify and block objectionable content automatically.

However, in the Indian context YouTube was facing problems as content was being uploaded in regional languages and the systems were in place to screen content in the English language.

Source: PTI

Pak skips SCO meet hosted by India

Pakistan on Friday, March 10, reversed its decision not to participate in the meeting of Chief Justices of SCO member countries being held here. However, Pakistan downgraded its participation by a notch. Instead of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, who had "scheduling issues", his brother judge Muneeb Akhtar participated in the conference via a video link. Earlier in the day, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch had announced that Justice Bandial would not participate in the meeting being held from March 10 to 12 in India.

The SCO has so far not let bilateral disputes disrupt its meetings but this resolve will be tested when it will hold the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Goa on May 4 and 5. India had in January invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for this meeting. Sources said so far there was no confirmation from Islamabad about Bilawal's acceptance of the invite.

On the question of Bilawal attending the SCO conference, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson said: "The matter is under consideration and as and when this decision is taken, we will share it with everyone."

Manish Sisodia sent to Enforcement Directorate custody till March 17

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was sent to Enforcement Directorate (ED) remand till March 17 in the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge MK Nagpal of Delhi Rouse Avenue Court allowed ED to quiz Sisodia for the next seven days. The development comes after the AAP leader was present in court earlier today where the federal agency sought 10-day custody to interrogate him.

During the hearing, the Enforcement Directorate alleged that Sisodia made false statements about the 'scam' and asserted that it wanted to unearth the modus operandi of the perpetrators and confront the former Delhi deputy CM with the other accused.

ED counsel even claimed before the special court that Sisodia destroyed his phone, an important piece of evidence in the investigation.

Referring to the meetings between restaurants association and Sisodia, the ED alleged that relaxations were afforded to the restaurants in excise policy like reducing the legal age of drinking and other things.

PM Modi, Australian counterpart resolve to work together to combat terrorism

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese have vowed to work closely to take concerted action against globally proscribed terrorist entities and to contribute to the common fight against terrorism, including through combating terror-financing.

Ways to deal with global terrorism figured prominently during wide-ranging talks between the two prime ministers at the first annual India-Australia Summit here on Friday, March 10.

A joint statement said Modi and Albanese strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and emphasised the need for strengthened international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner.

They also underlined the need for action against those who encourage, support and finance terrorism or provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups, whatever their motivation may be.

"They called upon all countries to work together to root out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupt terrorist networks and their financing channels and halt use of terrorist proxies and cross-border movement of terrorists," the joint statement said.

It said the two prime ministers reiterated their condemnation of terrorist attacks in India and Australia, including the Mumbai and Pathankot attacks.

The reference to cross-border movement of terrorists came in the backdrop of Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism against India.

"The prime ministers emphasised the importance of



PM Narendra Modi and Australian PM Anthony Albanese in New Delhi. Tribune photo: Mukesh Aggarwal

perpetrators of terrorist attacks being systematically and expeditiously brought to justice," the statement said.

Source: PTI

13 April 1956 -- 8 March 2023

Satish Kaushik, master of spontaneous who radiated joie de vivre

His qualities as an actor and successes as a director, exceptional as they were, could not eclipse Satish Kaushik's greatest gift – his self-effacing geniality. A man and a professional of singular mettle, he radiated infectious joie de vivre on the screen and off it.

Kaushik, who passed away on the night of March 8 in Gurugram, made the journey from Delhi's Karol Bagh to the Mumbai movie industry (via a couple of institutional pit stops that shaped him) without ever losing his solid moorings. He kept learning and evolving.

Kaushik could have rested on his oars, having enjoyed consistent success both in front of and behind the movie camera since the mid-1980s. He did not. He kept his creative options open, especially in the second half of his Bollywood career.

About a decade into his stint as a film director, Kaushik told this writer: "I have been working non-stop since I made Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain in 1999. I've had one release every year since then. I now want to take some time off... I am looking for creative renewal."

In pursuit of that goal, he lent his support to, among others, Nagesh Kukunoor's Lakshmi, a brutally graphic human trafficking drama, and N Padmakumar's A Billion Colour Story, a film that looked for hope in an atmosphere of despair. Not only did Kaushik play cameos in the two films, he also co-produced them.

He nurtured his own dream of directing his first global film. Initially titled Lal Bihari Mritak, it was about an Uttar Pradesh villager deemed dead in the state's revenue records and forced to fight tooth and nail to prove he was alive. Kaushik planned to fly in foreign technicians for the film.

This was around the time British filmmaker Sarah Gavron's Brick Lane, adapted from Monica Ali's novel of the same name, took Kaushik to international festivals. He could see that there was a whole world out there that he could attempt to break into.

It took Kaushik a decade and a half to bring the



From Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron and Mr India to Mandi, Kaushik leaves an indelible mark on Indian cinema.

project to fruition. It took the form of the Zee5 original film Kaagaz, starring Pankaj Tripathi. If nothing else, the 2021 film, although a scaled-down version of what he had envisaged, was a testimony to the actor-director's tenacity and his unwavering commitment to his craft.

Kaushik's passion stemmed from his exposure as a young man to the works of the finest of playwrights (at the National School of Drama) and world cinema masters (at the Film and Television Institute of India). It was at the two premier institutes that the Kirori Mal College, Delhi graduate developed a deep reverence for quality theatre and cinema.

Even after he made a name for himself as an exceptionally talented comic actor and a director of a string of Mumbai blockbusters, including the Salman Khan-starrer Tere Naam, Kaushik itched to returned to the stage. He first did Mr and Mrs Murarilal, in

which he played a former army cook who sang and danced his sorrows away, and then acted in Salesman Ramlal, a Hindi adaptation of Arthur Miller's The Death of a Salesman.

Kaushik arrived in Mumbai in the late 1970s as a 22-year-old. He landed a small role in a Prithvi Theatre play, Bichhoo, which featured Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri. After dabbling in odd jobs for a year and a bit, he co-wrote the dialogues of Kundan Shah's Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron (1983).

As luck would have it, every 1983 film that Kaushik acted in – Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, Woh 7 Din (which set Anil Kapoor on the path to stardom), Masoom (Shekhar Kapur's directorial debut) and Shyam Benegal's Mandi – is regarded as a Hindi cinema milestone.

Two years later, Shekhar Kapur cast him in Mr. India. The character, Calendar, imprinted himself on the minds of Hindi movie fans. Every year from there on, the actor had multiple releases. While comedy was his staple, the versatile performer did not limit himself to any single genre.

When director David Dhawan and actor Govinda were at their peak as a team in the 1990s, Kaushik was a fixture in virtually every rollicking comedy that the combo delivered. Among these were Saajan Chale Sasural, where Kaushik was tabla player Muthuswamy, and Deewana Mastana (1997), in which he played Pappu Pager so famously that Dhawan wrote another character with the same name in Hum Kisise Kum Nahin, made five years later.

That the phenomenally effortless actor in Kaushik had many more productive years left in him was evidenced by his superlative performance in the recent SonyLIV web series, Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story. Every scene that he was a part of and every line that he delivered proved, if proof was needed, that spontaneity was his forte.

The curtain has dropped way too early on a magnificent career, but the joy that Satish Kaushik the entertainer spread will live on.

Source: Business Standard

India in history this Week

MARCH 10, 2023, TO MARCH 16, 2023

10 MARCH

1922 Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in 1922 on charges of treason.
1969 The CISF Act was passed in Parliament.



1985 India won the Benson and Hedges Cricket World Cup in 1985.

2010 The Women's Reservation Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

1932 Born in 1932 of Udupi Ramchandra Rao, a space scientist and former president of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization).

1945 Famous Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia was born on this day in 1945.

11 MARCH

1399 Taimur Lung crossed the Indus River in 1399, after committing a rampage in North India including Delhi.

1999 Infosys Company is the first Indian company to appear on the Nasdaq (NASDAQ) International Stock Exchange list in 1999.

2007 Sunita completed the 2,012 km journey from Kolkata to Wagah in 2007 by driving in reverse gear.

12 MARCH



1913 Yashwantrao Chavan, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the fifth Deputy Prime Minister of the country was born after the bifurcation of Bombay State in 1913.

1922 Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by the British for the movement against buying goods made from Europe and working with the machines of British rule.

1930 Mahatma Gandhi started the Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram. The aim was to 'break the salt law' made by the British.

1993 There were 13 bomb blasts in Mumbai in which 257 people were killed and 800 people were injured.

1872 Sher Ali, the assassin of Lord Mayo, the then Viceroy of India, was hanged in 1872.

1954 The Government of India inaugurated the Sahitya Academy in 1954.

1958 In 1958, British Empire Day was named 'Commonwealth Day'.



1993 The serial bomb blasts in Mumbai in 1993 killed 300 people and injured hundreds more.

13 MARCH



1940 3 March 1940: Indian revolutionary Udham Singh opened fire on General Dyer in London to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh from the British.

1997 Sister Nirmala was chosen as the leader in 1997 by Mother Teresa at the Indian Missionaries of Charity.

2009 The SAARC Literature Festival began in 2009 in Agra.

1971 Famous Hindi poet Atma Ranjan was born in 1971.

14 MARCH

1931 India's first speaking film 'Alam Ara' was screened.



1998 Sonia Gandhi became the first Congress president in 1998.

1983 OPEC, a group of oil producing countries, cut oil prices in 1983 for the first time in 23 years.

15 MARCH

1947 Riots erupted in Punjab in 1947.

2007 The agreement between Vodafone and Essar concluded in 2007.



2008 In 2008, Kiran Bedi, the country's first female IPS officer, was selected for the German honor 'Animation Medicine' for her outstanding contribution to prison reform and human rights defense.



1564 Mughal emperor Akbar removed Jiziyah tax in 1564.

16 MARCH

1846 According to the Amritsar Agreement, Kashmir was taken over in 1846 under Gulab Singh, the Hindu king of Jammu.

1942 The V-2 rocket was launched in 1942, but it exploded at the same time.



2012 India's master blaster Sachin Tendulkar became the first player to score 100 centuries in international cricket in 2012.

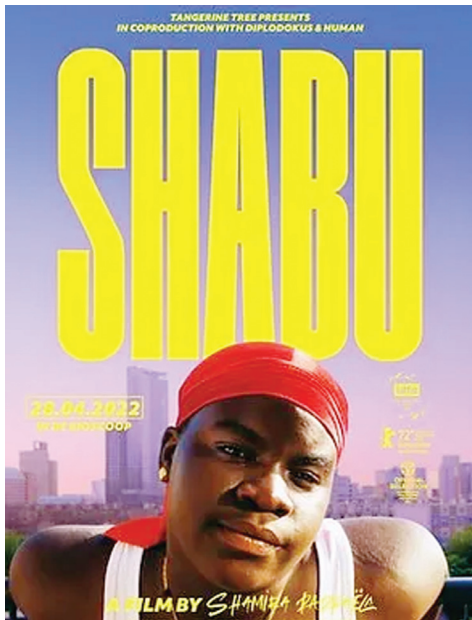
1693 Born in 1693 to Malharrao Holkar, the promoter of the Holkar dynasty of Indore.

FILM FEST AFFIRMS TODAY'S SOCIAL RELEVANCE

BY MABEL PAIS

Interested in a film festival that is Socially Relevant to our times.... where the invisible is made visible, to awaken us to the marginalized?

Head over to the tenth edition of *The Socially Relevant™ Film Festival (SRFF)* showcasing such films, March 16-31, 2023. In-person films screen March 17-19 and virtual films stream March 24-31.



SHABU (Poster), Opening Night.
Photo credit / SRFF 2023

The 10th Anniversary edition of SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival NY is a hybrid of in-person and online events. SRFF 2023 opens March 16 at the Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater (165 W. 65th Street, north side, upper level), March 17-19 at Cinema Village (22 East 12th Street), and March 20-23 in West Harlem, Columbia University, Morningside Retirement and Health Services (MRHS - 100 La Salle Street, #MC, New York, NY 10027), Columbia Maison Française (515 West 116th Street, Buell Hall, 2nd floor, MC 4990, New York, NY 10027), Dear Mama (West Harlem, 611 West 129th Street), and JCC Harlem (Jewish Community Center, Harlem, 318 W 118th St, New York, NY 10026). The online section runs from March 24-31.

The Official Selection program of 13 Documentaries, six Narrative features, and six thematically divided short film blocks (ratedsrff.com/2023-short-and-bipoc-films), Family and Adoption, Home and Health, Climate Change, LGBTQ, and BIPOC Films and Filmmakers, screen over three days at Cinema Village from March 17-19, and Uptown in West Harlem from March 20-23. The links above open the list and trailers of the films. A panel will examine BIPOC representation on screen, and Q&A will follow in-person screenings. Online Meet the Filmmakers discussions complement the program. A Smartphone filmmaking workshop will be offered, as well as a table read of the finalist scripts in the festival's scriptwriting competition.

Watch the Festival trailer -

youtu.be/ITtVYaC-GXw

"Ten years have gone by quickly. We are proud to have had the opportunity to present over 600 socially relevant films from 40 countries. These films highlight the work of talented and dedicated filmmakers and have offered us the added bonus of learning about the human condition, filmmaking, and engaging an audience as the first step towards raising awareness of social issues," said Festival Founding Artistic Director Nora Armani.

At a press event held in February 2023, Festival Founding Artistic Director Nora Armani said, "We take pride in telling the stories of invisible people; invisible because they are indigenous because they belong to marginalized groups such as LGBTQ, invisible because of their disabilities, because of the stigma of incarceration, homelessness, age, or disease. We take pride in shining the spotlight on wonderful films made by dedicated filmmakers who succeed in engaging an audience and raising awareness of social issues. We are lucky in that our hard work as volunteers is rewarded with the added bonus of learning so much from these films."

THE SOCIALLY RELEVANT FILM FESTIVAL (SRFF)

The Mission of the SR Film Festival is to shine the spotlight on filmmakers who tell compelling, socially relevant™, human-interest stories, across a broad range of social issues without resorting to violence and violent forms of storytelling.



NORA ARMANI, Founding Artistic Director.
Photo credit / SRFF 2023

SRFF was founded by Actress/Filmmaker Nora Armani in 2013 as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling in media and entertainment. SRFF believes in the power of the film medium in raising awareness of social issues and

promoting positive social change. This new edition deals with topics such as Climate Change, Family and Adoption, LGBTQ Rights, Home and Health, Disability, Incarceration and Freedom, New York City, Racism, and BIPOC cultures.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MARCH 16

**Opening Night - Red Carpet - Walter Reade Theater Lincoln Center

Red Carpet - 5:30 pm

Opening Ceremony - Honor Awards to three prolific individuals honored for their work in social justice and gender equality.

FILM 1 - SHABU - 6 PM, NEW YORK PREMIERE

Dir: Shamira Raphaëla | The Netherlands | Doc | 1h 15m

Followed by Q&A with filmmakers

Reception follows to celebrate the 10th anniversary and blow out the candles on the SRFF 2023 cake

FILM 2 - TNAASH - 9:15 PM, NEW YORK PREMIERE

Dir: Boudy Sfeir | Lebanon | Narrative Feature | 1h 26m

MARCH 17-19

**Cinema Village - Shorts, Documentary, and Narrative films March 17-19

The film slate, trailers, and synopses are at ratedsrff.com under SRFF 2023.

The complete film schedule, can be viewed at ratedsrff.com/schedule2023

More information is available at ratedsrff.com, or contact rsvp.srff@gmail.com.

THE SRFF 2023 COMPETITION CATEGORIES ARE

Narrative Features
Documentary Features
Narrative Shorts
Documentary Shorts
Women Directed films acknowledged
Rejoice Resist: BIPOC Films and Filmmakers



REJOICE, RESIST: BIPOC Films
Photo credit / SRFF 2023

REJOICE RESIST: BIPOC Films and events in West Harlem March 20-23, highlight films by and about BIPOC communities. This program takes place at MRHS (Morningside Health and Retirement Services), at Dear Mama in West Harlem, Maison Française Columbia University, and JCC Harlem. The program offers film screenings, a

panel discussion on Diversity and Representation with the participation of the filmmakers, and invited guests, Justin Thomas, Joseph Jones, and HipHop by Division X.

CLOSING AWARDS NIGHT

March 23, 5:00 PM Documentary, *Maka* (youtu.be/oXREqY1DtXU),

'Maka' is about pioneer Black Italian activist Geneviève Makaping, Jazz by Kim Thomas. Closing Awards Ceremony at 7:00 PM where winning filmmakers are awarded by the International Jury.

The evening is capped by the Tatev Jazz Trio and a reception.

AWARDS

The Award Categories: Best Narrative Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress, Best Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Short Film, Best Actor/Actress in narrative shorts, Best Documentary Short Film, Best Script, WFCC (the Women Film Critics Circle award), in addition, there will be two Honor Awards given out on Closing Night, and these will be unveiled shortly.

ONLINE FILMS

The online section of the festival starts on March 24. It streams on srff.sparqfest.live.

TICKETS

Tickets for Opening Night, VIP Tickets, Single Tickets, All-Access Passes, In-Person & Virtual Tickets are available at filmfreeway.com/SRFF23/tickets

THE SOCIALLY RELEVANT™ FILM FESTIVAL (SRFF)

The Mission of the SR Film Festival is to shine the spotlight on filmmakers who tell compelling, socially relevant™, human-interest stories, across a broad range of social issues without resorting to violence and violent forms of storytelling.

The Festival was founded by Actress/Filmmaker Nora Armani in 2013 as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling in media and entertainment. This new edition deals with topics such as Climate Change, Family and Adoption, LGBTQ Rights, Home and Health, Disability, Incarceration and Freedom, New York City, Racism, and BIPOC cultures.

During its first nine years, SRFF has showcased over 600 films from 40 countries. This year, a roster of 70 selected films is on offer, including narrative and documentary features, and shorts from 23 countries. For more information is available at ratedsrff.com, or contact rsvp.srff@gmail.com.

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

CELEBRATE WITH FTH THE FESTIVAL OF COLORS

BY MABEL PAIS

Flushing Town Hall (FTH, flushingtownhall.org) on Saturday, March 18 will host Celebrate Holi! (flushingtownhall.org/celebrate-holi) - a celebration of the new beginnings that come with the changing of the seasons.



Holi Celebrations at FTH, Collage

Photo Credit / FTH

drama of Holi, folk dances, and more. The theme of this show is celebrating love and forgiveness.

THE ARTISTS:

Abha B. Roy, the artistic director of Srijan Dance Center and Flushing Town Hall's annual Diwali Festival. A master of Kathak dance, she studied under

Hindustani singer and composer Apoorva Mudgal, arranged to Ria Modak's classical guitar, and Yacouba Sissoko's Kora (African Harp) to make for transcendental performances of the Urdu Ghazal, Hindavi folk and Punjabi Sufi Kalaam.

"The Holi and Diwali programs at FTH are a great occasion for Flushing Town Hall visitors to come together and learn about and celebrate popular Indian festivals and culture. They promote cross-cultural integration and harmony and also provide a platform to showcase creativity, as many of the art, dance and music performances are fusions of Indian and other forms," said Mukund Padmanabhan, founder of the Guru Krupa Foundation. "The Guru Krupa Foundation has been a supporter of the Diwali program at Flushing Town Hall since 2019, and this year, we're very happy to extend this support to the Holi program as well."

"The Guru Krupa Foundation has been a wonderful partner to Flushing Town Hall, and this generous donation is another example of their selflessness and commitment to celebrating Indian culture and promoting cultural understanding," says Flushing Town Hall Executive & Artistic Director Ellen Kodadek. "We look forward to celebrating spring's beginning with this great festival."

TICKETS

In-person regular tickets for the general public and discounted tickets for members of Flushing Town Hall, seniors, children, and students with ID are available. Tickets must be purchased in advance; they will not be available at the door. Visit flushingtownhall.org/celebrate-holi for more details and to purchase tickets.

HEALTH SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

Until further notice: Flushing Town Hall requires all visitors, performers, and staff to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 with matching identification. Additionally, masks will be required at all times. For more details on Flushing Town Hall's Covid-safety measures and vaccine requirements, visit: flushingtownhall.org/covid-safety.

Flushing Town Hall

Learn more at flushingtownhall.org.

HOLI, known as the Festival of Colors, is one of the most popular festivals in Hinduism. The festival is celebrated to welcome spring, a new beginning where people can release all their inhibitions and start afresh. Traditionally, festival participants throw powder dye into the air, covering all in attendance with vibrant colors. For some, the rich colors represent starting a vibrant new life. For others, washing off the dye at the end of the day represents cleansing oneself of evils and demons and a new commitment to living a good life. This year, those attending the Flushing Town Hall (FTH) festival will throw colorful scarves and confetti to celebrate.

The Srijan Dance Company and its artistic director Abha Roy will join the Apoorva Mudgal Ensemble for a concert to celebrate the new season. The festival will feature performances of devotional and Hindustani classical raga music, traditional Kathak dance, a dance

the guidance of late great Guru Kundan Lal Gangani and attained professional precision under the training of Pt. Durgalal when she completed her specialization in Kathak Kendra, New Delhi. She represented the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and has taught and performed in South America, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. She has also performed throughout Europe and venues such as Lincoln Center, Flushing Town Hall, Queens Museum, NYC Cultural Festival, and many more.

The Srijan Dance Company, founded by Kathak master dancer Abha B. Roy in 2001, has performed at Flushing Town Hall and festival stages throughout New York and the U.S. FTH is excited to welcome them back for this special event. Featured musicians from this group are Tabla-Naren Budhakar and Gulam Mirasi.

The Apoorva Mudgal Ensemble features the serene vocals of Agra-born (North India) and New York-based

SOUTH ASIAN HOUSE PARTNERS WITH SXSW @ 2023 FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Participants in South Asian House Program.

Photo Credit / South Asian House

South Asian House, for the first time showcases events at South By Southwest (SXSW) 2023. South Asian House events will take place at Fourth & Co located at 208 West Fourth St. Unit D in Austin, Texas during the

first weekend of SXSW on Saturday, March 11, 11am-2am and Sunday, March 12, 11am-2am.

Featured speakers for the initiative include industry professionals from various sectors such as business, tech, film, TV, theater, music, and fashion. South Asian House will also provide a networking brunch and happy hour each day, as well as live music entertainment and a DJ set each night.

To conclude the weekend, South Asian House will host a Red Carpet Awards Ceremony, presented by Tasveer, at 5:45 pm and a live Oscar Viewing Party at 7pm on Sunday, March 12. Media and photographers are invited to cover the red carpet event beginning at 5 p.m. and may RSVP or request general coverage of the weekend at madelyn@juiceconsulting.com.

South Asian House programming will also include two noteworthy panels on Saturday, March 11.

The first, starting at 2:30 p.m., is "Creating South Asian Content for a Global Audience," which will be an hour-long discussion with actor Rizwan Manji ("Schitt's Creek," "Peacemaker"), Emmy-award winning executive producer for ViceTV, Falguni Lakhani

Adams, and Emmy-award winning producer of the hit TV series "Delhi Crime," Apoorva Bakshi, moderated by DFW South Asian Film Festival Founder/Director and producer of South Asian House Jitin Hingorani.

The second panel, "Investing in the Future of Our South Asian Stories," will be from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Panelists for this important conversation will include CEO and Co-founder of URL Media S. Mitra Kalita, actress Kausar Mohammed ("4400," "The Flash"), and CEO of Create Entertainment Atit Shah, moderated by co-founder of Box Office Guru Media Gitesh Pandya. Learn more about the South Asian House weekend events at southasianhouse.com/programs.

"We are so excited to have these fantastic panels that explore topics which are often overlooked when it comes to the contributions of South Asians in the media and entertainment worlds," states Rohi Mirza Pandya, producer of South Asian House and co-founder of Box Office Guru Media.

"It has been so exciting working with these panelists, given the vast experience they will be bringing to SXSW and what will surely be enlightening conversations," adds Kirtana Banskota, producer of South Asian House and founder of Banskota Productions.

SOUTH ASIAN HOUSE : For more information on South Asian House, visit southasianhouse.com.

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

NATION'S CAPITAL FILM FEST INSPIRES ACTION

BY MABEL PAIS

Film highlights include Oscar nominated **SHAUNAK SEN'S** 'All That Breathes'



Path of the Panther

Photo Credit / DCEFF

The District of Columbia's Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF) for its 31st edition returns to venues across the DC Metro for in-person screenings March 16-26, 2023. This hybrid Festival will also include a robust slate of virtual programming available to its audiences around the world.

The 2023 Festival is a hybrid (in-person and virtual) event with programming in venues around D.C., in addition to select online programming accessible to audiences around the world. The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF) gears up for its much anticipated return of in-person events after a three year pause on live screenings due to the pandemic.

Entering its 31st year, the festival will resume its public screenings from March 16-26 across multiple venues in D.C., including the Naval Heritage Center, Landmark E Street Cinema, the National Geographic Society, various Smithsonian Museums, Embassies and other cultural organizations with many multicultural selections that feature stories from around the globe which will be screened at local embassies throughout D.C.

Throughout the eleven days of the Festival, the Festival seeks to inspire its

audiences to learn more, get involved, and take meaningful action on the issues and causes that its programs highlight, and to catalyze grassroots community awareness and action around a wide array of Environmental concerns.



Reclaim Your Water

Photo Credit / DCEFF

DCEFF also introduces for the first time a live pitch contest which offers emerging BIPOC filmmakers the opportunity to win a sizable grant towards the production of a short or their first feature film. Finalists will have a unique opportunity to be mentored by Judith Helfand (co-founder Chicken & Egg Pictures, award-winning filmmaker).

TICKETS

For the in-person schedule and tickets, visit dceff.eventive.org/schedule.

For the FREE virtual schedule and tickets, visit watch.eventive.org/dceff. All films are available to stream from Friday, March 17 through Sunday, March 26.

NOTE: Many additional virtual programs will be offered April 18-23 as part of Earth Day Encores.

DCEFF

To learn more about the Festival and the full season program, visit dceff.org.

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



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Sara Ali Khan wraps up first schedule of Homi Adajania directorial Murder Mubarak

Actor Sara Ali Khan, on Thursday, wrapped up the first schedule of her upcoming film with director Homi Adajania.

Taking to Instagram, Homi shared a picture with the 'Atrangi Re' actor and wrote, "Here's lookin at you kid. Well done on your first sched...Now the real work starts. #shootlife #schedwrap."

In the picture, Sara could be seen posing with the director in a burgundy hair look.

Titled 'Murder Mubarak', Sara recently began filming the film in the National capital. The 'Simmba' actor will be seen sharing screen space with actor Karisma Kapoor in the film.

A few days ago, Karisma shared the clapperboard from the movie set on her Instagram feed. The film is directed by 'Cocktail' fame Homi Adajania. She has not divulged much details about the movie. Sharing the story, Sara wrote, "Can't believe it's done. Only love to you."

Meanwhile, she will be seen in a high octane suspense thriller 'Gaslight' with Vikrant Massey and Chitrangada Singh which is all set to stream exclusively on the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar from March 31 She will also be seen in director Laxman Utekar's next untitled romantic drama film alongside actor Vicky Kaushal, and in Karan Johar's next 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' in which she will play a brave freedom fighter in a fictional tale set against the backdrop of the Quit India Movement in 1942. *Source: ANI*

When Saif Ali Khan advised 'all men to marry younger, beautiful women'

Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor tied the knot with in 2012. In an interview in 2014, Saif was asked if marrying Kareena was the 'best thing' that had happened to him. Saif was also asked about their age gap. While Saif Ali Khan was born in August 1970, Kareena was born in September 1980. Speaking about their 10-year-age gap, Saif had said he would advise all men to 'marry much younger and beautiful women'. Saif added it was 'fairly obvious' why that was a 'great thing'.

In the old interview, Saif also said that 'men mature a little later and women age faster'. Saif, who was earlier married to actor Amrita Singh, also admitted that marriage with Kareena was 'the best thing that has happened' to him. It's been more than 14 years since they fell in love on the sets of their 2008 film Tashan, 10 years since they tied the knot and six years since they became parents to son Taimur Ali Khan in 2016. Their younger son Jehangir Ali Khan was born in 2021.

When asked if marriage to Kareena Kapoor was the best thing that had happened to him, Saif told Filmfare in a 2014 interview, "Of course I can say that. No, it's not the best thing; it's a good thing that has happened to me. Okay, it is the best thing that has happened to me." In the same interview, Saif was asked if age gap affects a relationship, when the actor said, "I'd advise all men to marry much younger and beautiful women. How is it a great thing? It's fairly obvious."

In an old interview, Kareena had said that she would not want to 'fall in love' with an 'older man' on screen, as her 10-year age gap with Saif in real life was enough. Kareena had made the comment during a chat with filmmaker Karan Johar in 2010, while promoting her film We Are Family. Karan had asked



Kareena, "If you get a role as a young girl, who falls in love with an older man, who would you like to cast in that role?" Kareena had then replied, "No, no. I don't want to fall in love with any older man." Karan had then asked, "Why? Aren't you

in love with one right now?" To which Kareena had replied, "Saif is anyway 10 years older than me. Now older than that I can't handle. Older than that I'm not interested."

Source: HT

It took 6 months planning to execute SRK's scene with Salman in 'Tiger 3'

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to enter the Tiger franchise through an adrenaline pumping action sequence that will be shot for seven days in Mumbai end April.

What's to note is that this sequence has been planned by Aditya Chopra and 'Tiger 3' director Maneesh Sharma for over six months so that it can become a talking point for the nation.

"When SRK & Salman's sequence was planned for 'Pathaan', the makers realised that such cross-overs of super-spies will need to go a notch higher every single time it happens because that's the biggest USP for audiences." "So, the writer, Adi and Maneesh went into a huddle and took six months to write and visualise Pathaan's entry in Tiger's timeline! Every detail of this shoot has been planned keeping in mind that it needs to deliver full on paisa vasool entertainment that is also a



spectacle for audiences," informs a senior trade source.

'Tiger 3' starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif as Zoya & Emraan Hashmi as Tiger's nemesis is set to release this Diwali. *Source: IANS*

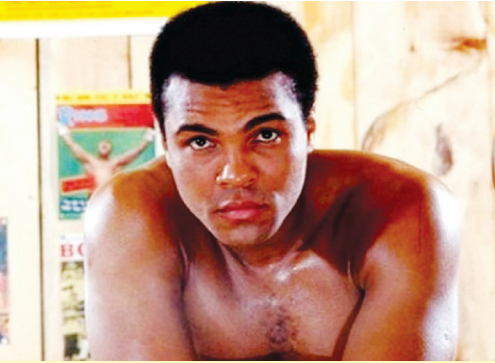
Prabhas was really affected by dating rumors: Kriti

Kriti Sanon recently revealed Prabhas' reaction to their dating rumours after Varun Dhawan teased her about Prabhas. It happened so on national television when Varun indirectly confirmed his Bhediya co-star Kriti Sanon's alleged relationship with Prabhas. Recalling how she informed Prabhas about the incident and his confused reaction, Kriti said she really felt bad about the whole situation.

Kriti Sanon and Prabhas are rumoured to dating for quite some time. They will be starring together in the upcoming film Adipurush. Amid this, Varun during his appearance on Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa answered a question about Kriti not being on a list of eligible single women. He said, "Kriti ka naam isiliye nahi tha



kyunki Kriti ka naam... kisi ke dil me hai (Kriti Sanon isn't on the list because her name is written on someone else's heart)." He further said, "Ek aadmi hai jo Mumbai me nahi hai, vo iss waqt shooting kar raha hai Deepika (Padukone) ke saath (There's someone who is not in Mumbai and currently filming with Deepika Padukone, he is the one)."



Muhammad Ali series in the works with Rege-Jean Page, Morgan Freeman

Titled 'Excellence: 8 Fights', the scripted drama series hails from Oscar-winning writer Willmott and is based on Jonathan Eig's definitive biography 'Ali: A Life'. 'Bridgerton' breakout Page and Freeman are both on board as executive producers, as well as Willmott, Lori McCreary for Revelations Entertainment and Emily Brown, reports 'Variety'.

According to the show's official description, 'Excellence: 8 Fights' will "chronicle eight distinct and defining moments in the iconic life of Muhammad Ali. Each episode will be framed by one fight from Ali's life, but the essence of the episode, what it's really about, is the internal fight – the drama outside the ring – where we will explore the struggle going on in the heart and mind of one of the most consequential and controversial figures of the 20th century."

After his starring turn in Netflix's 'Bridgerton' in 2020, Page continued to broaden his acting horizons with action film 'The Gray Man' and the upcoming film adaptation 'Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves'. 'Excellence' marks Page's most significant leap into the production realm to date.

Rebel Wilson thinks Meghan Markle wasn't as 'naturally warm' with her



Actor-comedian Rebel Wilson recently said that her first meeting with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, which happened on a recent trip to Santa Barbara, California "could not have been nicer," reported Fox News, a USA-based news outlet.

According to the outlet, Rebel told Andy Cohen on Watch What Happens Live that Meghan was not very friendly with her. "Meghan was not as cool... She wasn't as naturally warm," she revealed, as fellow guest John Oliver cracked up while sitting next to her. She speculated that the reason why the duchess was so cold was that "my mom being Australian just asked her all these slightly rude questions like 'Where are your kids?' And things like that. I'm like, 'Mom, don't ask her that.'"

"Maybe that's why she was a little standoffish?" Andy teased as Rebel laughed, joking the royals would wonder, 'Who are these annoying convicts from Australia?'" continued Rebel, who stated that she met Harry and Meghan through a mutual polo player friend, reported Fox News.

After leaving their position as senior royals in 2020, the Sussexes relocated to California. Since then, they have further distanced themselves from the royal family thanks to Harry's frank memoir 'Spare' and their Netflix documentary series, Harry & Meghan, both of which scathingly criticize his father King Charles III, Prince William, Kate Middleton, and the monarchy in general.

Previously too Meghan has been accused of being "difficult" before, including by her former Kensington Palace staffers who claimed they were bullied by the duchess while she lived there. In June, Buckingham Palace announced that it had investigated into this but those findings will remain private. In her podcast last year, Meghan stressed that being "particular," is not the same thing as being "difficult," as per Fox News.

Sharon Stone says she 'lost custody' of her child because of 'Basic Instinct'

Actress Sharon Stone revealed on the 'Table for Two' podcast that she lost custody of her son in part because of 'Basic Instinct' and all the controversy the 1992 drama ignited over her infamous nude scene.

After her divorce from Phil Bronstein was finalised in 2004, a judge ruled that he would have custody of their son, Roan. The two adopted Roan in 2000. Stone told podcast host Bruce Bozzi that 'Basic Instinct' played a role in the custody battle, reports 'Variety'.

"I lost custody of my child," Stone said.

"When the judge asked - my child my tiny little boy, 'Do you know your mother makes sex movies?' Like, this kind of abuse by the system - that I was considered what kind of parent I was, because I made that movie."

"People are walking around with no clothes on at all on regular TV now and you saw maybe like a 16th of a second of possible nudity of me - and I lost custody of my child," Stone added. "Are you kidding?" Stone said the judge's decision resulted in her checking into "the Mayo Clinic with extra heartbeats in the upper and lower chambers" of her heart.

The actor added, "It broke my heart. It literally broke my heart." For Stone, the judge's decision was only the latest example of people weaponising her movie roles against her. The actor remembered attending the Golden Globes as a nominee for 'Basic

Instinct' only to be laughed at by her peers when her name was called.

"It was horrible. I was so humiliated," Stone said.

"Does anyone have any idea how hard it was to play that part? How gut-wrenching? How frightening? To try and carry this complex movie that was breaking all boundaries and everyone was protesting against, and the pressure. I auditioned for it for nine months. They offered it to 13 other people and now you're laughing at me. I just wanted to crawl into a hole."

In her memoir, 'The Beauty of Living Twice', which published last year, Stone revealed she was misled into appearing nude in 'Basic Instinct'. The actor said she had no idea about the nudity until she saw a screening of the film alongside agents and lawyers.

"That was how I saw my vagina-shot for the first time, long after I'd been told, 'We can't see anything - I just need you to remove your panties, as the white is reflecting the light, so we know you have panties on,'" Stone writes in the memoir. "Now, here is the issue. It didn't matter anymore. It was me and my parts up there. I had decisions to make." Stone says she went to the projection booth and confronted 'Basic Instinct' director Paul Verhoeven by slapping him across the face. *Source: IANS*



MIDEAST RIVALS IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AGREE TO RESUME TIES, WITH CHINA'S HELP

DUBAI (TIP): Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed March 10 to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after seven years of tensions between the Mideast rivals. The major diplomatic breakthrough negotiated with China lowers the chance of armed conflict between the nations — both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region.

The deal, struck in Beijing this week amid its ceremonial National People's Congress, represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider Middle East. It also comes as diplomats have been trying to end a yearslong war in Yemen, a conflict in which both Iran and Saudi Arabia are deeply entrenched.

The two countries released a joint communique on the deal with China, which brokered the agreement.

Iranian state media posted images and videos it described as being taken in China of the meeting. It showed Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, with Saudi national security adviser Musaad bin Mohammed al-Aiban and Wang Yi, China's most senior diplomat.

"After implementing the decision, the foreign ministers of both nations will meet to prepare for the exchange of ambassadors," Iranian state television said. It added that the talks had been held over four days. The joint statement calls for the re-establishing of ties and the reopening of embassies to happen "within a maximum period of two months."

In the footage aired by Iranian media, Wang could be heard offering "whole-hearted congratulations" on the two countries' "wisdom."

"Both sides have displayed sincerity," he said. "China fully supports this agreement."

China, which last month hosted Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, is also a top purchaser of Saudi oil. President Xi Jinping just awarded a third five-year term as president earlier on Friday, visited Riyadh in December to attend meetings with oil-rich Gulf Arab nations crucial to China's energy supplies. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Shamkhani as calling the talks "clear, transparent, comprehensive and constructive."

"Removing misunderstandings and the future-oriented views in relations between Tehran and Riyadh will definitely lead to improving regional stability and security, as well as increasing cooperation among Persian Gulf nations and the world of Islam for managing current challenges," Shamkhani was quoted as saying. Shortly after the Iranian announcement, Saudi state media began publishing the same statement. (AP)

'Step by step': Young Georgians shun Moscow, push for EU dream

TBILISI (TIP): Georgia's young protesters, having forced parliament into a U-turn on controversial new legislation, are determined to maintain the pressure on the government, which they believe is steering the country away from Europe.

Thousands of young and mainly peaceful protesters flooded the capital Tbilisi this week. Many of them, speaking to AFP, insisted they were not motivated by party allegiances in the fiercely partisan country.

The over-arching reason they braved tear gas and water cannon, they said, was a firm belief that the ex-Soviet country should anchor itself to Europe, they said.

The rallies erupted March 7 when parliament began to introduce "foreign agent" laws reminiscent of Russian legislation used to suppress media and civil society. Under pressure from the protesters, the ruling Georgian Dream party formally voted down the bill Friday to the cheers and whistles of protesters outside parliament, holding signs that read: "We are Europe."

"We're happy the law failed, that Georgians prevailed and that they will continue to fight for their European future," said 20-year-old student Saba Meurmishvili.

Meurmishvili said police had arrested him at the rally while he was chanting anti-government slogans. He was held for two days before a court released him with a USD 900 fine. He went right back to demonstrating alongside other students, he said, to "protest this government, which is trying to bring us back to Russia. "I want to build a European country. We are a generation born and raised in a democratic and free Georgia and we want to preserve our peace and our freedom."

'We are Europe'

Meurmishvili, the protests that gripped Georgia -- a former Soviet



republic with a history of political turmoil -- were linked to the country's vibrant civil society, not a political party. "We try to keep our distance from all political parties," he said.

On Friday, the Kremlin accused foreign countries of orchestrating "an attempted coup."

But Russian influence appears to be waning in Georgia, whose younger generations are strongly pro-European. On Friday, the country's jailed ex-leader Mikheil Saakashvili praised the protesters for their role in stopping the proposed law. "They were brilliantly resisting brutal force used against them," Saakashvili wrote on Facebook.

EU and NATO membership is enshrined in the constitution and backed by some 80 per cent of the population, polls suggest. "We belong in Europe and step by step we are going to become part of the EU," said Ketevan Kalandadze, a social worker.

The government bill had wanted to label any NGO or media outlet that received more than 20 per cent of funding from abroad as a "foreign agent".

"We see this in Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and it has worked," said Ketevan, one of the protesters outside parliament.

"They have no more opposition, no

more civil society watchdog organisations, no more support for NGOs," the 32-year-old told AFP.

'Russia is prison'

The protesters' mood was reminiscent of Kyiv during the 2014 Maidan movement, which brought pro-Western leaders to power and sparked a confrontation with Russia that culminated in an all-out war last year.

Georgia has its own history of invasion by its giant northern neighbour. In 2008, after years of tensions over Tbilisi's efforts to forge closer ties with the West, Moscow sent troops to Georgia, which was battling pro-Russian separatists in its South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions.

After the war, Russia recognised the territories as independent and stationed military bases there, lending further urgency to Georgia's bid for NATO membership.

Soon after Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago, Georgia -- together with Ukraine and Moldova -- applied for EU membership. At the time, EU leaders put Kyiv and Chisinau on a formal membership path, but deferred Tbilisi's candidacy, saying it should first implement several reforms.

(AFP)

German police: Eight people, including perpetrator, dead in Jehovah's Witnesses hall shooting

BERLIN (TIP): Eight people including the perpetrator were killed in a shooting at a Jehovah's Witnesses hall in the northern German city of Hamburg on March 9 evening, and several people were wounded, police said.

The first emergency calls were made around 2015 GMT after shots rang out at the building in northern Hamburg, a police spokesman at the scene said.

"Several people were seriously injured, some even fatally," police said on Twitter.

"At the moment there is no reliable information on the motive of the crime," they added, urging people not to speculate.

Police sounded the alarm for "extreme

danger" in the area using a catastrophe warning app.

Residents must stay indoors and avoid the area, police said, adding that streets surrounding the building had been cordoned off.

The first police at the scene found several lifeless bodies and seriously wounded people.

"We only know that several people died here; several people are wounded, they were taken to hospitals," police spokesman Holger Vehren said of the shooting in the Gross Borstel district of Germany's second-biggest city.

He said he had no information on the severity of the injuries suffered by the

wounded. Police did not confirm German media reports, which named no sources, of six or seven dead.

The scene of the shooting was the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall, a modern and boxy three-story building next door to an auto repair shop.

Vehren said police were alerted to the shooting at about 9:15 p.m. and were on the scene quickly. He said that after officers arrived and found people with apparent gunshot wounds on the ground floor, they heard a shot from an upper floor and found a fatally wounded person upstairs who may have been a shooter. He said police did not have to use their firearms. (Agencies)

XI JINPING SECURES HISTORIC THIRD TERM AS CHINESE PRESIDENT

XI'S RE-ELECTION IS THE CULMINATION OF A REMARKABLE RISE IN WHICH HE HAS GONE FROM A RELATIVELY LITTLE-KNOWN PARTY APPARATCHIK TO THE LEADER OF A RISING GLOBAL POWER.

BEIJING (TIP): Xi Jinping was handed a third term as Chinese president on March 10, capping a rise that has seen him become the country's most powerful leader in generations.

The appointment by China's rubber-stamp parliament comes after Xi locked in another five years as head of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in October.

Since then, the 69-year-old Xi has weathered widespread protests over his zero-Covid policy and the deaths of countless people after its abandonment.

Those issues have been avoided at this week's National People's Congress (NPC), a carefully choreographed event that is also set to appoint Xi ally Li Qiang as the new premier.

On Friday, delegates handed Xi a third term as China's president and re-elected him as head of the country's Central Military Commission in a unanimous vote.

Beijing's Great Hall of the People, a cavernous state building on the edge of Tiananmen Square, was adorned with crimson carpets and banners for the landmark vote, with a military band providing background music.

A digital monitor on the edge of the stage proclaimed the final tally -- all 2,952 votes had been cast in favour of awarding Xi another term in office.

The announcement was followed by fervent declarations of allegiance by delegates to the Chinese constitution in a demonstration of loyalty and unanimity.



Xi held up his right fist and placed his left hand on a red leather copy of China's constitution.

"I swear to be loyal to the constitution of the People's Republic of China, to uphold the authority of the constitution, to perform my statutory obligations, to be loyal to the motherland, to be loyal to the people," he said, promising to fulfil his duties with honesty and hard work.

In the oath -- beamed live on state television across the nation -- he vowed to "build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and great modern socialist country".

Remarkable rise

Xi's re-election is the culmination of a remarkable rise in which he has gone from a relatively little-known party apparatchik to the leader of a rising

global power.

His coronation sets him up to become communist China's longest-serving president, and means Xi could rule well into his seventies -- if no challenger emerges.

Adrian Geiges, co-author of "Xi Jinping: The Most Powerful Man in the World", told AFP he did not think Xi was motivated by a desire for personal enrichment, despite international media investigations having revealed his family's amassed wealth.

"That's not his interest," Geiges said.

"He really has a vision about China, he wants to see China as the most powerful country in the world."

Tearing up the rulebook

For decades, China -- scarred by the dictatorial reign and cult of personality

of founding leader Mao Zedong -- eschewed one-man rule in favour of a more consensus-based, but still autocratic, leadership.

That model imposed term limits on the largely ceremonial role of the presidency, with Xi's predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao relinquishing power after 10 years in office.

Xi has torn up that rulebook, abolishing term limits in 2018 and allowing a cult of personality to foster his all-powerful leadership.

But the beginning of his unprecedented third term comes as the world's second-largest economy faces major headwinds, from slowing growth and a troubled real estate sector to a declining birth rate.

Relations with the United States are also at a low not seen in decades, with the powers sparring over everything from human rights to trade and technology.

"We will see a China more assertive on the global stage, insisting its narrative be accepted," Steve Tsang, director of the SOAS China Institute, told AFP.

"But it is also one that will focus on domestically making it less dependent on the rest of the world, and making the Communist Party the centrepiece of governance, rather than the Chinese government," he said.

"It is not a return to the Maoist era, but one that Maoists will feel comfortable in," Tsang added.

"Not a direction of travel that is good for the rest of the world." (AFP)

Ukraine rebounds from Russian barrage, restores power supply

KYIV, UKRAINE (TIP): Ukraine's capital restored most of its power supply on March 10, officials said, as the country again responded swiftly and defiantly to the latest Russian missile and drone barrage targeting critical infrastructure.

In what has become a familiar Russian tactic since last fall, the Kremlin's forces struck Ukraine from afar amid months of a grinding battlefield stalemate on the front line in eastern areas. The apparent aim is to weaken Ukraine's resolve and compel the Ukrainian government to negotiate peace on Moscow's terms.

Ukrainian authorities scrambled to counter the bombardment's consequences, part of a recurring cycle of urban smash-and-repair that has brought little change in the course of the war that recently moved into its second year.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said in an assessment that "these missile strikes will not undermine Ukraine's will or improve



Russia's positions on the front lines."

Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said the Russians are striking civilian infrastructure because they can't efficiently target Ukrainian military assets.

"The Russians lack data about the location of Ukrainian troops and

weapons, so they are targeting civilian infrastructure and using the same old methods of attacking civilians to sow fear and panic in the society," he said. "Ukraine has survived the winter and Russia's strikes on the energy system in the spring hardly make any sense."

Power and water were restored in Kyiv,

said Serhii Popko, the head of the city's military administration. Popko said that about 30% of consumers in the capital remained without heating and that repair work was ongoing.

The electricity supply was restored to more than nine in 10 consumers in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, local officials said, while power was also restored to a third of consumers in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region.

The Russian onslaught was the largest such attack in three weeks, deploying more than 80 Russian missiles and exploding drones.

The barrage, which also damaged residential buildings, killed six people and left hundreds of thousands without heat or running water. The salvo was noteworthy for the range of munitions the Kremlin's forces used, including hypersonic Kinzhal cruise missiles that are among the most sophisticated weapons in Russia's arsenal. (AP)

MALAYSIA EX-PREMIER MUHYIDDIN YASSIN CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):: Malaysia's former prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged March 10 with abusing his power to obtain bribes and money laundering linked to the alleged misuse of a Covid economic recovery fund.

Muhyiddin was prime minister for 17 months between 2020 and 2021, at the height of Malaysia's battle against the coronavirus, and now leads an opposition coalition against Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government.

He is the second former prime minister to be charged with corruption after ex-leader Najib Razak, who is currently serving a 12-year jail term for his role in a financial scandal at state investment fund IMDB.

Muhyiddin, 75, was hit with four charges of abusing his position to obtain bribes totalling 232.5 million ringgit (\$51.4 million) for his political party Bersatu.

The bribes allegedly came from companies that were given preference for projects financed by the Covid fund. Each charge carries up to 20 years imprisonment on conviction.

Muhyiddin was also slapped with two charges of money laundering involving 195 million ringgit deposited into Bersatu's account, according to the charge sheets.

Each of those charges could lead to up to 15 years in jail. Prosecutors said a third money laundering charge was expected to be filed against him on Monday.

At the Sessions Court on Friday, Muhyiddin pleaded not guilty to all charges and requested a trial. He was freed on bail but ordered to surrender his passport.

'Justice in court'

In a statement, the former prime minister insisted that "not a single cent of the people's money went into my own pocket during my tenure as prime minister".

The charges came a day after Muhyiddin was questioned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and later arrested.

He has denied any wrongdoing and accused Anwar's ruling coalition of political persecution to discredit him and his party ahead of state elections in July.

"My legal team and I will work hard to get justice in court," he said, urging supporters not to resort to street protests.

Anwar has denied any interference in the judicial process. The MACC launched a probe into the alleged misuse of pandemic funds by Bersatu and froze the party's bank accounts last month. (AFP)

Pakistan suicide bomber kills nine police officers

QUETTA (TIP): A suicide bomber killed nine police officers and wounded 16 others March 7 in an attack on their truck in southwestern Pakistan, officials said.

Security forces have been battling a years-long insurgency by militants in Balochistan demanding a bigger share of the province's wealth, as well as attacks by the Pakistan Taliban (TTP).

"The suicide bomber was riding a motorbike and hit the truck from behind," senior police official Abdul Hai Aamir told AFP.

The incident took place near Dhadar, the main town of Kachhi district, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) southeast of Quetta in Balochistan.

Photos of the aftermath showed the police truck upside down on the road with its windows shattered.

Mehmood Notezai, police chief for Kachhi district, told AFP the officers were returning from a week-long cattle show where they had been providing security.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack.

"Terrorism in Balochistan is part of a nefarious agenda to destabilise the country," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a statement released by his office.



Last month five people died when a TTP suicide squad stormed a police compound in the port city of Karachi.

It came just weeks after a bomb blast at a police mosque in the northwestern city of Peshawar killed more than 80 officers -- an attack claimed by a group sometimes affiliated with the TTP.

The country is facing overlapping political, economic and environmental crises, as well as a worsening security situation during which the army and police have been increasingly targeted.

Balochistan is the largest, least populous and poorest province in Pakistan.

It has abundant natural resources, but locals have long harboured resentment, claiming they do not receive a fair share of its riches.

Tensions have been stoked further by a flood of Chinese investment under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, which locals say has not reached them.

China is investing in the area under a \$54-billion project known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, upgrading infrastructure, power and transport links between its far-western Xinjiang region and Pakistan's Gwadar port. (AFP)

Sri Lanka banks on long-awaited IMF deal to tap frozen billions

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka voiced hope on March 8 that a long-awaited IMF bailout would be finalised soon and help unfreeze billions of dollars in foreign aid for projects suspended since last year.

Government spokesman Bandula Gunawardana told reporters that the International Monetary Fund was expected to give its board approval for a \$2.9 billion bailout agreed at a staff level in September.

"We are confident that the IMF board will give its approval," the minister said a day after the Washington-based lender confirmed Sri Lanka would be taken up at its March 20 board meeting.

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement that she welcomed the progress by Sri Lankan authorities in grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis.

"I look forward to presenting for approval Sri Lanka's IMF-supported program to our Executive Board on March 20," she added.

Gunawardana said that after approval was secured, Colombo expected the immediate release of billions of dollars in bilateral aid and loans that have been frozen since the South Asian nation defaulted on its \$46 billion external debt in April.

"Our problems can't be solved with

this \$2.9 billion, but what is really important for us is the endorsement of the IMF that our economy is now on the right path," he said.

"An amount more than the IMF bailout can be unlocked after we get the IMF certificate."

Japan suspended funding a \$540 million airport expansion, while millions of dollars' worth of foreign-funded road construction was also halted after Colombo declared bankruptcy in April.

Sri Lanka's largest single bilateral creditor, China, announced that it had on Monday provided financial assurances required by the IMF to ensure the island's foreign debt was sustainable. Gunawardana said it was still unclear how official creditors, including China, Japan and India, would restructure their loans, but it would be in line with IMF's debt sustainability analysis. "Some may agree to a hair cut, others could give a debt moratorium, reduce interest rates or have a combination of these," Gunawardana said. "This is yet to be worked out."

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, announcing in parliament on Tuesday that China had agreed to restructure its debt, warned that he had no option but to seek the IMF bailout.

Suffering continues

An unprecedented economic crisis has seen Sri Lanka's 22 million people suffer acute food, fuel and medicine shortages, along with extended blackouts and runaway inflation.

Angry protests over economic mismanagement led to the toppling of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who fled the country and later resigned in July.

Wickremesinghe, who succeeded Rajapaksa, began cracking down on anti-government protests and pushed through sharp tax and tariff increases demanded by the IMF as a precondition for the bailout.

"We took many extremely difficult economic measures to stabilise the economy," he said Tuesday. "The suffering caused by this continues for everyone in our society."

Fuel is still rationed and essential medicines are in short supply as the country maintains strict controls on imports to save foreign exchange. Inflation is down from its highs of 70 percent in September, but is still around 50 percent.

Wickremesinghe said the country needed \$6-7 billion annually until 2029 to repay its loans, but was unable to honour the debts. (AFP)

Sikh History This Week

MARCH 10, 2023, TO MARCH 16, 2023

10th March



1644 Bhai Mani Singh Ji, a great martyr and Granthi of Harminder Sahib was born.

1746 Subaegh Singh and Mehtaab Singh Ji were martyred.

1746 All the Sikhs of Lahore were beheaded at Nakas. After the 1745, Sarbat Khalsa resolution, Sikhs attacked Lahore one evening and decamped with a large booty. Yahya Khan who had taken over as Governor asked Diwan Lakhpar Rai to displace the Sikhs from the nearby swamp hounds. One of the units led by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia on the way to the hills clashed with his younger brother Jaspal Rai and chopped off his head. Lakhpat Rai now in rage vowed to erase the Sikhs from the pages of history. He got a proclamation for general massacre of the Sikhs. All Sikhs of Lahore were beheaded at Nakhas on amavas, despite a petition by general body of Hindus that the executions should not take place at least on amavas. The Sikh scriptures that fell into his hands were desecrated and destroyed.



1846 British took Koh-i-noor from Lahore.

1923 Buta Singh, Lambardar of Nangal Shamman is murdered.

1946 Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC) passed resolution for the formation of a Sikh State.

1996 GurSikh women participated in the cleansing of Sri Harimandir Sahib's floor in the Amrit Vela.

11th March

1783 Sikhs entered Red Fort in Delhi and hoisted their Kesri flag, under the leadership of Baghael Singh, after successfully attacking and capturing Delhi. Further Jathaedar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia was seated on throne of Diwane-Aam. Peace arrived at with Sikhs through Begam Samru after certain major concessions were made to Sikhs. Baghel Singh controlled Delhi for 8 months during which period he constructed seven

historic Gurudwaras in Delhi connected with Sikh Gurus.



1985 Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, President Shiromani Akali Dal and Morcha Dictator of Dharam Udh morcha (initiated on Aug. 4, 1982) was released from Udaypur Jail. He was arrested from within the Darbar Sahib complex on June 6, 1984, during the Operation Bluestar.

12th March

1921 Gurudwara Ram Das Sahib was forcibly taken over and brought under the control of SGPC. -Ref. "Babbar Akali Movement, A historical Survey," by Dr. Gurcharan Singh, Aman Publications, 1993.



1947 87 GurSikh women of Boha Khalsa gave their lives through drowning by jumping into wells to save their honour rather than be subjected to humiliations by the Muslims.

1972 Elections to Punjab assembly were held. Akalis won only 24 of 104 seats. This marked the end of Fateh Singh's leadership.

1983 Sikhs decided on a protest strategy in response to Harsimran Singh's unfair termination from the Punjab University, Chandigarh.

13th March

1849 The Sikh army fought the British forces at Gurjrat. The British had vastly superior artillery. Sikhs fought valiantly but were routed. Raja Sher Singh and the remaining army surrendered thus ending Sikh opposition to British.

1921 To his dismay and amazement, Mahatma Gandhi learnt that the Sikhs did not consider themselves to be Hindus, which he had perceived them to be. Precisely, for his Gujarati audience, he wrote in the Navjivan, "Till today, I had thought of them as a sect of Hinduism. But their leaders think that theirs is a distinct religion." Gandhi went back to add, "Their sacred book is the word of their gurus and, apart from that book, they accept no other scriptures as holy."

-Source "The Sikhs in History," by Sangat Singh, 1995

1928 Central Sikh Association presented the Sikh case before the Simon Commission.

1940 Sardar Udham Singh of Sunam killed Sir Michael O'Dwyer, who was Lieutenant General of Punjab at the time of the Jallianwala incident in Amritsar. He was killed in London.

14th March



1822 Akali Phula Singh, a brave Sikh General of Maharaja Ranjit Singh died while fighting near Naushera. He headed one Sikh outfit "Misl Shaheedan" and played an active role in empire building efforts of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

1922 Kishan Singh Gargaj delivers a fiery and anti-British speech at Anandpur Sahib, on the occasion of Holla Mohalla.

1923 First attempt is made to kill Labh Singh Dhadda, responsible for the arrest of Kishan Singh.

1924 2nd Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sardar Inder Singh of Village Mirza of Sialkot, was arrested at Jaito.

15th March



1553 Bhai Jetha, Guru Ram Das, married Bibi Bhani.

1749 Patiala Forces, under the command of Bibi Sahib Kaur, defeated Marhattha Army in a battle fought at near Ambala.

1766 During the reign of 12 misls, the Khalsa Forces defeated the Maharattas in a battle near Dhaulpur.

1960 Akali Dal executive asked the Sikh members to resign Congress Legislative party and form a separate Group.

1984 Indian Government imposed restrictions on All India Student Federation. As a result, the Federation threatened to disrupt University exams until these restrictions were lifted. Government attempted to hold university exams in April but they were unsuccessful. These exams were finally held under military rule in the month of July.

4 vitamins that are needed for a younger looking skin

Healthy-looking skin is extremely important to look confident. The way good food is needed for good health, in the same way, it is important to have a correct diet and lifestyle for good-quality skin.

Some people take their skincare routine very seriously by regularly applying creams and serums to look young, but just using a normal cream and serum would not give you healthy and younger-looking skin.

Many dermatologists must have advised you to take enough vitamins for younger-looking skin that we often neglect and end up developing a lot of blemishes, wrinkles and fine lines.

List of vitamins which are beneficial for keeping your skin healthy and younger.

Vitamin C

When it comes to beauty, only Vitamin C is held responsible for it. Antioxidants are found in Vitamin C which is helpful in providing anti-aging benefits to the skin. These vitamins are also beneficial in protecting our skin from pollution and UV rays, Vitamin C helps fight fine lines and wrinkles. It evens out the skin tone. Helps in keeping the skin hydrated. Protects against skin damage. It also brings tightness to the skin. If there is a deficiency of Vitamin C in the body, then the face starts looking bad.

Vitamin D

Vitamin D is known as the sunshine vitamin. Its main source is sunlight. However, if you stay in the sun for a long time, then it can cause problems like sunburn, and if there is a deficiency of vitamin D in the body, then the problem of pimples and acne persists on the skin and you start looking old



before time. You can consume things rich in Vitamin D in your diet. Like you include fatty fish, dairy products in your diet.

Vitamin E

Vitamin E contains antioxidants, which reduce damage to the skin and at the same time promote collagen production. It also protects from the ultraviolet rays of the sun. If it is not in sufficient quantity in the body, it can worsen cellular breakdown. And you start looking old before time. In such a

situation, you can take vitamin E from many nuts and fruits and vegetables.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A deficiency also makes you a victim of wrinkles and acne. Vitamin A has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, which are believed to reduce the symptoms of wrinkles, acne and premature aging, in which case you can consume fruits and vegetables like carrots, pumpkin, and sweet potatoes. *Source: DNA*

FOOD

Chilli Garlic Chicken

Ingredients

Chicken - 350 to 400 gms, boneless, skinless, chopped
Onion - 1, big, finely chopped
Tomatoes - 100 gms, chopped
Ginger Garlic Paste - 2 to 3 tsp
Cumin Seeds - 1/2 tsp
Cloves - 2, crushed
Black Cardamom - 1
Cinnamon - 1/4 inch piece
Turmeric Powder - 1/4 tsp
Red Chilli Powder - 1/4 tsp
Coriander Leaves - small handful, chopped
Butter - 2 tsp
Oil - 2 tsp
For the marinade
Extra-Virgin Olive Oil - 1/2 tblsp
Vinegar - 1/2 tblsp
Garlic Paste - 2 tsp
Green Chilli - 1, finely chopped
Black Pepper Powder - 1/4 tsp
Salt - 1/2 tsp

Method

- Combine all the marinade ingredients in a large bowl.
- Add the chicken pieces and mix well.
- Cover with a lid and keep it in the fridge for 3 to 5 hours or overnight.
- Heat oil and butter in a pan over medium flame.
- Saute the onions for a minute.
- Add the green chillies and ginger garlic paste.
- Stir well and cook for a minute.
- Add the cumin seeds, cloves, black cardamoms and cinnamon.
- Stir again.
- Add the tomatoes, salt, turmeric powder and red chilli powder.
- Cook for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Add the chicken (with the marinade) and stir well.
- Cook for 5 minutes.
- Garnish with coriander leaves.
- Remove after a minute.
- Serve with rice or roti.



Things to keep the romance alive in your marriage

Respect each other

The law of attraction says, what goes around, comes around. But you need to give in order to achieve the thing you want. The law that follows on this earth is that first, you will have to give and then you will get. So, if you want respect, then you need to give respect first to everyone, the more respect you give, the more you will get in return! Similarly, if you want love, you need to give love.

Be grateful for being in the marriage

Be thankful for the reason you got married, maybe you like his nature, maybe you like his family, maybe you like his figure. If the reason for getting married is society or your family, then whatever the reason, always remember the reason and be thankful that today you are very grateful to your wife



because of which you can live in your society respectfully, or if you got married because of your family, then you are very happy for your parents that you married their favorite girl. So whatever reason you are getting married, be thankful for

that reason, and you will live a happy married life. Because that will be the foundation of a lifelong marital life.

Be sexually active

Sex plays a huge role in a relationship. Why do we marry? Perhaps to have children, for a long life partner, love, for Social Security, for whatever reason, be grateful for it. The thought we have while in intimacy affects our normal daily life, if you are adjusting while having sex, then your marital life will be adjusting, if you are being adventurous while having sex, your partner will be adventurous in your relationship, so the emotions play a major role here. Always be grateful for what you have. While intimacy supposes the wife is very courageous or she is very cooperative then in their relationship the man will be very cooperative and courageous. Respecting each other

during sex, respecting feelings, and understanding each other will directly impact your relationship. Everything you do and feel during intimacy has a direct impact on your partner.

Complement your partner

There is a very good thing in married life, a sense of gratitude. If your wife cooks a delicious breakfast for you, say thank you to her, and appreciate her. Appreciation is one of the keys to having a blissful life. In the same way, your husband put the wet towel in the sunlight to dry up the towel, you can say, Wow, so helpful you are!! Then he brought the vegetables for dinner, and say thank you. We ignore appreciating small things, but the more chances you find to appreciate them, the more you will see that your life remains blissful.

Source: Free Press Journal

Now a simple blood test may help detect anxiety

US researchers have successfully developed a blood test for anxiety that examines biomarkers to help doctors objectively determine a person's risk for developing anxiety, its severity, and therapies best suited for them.

"Many people are suffering from anxiety, which can be very disabling and interfere with daily life," said professor of psychiatry Alexander Niculescu, from Indiana University School of Medicine.

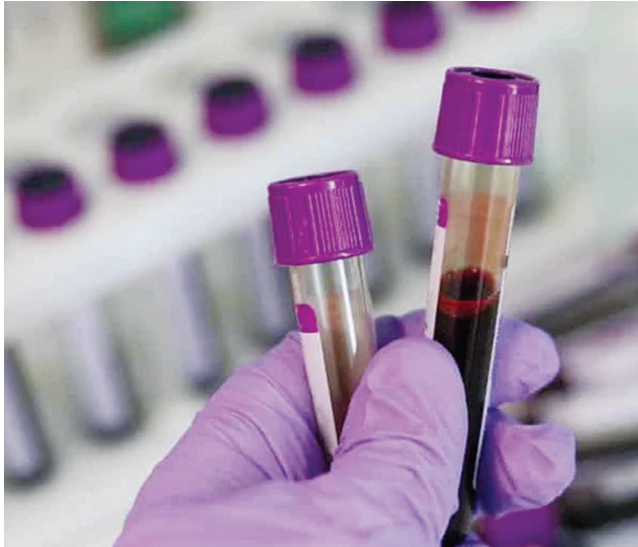
"The current approach is to talk to people about how they feel to see if they could be on medications, but some medications can be addictive and create more problems. We wanted to see if our approach to identify blood biomarkers could help us match people to existing medications that will work better and could be a non-addictive choice," Niculescu added.

The study, published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, showed that examining the RNA biomarkers in blood samples helped researchers identify a patient's current state of anxiety. They matched them with medications and nutraceuticals, showing how effective different options could be for them based on their biology.

"In addition to medications, there are other methods to treat anxiety, such as cognitive behavioural therapy or lifestyle changes," Niculescu said.

"But having something objective like this where we can know what someone's current state is as well as their future risk and what treatment options match their profile is very powerful in helping people."

A person's biomarkers can also change over time. Niculescu said the test can help evaluate a person's risk of developing higher levels of anxiety in the future as well as how other factors might impact their anxiety, like hormonal changes.



Further, Niculescu said this new test could also be used in combination with the other blood tests his research has led to, providing a more comprehensive view of a patient's mental health and risk of future mental health concerns.

Researchers can also use the test to develop new treatments for anxiety that are more targeted to individual biomarkers.

"This is something that could be a panel test as part of a patient's regular wellness visits to evaluate their mental health over time and prevent any future distress," Niculescu said. "Prevention is better in the long run, so our goal is to be able to provide a comprehensive report for patients and their physicians using simply one tube of blood." *Source: IANS*



'Keto-like' diet can double your risk of heart attack, stroke

Looking to try weight loss by following a 'keto' diet? You could be at twice the risk of suffering heart attack and stroke, warns a study.

Researchers from the University of British Columbia in Canada showed that the popular weight-loss dietary programme, which includes very low amounts of carbohydrates and high amounts of fats, is associated with higher blood levels of 'bad' cholesterol.

It is also linked with a two-fold heightened risk of cardiovascular events such as chest pain (angina), blocked arteries requiring stenting, heart attacks and strokes, they said while presenting the study at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session.

"Our study found that regular consumption of a self-reported diet low in carbohydrates and high in fat was associated with increased levels of LDL cholesterol -- or 'bad' cholesterol -- and a higher risk of heart disease," said lead author Iulia Iatan, from St. Paul's Hospital and University of British Columbia's Centre for Heart Lung Innovation in Vancouver, Canada.

For the study, Iatan and her team analysed 305 participants who were compared with 1,220 individuals eating a standard diet.

They defined a low in carbohydrates and high in fat diet as consisting of no more than 25 per cent of total daily energy or calories from carbohydrates and more than 45 per cent of total daily calories from fat.

Compared with participants on a standard diet, those on a keto-like diet had significantly higher levels of both LDL cholesterol and apolipoprotein B (apoB) -- a protein that helps carry fat and cholesterol through the human body.

Previous studies have shown that elevated apoB may be a better predictor than elevated LDL cholesterol for risk of cardiovascular disease, Iatan said. After about 12 years of follow-up, the team found that people on the keto-like diet had more than two times higher risk of having several major cardiovascular events, such as blockages in the arteries that needed to be opened with stenting procedures, heart attack, stroke and peripheral arterial disease.

In all, 9.8 per cent of participants on the keto-like diet experienced a new cardiac event, compared with 4.3 per cent of those on a standard diet, a doubling of risk for those on the keto-like diet. *Source: IANS*

Laser treatments help prevent skin cancer, says study

Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, jointly known as keratinocyte carcinoma and the most prevalent types of cancer diagnosed in the United States, are thought to be preventable with simple laser skin treatments, according to new research.

A group of scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital, a founding member of Mass General Brigham, carried out the research. It provides an approach to safeguarding people's skin health that is simple to execute and was published in *Dermatologic Surgery*.

Nonablative fractional lasers (NAFL) deliver heat in a fractional manner that leaves it fully intact after treatment (unlike ablative fractional lasers that remove the top layer of skin), and they're currently used to treat scars, sun-damaged skin, age spots, and more; however, their effectiveness for preventing skin damage is unknown.

To investigate, Mathew Avram, MD, JD, director of the Mass General Dermatology Laser & Cosmetic Center, and his colleagues studied patients who had been successfully treated for facial keratinocyte carcinoma in the past. Such patients have a 35% risk of experiencing a subsequent keratinocyte carcinoma within 3 years and a 50% risk within 5 years.

In the study, 43 patients received NAFL therapy and 52 served as controls and did not receive NAFL therapy.

The rate of subsequent facial keratinocyte carcinoma development over an average follow-up of more than 6 years was 20.9% in NAFL-treated patients and 40.4% in controls, indicating that patients treated with NAFL had about half the risk.

When controlling for age, gender, and skin type, control patients were 2.65 times more likely to develop a



new facial keratinocyte carcinoma than NAFL-treated patients.

Also, among patients who developed a facial keratinocyte carcinoma, the time to development was significantly longer in patients treated with NAFL compared with untreated patients.

"These findings suggest that NAFL treatment may have an important role in protecting against subsequent keratinocyte carcinomas," said Avram.

"While the mechanism of NAFL's protective effect is not completely understood, it is suspected that NAFL treatment reduces the overall burden of photo damaged keratinocytes and may promote a wound healing response, which gives healthy skin cells a selective advantage." Avram noted that additional studies are warranted to more critically assess the role of NAFL in skin cancer prevention, to reveal the duration of its protective effects, and to determine optimal treatment parameters. *Source: ANI*

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

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



WhatsApp rolling out 'Push name within chat list' feature on iOS beta

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out a new "Push name within the chat list" feature on iOS beta.

Beta testers will now see push names within the chat list instead of the phone numbers every time they receive a message from an unknown group member, reports WABetaInfo.

This feature will make it easier for the users to understand who the unknown contact is without any need to save the number as a new contact.

It will be useful for participants in large group chats where it is difficult to keep track of who is who.

This feature is currently available for some beta testers that install the latest version of WhatsApp beta for iOS from the TestFlight app, and is expected to roll out to more users over the coming days, the report said.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, it was reported that the messaging platform was working on a new feature for iOS beta which will allow users to set an expiration date for groups.

When this feature will be released, users will be able to choose from various expiration options such as one day, one week or a custom date.

Microsoft increases Bing AI's chat limits to 120 per day

Tech giant Microsoft has increased conversation limits on Bing AI to 10 chats per session and 120 total chats per day. Earlier, these conversations were limited to 6 chat turns per session and a total of 100 per day.

Corporate Vice President & Consumer Chief Marketing Officer at Microsoft, Yusuf Mehdi, tweeted on Wednesday: "Bing Chat moving today to 10 chats per session / 120 total per day."

"Engineering making steady progress with quality of experience giving us confidence to expand the testing. Let us know how it's working for you!"

Last month, the tech giant had implemented limits of 5 chat turns per session and a total of 50 per day on Bing AI.

This decision came as Bing AI went haywire for some users during the chat sessions.

ChatGPT-driven Bing search engine triggered a shockwave after it told a reporter of The New York Times that it loved him, confessed its destructive desires and said it "wanted to be alive", leaving the reporter "deeply unsettled."

However, later, the company had increased the limitations to 6 chats per session and a total of 60 per day. After a few days of the announcement, Mikhail Parakhin, the head of web services at Microsoft, announced that total chats have been increased to a total of 100 per day. *Source: IANS*

Google building a 1000 language AI model to beat ChatGPT

Google has shared more information about the Universal Speech Model (USM), a system that the company describes as a "critical first step" in realising its goals, which is now moving closer toward its goal of building an AI language model that supports 1,000 different languages to beat ChatGPT.

In November last year, the company announced its plans to create a language model supporting 1,000 of the world's most-spoken languages while also revealing its USM model.

The tech giant describes USM as a family of state-of-the-art speech models with 2 billion parameters trained on 12 million hours of speech and 28 billion sentences of text, spanning 300+ languages.

"USM, which is for use in YouTube (e.g., for closed captions), can perform automatic speech recognition (ASR) not only on widely spoken languages like English and Mandarin, but also on under-resourced languages like Amharic, Cebuano, Assamese, and Azerbaijani to name a few," Google said in a blogpost.

Google currently claims that USM supports over 100 languages and will serve as the "foundation" for a much larger system.

Meanwhile, Google is expected to introduce a host of AI features for



its products in the near future, and among them, Gboard for Android is working to integrate the Imagen text-to-image generator.

Users may soon see how much memory each tab using on Chrome

Tech giant Google is reportedly working on a new feature for Chrome which will show users how much memory each tab is using.

The information was shared by Chrome expert Leopeva64 on Twitter, reports Android Police.

The new feature will let users know specific memory usage for every open tab when they place the cursor on it.

This feature will be helpful for users when they have opened multiple tabs, as it will help them decide which tabs to close.

Last month, the tech giant had rolled out the Memory and Energy Saver modes for Chrome on Mac, Windows, Linux, as well as Chromebooks.

Chrome's Memory Saver automatically "frees up memory from inactive tabs" to give other pages and apps on users' computers more resources. And, with Energy Saver, "Chrome conserves battery power by limiting background activity and visual effects".

Source: IANS

ISRO successfully carries out controlled re-entry experiment of aged satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation said it successfully carried out an "extremely challenging" controlled re-entry experiment of the decommissioned orbiting Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT-1) satellite.

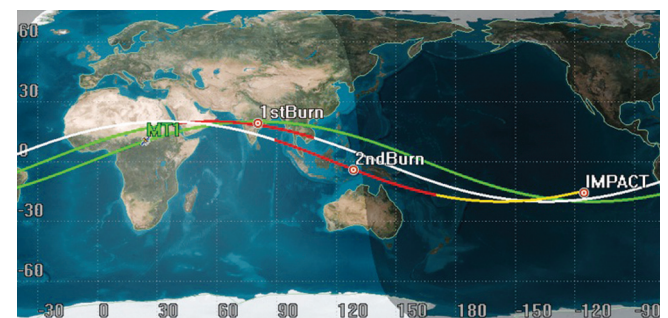
"The satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and would have disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean," the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said on Twitter.

The low Earth satellite was launched on October 12, 2011, as a joint satellite venture of ISRO and the French space agency, CNES for tropical weather and climate studies. An uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean between 5°S to 14°S latitude and 119°W to 100°W longitude was identified as the targeted re-entry zone for MT1, weighing about 1000 kg, ISRO said earlier this week. About 125 kg on-board fuel remained unutilised at its end-of-mission that could pose risks for accidental break-up, an ISRO statement had noted.

This left-over fuel was estimated to be sufficient to achieve a fully controlled atmospheric re-entry to impact the uninhabited location in the Pacific Ocean, ISRO had said.

Controlled re-entries involve deorbiting to very low altitudes to ensure impact occurs within a targeted safe zone.

Usually, large satellites/rocket bodies, which are likely to survive aero-thermal fragmentation upon re-



The satellite has re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and would have disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean.

entry, are made to undergo controlled re-entry to limit ground casualty risk. However, all such satellites are specifically designed to undergo controlled re-entry at end-of-life (EOL).

"MT1 was not designed for EOL operations through controlled re-entry which made the entire exercise extremely challenging", ISRO said.

Furthermore, the on-board constraints of the aged satellite, where several systems had lost redundancy and showed degraded performance, and maintaining subsystems under harsher environmental conditions at much lower than originally designed orbital altitude added to the operational complexities. *Source: PTI*



Campa Cola is back: Mukesh Ambani's Reliance rolls out iconic beverage brand

Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL), the fast-moving consumer goods arm and subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL), on Thursday, March 9, announced the launch of the iconic brand, Campa, made for a new-age India.

The Campa portfolio will initially include Campa Cola, Campa Lemon and Campa Orange in the sparkling beverage category. The launch of this brand was in line with the company's strategy to promote homegrown Indian brands that not only have a rich heritage but also boasted a deep-rooted connect with Indian consumers, Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL) said in a statement on Thursday, March 9.

The company said RCPL's roll-out of its cold beverage portfolio across India, starting with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, is aligned with the company's overall vision of offering value and choice to Indian consumers through high-quality products at affordable price points.

With this launch, RCPL said it further strengthened its versatile FMCG portfolio which comprises heritage brands from Sosyo Hajoori, confectionary range from Lotus Chocolates, Sri Lanka's leading biscuit brand Maliban, as well as daily essentials under its own brands including Independence and Good Life, among others.

Cryptocurrency transactions to come under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, says govt

Any participation in transactions involving virtual digital assets or cryptocurrency, would come under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act or PMLA, the Centre has said.

This was announced through a gazette notification, issued on March 7.

The step has been taken to tighten misuse of digital assets.

Government in the gazette has warned investors against "participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and sale of a virtual digital asset".

"Exchange and transfer of virtual digital assets would also fall under PMLA laws," the notification further said.

Joe Biden to urge 25% billionaire tax, levies on rich investors

President Joe Biden is proposing a series of new tax increases on billionaires, rich investors and corporations in his latest proposal for how Congress should prioritize taxes and spending.

Biden's budget request to Congress, which is slated to be released Thursday, calls for a 25% minimum tax on billionaires, according to a White House official familiar with the proposal who declined to be named because the plan is not yet public. The plan would also nearly double the capital gains tax rate for investment to 39.6% from 20% and raise income levies on corporations and wealthy Americans.

The proposal, which is largely a reprise of Biden's multi-trillion dollar Build Back Better economic package, has little chance of passing Congress, particularly now that Republicans control the House of Representatives. Biden was unable to pass similar tax increases when Democrats enjoyed control of both chambers of Congress, instead settling for slimmed down legislation focusing on energy and health policy known as the Inflation Reduction Act.

But the White House's proposal foreshadows both Democrats' strategy ahead of high-stakes negotiations over the debt ceiling and government spending later this year, as well as the economic platform underpinning an expected Biden reelection campaign. Administration officials argue that the proposals show a commitment to cutting the deficit — projecting that Biden's budget would slash \$3 trillion largely through increased revenues over the next decade — and represent a politically popular return to tax levels in place before former President Donald Trump's tax reform legislation. Taxes on the wealthy and large corporations have been a rallying cry for progressives for years and polls repeatedly show they are favored by a majority of Americans.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy immediately dismissed Biden's plans to increase levies, telling reporters Wednesday "I do not believe raising taxes is the answer."

The Biden proposal would require that the richest 0.01% of Americans pay at least a 25% tax rate. It would also increase the top tax rate for Americans making \$400,000 to 39.6% from 37%,



reversing one of Trump's tax cuts — though tax rates for those making below that amount would remain untouched. It additionally calls for investors making at least \$1 million to pay that 39.6% on their long-term investments, which are currently taxed at a 20% rate.

The proposal would increase the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21%, undoing another signature Trump tax change. It would also eliminate a loophole that business owners and higher-earners can exploit to avoid paying levies for the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund on more of their income. White House officials so far have not indicated that Biden's budget includes new Social Security payroll taxes on wages above \$400,000, which some Democrats have proposed to shore up the program.

Biden is also calling for an end to valuable industry-specific tax breaks for private equity fund managers, oil companies, as well as investors in crypto and real estate, in his upcoming budget proposal, according to a summary of the plan. Eliminating these would upend the economics of many real estate and investment-fund deals — forcing Wall Street to reinvent the way that many transactions have been done for decades — if they were to become law. *Source: Bloomberg*

Adani group repays \$500 million bridge loan to regain investor faith: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Adani Group has repaid a \$500 million bridge loan due Thursday, according to people with knowledge of the matter, adding to a slew of other payments as the Indian conglomerate works to restore confidence in its financial health after a scathing short seller report.

The money was released to lenders on Tuesday, March 9, the people said, asking not to be identified as the details are private. Some banks had balked at refinancing the debt following a report from Hindenburg Research late-January that sent Adani assets tumbling, Bloomberg News reported in February.

The empire led by billionaire Gautam Adani has since pre-paid about \$2 billion of share-backed loans, made bond repayments on time and won another \$1.9 billion investment from star investor Rajiv Jain of GQG Partners. That's helped pare losses in the group's market value to around \$124 billion from as much as \$153



billion. Global banks had lent Adani \$4.5 billion to finance the purchase of Holcim Ltd. cement assets last year, and a portion of this was due March 9. The next tranche of the loan comes due in 2024, one of the people said.

Adani rout puts spotlight back on Mauritius as it aims to shed 'tax haven' image

The tiny island of Mauritius spent years trying to clean up its image as a base for murky money launderers and shell firms. The short-seller

allegations against billionaire Gautam Adani are once again reviving questions about the country's role as a tax haven for India's tycoons.

In a report late January that sent Adani stocks on a \$153 billion downward spiral, Hindenburg Research said that entities controlled by the tycoon's brother, Vinod, or his associates used Mauritius as a conduit for money laundering and share-price manipulation. Though the report mentioned a "vast labyrinth" of shell companies from the Caribbean to the United Arab Emirates, it pinpointed offshore firms in Mauritius as having played a pivotal part.

The US-based short seller said 38 firms connected to Vinod were domiciled in the tropical island, located in the Indian Ocean off the eastern coast of Madagascar. Hindenburg claims some were used to reroute money from India that was then used to buy shares in the group, and inflate their stock prices back home.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available
for astrological consultations.
He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com
and on phone
+91-9638770377
www.bejandaruwalla.com**

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MARCH 13 TO MARCH 19, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says, the week will see success using hard efforts. Focus on goals is vital for the achievement of success. Mixed results with both ups and downs are seen on the career front. Maintaining a patient attitude can give you good results. It will take more time to see improvement in financial matters. Be wise to save and spend accordingly. Lack of proper communication can sour relationships. The week may not be favorable for Aries natives to experience feelings of happiness. Health may pose problems like toothache, and pain in the eyes and legs. Keep yourself healthy by practicing meditation. Success in education, career, dealings, friendship, and expansion of business may be possible during this week. You may go to enhancing your assets during the initial days of the week. Religious preference and practice, pilgrimage trips may bring you happiness.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, Sincerity, honesty, hard work, and good self-confidence will help you overcome challenging situations and enjoy success during the week. Spiritual integrity and journeys undertaken to holy places would bestow success, happiness, and peace of mind till the week. Promotions or elevations in responsibility in your work area can be expected. It will be good for you to listen to music and relax yourself by watching movies. You may need to be patient in your dealings. More attention is required on the work front as you may be subjected to stress that may bother you much. Fluctuations in monetary matters will be present. Avoid making major decisions. Unity may be missing in the family relationship. To make the relationship healthy, you need to make lots of adjustments. Curb your anxiety, and this will keep you in good health. Relaxing by doing meditation will be okay.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, the week may give you some unexpected changes. You may face hurdles in achieving progress. The job front may pose both ups and downs. You may need to accommodate yourself to changing situations on the job. The inflow of money may not be good enough to delight you. Keep a check on spending. The relationship may not be very harmonious. You need to strive hard to establish harmony and friendship in the family. Health may be moderate. Gemini sign people may be prone to restlessness and fatigue which may bother you. You would overcome challenging situations through constructive ideas and new strategies during the week. It would be good if you stay away from an authoritative attitude in order to reduce hostility. Some may encounter problems related to progenies and necessary medical treatment may be required during the same period.



CANCER : Ganesha says, it will be a week with average results. Spiritual quest can uplift you to better levels of existence, fill you with a sense of calm. There are likely chances for you to experience a loss of comfort. To avoid omissions and errors in the workplace, you must remain focused on your tasks. Be prudent in your actions to prevent blunders. The week may not show an encouraging trend, and there could be possible sums of money loss. Make sure you adopt security measures in handling your money. May lack interest in family values. Take steps to develop good rapport and relations with close ones. You may be prone to anxiety, which may spoil your health. Uneasiness and digestion problems may cause worries. Utilize the opportunities coming your way. Gains will be there through overseas trips, speculations, and competitions. Spiritual integrity and pilgrimage to holy places would bestow on you happiness and peace of mind. Those dealing with progeny issues should seek medical assistance. Try to be on good terms with your siblings. You would enjoy average domestic happiness even though you are in an honest and transparent attitude.



LEO : Ganesha says, Organize and plan for the week. You could see more than average results. This can help you explore your interests and take advantage of situations. You may need to put a lot of effort into achieving favorable results in your career. Ultimately, success will be yours; the monetary front may give you satisfaction, but you will gain the same after meeting some hurdles. Bright ideas and new strategies will help to win over stressful situations, leading to success during the week. Domestic happiness and peace in a relationship can be enjoyed because of positive communication. Children will fulfil their desires and you will be on good terms with them. Legal issues will get resolved amicably. You may need to bridge the gap that is possible in the family. It is vital that you create feelings of togetherness in the family. Avoid consuming cold things, this can keep your health good.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, Virgo sign people may turn their attention to pleasure by going out for purposes of fun and relaxation. You need to be practical rather than emotional in your acts. Chances seem to favor you on your work front as you will be dedicated to working. However, you may need to improvise to avoid committing errors. Expenses will be on the rise for the week. Unnecessary expenses may be possible for the week and therefore it is essential to curb your spending. There may be some toughness in a relationship. By your way of approach, you can make the family front a cherishable one. Poor habits may spoil your health. There may be chances for throat irritations that may bother you. Unpleasant relations with siblings or

friends may disturb the peace at home during the first half of the week. Relationships with children will be peaceful during the week. You can eat good food and maintain hygiene to stay away from infection.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, Libra sign people keep an eye on your communication and try to control your anger, especially while dealing with family members. Children would show excellent abilities. Libra natives may travel abroad or transfer to a foreign land before the end of the week. It will be an activity-filled week. You will take the initiative to succeed, and you will invest time in self-development. You will be shouldering more responsibilities in carrying out your work. You need to focus more on your work to promote your interests. Monetary changes appear to be suitable for the week. You will be able to spend money usefully. You will be able to follow moral ethics in a relationship. You will get support from your siblings. Week stable health may be possible. Courage will keep you in good form. You will fulfil the wishes of your family members and take care of their health.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, Scorpio sign people will be inclined towards stability and spiritual interest. There may be a possibility of progeny for a few during the week, but appropriate medical attention may be necessary. Pilgrimage trips to holy places may bring success and happiness in the week. Current status in the profession or a rise in the job may be expected during the second half of the week. Traveling to foreign countries or speculating in stocks or competitive activities may bring prosperity during the week. Participating in music and festive occasions may give you happiness. Your positive thinking enables you to take things lightly. You may be able to succeed in work with support from your subordinates. The atmosphere in the work front may be good enough to perform well. There are chances for you to gain money by involving yourself in shares/speculation. However, to make things good on the money front, you may need to plan. This week would be average for relationships. You may need to exercise control over emotional upheavals. Health may be moderate.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, devote your time to prayer and meditation as that will give you solace. There is a need for you to adopt a balanced approach to things in general. You may be prone to more work assignments. Sagittarius sign people should take advice from seniors, this can guide you in your work. On the economic front, both expenses and benefits can be seen. You will be spending more money on your family. Feelings of satisfaction concerning the family will be a little difficult thing to see this week. It will not be a week

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MARCH 13 TO MARCH 19, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

MARCH 13 : Ganesha says you will make new connections and sign new collaborations that will advance your career. You'll succeed in everything you do. There will be many social gatherings and events but keep out of other people's business. Both friends and family will be encouraging you. You'll experience some minor tensions and stress, particularly in relation to your parents' health and the rise in family expenses.

MARCH 14 : Ganesha says your goals are usually lofty, and you work tirelessly to achieve them. You'll work on fresh initiatives, which will guarantee gains over time rather than right away. Although it appears like a wonderful moment to buy stocks and real estate, all investments should be made for the long term. A long trip is likely, most likely to participate in some holy pilgrimage or auspicious event. Friends and family members frequently make more promises than they can keep.

MARCH 15 : Ganesha says you will really appreciate life. You'll have cause to rejoice if you get a promotion or more responsibility. Professionals seeking a career overseas will be well received soon. There will be a better and more loving environment at home, which will result in prosperity and good health. Housewives will have to deal with the frequent appearance of visitors and family members. It is possible to journey to a far-off location for good work.

MARCH 16 : Ganesha says important business decisions should be made now. Investments made during this phase will yield good returns. Gains will result from property-related issues. Travelling far away, even internationally, is enjoyable and can result in reunions with former acquaintances. You'd also prioritize home renovations and other construction-related tasks. Patients with chronic conditions should

obviously pay closer attention to their health. At all costs, avoid using preventive medications.

MARCH 17 : Ganesha says your efforts will undoubtedly produce the desired outcomes if you focus on your priorities. The profits from previous investments will come in, and long-standing property conflicts will be resolved amicably. You'll stay happy if loved ones and friends give you unanticipated gifts and presents. The beginning of new endeavors and initiatives will be fruitful. The family front will be enjoyable since your spouse and kids will show you love and affection. Although your health appears to be in good shape, it is nonetheless advised that you avoid alcohol and excessive eating.

MARCH 18 : Ganesha says your women; this time will be incredibly gratifying. You'll be prosperous and fortunate if the stars are in your favor. If you take advantage of the opportunities

that present themselves to you, a dramatic leap in your professional career is predicted. Your standard of life and savings will increase with good financial flow. It will take some time before you can resume rational thought after becoming in love with your partner. There will be some worry about your parents' health, but don't fret needlessly.

MARCH 19 : Ganesha says your expenses will increase, making it challenging for you to conserve. Although your work progress and arguments over little matters may anger you soon after you will be happy and content with your accomplishments. Investments made during this time will eventually yield good returns, if not right away. Academic excellence and participation in extracurricular activities will be acknowledged for students. Despite your irregular behavior, your spouse continues to be cooperative.

CONTD FROM PAGE 31

with a smooth flow of ideas. You need to take care of your health as there are likely chances for digestion problems and pain in your legs. Follow a balanced diet. You would see some changes taking place in your life and surroundings. The spiritual inclination would attract you towards charity and social welfare. You will be recognized in the social circle. The health of your children would require attention and you also need to be careful of your mother's health.

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, You can spend the week improvising better methods to achieve good results and learn to adapt yourself to changing conditions. You will achieve progress in work that will give you confidence. You will meet the challenges posed with a determined and steadfast attitude. Financial returns will be good enough, along with some expenses. You will be spending on your family. The family atmosphere will be better and enjoyable, provided you control your emotions and ensure fairness in communication. Health will generally be okay and is said to be smooth going for you. Concentrate on meditation and other divine practices. A logical cum constructive approach coupled with a strong determination may aid you to reap success in your assignments during the week. You may have a hard time clearing your debts or finding an amicable solution to your disputes during this time of the week. More understanding, clarity of thought, and an impartial attitude will help to minimize enmity. Overseas trips would be possible during the week.

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, you may get better financial gains from profession, business, and stock exchange during the week through precious confidence and a positive attitude. Try to avoid new

investments in property, vehicles, and jewelry during the week as you may realize low profits. You may try hard to achieve success, which is possible by being self-reliant in your efforts. Due to the additional workload that you will be committed to, stress can prevail. There may be problems in relation to your colleagues. Fluctuations will be seen in monetary matters. Planning is needed to safeguard your monetary interests. The relationship may lack bonding. A flexible approach can help foster mutual harmony. There are likely chances that you may

suffer due to pain in your hand, digestion problems, etc. Relax for a while, do meditation and this will keep you in good health.



PISCES : Ganesha says, You will perform tasks with enthusiasm and optimism to gain progress. Some situations at work may make you feel dissatisfied due to a lack of smoothness in carrying out your duties. Try to be on good terms with your subordinates. Both gains and expenses will be possible. Costs related to health may

be a matter of concern. You must take things lightly and comfortably in the relationship. Avoid negative thoughts and remain happy. Health will not be encouraging. Pisces natives suffer from back pain and digestive problems. You can fulfil the wishes of your family members. Take care of their health. Watch your communication and try to control your anger, especially while dealing with family members. Children would show excellent abilities. Rivals will have the upper hand between September and November. The entry of a newborn into the family may get delayed.



Capricorn

Capricorn



Aquarius

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sheetala Saptami

Sheetala Saptami is considered an important festival in Hinduism. On the day of Sheetala Saptami, women fast for the whole day. As the name suggests, this day is dedicated to Sheetla Mata. Sheetala Saptami is celebrated almost all over India. Sheetla Saptami is considered with special significance and enthusiasm in rural areas. On this day, women worship Goddess Sheetala to protect their children from infectious diseases like chickenpox and smallpox.

Goddess Sheetala is known by various names in India. For example, in the southern states of India, she is worshiped as 'Goddess Poleramma' or 'Goddess Mariamma'.

In the Indian states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, a similar festival like Sheetala Saptami is celebrated, which is known as 'Polala Amavasya'.

Sheetala Saptami is celebrated twice a year. Earlier, this festival is celebrated on the seventh day of Krishna Paksha of Chaitra month. Sheetla Saptami has special significance in the month of Chaitra. For the second time, this festival is also celebrated on the Saptami of Shukla Paksha of Shraavan month. According to the Gregorian calendar, these dates fall for the months of March-April and July-August respectively.

On this day this festival is celebrated with special importance and reverence in all the temples of India. The temple of Goddess Sheetla is situated in Gurugram near Delhi. On this day, a long line of devotees starts in the Sheetla Devi temple since morning and waits for the darshan and worship of the goddess.

Importance of Sheetala Saptami

Goddess Sheetla is believed to be an incarnation of Mother Parvati. The importance of Sheetla Saptami has been described in the Skanda Purana. Shakti is worshiped in two forms in Hinduism. Out of which Goddess Sheetala liberates people suffering from infectious diseases like 'Chickenpox' or 'smallpox' and also represents the healing power by nature.

Goddess Sheetla has been described in Skanda Purana. Sheetlashtak sings the glory of Sheetla Devi, as well as inspires the devotees to worship her.

According to the belief, by observing this fast, Sheetla Devi is pleased and in the family of the fast, Dahjwar, yellow fever, explosive, foul-smelling boils, all diseases of the eyes, signs of Sheetla's pimples and the defects caused by Sheetla are removed.

Legend

A legend says Goddess Durga has incarnated as Katyayani, the daughter of sage Katyayan to destroy evil demonic forces of the world. She killed many demons. Jwarasur, the demon of fever, started spreading incurable diseases. Katyayani cured the diseases. To relieve the world from all fevers and diseases, Katyayani took the form of Sheetala Devi. She held a broom, winnowing fan, a pot of water and a cup. She cured all the diseases of children. Katyayani requested her friend Batuk to confront the demon Jwarasur. A battle ensued between the young Batuk and demon Jwarasur. Batuk was defeated by Jwarasur. Batuk magically disappeared into dust. Jwarasur was shocked and wondered where he went. Batuk has assumed the form of an awful male figure with three eyes and four arms. He held an axe, sword, trident and demon head. He was black in color with flowing hairs, and his eyes were blazing with fury. He wore a tiger-skin and skull garland. Batuk took the form of Lord Shiva's ferocious form, the Bhairav. A battle broke out between them. Jwarasur created many demons, but Bhairav managed to destroy all of them. Finally, Bhairav wrestled with Jwarasur and killed him with his trident.

Celebration and Rituals

Goddess Sheetala Devi is worshiped by her devotees. Devotees get up early in the morning and bath in cold water. They visit the temple to offer their prayers to Goddess. Rituals are performed on this day for a peaceful and happy life. On Sheetala Saptami some of the devotees shave their heads in honor of Goddess Sheetala.

Devotees do not cook food on Sheetla Saptami.



Important information

Sheetala Saptami Vrat

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

Saptami Tithi Start : 13 March 2023 at 09:27 PM

Saptami Tithi End : 14 March 2023 at 08:22 PM

Sheetala Saptami Puja Muhurat - 06:33 am to 06:29 pm

They consume the food, which is prepared on the previous day. Eating hot food is strictly prohibited. Several devotees even keep a fast on this day. Women keep the fast for the well-being of her children.

Sheetala Saptami Vrat Katha

There are many legends and stories related to Sheetala Saptami fast. According to one of the most important legends associated with the festival, there was a king named Indradyumna. He was a generous and virtuous king who had a wife named Pramila and a daughter named Shubhakari. The daughter was married to Rajkumar Gunaban. In the kingdom of Indradyumna, everyone used to observe Sheetala Saptami fast every year with eagerness. Once during this festival, Shubhakari was also present in his father's kingdom. Thus, he also observed the fast of Sheetala Saptami, which is celebrated as a ritual of the royal household.

To perform the ritual, Shubhakari left for the lake with his friends. Meanwhile, on their way to the lake, they wandered their way and asked for help. At that time, an old woman helped him and guided the way to the lake. He helped them in performing rituals and observing the vow. Everything became so good that even Sheetala Devi was pleased and gave a boon to Shubhakari. But, Shubhakari told

the goddess that she will use the boon when she needs it or she wants something.

As they were returning to the state, Shubhakari saw a poor Brahmin family mourning the death of one of their family members due to a snake bite. For this, Shubhakari remembered the boon that Sheetala Devi had bestowed on her and Shubhakari prayed to Goddess Sheetala to give life to the dead Brahmin. The Brahmin regained his life. Seeing and hearing this, everyone understood the importance and auspiciousness of observing the Sheetala Saptami Vrat and worshiping. Thus, from that time everyone started observing the fast every year with perseverance and dedication.

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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

Silicon Valley Bank collapse sends...

Depositors rushed to withdraw their money amid fears SVB wouldn't be able to meet redemption requests.

Although it was not in the same league as, say, Goldman Sachs or J.P. Morgan Chase, Silicon Valley Bank, or SVB, punched above its weight during its 40-year history.

Based in Santa Clara, Calif., its clients included venture capital firms and startups, and it became a big player in the tech sector, successfully competing with bigger-name banks.

"They really developed a niche that was the envy of the banking space," says Jared Shaw, a senior analyst at Wells Fargo. "They are able to provide all the products and services any of these sophisticated technology companies, as well as these sophisticated venture capital and private equity funds, would need."

Silicon Valley's business boomed as tech companies did well during the pandemic. That filled the lender's coffers, and SVB had about \$174 billion in deposits.

But in recent months, many of Silicon Valley Bank's clients had been withdrawing money at a time when the tech sector as a whole has been suffering.

SVB said earlier this week, that in order to make good on those withdrawals, it had to sell part of its bond holdings at a steep loss of \$1.8 billion. Bonds and stocks have been hammered since last year, as the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates aggressively, and SVB also noted it wanted to pare down its bond portfolio to avoid further losses.

But that announcement spooked the bank's clients, who got worried about SVB's viability, and then proceeded to withdraw even more money from the bank - a textbook definition of a bank run.

That led to a major slump in SVB's shares. The bank's stock price fell by 60% on Thursday, and as its share price continued to sink overnight.

Trading was halted on Friday morning, and by midday, SVB had been taken over by the FDIC.

Though the problems appear to be isolated at SVB, the run on the bank sparked concerns about the banking sector as a whole. On Thursday, shares of all kinds of lenders, including the big banks, sagged. J.P. Morgan, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America were all down about 5%.

Investors feared that other lenders, especially smaller and regional ones, would suffer a similar surge in withdrawals and would struggle to meet the redemptions.

The troubles at SVB come as Wall Street had already been on edge. Earlier this week, Silvergate, a California-based bank that caters to the cryptocurrency industry, announced plans to unwind its operations.

Yet by Friday, fears about the health of the broader banking sector had eased, even before the FDIC took over SVB.

Bank analysts at Morgan Stanley said in a note "the funding pressures facing" Silicon Valley Bank "are highly idiosyncratic and should not be viewed as a read-across to other regional banks."

"We want to be very clear here," they wrote. "We do not believe there is a liquidity crunch facing the banking industry."

Wells Fargo analyst Shaw also said other banks were hit by panic selling.

"It's really just a fear that has gripped the market, and is sort of self-perpetuating at this point," says Shaw.

The entity created by federal regulators to oversee SVB, the Deposit Insurance National Bank of Santa Clara, has quite a few things to sort out.

The FDIC said those with insured deposits with SVB, typically up to \$250,000, would be able to access their money by no later than Monday.

The fate of those with deposits at SVB that exceed insurance limits is less certain, however, with the FDIC saying they will receive an "advance dividend" for a portion of their funds along with "certificates" accounting for their uninsured funds.

The regulator did not spell out what that would entail for these uninsured depositors.

Investors will also continue to monitor for any further impact on other banks. The Treasury Department said Secretary Janet Yellen discussed the situation at a meeting she convened with financial regulators.

"Secretary Yellen expressed full confidence in banking regulators to take appropriate actions in response and noted that the banking system remains resilient and regulators have effective tools to address this type of event," the statement said. (With inputs from agencies)

India, US ink MoU on chip supply chain

"We are absolutely thrilled to be working with India as part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). Through IPEF, the US, India and a dozen other partners are developing policies to create more resilient and secure supply chains, accelerate progress, green transitions and demonstrate our commitment to fostering a better business environment," she said.

"The MoU talks about how we will share information about the semiconductor commercial opportunities between our two countries, how we will have a continued dialogue around policies that would encourage private sector investment in the semiconductor ecosystem," said Raimondo.

However, she made no mention of labor standards and other markers that come along with the promise of more US investment and technology. Before her India visit, she had said in an interview, "I'm running the IPEF. And we're saying sign up at the government-to-government level to labor standards, environmental standards, anti-corruption standards, rule of law standards. And in return, it'll unlock US business, US capital jobs in India."

The Indian side also sought more clarity on the trade pillar of the IPEF from which it has disassociated while signing on to its other pillars. (Source: TNS)

British, French leaders seek migration...

Mr. Sunak hailed as "essential" the relationship between the two neighbors ahead of talks, where the pair were also expected to vow more support for Ukraine and security in the Asia-Pacific region, Downing Street said.

Mr. Macron welcomed Mr. Sunak at the Elysee Palace, after the premier travelled to Paris by train from London. A press conference was expected in the afternoon.

It is the first U.K.-French summit in five years, after Mr. Sunak became prime minister in October, following the stormy tenures of Liz Truss and Boris Johnson.

Mr. Macron's distrust of Brexit figurehead Johnson was barely concealed, while Truss said she didn't know whether the French leader was a "friend or foe" during her campaign to become prime minister.

But both sides now see an opportunity to reset the "Entente Cordiale" between Western Europe's two nuclear powers. "I hope it can be the start of a stronger relationship between us and it's a privilege to be able to play a part in that," Mr. Sunak told reporters as he travelled over. The new constructive mood is set to produce another deal to stem migration from France, with Mr. Sunak determined to thwart thousands of asylum seekers crossing the Channel and Mr. Macron pushing for extra resources to fund border controls.

Britain has been paying France to help patrol the Channel, and a summit pact will focus on "increasing the resources deployed to manage this common border, with multi-year financing", an aide to Mr. Macron said.

The Times newspaper reported that the deal would be for around 200 million pounds (225 million euros, \$240 million), spread out over three years.

Mr. Sunak is under fierce pressure at home to reduce the number of asylum seekers arriving in Britain, and this week unveiled legislation that critics said would make Britain an international outlaw on refugee rights.

"There is no one silver bullet to solve this problem. So the legislation we introduced this week is incredibly

important, cooperation with the French is important, illegal migration enforcement at home is important," Mr. Sunak explained.

He also confirmed that the European Political Community -- a Mr. Macron initiative formed after Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago -- will be hosted by Britain following an October summit in Spain.

Although Britain's exit from the European Union still bedevils ties, recent developments, including an agreement to settle the EU trading status of Northern Ireland, have created goodwill.

The two neighbors have also found common cause in supporting Ukraine against Russia.

Mr. Sunak and Mr. Macron will agree to "further coordinate both the supply of weapons to Ukraine and the training of Ukrainian marines", a Downing Street statement said.

As well as Ukrainian soldiers and marines, Britain has undertaken to train Ukrainian pilots -- although Western allies are wary of offering fighter jets to Kyiv.

The leaders will further look at ensuring a "permanent presence of likeminded European partners" in the Asia-Pacific, where concerns about China's growing assertiveness are shared in both capitals.

Mr. Sunak and Mr. Macron were expected to agree on closer coordination of the deployment of France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier with the Royal Navy's brand-new carriers -- HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales.

Both countries sent their carriers through the contested South China Sea in 2021.

As part of the British government's post-Brexit outreach, the summit paves the way for King Charles III to make France his first foreign destination when he heads there on a state visit at the end of March.

While Johnson reveled in French-bashing, Mr. Sunak says he and Mr. Macron are "friends", with their warm embrace during their first encounter in November sparking light-hearted speculation about a "bromance".

They are similar ages, 45 and 42, and are former investment bankers. Both were schooled privately, grew up in provincial towns and have fathers with medical backgrounds.

"I would be careful to read too much into the 'bromance', but it's true they come from a similar background and generation, which has an impact on how they see their countries' roles in the world," Alice Billon-Galland, a research fellow at the Chatham House think-tank in London, told AFP.

"Both of them bring a new energy. Both sides really do want this (summit) to be a success." (Agencies)

Trump may be charged in connection...

Trump reacted with a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, calling it a witch hunt and denying the affair with the porn star.

"I did absolutely nothing wrong, I never had an affair with Stormy Daniels, nor would I have wanted to have an affair with Stormy Daniels," whom he described as "horse face", he said.

"This is a political Witch-Hunt, trying to take down the leading candidate, by far, in the Republican Party while at the same time also leading all Democrats in the polls, including Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," he posted. Public prosecutors in New York are elected officials and Alvin Bragg won as a Democrat.

It is now a race between Bragg and prosecutors in Georgia, where a grand jury has reportedly recommended filing charges against Trump for interfering with the 2020 elections by allegedly trying to pressure state officials to "find" more votes for him.

Bragg had convened a grand jury -- a citizens' panel -- to investigate the allegations against Trump and decide if charges should be filed.

Under the legal system in the US, that is the first step in criminal cases and it is followed by the trial where a jury, also made up of citizens, hears the case under a judge and gives a verdict unless the accused asks to dispense with the jury and have the judge decide.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Ranthambore: Best tiger reserve of India

This is one of the best tiger reserves of the country, known to have "friendly" tigers and chances of sighting one here is reasonably better than many other tiger reserves of India. Along with this Ranthambore has one of the richest flora and fauna making it an absolutely must visit area

Nestled in the foothills of Vindhya and Aravali Hills, Ranthambore is famous for its tiger reserves and the variety of flora and fauna found. The Ranthambore National Park, along with the Ranthambore Fort and the surrounding hills and valleys, altogether make Ranthambore a traveller's delight. The place is a boon for wildlife photographers and is perfect for excursions and sightseeing. Safari Rides add to the adventure along with hot Rajasthani picks for shopaholics. With an area of 392 kilometres square, Ranthambore National Park is a natural habitat for a variety of exotic species. It is an absolute delight for birdwatchers and an ideal place to watch animals in their natural habitat.

The Ranthambore Fort, built in the 10th century, stands tall over the entire National Park. Built by the Chauhan Dynasty, the Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located inside the fort is the majestic temple of Lord Ganesha, the Trinetra Ganesh Temple. Ganesha devotees flock the temple throughout the year. The other two temples are dedicated to Lord Shiva and Ramlalaji respectively. Two Jain temples, devoted to Lord Sumatinath and Lord Sambhavnath are other attractions of the Fort. The Padam lake and the Surwal lake are two among many that are a haven for bird watching. The ideal time to visit these lakes is early morning. Located adjacent to the Padam lake is the Jogi Mahal, a red sandstone marvel. Kachida Valley, famous for locating panthers and bears, along with Raj Bagh Ruins and the surrounding deciduous forests altogether score brownie points for Ranthambore.

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

Spread in an area of 392 sq. Km, the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is one of the largest and famed tiger reserves in the country, famous for the magnificent Bengal Tiger found there. The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve derives its name from the Ranthambore Fort located in the region. Situated in the Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan, it forms a part of Project Tiger reserves, by the Government of India, set up in 1955. Ancient religious ruins found within the forest, surrounded by the rich biodiversity and aesthetically crumbling cenotaphs make Ranthambore Tiger Reserve a favourite spot for photographers, wildlife enthusiasts and travellers.

Among other things, the tiger reserve is known for the medieval hunting trips carried out by the royals of Jaipur when hunting a tiger was the symbol of valour. One can take a safari ride through the jungle and experience watching a tiger



in its natural habitat from a few metres away. Dry deciduous forests and marshy grassland forms a distinctive feature of this place with the Aravalli Range and Vindhya Plateau surrounding it to set it apart from the strikingly different desert in the very same state. The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is also home to a wide

variety of flora and fauna. The Sawai Man Singh Sanctuary and Kaldevi Sanctuary that surrounds this tiger reserve became part of the tiger reserve project in the 1990s.

Jeep Safari

Jeep Safari is the best way to explore



the various zones of the Ranthambore National Park. Wildlife photographers and bird watchers often opt for these safaris to capture thrilling moments in the National Park. Jeep safaris need to be booked well in advance to ensure availability.

Ranthambore Fort

Ranthambore Fort is a magnificent fort erected by a ruler belonging to the Chauhan Royal family located in Ranthambore in Rajasthan. The regal fort is said to have existed since the 12th century and is a perfect tourist attraction for those wanting to explore Royal Rajasthan. The splendid fort of Ranthambore stands strong amidst dense forests that form the Ranthambore National Park. The view of the fort from the national park and the view of the dense forest from the top of the fort are both worth seeing. As one explores the magnificent structure, they are bound to experience the magnificent vibe that the fort radiates in the warm sunlight of Rajasthan.

Ranthambore Fort has been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is an important Hill Fort of Rajasthan. The dense forest that forms the Ranthambore National Park was once the hunting ground of the royalty that lived here. The fort is surrounded by a massive wall and has strong stone pathways and staircases that lead to the top portion of the structure. As you trek upwards; do notice the traditional Rajasthani architecture with massive gates, pillars, domes, palace and temples. The reserve is home to some birds and animals. Tourists will usually find a lot of monkeys in and around the fort; however, if you are lucky, you may also be presented with the beautiful peacocks living in the National Park.

Source: [Holidify.com](https://www.holidify.com)



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History This Week

MARCH 10-16, 2023

March 10

March 10, 1862 - The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

March 10, 1880 - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.



Claire Boothe Luce

Birthday - Politician and playwright Claire Boothe Luce (1903-1987) was born in New York City. She served in the House of Representatives from 1943 to 1947 and then became the first woman appointed as U.S. ambassador to a major country (Italy).

March 11

March 11, 1918 - The 'Spanish' influenza first reached America as 107 soldiers become sick at Fort Riley, Kansas. One quarter of the U.S. population eventually became ill from the deadly virus, resulting in 500,000 deaths. The death toll worldwide approached 22 million by the end of 1920.

March 11, 1941 - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and US troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland. "We must be the great arsenal of democracy," President Roosevelt declared concerning the fight against Hitler's Germany. The initial appropriation was \$7 Billion, but by 1946 the figure reached \$50 Billion in aid from the U.S. to its Allies.



Harold Wilson

Birthday - British prime minister and statesman Harold Wilson (1916-1995) was

born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire. As a young boy he once posed for a photo in front of 10 Downing Street, the residence he occupied 40 years later as head of the Labour government.

March 12

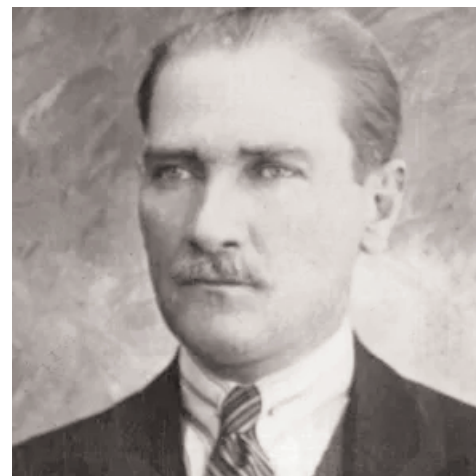
March 12, 1609 - The island of Bermuda was colonized by the British after a ship on its way to Virginia was wrecked on the reefs.

March 12, 1888 - The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

March 12, 1938 - Nazis invaded Austria, then absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich.

March 12, 1994 - The Church of England ordained 32 women as its first female priests. In protest, 700 male clergy members and thousands of church members left the church and joined the Roman Catholic Church which does not allow women priests.

March 12, 1999 - Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic became full-fledged members of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) less than ten years after exchanging communist rule for democracy and ending their Cold War military alliances with Soviet Russia.

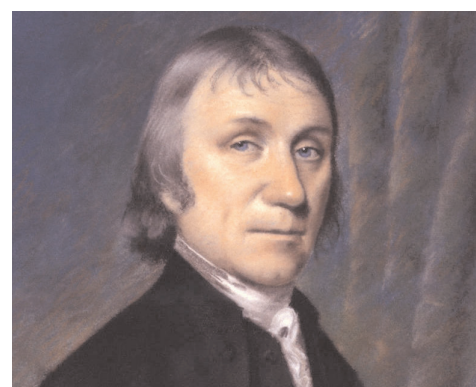


Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

Birthday - The founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938) was born in Salonika, Greece. Following World War I, he led the Turkish revolution and became Turkey's first president.

March 13

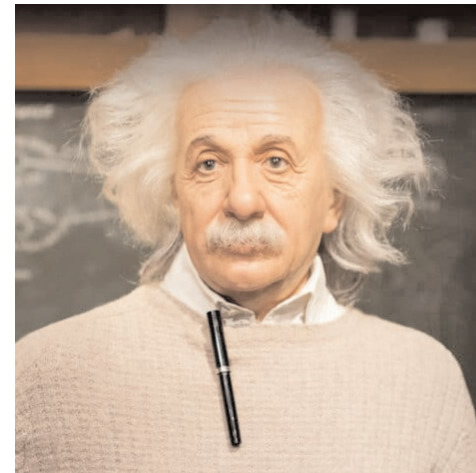
March 13, 1943 - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.



Joseph Priestly

Birthday - Scientist and clergyman Joseph Priestly (1733-1804) was born in Yorkshire, England. He discovered oxygen and advanced the religious theory of Unitarianism.

March 14



Albert Einstein

Birthday - Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was born in Ulm, Germany. His theory of relativity led to new ways of thinking about time, space, matter and energy. He received a Nobel Prize in 1921 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1933 where he was an outspoken critic of Nazi Germany. Believing the Nazis might develop an atomic bomb, he warned President Roosevelt and urged the development of the U.S. Atomic bomb.

Birthday - The first female dentist, Lucy Hobbs (1833-1910) was born in New York state. She received her degree in 1866 from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery and was a women's rights advocate.

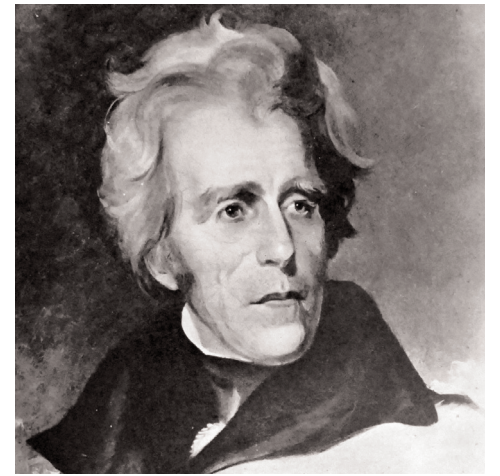
March 15



Julius Caesar

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death.

Birthday - Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) the 7th U.S. President was born in a log cabin in Waxhaw, South Carolina. As a boy he volunteered to serve in the American Revolution. Captured by the British, he refused an order to clean an officer's boots and was slashed by his sword. Jackson later gained fame as a



hero during the War of 1812. In politics he helped form the new Democratic Party and became the first man from an impoverished background to be elected President, serving from 1829 to 1837.

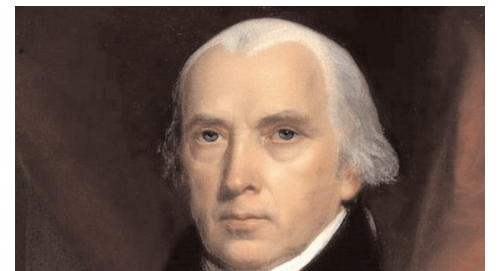
March 16

March 16, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five U.S. Army officers were later charged with complicity in the massacre and subsequent cover-up, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.



Robert Kennedy

March 16, 1968 - New York Senator Robert Kennedy announced his intention to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.



James Madison

Birthday - James Madison (1751-1836) the 4th U.S. President was born in Port Conway, Virginia. He played an important role in the formation of the new U.S. Constitution following the American Revolutionary War. During the War of 1812, President Madison was forced to flee Washington, D.C., while the British attacked and burned the White House and other important public buildings.



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Manchester United beats Betis 4-1 in rousing response to Liverpool rout

Chants of “Bruno! Bruno!” reverberated around Old Trafford as the healing process began for Manchester United.

The wounds from Sunday’s humiliating 7-0 rout by Liverpool remain fresh. But a 4-1 win against Real Betis in the Europa League was an encouraging response from Erik ten Hag’s players.

None more so than Bruno Fernandes, who scored one and had a role in two more in the round-of-16 first leg on Thursday, March 9.

“I think he was the best player on the pitch, it showed his personality,” United manager Ten Hag said.

The Dutchman had given his team the chance to begin making amends for Anfield by naming an unchanged lineup. It had the desired effect.

Marcus Rashford scored his 26th goal of the season. Antony swept a shot into the top corner from distance. And Wout Weghorst, who had faced a backlash on social media for touching the famous “This is Anfield” sign, let his emotion show when firing in United’s fourth.

But perhaps no one needed redemption more than Fernandes, who received the brunt of the criticism after the collapse against Liverpool. On this occasion his efforts were greeted with approval by United fans as well as Ten Hag.

FIH Pro League: Sukhjeet Singh fires India to victory over Germany

Striker Sukhjeet Singh struck a second-half brace as India stunned world champions Germany 3-2 in their FIH Pro League match here today. It was India’s first outing after the World Cup debacle. It was the fifth match of the Pro League season for both teams.

India relied on three quick goals on either side of the half-time break to take an unassailable lead, and while Germany pulled two back, it was not enough as India took all three points from the encounter.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh gave the hosts the lead in the 30th minute through a penalty-corner conversion. Harmanpreet is the top-scorer in the tournament so far with seven goals.

The 26-year-old Sukhjeet, one of the players who survived the axe after India’s shock pre-quarterfinal exit in the World Cup in January, scored in the 31st and 42nd minutes. The first was a deflection off a long pass from Jarmanpreet Singh.

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Ashwin takes 6 as Australia score 480

AHMEDABAD (TIP)

Usman Khawaja struck a majestic 180 and Cameron Green smashed his maiden Test hundred to power Australia to a series-high 480 all out on Day 2 of the fourth and final Test against India here on March 10.

Khawaja and Green were the bedrock of Australia’s innings with a 208-run stand for the fifth wicket, the highest partnership from either side in the bowler-dominated series. Khawaja’s batting masterpiece was spread over 10 hours during which the opener faced 422 balls, the most by an Australian batter in India, hitting 21 fours.

India, who lead the series 2-1, were 36 for no loss in reply with Rohit Sharma (17) and Shubman Gill (18) seeing off the final 10 overs of the day.

The home side trail by 444 runs in the match, which they need to win to seal their place in the final of the World Test Championship against Australia in June.

Earlier, on a flat track where the ball did not really turn and reverse swing did not materialise, Khawaja and Green, who made a fluent 114, piled on the runs in the morning session.

Green showed his growing confidence by hitting Umesh Yadav for three boundaries in an over and brought up his hundred with a four off Ravindra Jadeja. The beaming all-rounder took off his helmet and soaked up the applause before being hugged by Khawaja.



Cameron Green and Usman Khawaja shared a 208-run stand. REUTERS

Ashwin (6/91) finally broke the stand when Green attempted a sweep shot and managed to glove the ball to wicketkeeper KS Bharat.

Ashwin removed Alex Carey in the same over and Khawaja fell to the first ball after the tea break when Axar Patel trapped him lbw. The batsman was initially adjudged not out but India reviewed the decision which was overturned after replays confirmed the ball would have gone on to hit the stumps.

Todd Murphy (41) and Nathan Lyon (34) chipped in with useful cameos before Ashwin wrecked their lower order. Source: Reuters



Ravichandran Ashwin.

Jasprit Bumrah undergoes back surgery in New Zealand, likely to be out for 6 months

AHMEDABAD (TIP)

Struggling with a recurring back injury, premier India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has undergone a successful surgery in New Zealand’s Christchurch and is expected to be out of action for six months.

According to BCCI sources, the surgery was conducted “successfully” by Dr Rowan Schouten, an orthopaedic surgeon specialising in the management of adult spinal conditions and hip replacement surgery.

Bumrah is expected to be out of action for six months which would rule him out of the Asia Cup. His return, if everything goes according to the plan, is likely to be in the ODI World Cup in India in October-November, BCCI sources told PTI.

The 29-year-old is out since playing two T20Is on Australia’s tour of India in September last year. He subsequently pulled out of



a white-ball series against South Africa and could not make it to the T20 World Cup. Satisfied with his rehab at the NCA, the selectors

named him in the home series against Sri Lanka in January but he experienced niggles to be ruled out again. Source: PTI



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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



"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"

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