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INDIAN



PANORAMA

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1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 17 ISSUE 19 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • MAY 19 - 25, 2023

ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

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INDIAN MEDIA
IN AMERICA

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RBI TO WITHDRAW RS 2,000 CURRENCY NOTES FROM CIRCULATION



RBI to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes from
circulation

File Photo

MAY 19, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Rs 2,000 currency note, introduced after demonetization in 2016, will be withdrawn from circulation from September 30, said an RBI statement.

RBI CITES REASONS

Introduced after DeMo in 2016, RBI says objective achieved as notes in other denominations now adequately available

As 89% of the Rs 2,000 notes issued before March 2017, these are at the end of estimated four to five-year lifespan

Notes no longer commonly used for transactions - usage declines from 37.3% in 2018 to 10.8% in March 2023

People holding the notes can deposit or exchange these up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at any bank branch beginning May 23. The RBI has asked banks to stop issuing the Rs 2,000 denomination notes with immediate effect.

A statement from the RBI gave several reasons for the move. The first was that the objective of introducing Rs 2,000 banknotes was met once notes

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G7 countries call for world without nuclear weapons

G7 FAVORS STIFFENING SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA



MAY 19, 2023

HIROSHIMA (TIP): Leaders of the Group of Seven rich nations called on Friday, May 19, for a "world without nuclear weapons", urging Russia, Iran, China and North Korea to cease nuclear escalation and embrace non-proliferation, a statement released by the White House showed.

Russia's nuclear rhetoric and stated

intent to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus "are dangerous and unacceptable," and Russia should return to full implementation of New START treaty, the leaders said in the statement.

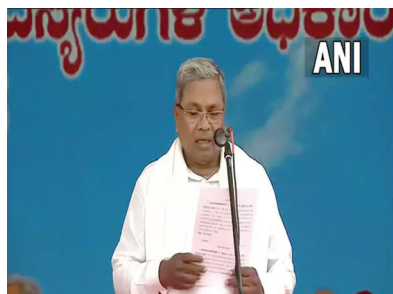
The leaders also agreed on Friday to stiffen sanctions against Russia, while a draft communique to be issued after their talks in the Japanese city of Hiroshima

stressed the need to reduce reliance on trade with China.

G7 leaders said they had ensured that Ukraine had the budget support it needs for this year and early 2024. "Today we are taking new steps to ensure that Russia's illegal aggression against the sovereign state of Ukraine fails," they said in a statement.

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Siddaramaiah sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka, DK Shivakumar sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, 8 more sworn in as ministers



Siddaramaiah takes oath as the chief
minister of Karnataka in Bengaluru.

Also sworn in was DK Shivakumar as Deputy Chief Minister of the state.

Eight more were sworn in as ministers. They included G Parameshwara (SC), K H Muniyappa (SC), K J George (Minority-Christian), M B Patil (Lingayat), Satish Jarkiholi (ST-Valmiki), Priyank Kharge (SC and AICC President M Mallikarjun Kharge's son),

contd on page 42

MAY 20, 2023

BENGALURU (TIP): Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka for the second time today. Karnataka governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Siddaramaiah at the overcrowded Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

No regulatory failure: SC panel on Adani

Says SEBI probe has drawn a blank

MAY 19, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): There was no evidence of stock price manipulation in Adani Group companies, a Supreme Court-appointed expert panel - which looked into allegations levelled by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research on January 24 - has said in its report.

A separate SEBI probe into alleged violation in money flows from offshore entities in the Adani Group has "drawn a blank" and pursuing the case could be a "journey without a destination", the six-member panel headed by Justice (ret'd) AM Sapre said. "At this stage, taking into account the explanations provided by SEBI, supported by the empirical data, prima facie, it would not be possible for the committee to

contd on page 42



SEBI probe into alleged violation in money flows from offshore entities in the Adani Group has "drawn a blank" and pursuing the case could be a "journey without a destination", the six-member panel headed by Justice (ret'd) AM Sapre said.

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GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

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**CONTRIBUTING
PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

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DALLAS:

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OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

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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

CM Siddaramaiah: Vital for Cong govt to perform well in Karnataka

The suspense is finally over. Five days after recording a resounding victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the Congress has declared 75-year-old Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister and state unit chief DK Shivakumar (61) as his deputy. Newly elected MLAs had authorized party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to choose their leader, but it was an unenviable task for him as both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar aggressively staked their claims for the top post. Despite being the junior contender, Shivakumar had been in no mood to back down. However, the party seems to have amicably resolved the vexed issue, with Shivakumar claiming that 'everything is well and will be well'.

Having served a full term as CM (2013-18), Siddaramaiah is undoubtedly the right choice. He faces the challenge of living up to the expectations of Karnataka's voters, who have given the Congress a decisive mandate. The taint of corruption, coupled with the anti-incumbency factor, proved to be the undoing of the BJP, which had come to power in 2019 after the fall of the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government. Hence, it is imperative for the Congress to ensure clean and transparent governance. The party is on a firm footing this time as it is unencumbered by coalition pressures.

The onus is on Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to work in unison, while the high command needs to be

proactive about addressing issues that might crop up between them. The Congress must avoid the own goals it has scored in Rajasthan, where CM Ashok Gehlot and former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot continue to be at loggerheads, months ahead of the Assembly elections. Also, there are rumblings of discontent in Chhattisgarh, another poll-bound state ruled by the party. The performance of its government in Karnataka will have a bearing on the Congress' prospects of leading the Opposition in the 2024 General Election. A messy show in the southern state could hurt the grand old party at the national level, leaving the Opposition in no position to take on the BJP.

(Tribune, India)

A change for the better: On the shifting of Kiren Rijiju from the Law Ministry

THE SHIFTING OF KIREN RIJIJU FROM LAW MINISTRY SHOULD END CONFLICT WITH JUDICIARY

It is difficult not to see the removal of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju from the Law and Justice Ministry as a move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to avoid any escalation in his regime's confrontations with the judiciary in the one year left in his current tenure. Other considerations may have been at work in the shifting of Mr. Rijiju to the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the appointment of Arjun Ram Meghwal as Minister of State, with independent charge, in the Law Ministry, but the marked decline in Mr. Rijiju's frequent fulminations against the Supreme Court collegium do indicate a desire to tone down his penchant for confrontation. While there is inaction or delay on the part of the government on some recommendations, quite a few appointments, including in the Supreme Court, have been made since February, indicating a thaw in the frosty relations between the executive and the judiciary.

Apart from his vocal criticism of the collegium system of appointments, which many others indeed see as flawed and in need of reform, Mr. Rijiju had tended to voice unusually trenchant opinions not befitting one holding a portfolio that involves dealing with members of the superior judiciary. He once accused a few retired judges of being "an anti-India gang" who were trying to make the judiciary play the role of an opposition party. On another instance, he voiced concern over the collegium making public some intelligence inputs on the basis of which candidates recommended for appointment were deemed unsuitable by the government.

In choosing Mr. Meghwal, who represents the reserved constituency of Bikaner in Rajasthan, Mr. Modi may have also been looking for a suitable opportunity to accommodate a Minister from Rajasthan in a portfolio with a higher profile. The Rajasthan Assembly elections

are due around the end of the year. Mr. Meghwal has begun his stint with the observation that there is no confrontation with the judiciary and that his priority would be to ensure speedy justice for all. One issue that requires resolution is the finalization of a fresh Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments. Mr. Rijiju had said earlier this year that the government had emphasized to the Supreme Court the need for finalizing the procedure soon. He had also mooted the idea of a 'search-cum-evaluation committee', with a government representative on it, for the appointment of Supreme Court judges and Chief Justices. It is expected that the government will continue to accord great importance to these two issues. While pursuing such initiatives, the government should avoid giving the impression that it wants to gain absolute control over the appointment of judges.

(The Hindu)

Wankhede shocker: NCB needs to put its own house in order

The charges against Indian Revenue Service officer Sameer Wankhede are piling up. According to the FIR registered by the CBI last week, Wankhede and his accomplices allegedly demanded Rs 25 crore as bribe for not framing Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the 2021 drugs-on-cruise case. The FIR mentions that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) team which raided the cruise ship allowed the supplier and the persons who were in possession of drugs to go scot-free. The

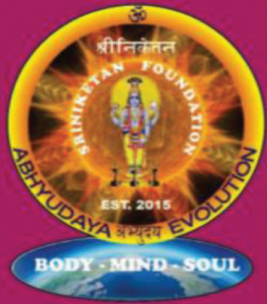
tainted officer, who served as the NCB's Zonal Director in Mumbai, is also on the probe agency's radar for possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, besides making a misleading declaration of expenditure incurred on his foreign visits.

The CBI booked Wankhede and the others following an investigation by a Special Enquiry Team (SET), headed by a Deputy Director General of the NCB. The SET report laid bare the officer's brazen attempt to extort crores of rupees from Aryan's family. The sordid saga has dented the credibility of the NCB, the nodal agency that enforces drug laws in India and works in coordination with international bodies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Several questions need to be answered:

Did Wankhede's superiors turn a blind eye to his excesses? Or were some of them in league with him? Who were the politicians whose patronage emboldened him to commit the offences?

The NCB, tasked with the 'detection and disruption' of organized drug trafficking groups, cannot do its job effectively if it shows laxity in weeding out erring officers. A deeper probe into the Wankhede case is a must so that course correction can be done. Sending a strong message of zero tolerance for corruption can deter domestic and international drug cartels. Also, the bureau must give precedence to catching the big fish. Getting its priorities right can help the NCB make a significant difference on the ground.

(Tribune India)



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WORKSHOP	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CONTRIBUTION
Personal Consultation, Pastlife & Healing Sessions	18 May (Thurs) 19 May (Fri) 22 May (Mon) 23 May (Tue)	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355 (9 am - 1 pm & 4 pm - 9 pm)	CONTRIBUTION
The Awakening (Basic)	20 May (Sat) 11 am - 4 pm	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355	FREE ENTRY
The Awakening (Advance)	21 May (Sun) 4 pm - 9 pm	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355	CONTRIBUTION
Group PASTLIFE SESSION for all	21 May (Sun) 9 am - 12 noon	Saraswati Hall, 45-52 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355	CONTRIBUTION



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INDIAN AMERICANS FAVOR LAWS TO CHECK GUN VIOLENCE- STUDY SHOWS



A 2022 Asian American Voter Survey, AAPI data revealed that a whopping 83% of Indian Americans believe that the US needs stricter gun laws. Photo for representation only

MAY 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Last month, a young 33-year-old Indian American engineer was shot by her husband in their house in North Carolina. Nabaruna Karmakar was found dead with two gunshot wounds when the officers arrived at the couple's home. The police arrested her husband, Michael Aron.

Just earlier this month, the tragic mass shooting at an outlet mall in Allen, a suburb near Dallas, Texas left a young Indian professional dead and another injured.

Earlier this year in January, another Indian American Pinal Patel was shot and killed in his driveway in Georgia. His wife and daughter were injured as the family was attacked by three masked men.

The tragic incidents brought to the fore the fact that gun violence accounted for about half the increase (20%) in mortality rates that occurred among children aged 1 to 19 between 2019 and 2021. Indian Americans even though making up just 1.35 percent of the population are not any safer from gun violence in America, according to a study. There may be no figures available to prove it, but traditionally, Indian Americans do not subscribe to the idea of possessing guns for self-protection.

Most Indians, the American Bazaar spoke to for the story, consider the prospect of having guns in households with growing children rather dangerous. A 2022 Asian American Voter Survey, AAPI data revealed that a whopping 83% of Indian Americans believe that the US needs stricter gun laws.

With growing incidents involving gun violence in America and newer research such as the 2022 Pew study showing nearly half of parents expressing concern about the possibility of their children getting shot, Indian Americans too are looking at ways they can contribute towards reducing gun violence.

The family of slain gun-shot victim, Nabaruna Karmakar are raising money to create awareness about preventing gun violence. Her family set up a GoFundMe to benefit Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indo-Canadian candidates in race for Toronto's Mayoral elections

MAY 15, 2023

TORONTO (TIP): A handful of Indo-Canadians are among 102 candidates in fray for the Toronto mayoral election to be held for the remaining city council term of 2022-2026 following Mayor John Tory's resignation early this year.

The candidates for the June 26 by-election were certified by Toronto City Clerk John D. Elvidge.

Born to Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Bermudian parents, Knia Singh has run for political office municipally, provincially and federally, most notably running for Mayor in the 2018 and 2022 Municipal elections.

Singh received the community service award from the Jamaican Canadian Association in 2016 and was named the Toronto Star person to watch for 2014.

He co-founded the Osgoode Society Against Institutional Injustice, which was instrumental in challenging carding and arbitrary detention across police services in Ontario.

"I seek to be the representative of our city as someone who has lived through various stages of life experience, and who can relate and identify with the needs of all people, from those trying to find their next meal, to those looking to invest in an economic venture," Singh said in his campaign statement.

Sandeep Srivastava, who came to Toronto from India as a teenager, ran unsuccessfully in the last municipal election.

As a Mayor, Srivastava says he hopes to build a more sustainable and cost-efficient community.

"I want to build Toronto Smart City based on my local municipal experience,



A handful of Indo-Canadians are among 102 candidates in fray for the Toronto mayoral election to be held for the remaining city council term of 2022-2026 following Mayor John Tory's resignation early this year. Photo for representation only

knowledge, skills, and strengths. I put forward a plan to make sure that we're bringing Business and Technology jobs back to Toronto by rewarding companies and small businesses," he said in his campaign statement.

Habiba Desai and Partap Singh Dua are among other candidates who have thrown their hats in the ring.

Desai most recently ran in the 2022 municipal election in Scarborough-Guildwood for a Councilor position and gained over 1000 votes.

With 102, a record-high number of candidates have ever registered for Mayor of the amalgamated City of Toronto, surpassing the previous record of 65 candidates in the 2014 municipal election, a release by City of Toronto stated.

There were 31 certified candidates for Mayor of Toronto in the 2022 municipal election.

The city said advance voting days for the election will run from June 8 to June 13 with the election day set on June 26. The Mayor of Toronto is the head of Toronto City Council and chief executive officer of the municipal government.

He is elected alongside the city council every four years on the fourth Monday of October.

However, this time the by-election was called after Toronto's long-time Mayor John Tory resigned on February 17 following reports of an affair with a staffer.

Nominations for the mayoral election closed on May 12.

Indian American A. Dylan Jadeja named as Riot Games' next CEO



A. Dylan Jadeja is set to become the new CEO of Riot Games

MAY 16, 2023

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Indian American A. Dylan Jadeja is set to become the new CEO of Riot Games, the developer behind smash-hit video games like 'League of Legends,' 'Valorant' and 'Teamfight Tactics.'

Current global president Jadeja will succeed Nicolo Laurent later this year as Laurent moves into an advisor role, Los Angeles, California-based company announced.

Jadeja first joined Riot in 2011 as Chief Financial Officer and added Chief Operating Officer to his role in 2014. Three years later, he was named President of Riot and in 2022 assumed leadership of Riot's Executive Suite and Enterprise efforts.

"When our founders transitioned to co-chair roles in 2017, Dylan was named President of Riot and has been one of the key leaders in crafting Riot's strategy and driving our culture forward," the company said.

The CEO transition from Nicolo to Dylan will take place over the coming months and should be completed by the end of 2023, after which Nicolo will stay with Riot in an advisory role.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin techie run over by a car in Florida

MAY 17, 2023

TAMPA, FL (TIP): Mariappan Subramanian, a 32-year-old Indian employee of HCL Technologies, died on the spot after being hit by a car at a pedestrian crossing in Tampa Florida.

Subramanian, who worked as a Test Lead with HCL Technologies, was hit by a car around 7:30 pm EST on Monday, May 15, at a pedestrian crossing in Hillsborough County.

"Though Mari had the right of the way, the car driver apparently, jumped the red light from what we came to know," a GoFundMe page started by his friends said.

Subramanian is survived by his wife and their four-year-old son who are living in India. He had recently relocated from Jacksonville to Tampa.

"We are initiating this fundraiser on behalf of Mrs. Mariappan and seeking your generous support," the fund organizers said assuring "Your contributions will entirely go to the surviving family. We hope that this will make a positive difference in their future."



Seen with his family in the picture, Mariappan Subramanian, a 32-year-old Indian employee of HCL Technologies, died on the spot after being hit by a car at a pedestrian crossing in Tampa Florida on May 15.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues

MAY 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department.

The department in a tweet on Friday, May 12 said it is looking forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through US foreign policy. Gupta was confirmed by the US Senate by 51 to 47 votes early this week.

According to Gupta, there are many inequities and indignities that women



Geeta Rao Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department

suffer around the world, which hold them back from participating fully in the economy.

"They are subject to threats to their safety and have a fear of violence even on a daily basis, and that determines their mobility.

"In situations of conflict and emergencies and humanitarian crises they are particularly vulnerable, both in terms of their safety but also in terms of their being able to look after their families and feed their families," she said during her confirmation hearing last year.

INDIAN AMERICAN PROFESSOR RUMA CHOPRA NAMED DEAN OF UTAH UNIVERSITY'S TRANSFORM SCHOOL



Ruma Chopra has been named dean of University of Utah's School for Cultural and Social Transformation

MAY 12, 2023

SALT LAKE CITY (TIP): Ruma Chopra, an Indian American professor of history has been named dean of University of Utah's School for Cultural and Social Transformation. She will begin her new role on July 1, 2023.

Chopra will lead the school known as Transform, in its mission to examine the way bias, bigotry, inclusion and equity are centered and thought about, according to a university announcement.

"I am excited to join Transform," Chopra said. "A school that incorporates interdisciplinary and intersectional learning as its foundation is remarkable, and I look forward to learning how my passion and experiences can be of service to the University of Utah."

Chopra is co-founder and director of the university-wide honors program at San Jose State University, and a 2021-2022 American Council on Education Fellow.

While at San Jose State University, Chopra served as associate dean of research in the College of Social Science, acting as the primary contact for retention, promotion and tenure standards.

In launching the HonorsX program at the university, she secured Adobe's partnership to help fund the project, and continued to manage the program budget, supervise staff, lead marketing initiatives and respond to faculty and student concerns.

Before pursuing a doctorate degree and path toward higher education, Chopra worked for seven years in high-tech, holding consulting and managerial positions at Intel, Cisco, Bell Labs and Google. She is a scholar of the American Revolution and American slavery and has authored three books on the subjects.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Executive Punit Renjen appointed SAP Supervisory Board deputy chairperson

MAY 12, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Deloitte Global's former Indian American CEO Punit Renjen has been elected a member of the prestigious SAP Supervisory Board and named deputy chairperson of the market leader in enterprise application software.

The election of Renjen, 61 was supported by 99.21% of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting of SAP SE, in Waldorf, Germany, according to a company release.

With that, the handover process from current Chairman Prof. Hasso Plattner to Renjen as the designated successor of the Chairman of the Board has started.

Company co-founder and current Chairman of the Board, Hasso Plattner, is scheduled to leave the SAP Supervisory Board when his current



Punit Renjen has been elected a member of the prestigious SAP Supervisory Board and named deputy chairperson

mandate expires after the 2024 AGM.

As a first step in this process, in an extraordinary meeting immediately following the AGM the Supervisory Board elected Punit Renjen as a Deputy

Chairperson of the Supervisory Board.

"We believe that Punit Renjen is an excellent candidate who, with his outstanding expertise, his many years of experience in a global company, and his valuable knowledge of many industries, represents a gain for SAP and our Supervisory Board. And we all find him to be an extremely suitable and capable candidate to take over my role as chairperson of the Supervisory Board in the future," said Hasso Plattner.

Punit Renjen added, "I am very thankful for the trust SAP shareholders put in me. I am looking forward to working with talented colleagues around the world to ensure SAP strengthens its position as an enterprise application leader in the cloud."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Punjab-born police officer Pratima Bhullar Maldonado becomes highest-ranking South Asian woman in NYPD

MAY 17, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Captain Pratima Bhullar Maldonado, an Indian-origin police officer has become the highest-ranking South Asian woman in the New York Police Department, a position she was promoted to recently.

Maldonado runs the 102nd Police Precinct in South Richmond Hill, Queens. She was promoted to the rank of Captain last month, media reported on Monday, May 15.

The mother of four was born in Punjab and lived there until she was 9 before moving to Queens in New York.

"It feels like coming home. I spent more than 25 years of my life in this precinct when I was growing up," Maldonado said.

South Richmond Hill is home to one of the largest Sikh communities in the country.

"Going to the same Gurdwara that I did as a child, and now as a captain, I love it,"



Pratima Bhullar Maldonado, an Indian-origin police officer has become the highest-ranking South Asian woman in the New York Police Department after she was promoted to Captain recently

Maldonado said as she visited the Gurdwara.

She told the media her new role will help with community policing.

"There are language barriers, people who can't speak the language, English is a second language. I've seen that firsthand growing up here," she said.

Maldonado is the highest-ranking South

Asian woman in the NYPD-a position she was promoted to last month. But it wasn't easy climbing the ranks, the report said.

"Getting out there and working and protecting people that are cursing you out sometimes and not appreciating what you're doing, but you still got to do what you got to do," Maldonado said.

"It's a big responsibility. I want to be a better and positive example, not only for my community, for other females, kids that see us every day. Because that would change their perspective of how they view law enforcement," she added. According to the NYPD, of the department's 33,787 members, 10.5 per cent are Asian.

"I feel extremely proud. It's good to show other up and coming Asian, South Asian females that if you work hard enough you too can climb the ladder of success," Maldonado said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Michelle Wang Honored as Woman of Distinction at the NY State Capitol

LONGTIME AAPI COMMUNITY LEADER RECOGNIZED

MAY 17, 2023

ALBANY, NY (TIP): Michelle Wang was honored as a Woman of Distinction last night at the State Capitol. Michelle is President of the New York Chapter of Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA) and a longtime community leader in New York City's AAPI community, serving in leadership positions on multiple community organizations and volunteering her time to promote AAPI leadership and increase civic engagement. State Senator John Liu presented her with a plaque in recognition of her service and commitment to the community in a ceremony presided over by Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins.

State Senator John Liu stated, "Michelle Wang has dedicated many years to the civic engagement and empowerment of the Asian American community. From serving on the New York State Electoral College during the 2020 presidential election to her outstanding work in creating educational and career opportunities for AAPI youth, Michelle is always the first in line to be on the front lines. For her inspiring commitment to our

community, we offer our sincere gratitude and proudly name her a Woman of Distinction."

Michelle Wang stated, "I am so honored for this recognition to be named among the state of New York's Women of Distinction. I have always strived to do everything in my power to strengthen and uplift our community, and this reward serves as an acknowledgement of both the importance of that work and of why it is imperative that our AAPI community continue to get involved. There is always more work to be done, and with this recognition, I commit to working even harder to increase representation and participation so that together we can build a better world that is representative of all voices and communities."

Michelle Wang arrived in New York from Shanghai in 1988, at age 22, to pursue a Master's degree. In 1993, she and her husband started a small business, and have maintained a real estate management firm for over two decades.

In 2013, Ms. Wang joined Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA), a reputable non-profit organization with 40-plus chapters nationwide. In addition to serving on the national governing board that oversees the organization's operation, Ms. Wang serves as President of APAPA's New York Chapter and Chair of APAPA's Northeast Region. At APAPA, she works with people to create educational and career opportunities for the AAPI community and fight against discriminatory practices and policies. In addition, Ms. Wang has been proud to serve on the advisory board of the New York Women's Suffrage Commission since 2016.

Since serving as a chaperone for her son's kindergarten classroom, Ms. Wang has devoted a significant part of her time to volunteer activities. She coordinated the Huang Pu Veterans Association's annual event and led the Huang Pu veterans in the New York City Veterans Day Parade for years.

Ms. Wang is a dedicated supporter and advocate in her community. She has been a Board Director of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York since 2013,



NY State Senator John Liu presenting Michelle Wang a plaque in recognition of her service and commitment to the community in a ceremony presided over by Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, seen on the right

and a Board Director of the Junior Chamber since 2015. Working together at the Chamber, Ms. Wang has assisted many small business entities with various inquiries and hosted numerous events that served the community. Ms. Wang has managed FCBA's Flushing Lunar New Year Parade's stage setup since 2018. She currently serves as the Secretary of GNYTEAA, a non-profit association that has provided emergency services since 2017.

Ms. Wang has been honored by Scott Stringer, the 44th New York City Comptroller, for her community service. She has also received numerous citations from various elected officials for her volunteer work, and proudly served as one of 29 electors for the New York State Electoral College in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Ms. Wang is grateful for her family's endless support, and loves her chihuahuas, Tink and Bella.

Prince Harry and Meghan escape paparazzi in NYC taxi

A SIKH CAB DRIVER SUKHCHARN SINGH RESCUES THE HARASSED FAMILY

MAY 16, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, were trailed in their car by photographers as they left a New York City charity event Tuesday, May 16 night, briefly taking refuge at a police station before being whisked away in a yellow taxicab, according to the media reports.

The royal couple set off alarms when their spokesperson claimed Wednesday, May 16 that they had been dangerously pursued by paparazzi in a "near catastrophic car chase" through the streets of Manhattan. That account led New York City Mayor Eric Adams to condemn the paparazzi chasing them as "reckless and irresponsible."

Later, though, police said the pursuit was relatively short and led to no injuries, collisions or arrests, and warranted no further investigation. Still, it drove home real security concerns surrounding the royal couple and the trauma brought on by the death of Harry's mother when he was just 12 years old.



Meghan and Prince Harry

File picture

The cab driver who drove them from the police station said he instantly recognized his passengers and that paparazzi "were following us the whole time," though he said he wouldn't call it a chase.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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12th September 1897

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Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023

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Chief Guest
General J.J.Singh



Brigadier
John Kendall



Consul General
Randhir Jaiswal



Saragarhi Foundation
Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan

Indian Consulate organizes a Beach Cleanup activity at Jones Beach, Long Island

Sunday, May 21, 2023 from 8.30 A.M. to 11 A.M.



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MAY 19, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): The Consulate General of India, New York is organizing a Beach Cleanup Activity on Sunday, May 21, 2023 from 8.30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at Jones Beach, Long Island, NY. Community Members have been invited to join the activity. They may register at <https://forms.gle/hCF9hb81p7KFeXRUA>

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/kVgGC8GHG4uqAwpi7>

Participants may use the above address link which is for the East Bath House parking lot. The group will meet there at 8.30 A.M.

Participating individuals may please pre-fill the volunteer service agreement which will be collected on their arrival.

Bags and gloves will be distributed and Jones Beach administrators will go over some safety protocols before participants go out onto the beach. They will be collecting the full bags as needed.

For any queries, Mr. AK Vijaykrishnan, Consul, Community Affairs may be contacted at 917-244-1905.

New York Governor Hochul signs legislation to help with state nursing shortage

NEW YORK IS PROJECTED TO FACE A SHORTAGE OF ALMOST 40,000 NURSES BY THE YEAR 2030

MAY 16, 2023

ALBANY, NY (TIP): Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation on Monday, May 15 to strengthen New York's health care workforce.

The legislation will help address the state's nursing shortage, and allow nursing programs to provide up to one third of a student's clinical work in a high-tech simulation environment.

This comes as the 2024 budget includes \$967 million for the Wadsworth Laboratories in Albany.

New York is projected to face a shortage of almost 40,000 nurses by the year 2030, Hochul said.

Gov. Kathy Hochul signs legislation to strengthen New York's health care workforce

Photo credit / Office of Governor



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Challenge for Congress to give out freebies in Karnataka

OF THE CENTRE'S TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE, KARNATAKA'S SHARE IS NOW DOWN TO JUST 1.1 PER CENT



BY AUNINDYO
CHAKRAVARTY

“WHAT ABOUT THE QUESTION OF KARNATAKA'S FISCAL HEALTH? WON'T THE 'FIVE GUARANTEES' PUT AN UNVIABLE BURDEN ON THE EXCHEQUER? THIS QUESTION IS BASED ON THE FAULTY ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEW CONGRESS GOVERNMENT MUST INCREASE THE BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE TO PAY FOR THE SUBSIDIES AND INCOME SUPPORT IT HAS PROMISED. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NO REASON TO ACCEPT THE INTERIM BUDGET PASSED BY KARNATAKA'S OUTGOING BJP GOVERNMENT. IT CAN COMPLETELY REJIG ALL EXPENDITURE AND MAKE ROOM FOR ITS OWN POLICIES, WHICH INCLUDE PAYING FOR ITS POLL PROMISES. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE 'FIVE GUARANTEES' CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT INCREASING THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE STATE.”



Fulfilling major poll promises will cost the Karnataka government around Rs 50,000 crore.

Photo credit / PTI

The Congress' 'five guarantees' in Karnataka - Rs 2,000 a month to the female head of a family, monthly 'dole' for the educated unemployed, 10 kg of free rice for every member of BPL (below poverty line) families, 200 units of free electricity to each home and free travel for women on state buses - have made the commentariat very angry. It says these vote-buying 'freebies' will send the state deeper into debt. We are told that these poll promises will cost the state an additional Rs 50,000 crore, which will nearly double Karnataka's fiscal deficit. And ultimately, the burden will fall on the honest taxpayer. The pundits also say that this kind of freebie politics may make economic sense in poor states, but not in a rich one like Karnataka.

Let us begin with the second objection first. On the face of it, Karnataka is indeed a rich state. On an average, a person living in the state earns about

Rs 22,000 per month. That makes Karnataka the fourth-richest state in India, just a shade behind Telangana and Haryana. But the average hides the reality. The richest five districts, clustered around Bengaluru and Udupi, which are home to about a quarter of Karnataka's population, have a monthly per capita income of nearly Rs 45,000. The richest 10 districts, home to slightly more than one-third of the state's population, have a per capita monthly income of Rs 36,000. The bottom 20 districts, where nearly two-thirds of Karnataka's people live, have a per capita income of just Rs 13,800 per month. This is slightly lower than the national average. Again, the district averages hide deep income disparities within them. That suggests that an overwhelming majority of people in Karnataka do need income support and subsidies.

What about the question of Karnataka's fiscal health? Won't the 'five

guarantees' put an unviable burden on the exchequer? This question is based on the faulty assumption that the new Congress government must increase the budgetary expenditure to pay for the subsidies and income support it has promised. The new government has no reason to accept the interim budget passed by Karnataka's outgoing BJP government. It can completely rejig all expenditure and make room for its own policies, which include paying for its poll promises. In other words, there is no reason to believe that the 'five guarantees' cannot be implemented without increasing the total expenditure of the state.

There is a deeper issue here - that of state revenues. Like all state governments, Karnataka, too, has limited avenues to raise its revenues. It has to depend on transfers from the Centre, because it is the Central government which collects the bulk of direct taxes and has access to other non-tax revenues. The Centre shares a certain amount of its gross tax revenue with states, and also gives grants-in-aid to them.

Between 2016-17 and 2019-20, Karnataka used to get 4.7 per cent of the share of taxes which went to states, and 5.4 per cent of the grants-in-aid. Of the total transfers made by the Centre to states, Karnataka's share stood at 4.9 per cent. If one compares it with the Centre's total Budget in this period, then Karnataka's share was 2.3 per cent.

This fell drastically after the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations were implemented in 2020-21. In the latest Budget, Karnataka has been allocated only 3.6 per cent of the gross tax revenue going to states. Its share in total grants-in-aid is down to just 2.2 per cent. Its share in the total transfers to states has dropped to just 3.1 per cent. Of the Centre's total budgetary

expenditure, Karnataka's share is now down to just 1.1 per cent - less than half of what it was before 2020-21. If Karnataka had received Central transfers at the same rate as it did before the 15th Finance Commission, the state would have got an additional Rs 53,000 crore. This would have been enough to pay for the Congress government's 'five guarantees'.

However, there is a justifiable reason for reducing Karnataka's share in the transfers to states. It is one of the richest states in India, despite the high inequality, and, therefore, it needs less support than poorer states do. However, even if one were to accept the 15th Finance Commission's logic, Karnataka deserves more funds from the Centre. Not just Karnataka, but every single state is getting less than what it deserves.

This is because the states are not getting their legitimate share of the total taxes being collected by the Centre. The 15th Finance Commission recommended that the Centre must share 41 per cent of the gross tax revenue with state governments. But the Centre has never really given that much. Between 2016-17 and 2019-20, the Centre transferred 35 per cent of its gross tax revenue. In the past two years, it has given just 31 per cent.

The Centre has managed this by taking advantage of a loophole - that it does not need to share the taxes it collects through cesses and surcharges. Between 2016-17 and 2019-20, cesses and surcharges accounted for 16.5 per cent of the gross tax revenue collected by the Centre. This has gone up to more than 25 per cent in this fiscal. Because of cesses and surcharges, states got an average of 20 per cent less than what they deserved between 2016-17 and 2019-20. Now they are getting a whopping 33 per cent less than their legitimate share of the gross tax revenue collected by the Centre. If the pre-2020-21 average had been retained, states would have got Rs 72,000 crore more than they are getting this fiscal.

Not just tax revenues, the Centre has also reduced the total grants-in-aid that it was giving to states. Between 2016-17 and 2019-20, about 17 per cent of the Centre's Budget was going to states as grants-in-aid. This has now dropped to just 13 per cent. If one looks at the total transfers to states as a proportion of the Centre's total Budget, between 2016-17 and 2019-20, the states were getting 46 per cent; now they are getting 36 per cent. In terms of the latest Budget, there is a drop of

Rs 4.6 lakh crore. If states had got their legitimate dues, Karnataka, too, would have got a part of them. That would have gone a long way in paying for its five guarantees.

(The author is a senior economic analyst)

A long-drawn test for India's diplomatic skills



BY
SUHASINI HAIDAR

Walking the tightrope seems to have paid off for India, but the multilateral challenges it faces will multiply

“WHILE INDIA'S ATTEMPTS AT BEING A 'BALANCING FORCE' (AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL PUT IT) ARE PLAYING OUT MUCH MORE VISIBLY, IT IS ALSO SETTING OFF A TREND - MANY COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH, NOT TO MENTION COUNTRIES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, TURKEY AND ISRAEL, ARE MANAGING THEIR TIES WITH THE WEST WITHOUT JOINING ITS STAND ON UKRAINE OR SANCTIONS. FRANCE'S LATEST REITERATION OF 'STRATEGIC AUTONOMY' AFTER FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON'S VISIT TO BEIJING INDICATES THAT EVEN THE WESTERN COALITION HAS ITS FISSURES ON THIS POINT. CLEARLY, AUTONOMOUS STRATEGY OR MULTI-ALIGNMENT HAS PAID OFF FOR INDIA IN THIS CRITICAL YEAR.”

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks on a week-long journey to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 19, a number of substantive global issues are on the anvil in his discussions with leaders of the G-7 outreach in Hiroshima, Japan, as well as during his travels from there, with bilateral issues taking a back seat to India's position in the multilateral sphere. These mandate a very careful balance between the two ends of an increasingly polarized world that has been blown apart after the Russian war in Ukraine. This is also a world that looks uneasily at facing the geopolitical challenge from China, worries over trade access, supply chain reliability, and food and energy security.

Although the Quad Summit (Australia, India, Japan, U.S.) due to be held in Sydney has been cancelled in the wake of U.S. President Joe Biden's domestic troubles, all four Quad leaders will meet on the sidelines of the G-7. Following this foray with the Indo-Pacific "coalition of democracies", Mr. Modi will be in Washington in June for a state visit - a rare honor accorded by the U.S. President, that has been reserved for only two Indian leaders in the past, President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1963) and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (2009). This visit will be marked by many strategic forays to bring India-U.S. ties closer.

Almost immediately after his return, Mr. Modi will need to pivot to the opposing coalition however; hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit scheduled for July 3-4, where he is expected to receive China's President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, the Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, leaders of central Asian states, the soon-to-be added SCO members, the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, and the President of Belarus, Alexander



Autonomous strategy or multi-alignment has paid off for India in this critical year' Photo Credit/ PTI

Lukashenko, and other guests.

THE WORLD OF THE SCO

The composition of the SCO, which includes those being inducted as observers such as Myanmar, gives the impression of it being a largely anti-western grouping, with practically every country sanctioned by the West as a part of it. With the SCO, a grouping that represents most of the world's population, GDP growth, and energy reserves, India has comfort in its common stand against unilateral sanctions such as those against Russia.

A lesson or two may also be learnt from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council for Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) held in Goa earlier this month, where India's bilateral relations with mainly Pakistan, but China and even Russia, were allowed to overshadow more substantive multilateral outcomes. This is of particular annoyance to Central Asian countries, that have always insisted that no bilateral issues are brought up at the SCO, lest it go the way of the other regional South Asian grouping, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

A week after the SCO summit, Mr. Modi will pivot back to the European Union, as chief guest at France's national "Bastille day" parade; visits to other European capitals are likely. August will see yet another turn, with the BRICS summit in South Africa. Mr. Modi will engage with the leaders of Russia, China, Brazil and South Africa on an alternative BRICS payment mechanism to the dollar-dominated international system, along with other ideas on the agenda seeking to build a counter-narrative to the U.S.-European Union combine. In September, as Mr. Modi hosts every global leader at the G-20 summit in Delhi, his diplomatic skills will be tested again - not since 2010 have leaders of all permanent members of the UN Security Council visited Delhi in the same year, let alone at the same time.

STRIKING A BALANCE

The timing of these engagements is no accident; nor is it explained by India's traditional adherence to the principle of non-alignment. If anything, Mr. Modi has consistently refused to attend Non-Aligned Movement in-person summits thus far, and has preferred his own

version of "multi-directional engagements". In 2017, the same year that India took part in reviving the Quad in the face of overt belligerence from Beijing, India also joined the SCO as a full member, agreeing to host the summit this year. New Delhi also exchanged places with both Italy and Indonesia in order to host the G-20 in 2023. If it is hosting the two major summits in the same year, it is by choice, not coincidence.

It is to India's credit that it continues to maintain this balance, and is being courted by countries across the global divide, even as it seeks to hold out against two nuclear-armed land neighbors at its frontiers. Mr. Modi has even managed to maintain India's "sweet spot" without needing to follow Indonesian President Joko Widodo's example in travelling to Kiev, or inviting Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and its Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba to address the G-20, in order to strike a balance on the war.

While India's attempts at being a "balancing force" (as a senior official put it) are playing out much more visibly, it is also setting off a trend - many countries in South East Asia and the Global South, not to mention countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Israel, are managing their ties with the West without joining its stand on Ukraine or sanctions. France's latest reiteration of "Strategic Autonomy" after French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Beijing indicates that even the western coalition has its fissures on this point. Clearly, autonomous strategy or multi-alignment has paid off for India in this critical year.

DISTURBING THE BALANCE

There are a few unlikely "black swan" events that could jolt India off its careful tightrope walk and force a rethink of its policies one way or the other. A sudden success for Ukraine in its much-delayed, upcoming spring offensive, for example, would require New Delhi to reconsider its unalloyed ties with Moscow. Any major aggression by China across any part of the Line of Actual Control would be another such event requiring a strategic overhaul. India may also be forced to rethink if Russia turns more belligerent over the payment problem or withhold supplies of defense hardware to India under pressure from China. Equally, any decision by the U.S. and Europe to "force a choice" on India: to go forward with unilateral sanctions for the increase in Russian oil inflows processed at the Rosneft-owned refinery in Gujarat, or through the old threat of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act-Related Sanctions (CAATSA) for India's acquisition of the Russian S-400 missile systems. In the absence of these 'at present unlikely' scenarios, India is likely to continue to try to work its interests on both sides of the geopolitical fence.

India's tasks ahead will be made more difficult if New Delhi fails to ensure at the SCO summit in July or during the BRICS summit in August, that Moscow and Beijing accede to a consensus on a joint communiqué at the G-20 summit in September. The U.S.-led G-7 bloc seems sanguine in allowing the differences in text to continue, suggesting that the "two outliers" can be ignored, or even omitted from the group. For India, tasked with forging a consensus, which has accompanied every G-20 summit in the past, the failure to issue a joint statement would be an ignoble distinction. Given the high stakes involved, the next 100 days will decide whether India can retain its reputation in forging a fair balance between its conflicting interests across the global divide, while remaining a gracious and successful host as the world comes home for the G-20.

(The author is an editor with The Hindu. She can be reached at suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in)

Double-engine anti-incumbency

Loss of legitimacy due to corruption taint proved to be the BJP's undoing in Karnataka



BY RAJESH
RAMACHANDRAN

MODI HAD WON IN 2019 ON A PRO-INCUMBENCY PLATFORM, WHICH IS GETTING FRAYED AT THE EDGES. POMP AND PAGEANTRY CANNOT REPLACE POLITICAL CREDIBILITY. HE HAS ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO RECLAIM HIS LEGITIMACY.

"BUT THE KARNATAKA ELECTION PROVED THAT INDIA IS A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY THAT DOES NOT BROOK DEPRAVITY IN PUBLIC LIFE. PM MODI OR THE BJP CANNOT MAKE HINDUS VOTE IN A PARTICULAR MANNER WHEN THE GROUND SITUATION DOES NOT MERIT SO. COMMUNAL POLARIZATION OR THE POLITICS OF HATRED FOR THE "OTHER" CANNOT OVERRIDE THE PEOPLE'S CONTEMPT FOR A CANDIDATE. AND THIS LOCAL SENTIMENT GOT REINFORCED WITH ANTI-INCUMBENCY AGAINST THE CENTRE, WHICH FACES ALLEGATIONS OF CRONY CAPITALISM OVER ADANI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MODI GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF US SHORT-SELLER HINDENBURG'S REPORT. PROBABLY MORE DAMAGING THAN THE ADANI ALLEGATION ARE THE TEARFUL COMPLAINTS MADE BY INDIA'S STAR ATHLETES AGAINST ONE OF THE WORST EXAMPLES OF GOONS IN POLITICS."

Anti-Incumbency is a loss of legitimacy - the cornerstone of all democratic enterprises. No amount of electoral engineering, caste and communal polarization, or media manipulation can reverse the process of loss of legitimacy. That remains the strength of a truly democratic exercise, which manifests the people's will; and



The BJP's leadership seems to have a strange belief in the supernatural powers of polarization.

Photo credit / PTI

that was on grand display in Karnataka late last week. The people perceived the Karnataka government as corrupt; a government that demands an inconceivable amount of bribe - a cut of 40 per cent from all government contracts. This perception was not created by Opposition propaganda but was conveyed to the people by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association in a letter to the Prime Minister.

Modi had won the 2019 Lok Sabha polls on a pro-incumbency platform, which is getting frayed at the edges.

This is not to wish away caste and communal considerations, but to underscore the utter disgust the voters have for a rapacious government. When two parties put up candidates from the same community or caste, the choice is easier: why vote for a tainted person who represents a corrupt entity? It is a matter of immense reassurance that the small man/woman prevailed over crooked godmen and families that claim to represent a whole community. Any objective observer of politics ought to exult in the result as the Karnataka poll was a fine contest of people's patience against political greed.

Then, this was not just the reflection of state-level anti-incumbency against the Basavaraj Bommai government, but also a vote against the Central government led by PM Narendra Modi. For, he had promised, "na khaoonga, na khane doonga (neither will I make money nor will I let others do it)" and the Karnataka situation was a breach of this promise. The entire BJP party edifice in Karnataka was complicit and the central leadership either winked at it or remained captive to the caste calculus. There are those who believed that even

Bommai could have fared better had he got a freer hand. However, the BJP's central leadership seems to have a strange belief in the supernatural powers of polarization. In fact, it tends to have bought into its Western detractors' accusations of India being an elected autocracy or an ethnic democracy.

But the Karnataka election proved that India is a functioning democracy that does not brook depravity in public life. PM Modi or the BJP cannot make Hindus vote in a particular manner when the ground situation does not merit so. Communal polarization or the politics of hatred for the "other" cannot override the people's contempt for a candidate. And this local sentiment got reinforced with anti-incumbency against the Centre, which faces allegations of crony capitalism over Adani's relationship with the Modi government following the release of US short-seller Hindenburg's report. Probably more damaging than the Adani allegation are the tearful complaints made by India's star athletes against one of the worst examples of goons in politics.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had spent time in jail in a case under TADA - Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act - over charges of aiding India's most-wanted criminal Dawood Ibrahim. What is this sort of a man doing in Parliament as a BJP member? Why is he heading the Wrestling Federation of India? Why are the police not arresting him and taking him into custody despite victims narrating instances of sexual harassment? If the BJP thinks that these questions did not exercise the minds of Karnataka voters, the party is living in a fool's paradise. It is indeed a national issue and will continue to haunt the national

conscience in every nook and corner of the country and not just the Jat land of Haryana or western UP. The question of Indian heroes' izzat or honor cannot be reduced to the caste or political ambitions of the accusing wrestlers.

Then, the proposed ban on Bajrang Dal, promised by the Congress to consolidate Muslim votes, worked well for itself, with the BJP failing to link up Bajrang Dal with Bajrang Bali or Hanuman, one of the most important deities in the Hindu pantheon. The reason, in hindsight, is simple: goons calling themselves Bajrang Dal activists or by other similar-sounding names have been attacking farmers who want to sell cattle to make dairy farming economical. Cow vigilantes have been wreaking havoc on the rural economy, blackmailing and extorting money from those who can't afford to worship their cattle, all in the name of cow protection. The anger against cow vigilantes is spilling on to the streets of Haryana, where most people abhor non-vegetarian food.

Along with the Karnataka polls, the Jalandhar by poll result too is heartening primarily because it proved there is no constituency for religious secessionism in Punjab and that the arrest of Khalistan activist (apparently someone's stooge) Amritpal did not make any difference to the wise people of this state. And also, that last year's Sangrur by poll result was just a flash of anger in the Malwa pan. People seem to have forgiven the AAP government for nominating Delhiites to the Rajya Sabha as its first big political decision and for foisting some of them on the state. A pro-incumbency mood seems to have set in with the slashing of the power bills. But it does not take too long for the tide of public opinion to turn, particularly when politicians get caught with their hands in the till.

The BJP had lost the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in 2018 before it went on to win the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by a bigger margin. So, the Karnataka result should not be given more importance than what it deserves while analyzing the national poll situation. But the question that remains is: will Adani, Brij Bhushan Sharan, cow vigilantes and other factors derail a repeat of 2019 or not? Modi had won in 2019 on a pro-incumbency platform, which is getting frayed at the edges. Pomp and pageantry cannot replace political credibility. He has about 10 months to reclaim his legitimacy.

(The author is editor-in-chief of the Tribune group of newspapers)

TURBAN DAY celebrated with much enthusiasm at Times Square, New York

2000 + TURBANS TIED ON PEOPLE TO EDUCATE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TURBAN

MAY 8, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Ritu Saluja told The Indian Panorama that "Turban is a Sikh's crown and stands for Equality, Justice, and Humanity. We celebrated Turban Day this year on May 06 at Times Square, as an expression of Sikh faith and commitment to serve humanity. The purpose of organizing this event every year is to bring awareness among all citizens about Turban and its value in Sikh faith."

Tanu Singh added : "Considering the unfortunate discrimination and hate crimes faced by Sikhs who wear or tie turbans, we believe that it is more important than ever to break down barriers between different communities. This event represents a unique opportunity to tackle these issues and unite people in the spirit of respect and education."

The turban is an integral part of Sikh identity and has been worn by Sikhs for centuries. It not only represents the core values of our faith, but also signifies the responsibility to protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of their background, race, or religion. By participating in Turban Day, people who might not know can learn more about the importance of the Sikh turban.

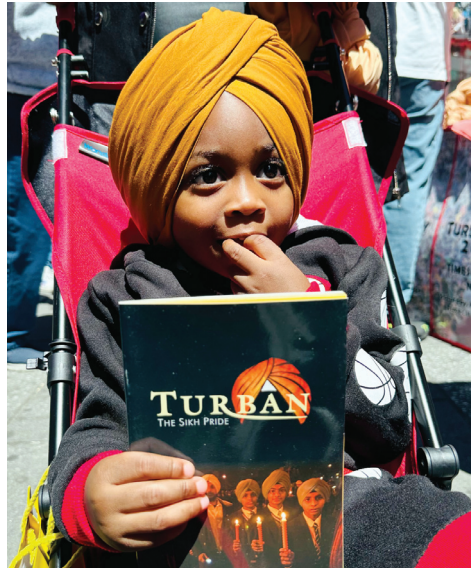


A young lady looks into a mirror as a Sikh police officer ties a turban on her head

To support this event and Sikh community in America, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York took to the stage and shared his views on how Sikh community has always been an integral part of the American society "We love the Sikh community, and it is a beautiful community. We welcome you as New Yorker's and as Americans. You work hard, you believe in family, you have a great faith, and you help build and create our great community" He mentioned about passing the Asian Anti Hate crime bill to

prosecute any action of hate, bigotry, and violence. He showed his solidarity to the Sikh community by wearing the Turban and shook a leg to famous Punjabi music.

Besides tying more than 2000 colorful



A bemused young turbaned kid in a pram holds a book on Turban



A turbaned mother and her turbaned child pose for a photograph

turbans on any fellow human coming from any background, skin color, religion and status, there were multiple artists from the Sikh community showcasing their culture and heritage.

Young musicians from the Sikh Symphony California performed 31 ragas



A turbaned Chuck Schumer with organizers



A group of turbaned happy young ladies at Times Square Turban Day festival on May 6



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said of the Sikh community : "We love the Sikh community, and it is a beautiful community."



Young musicians from the Sikh Symphony California performed 31 ragas in 13 different taals (beats)

in 13 different taals (beats) using multiple Indian classical string instruments such as sitar, rabab, taus and tabla.

Musician Biba Singh performed some popular numbers and multiple artists performed Bhangra and folk dance Gidda bringing attendees together to dance and enjoy music.

Famous Bollywood artist Manmeet Singh(actor/writer/director) had a message for everyone "For a Sikh the Turban represents love, hard work and



Artists performing Bhangra

humility. When seen from away, for anyone in distress it indicates that they can come to a Sikh and seek help and support and no matter what the situation is they will be assisted"

Turban Day at Times Square is organized by Turban Day Inc. and is the largest turban tying event in the world.

"We have been running this event since 2016 and have tied more than 20,000 turbans over the years with the goal of educating more people. We firmly believe that knowledge and understanding are the most effective tools for combatting discrimination and building bridges between communities", said Ritu Saluja.

FOR ANY FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT:

Tanu Singh or Ritu Saluja at contact@turbanday.org

FOLLOW US ON:

<https://turbanday.org/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/@TurbanDay>

Bill Barr says Trump's classified documents case is his biggest legal risk: "I don't think that argument's gonna fly"



Trump-era Attorney General Bill Barr says he believes Trump's classified documents case is his biggest legal risk

MAY 19, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Trump-era Attorney General Bill Barr says he believes former President Donald Trump will be "very exposed" legally if he was playing "any games" with the documents marked as classified that were kept at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

In an interview with CBS News senior investigative correspondent Catherine Herridge Thursday, May 18, Barr also said he thinks special counsel Jack Smith could arrive at charging decisions in the Trump investigations as soon as this summer. Smith was appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland to probe Trump's retention of the documents, and his role in any alleged unlawful interference in the transfer of power after the 2020 election or the Electoral College certification on Jan. 6, 2021.

MAR-A-LAGO DOCUMENTS

Barr believes the special counsel investigations into Trump's handling of classified documents, in particular, should be cause for concern for the former president.

"It doesn't go a lot on intent or anything like that. It's very clear that he had no business having those documents," Barr told Herridge. "He was given a long time to send them back. And they were subpoenaed. And I've said all along that he wouldn't get in trouble, probably, just for taking them, just as Biden I don't think is going to get in trouble or Pence is not going to get in trouble."

"The problem," he continued, "is what did he do after the government asked for them back and subpoenaed them? And if there's any games being played there, he's going to be very exposed."

Barr also thinks Trump's claim in a recent CNN town hall that he was declassifying records as they left the White House isn't going to satisfy the special counsel. Trump said in the town hall that he "took what I took, and it gets declassified."

"I don't think that argument's gonna fly," Barr responded. "I don't think the idea that you know, he automatically - that they were somehow automatically declassified when they were put in the boxes. I don't think that will fly."

In a recent letter to Congress, Trump's lawyers said the Justice Department should "stand down" on the probe. They also suggested the former president's departure from the White House after the election was hastily conducted and staff "simply swept all documents from the president's desk and other areas into boxes" that were then moved to Florida.

JAN. 6

The Jan. 6 investigation is going to be "harder to establish a case," because it could run up against First Amendment issues and also, much of the case relies on proving intent, Barr said. The former attorney general estimated that charging decisions in Smith's investigation related to Trump, his actions around Jan. 6 and the Mar-a-Lago documents could come as soon as this summer.

"My guess is that, and this is just, I'm speculating, but I would think they'd want to do it before the end of the year. It could be later in the summer or in the fall would be the earliest I would expect it," Barr said.

Trump denies all wrongdoing in both investigations.

THE DURHAM REPORT

Barr, who appointed special counsel John Durham to look into the origins of the Russia investigation, said a successful probe isn't necessarily measured by how many people were prosecuted. One person pleaded guilty and two others were acquitted in the four-year probe. Durham's report, released on Monday, found the Justice Department and FBI "failed to uphold their important mission of strict fidelity to the law" regarding the events during the 2016 campaign.

"I've said all along that's dangerous to get into the business of saying that the standard is how many people you prosecute, because the object here was to find out what happened and to tell the story, to get to the bottom of it," Barr said.

"I think accountability looks like if people pay attention to the truth," Barr

added. "I mean, there was a lot of attention paid by the media to all the little details that they thought implicated Trump in collusion with Russia, all of which were nonsense. And yet, we had a two-year steady diet of this nonsense from the media. Now they should pay attention to the actual facts in the report. And that's what accountability looks like."

Predicts Trump will be defeated in 2024 GOP primary race

Barr continues to believe Trump will not win the Republican nomination next year. But he isn't sure who will.

He's also not convinced stricter abortion laws in the states are a winning issue for Republicans.

Barr, who said he's always been a "pro-life Republican" and continues his work to support this position, is glad *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

"But there's a distinction between what people like me and other pro-lifers believe, you know, is the moral principle and what we actually embody in our specific secular laws," he told Herridge. He added, "I think we have to be judicious in what we propose as a law because I think the laws have to have substantial support among the people, have to reflect some kind of consensus, and it has to be a durable solution."

"We're talking about rules and restrictions placed on other people," Barr said. "And I think we have to be very careful about that. It's not about us demonstrating our purity. It's about finding something that allows us to live together in a stable way."

(Source: CBS News)

Far too many countries including Russia, India, China and Saudi Arabia continue to target faith community members: US official



"Far too many governments continue to freely target faith community members within their borders," Rashad Hussain, Ambassador at Large, Office of International Religious Freedom, told reporters at a news conference on May 15, soon after the annual 2022 "Report on International Religious Freedom" was released by Secretary of State Tony Blinken.

Photo / Courtesy Department of State

MAY 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A senior US official on Monday, May 15, said far too many governments, including Russia, India, China and Saudi Arabia, continue to freely target faith community members, as the state department released its Congressional-mandatory annual report on international religious freedom that documents the status of religious freedom in countries across the world.

"Far too many governments continue to freely target faith community members within their borders," Rashad Hussain, Ambassador at Large, Office of International Religious Freedom, told reporters at a news conference here soon after the annual 2022 "Report on International Religious Freedom" was released by Secretary of State Tony Blinken.

The report provides a fact-based, comprehensive view of the state of religious freedom in nearly 200 countries and territories around the world, Blinken said, noting that it aims to highlight areas where freedom of religion or belief is being repressed to promote accountability and ultimately, drive progress toward a world where freedom of religion or belief is a reality for everyone everywhere.

Blinken did not mention India in his remarks and the India section of the annual report is almost similar to that of the previous years.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Google, Meta, Amazon hiring low-paid H1B workers after US layoffs: report

According to a report, Google swiftly filed H1B visa applications for international H1B hires, including software engineers, consultants, researchers, and various other roles, just a month after Sundar Pichai's announcement of the company's plan to cut 12,000 jobs.

MAY 17, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Even as global tech giants are carrying out mass layoffs, several top Silicon Valley companies are reportedly looking to hire lower-paid tech workers from foreign countries. Google, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, Zoom, Salesforce and Palantir have applied for thousands of H1B worker visas this year, according to a US Department of Labor data, reported independent investigative journalist Lee Fang.

Ironically, thousands of workers on H1B visa, including Indians, have been affected by the layoffs in the United States, with many taking to social media to share the news and seek new opportunities.

Just a month after Sundar Pichai announced Google's plan to cut 12,000 jobs around the world in January, the company filed applications for H1B visas to hire software engineers, analytical consultants,



Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai. Google and Microsoft are among companies that carried out mass layoffs.

user experience researchers and other roles from outside the United States, with several requests aimed for new Google employees to join in August, the report states. Google parent Alphabet owned Waymo too has reportedly filed similar H1B applications to hire engineers.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

150 Thousand people from across the world to participate in World Culture Festival in US: Organizers

MAY 19, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): More than 150 Thousand people from across the world will participate in the fourth World Culture Festival which is being organized by the Art of Living Foundation here later this year, the organizers have announced. District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser along with spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar kicked off the preparation of the mega event, which is often called the Cultural Olympics.

According to the organizers, more than 150,000 visitors from around 180 countries are likely to participate in the three-day mega event that will be held here from September 29 to October 1 this year.

"It is the mission of this time together that we come together as world citizens, as fellow humans, to celebrate our humanity, to reconnect, to demonstrate, that we can do big things when we work across cultures, when we work across backgrounds and beliefs and work as human beings to make this a better world," Mayor Bowser told reporters at a news conference here on Thursday that was jointly addressed by Sri Ravishankar.

Praising the significance of such events, she said: "We're expecting to welcome over a hundred thousand people, I'm told more, from more than 180 countries will come to our National Mall. And you won't be surprised that I'm gonna say that this is the perfect place for

the world to come together. We do it every single day".

"I want to thank the World Culture Festival organizers and the Art of Living Foundation in advance for the hard work that we have ahead of us in partnership to welcome tens of thousands of human beings to Washington, DC," the city mayor said.

Sri Ravishankar said that so far more than 50,000 people have already registered for the mega cultural festival in the city on the historic National Mall in the US capital.

The previous three editions of the once-in-four years' World Culture Festival were held in Bangalore, Berlin and New Delhi.

"It's time that we have to spread the message of harmony and peace. ... In a world where there is a post-pandemic, especially when there is an aggression on one side and depression on the other side, and a huge mental health crisis that we are facing, I think it's timely for us to come together in a spirit of celebration and honor our diversity, which is the wealth of humanity," Sri Ravishankar said. He also announced that the Art of Living Foundation will honor frontline workers and health workers during the festival.

"We would choose two of them from the whole of the country here, United States, and would like to honor two healthcare professionals, workers; two of the firemen who have been fighting fire, two environmentalists, and then two from

union leaders who are putting their heart and soul to keep life going on, on our cities and our countryside.

"We need to honor these people. And the World Culture Festival will be an occasion to recognize their contribution to our society," he said.

The three-day event at the National Mall would be seen by billions of people across the world.

"So, the message is very clear from all of us that we are one global family and we need to care for each other and share our rich heritage with each other," Sri Ravishankar said.

"We need to bridge the gap. There is a lot of polarizations in the world. The World Culture Festival is an occasion for people to come together and celebrate each other's differences. It is the need of the hour; to bring people together in celebration and to spread the message of peace and to say that we are one human family," he said.

He said the World Culture Festival is expected to attract more than 150,000 visitors. According to city officials, this festival is expected to rake in over USD 30 million in revenue.

Art of Living Foundation said at least 50 world leaders, including current and former heads of state, members of national parliaments and international governmental organizations, have already committed to attending the Festival.

Prominent among them include former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar brings Olympic size culture festival to Washington, D.C.

Chan Santokhi, President of Suriname; Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius; Vicente Fox, former President of Mexico; Federico Franco, former President of Paraguay and Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India.

A global Faith Advisory Council is being convened in support of the World Culture Festival.

The Council, composed of leaders from faiths of the world, will share messages about common values of peace, harmony and partnership to nurture greater unity and togetherness, a media release said.

In addition, there will be a diverse international food festival associated with the event that is expected to attract thousands to sample international cuisines made by chefs from around the capital region. (With inputs from PTI)

Republican Nikki Haley for merit based legal immigration



Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley has called for legal immigration based on merit, talent and business needs and would stop allowing any immigrants into the country before immigration reform.

MAY 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley has called for legal immigration based on merit, talent and business needs and would stop allowing any immigrants into the country before immigration reform.

Legal immigration should be dependent on factors such as merit, talent and business needs, she told the media on Sunday, May 14.

"Let's not do it just because people happen to cross the fence and get away," Haley said. "Let's not do it because we have crowded facilities and we can't hold

any more. That's the wrong way to go about it. We have to make sure this is a national security issue."

"We shouldn't wait for another 9/11 to realize that Republicans and Democrats have to get in the room and figure out immigration reform and start working for the American people instead of the other way around," she added.

Haley, first Indian American to serve in a presidential cabinet as US ambassador to UN under former President Donald Trump also distanced herself from Trump's policy of separating migrant children from their parents.

It happened because lawmakers have long been at a stalemate on immigration reform, she said. "It should never get to that point," Haley said when asked if she would revive the controversial policy as a deterrence to illegal border crossings.

"No, we should not be separating families, but we shouldn't be taking families that we don't have any control over."

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Republican Vivek Ramaswamy wants to raise the voting age to 25

MAY 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy wants to raise the voting age for most Americans to 25, unless they do at least six months of military service or pass a civic test given to immigrants.

Ramaswamy's campaign announced the biotech entrepreneur and "anti-woke" activist's push for a US Constitutional amendment promoting "civic duty voting," which he announced in a news release and detailed during a campaign event in Urbandale, Iowa, Thursday.

Suggesting the "absence of national pride is a serious threat to the future of our country" Ramaswamy argued his proposal "can create a sense of shared purpose and responsibility amongst young Americans to become educated citizens." On Twitter during his Iowa event, Ramaswamy acknowledged, "I understand not everyone will like this proposal and that it will take persuasion to convince many of its merits, but I'm ready to take that on."

At age 37, Ramaswamy is the



Vivek Ramaswamy wants to raise the voting age for most Americans to 25, unless they do at least six months of military service or pass a civic test given to immigrants.

youngest person competing for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination in a field that already includes several candidates in their 70s, including former President Donald Trump and former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson.

Fellow Indian American rival, former UN Ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, 51, has made the call for a new generation of political leadership central to her campaign, even positing that cognitive testing should be required for older politicians.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



Modi unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Japan at the invitation of Fumio Kishida to attend the G7 Summit, unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima on Saturday, May 20.

After the bust was unveiled, PM Modi paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking to reporters in Hiroshima, after unveiling the bust of Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi said that even today the world gets frightened when they listen to the word 'Hiroshima'.

He said, "I got the opportunity to unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi during my visit to Japan for the G7 Summit. The bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima will take forward the idea of non-violence."

"It is a great moment for me to know that the Bodhi tree that I gifted to the Japanese PM has been planted here in Hiroshima so that people can understand the importance of peace when they come here. I pay my respect to Mahatma Gandhi," PM Modi added.

The G7 leaders are currently in Japan to attend the G7 Summit scheduled to be held in Hiroshima from May 19-21. Notably, Japan assumed the G7 Presidency in 2023.

The Summit is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the G7 member states of France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada (in order of rotating presidency), and the European Union (EU).

Members of the Indian diaspora in Japan gathered at a hotel in Hiroshima as PM Modi arrived in the city on Friday, May 19.

Ordinance by Centre to regain govt control adds twist to day of drama in Delhi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

An ordinance brought by the Centre to regain control over Delhi's officers is a violation of a recent Supreme Court order that gave the elected government the power to power to appoint bureaucrats in all but a select few departments, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said on Friday, May 19, even as the BJP welcomed the move.

The move came hours after chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said there were rumours that the Union government will bring an ordinance to overturn the May 11 verdict.

Education minister Atishi later said the ordinance was a contempt of the Supreme Court. "The Centre's ordinance is clearly contempt of the Supreme Court Constitution bench which clearly ruled that the elected government should have the power to take decisions (regarding services matters). The ordinance has been brought by the central government out of fear that the power will go into the hands of CM Arvind Kejriwal's government," said Atishi in a statement.

"It is clear that the central government is afraid of Arvind Kejriwal and the judgment of the Supreme Court, that is why they have brought this ordinance which is a contempt of the SC," she added.

The top court's Constitution bench, on May 11 said that officers working in all departments except those relating to public order, land and police fell within the administrative and legislative control of the Delhi government, capping a dispute that began with a notification issued eight years ago by the Union government, and led to a protracted court battle with split verdicts.

But the ordinance on Friday negated the ruling.

"The central government has snatched the powers on services matters given to the elected government of Delhi by the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court. The people of Delhi elected Arvind



Delhi ministers wait outside the LG Secretariat on May 19.

Kejriwal for the third time, but the Centre is saying that the imposed lieutenant governor will have the rights of transfer and posting, and through it he will have authority over every work. This is contempt and insult to the Supreme Court," Delhi services minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

Senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi, who represented the Delhi government before the top court, criticised the ordinance. "Clearly, it is the act of a bad, poor and graceless loser. Doubtful if constitutional principles can be diluted by ordinances/acts. Greater doubt whether Parliament as a whole will at all approve it," he added.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said his party welcomes the Centre's decision.

"Delhi is the capital of the country, the whole of India has the right over it and for a long time the administrative dignity of Delhi has been hurt by the Arvind Kejriwal government. The corruption of this government has also embarrassed Delhi a lot and now in the last one week, the way the Arvind Kejriwal government

has tried to defame Delhi's administration and do arbitrariness, the BJP welcomes the ordinance," said Sachdeva.

Earlier, Kejriwal had expressed concern that an ordinance may be promulgated.

"I hope that these rumours are false. If this is true it will be big betrayal for the people of Delhi and the country. The judgment was given by the constitution bench of the SC and it should be respected by everyone. The people of Delhi have got justice after many years and they are happy that the government they elected will be able to work for them," Kejriwal said.

He was speaking after meeting the LG, who the AAP alleged was dragging his feet in signing a file removing services secretary Ashish More.

The standoff, which began hours after the court verdict on May 11 as the Delhi government's ordered More's removal, dragged on for nine days.

On Friday evening, ministers protested at the LG's office. Later, led by Kejriwal, they met the LG in a video-recorded event.

Source: HT

Aryan Khan case: Wankhede abused his position, says NCB probe

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI (TIP)

The NCB's inquiry team has alleged that its former zonal director Sameer Wankhede abused his position while probing the drugs-on-cruise case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan.

The NCB's findings have been taken on record as part of the CBI's FIR against Wankhede and three other NCB officials, who initially investigated the case.

The NCB has found several alleged service rule violations by Wankhede, including misreporting of foreign travel expenses and dealings in luxury watches.

The inquiry team, in its report, has found irregularities against Indian



Sameer Wankhede

Revenue Services officer Wankhede and his team on two counts — alleged

irregularities in the conduct of the drugs-on-cruise raids and violations under the Central Civil Services (CCS) Rules.

Wankhede has, however, denied the allegations. He had approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and recently the Bombay High Court to quash the CBI FIR against him, saying the SET chief — NCB Deputy Director General Gyaneshwar Singh — was "acting as judge of his own cause and conduct" as he was his reporting boss during the investigation of the case.

Meanwhile, Wankhede, accused of demanding bribe from Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating his son, has claimed in his petition that the superstar praised the officer's "integrity" and

pleaded with him to be kind to Aryan.

As per Wankhede's petition before the Bombay High Court seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by the CBI for bribery, Khan deplored the political involvement in the case. As per the transcript provided in the petition, in one of the messages, the actor said, "God bless you. I have to come personally whenever you say and give a hug to you. Let me please know whenever it's convenient for you. Really, I have always had the highest regard for your uprightness and now it has increased manifolds. Big respect." "Please show some kindness ... I can only plead and beg you as a father. Please," the superstar said in another chat, as per the petition.



Tourists can visit Siachen glacier without Army nod

In a major decision that would give a much-needed boost to the tourism sector in Ladakh, the Army has allowed tourists to visit the Siachen glacier — the highly militarised base camp of the highest battlefield in the world — without any prior permission or no-objection certificate (NOC). The Tourism Department of Ladakh has been pushing for border tourism for long. It had urged the Army to allow domestic tourists at the Siachen base camp in the Nubra region without the NOC. The Ladakh police have been asked to establish checkpoints in the area to manage the flow of tourists to the Siachen base camp. Tourists will have to pay an environment fee for visiting the base camp.

In a notification, Under Secretary to the Tourism and Culture Department Muhammad Ali Tak said, "The people in Nubra in particular and the tourism-related stakeholders of Ladakh in general were demanding opening up of the Siachen base camp for tourists. The Tourism Department has been pursuing this case for the past two years."

"As communicated by the 14 Corps headquarters, a visit to the civil tourist facility near the Siachen base camp does not require any authorisation," said Tak.

Secretary (Tourism) Kacho Mehboob Ali has been trying for long to allow tourists visit border areas along the LoC and the LAC. The Army recently informed the department that allowing tourists to visit the Galwan Valley close to the LAC needed further deliberation.

Source: TNS

NIA raids 15 locations in J-K in terror-funding case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is carrying out raids across 15 locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with an ongoing terror-funding case, officials said on Saturday, May 20.

In the Kashmir division, searches are being carried out in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara and Srinagar, while in the Jammu division, raids are under way in Poonch and Jammu districts.

"The raids are part of the ongoing investigation into the terror funding case," the officials said.

SC defers scientific survey of 'Shivling' at Gyanvapi till next hearing

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, May 19, deferred a scientific survey, including carbon dating, to determine the age of a Shivling, claimed to have been found at Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque, saying the implications of the Allahabad high court order for it merit closer scrutiny.

The high court on May 12 had ordered determination of the age of the structure, claimed to be a Shivling, using modern technology. However, the mosque's authorities have said the structure is part of a fountain in the wazukhana, where ablutions are performed before namaaz.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued notices to the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and the Hindu petitioners on the plea of the Anjuman Islamia Masjid committee against the high court order for the "scientific survey", including carbon dating, of the structure.

"Since the implications of the impugned order merit closer scrutiny, the implementation of the directions concerned in the order shall stand deferred till the next date," the bench also comprising justices P S Narasimha and K V Vishwanathan said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, expressed concerns regarding damage to the structure during the process and said the government will examine in consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India if there is an alternative method to ascertain the age of the Shivling found at Gyanvapi.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Anjuman Islamia Masjid committee, told the bench that the survey work will commence on May 22.

The Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government both agreed to the plea for adjourning the proposed scientific survey of the structure for the time being.

The high court had set aside an October 14 order of the Varanasi district court that rejected a plea for scientific investigation, including carbon dating, of the structure found in May last year during a court-mandated survey of the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Following the high court order, a local court at Varanasi on May 16 agreed to hear a plea for a survey by the ASI of the entire Gyanvapi mosque premises.



Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque.

Prior to this, the high court, on May 12, had directed the Varanasi district judge to proceed, in accordance with the law, on the application by Hindu worshippers for conducting a scientific probe of the structure found last year.

The high court order had said no harm should be done to the structure, which the Hindu petitioners claim is a Shivling. However, the mosque's authorities said it is part of a fountain in the wazukhana.

It had passed the order on a revision petition filed by Laxmi Devi and three others challenging the Varanasi court order.

The high court had obtained a report from various institutions, including the IITs in Kanpur and Roorkee, and the Birbal Sahni Institute in Lucknow, before ordering for determination of the age of the structure.

The report said direct dating of the structure is not possible and the age can be ascertained with proxy dating of materials, which can "correlate with the establishment of the 'lingam' if there is any".

Source: PTI

Value of defence production crosses Rs 1 lakh-crore mark in FY 2022-23

NEW DELHI (TIP)

For the first time, the value of India's defence production has crossed Rs 1 lakh-crore mark in the financial year 2022-23, the defence ministry said on Friday, May 19.

The value of total defence production in the country in 2021-22 was over Rs 95,000 crore.

In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to promote the domestic defence industry.

"As a result of the consistent efforts of the ministry of defence, the value of defence production in the financial year 2022-23 has crossed the figure of Rs one lakh crore for the first time ever," the ministry said.

"The value currently stands at Rs 1,06,800 crore and it will go further up once the data is received from the remaining private defence industries," it said in a statement.



The ministry said the value of defence production in 2022-23 is a rise of more than 12 per cent over the figure in 2021-22 when it was Rs 95,000 crore.

"The government is continuously working with defence industries and their associations to remove the challenges faced by them and promote defence production in the country," the ministry said.

It said a number of policy reforms have been taken to achieve the objective of

ease of doing business, including the integration of MSMEs and start-ups into the supply chain.

The ministry said defence industries, including the MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and start-ups, have been coming forward in design, development and manufacturing of military hardware.

"There is almost a 200 per cent increase in the number of defence licenses issued to the industries in the last seven-eight years by the government," the ministry said. "These measures have given a boost to the defence industrial manufacturing ecosystem in the country and generated tremendous employment opportunities," it said.

India is one of the largest importers of arms globally. According to estimates, the Indian armed forces are projected to spend around USD 130 billion in capital procurement in the next five years.

India in history this Week

MAY 19, 2023, TO MAY 25, 2023

19 MAY

1913 Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was born, who later became the President of the country.

1954 The National Film Board was formed by the government in the country.

1969 Andhra Pradesh came under a terrible storm which took 608 lives. Not only this, around 20000 people were rendered homeless in this storm.

1971 The first naval submarine station was built at Visakhapatnam.

1980 TN Raina died when he was General of India.



1992 Tennis player Leander Paes was awarded the Arjuna Award.

1993 The government had decided to link the power with Indian Airlines.

1904 One of the first industrialists of India, Jamsetji Nusrawanji Tata was killed.

1910 Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi and added a black chapter to the pages of Indian history, was born.

20 MAY

1900 Famous poet Sumitranandan Pant of Hindi world was born on this day.

1918 Piru Singh, a valiant soldier of the Indian Army who was instrumental in the 1947 Indo-Pak war, was born.

1929 Rajkumar Shukla died. He was a freedom fighter and one of the prominent people of Champaran Satyagraha.



1932 Vipin Chandra Pal, leader of the Garam Dal in India and the father of revolutionary ideas, passed away.

1957 T. Prakasam died. He was a famous freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.

1972 Famous poet of Brajbhas Gaya Prasad Shukla 'Sanehi' dies

2012 Renowned anthropologist and feminist scholar Leela Dubey died.

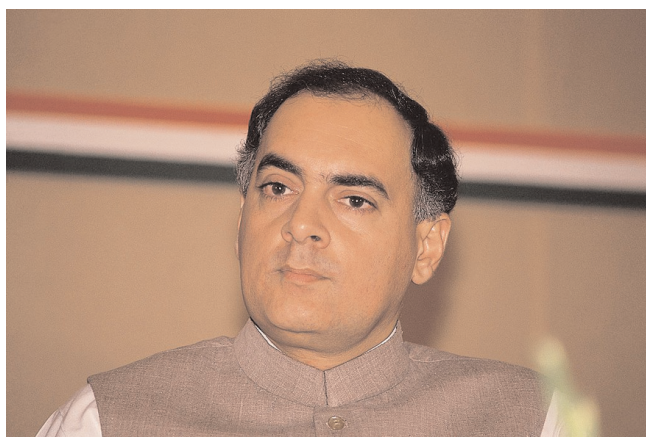
2011 Mountaineer Premlata Agarwal of Jharkhand created a new history in mountaineering, having the distinction of being the oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain peak.

2011 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the oil refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh to the country at a cost of thousands of crores. It is a world class project with the efforts of Bharat Petroleum Limited, Oman Oil Company and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

21 MAY

1960 Indian actor Mohanlal Vishwanath Nair was born.

2006 Attack on Congress rally in Srinagar on 21 May. 1971: Famous director, script writer Aditya Chopra was born.



1991 Former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi died in a suicide attack in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.



1994 Sushmita Sen won the title in the 43rd Miss Universe competition held in Manila.

22 MAY

1772 Raja Rammohun Roy, one of the socio-religious reformers, was born on this day in 1772. He started the Brahmo Samaj movement and raised his voice against evils like child marriage and sati system.

1987 The heartbreaking Hashimpura massacre took place on this day in 1987, in which 19 jawans of Uttar Pradesh were tried for murder.

1963 India's first glider Rohini took off.

1984 Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to conquer Everest, the world's highest peak.

1988 India successfully tested the indigenously developed intercontinental ballistic missile Agni.

1936 Foundation stone of India's first stadium Brabourne Stadium in Bombay

1949 West Germany formally came into existence after adopting the constitution.

2010 Air India Express Boeing 737 crashed while landing in Mangalore. In which 158 people died.

23 MAY

1919 Birthday of Maharani Gayatri Devi, Rajmata of Jaipur royal family.

1967 The country had taken a step forward in the field of education. Under which the South Gujarat University was established on this day.

1995 The TADA rule was abolished. Along with this, a proposal was made in the Lok Sabha to implement the Anti-Terrorism Activities Act.

1998 At that time LK Advani, who was the Home Minister, was assigned the issue of Kashmir.



2008 India successfully test-fired the surface-to-surface missile Prithvi-2.

2014 The Supreme Court did not consider it a crime for women and men to live together without marrying.

2016 The Indian Space Research Institute (ISRO) launched the space shuttle RLV-TD made entirely in India from Sriharikota Space Center in Andhra Pradesh in 2016.

1895 Sitar-e-Bahad Shivprasad died.

24 MAY

1896 Kartar Singh Sarabha, who gave his life for the country, was born.

1954 Bachendri Pal's birthday is the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest

2000 Famous lyricist and poet of Hindi films Majrooh Sultanpuri died.

1959 Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day.

1956 On the occasion of the 2500th birthday of Gautam Buddha, a huge program was organized.

1993 India and Uzbekistan had made five treaties.

2000 The Supreme Court denied the proposal for an out-of-court hearing.

25 MAY



2005 Actor and successful leader Sunil Dutt said goodbye to the world on this day.

1611 The Mughal ruler Jahangir married Mehrunnisa, known in history as Nur Jahan.

2010 59-year-old Indian-born Kamala Prasad Bisesar was elected the first female Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, defeating outgoing Prime Minister Patrick Manning.

'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai'

**"IT'S A STORY OF AN ORDINARY MAN, DOING AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB"
SAYS MANOJ BAJPAYEE AT THE ZEE5 GLOBAL SPECIAL SCREENING OF
'SIRF EK BANDAA KAAFI HAI' IN NEW JERSEY**

MAY 16, 2023

EDISON, NJ (TIP) : On Sunday, May 14, Manoj Bajpayee stole the limelight at the exclusive screening of the much-anticipated courtroom drama 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai' organized by ZEE5 Global in New Jersey. The highly anticipated film, soon to release on ZEE5 Global, was showcased at BIG Cinemas in Edison. The exclusive event, attended by prominent people from the South Asian community and media, saw the celebrated actor actively engage with his fans who were thrilled with the personalized interaction.

Speaking about the character he plays in the movie, Manoj Bajpayee stated, "It's a story of an ordinary man, doing an extraordinary job, that becomes an example for society." His words encapsulated the essence of the film, which resonated with viewers on multiple levels. While sharing insights into his preparation for a challenging monologue which he delivered in a single take, he revealed "I rehearsed my monologue more than 100 times before starting the shoot."

Speaking at the screening, Archana



Archana Anand - Chief Business Officer, Zee5 Global, Manoj Bajpayee - Lead Actor, Shariq Patel - Chief Business Officer, Zee Studios
Photo Credit/ Zee5 Global

Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global, said, "It is a powerful courtroom drama that will stay with you. In a world where one is often dealing with injustice and left feeling angry, this film gives you a sense of closure and satisfaction and we're thrilled to see how strongly it is

resonating with our audiences here."

Chairman and Managing Director, Bhanushali Studios Limited, Vinod Bhanushali says, "After the response at New York International Film Festival, it is humbling to hear about the love and appreciation our Indian diaspora gave to a

film we all have worked hard towards. It is a matter of pride to see the world finally celebrating Indian cinema."

"We are thrilled with the heart-warming response the film has been receiving from the Indian diaspora and the New York Indian Film Festival. The world is now recognizing as well as celebrating Indian content and we are proud to pioneer this wave of change," says Shariq Patel, Chief Business Officer, Zee Studios.

The film's screening at the New York Indian Film Festival earlier this week garnered an overwhelming response from the audience, further solidifying its position as a must-watch title.

Produced by Zee Studios, Vinod Bhanushali's Bhanushali Studios Limited, and Suparn S Varma, 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai' is touted as one of the biggest legal courtroom dramas of the year. The Apoorv Singh Karki directorial, inspired by true events, follows high court lawyer PC Solanki, who single-handedly fights an extraordinary case against the country's biggest godman for the rape of a minor under the POCSO Act.

Meera Gandhi hosted a special event in honor of renowned photographer and editor, Rose Billings



MAY 18, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP) : Well-known humanitarian and global philanthropist Meera Gandhi hosted a special event in honor of renowned photographer and editor, Rose Billings, at the Helen Yarmak's 5th Ave space in New York City.

The celebration, which took place on May 10, 2023, was a night of rich culture, artistry, and recognition. Attendees, including esteemed individuals from

various walks of life, including Ilyasah Shabazz, Reshma Patel and Ramola Bachchan, came together to acknowledge and celebrate the immense contributions of Rose Billings to the world of photography.

Rose Billings, known for her evocative photography and editing prowess, has been instrumental in highlighting the beauty of the ordinary, capturing unique moments, and telling stories through her



Photos / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

work. The event served as a platform to honor her talent, her vision and her dedication to her craft.

Meera Gandhi, CEO and founder of The Giving Back Foundation and author of the book 3 Tips: The Essentials for Peace, Joy and Success, was the perfect host for the evening. Known for her commitment to various causes, her philanthropic work, and her passion for the arts, Gandhi expressed her

admiration for Billings' work and her commitment to the artistic community.

Helen Yarmak International, known for its luxury fashion and high-end jewelry, provided the elegant backdrop for this celebration. The venue has long been a symbol of glamour, sophistication, and artistic inspiration, making it the perfect location to honor a talent like Rose Billings.

Indian media in America faces challenges and opportunities

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS REVEAL HOW THEY HAVE BEEN COPING AND THE BUSINESS STRATEGIES THEY HAVE ADOPTED.



**BY PARVEEN
CHOPRA**

**Founder,
ALotusInTheMud.com**

**Founding Editor, The
South Asian Times**

In 2020, India Abroad, known as the gold standard in ethnic newspapers in America, closed operations after 50 years in circulation.

In 2022 New India Abroad was started by a different team.

That tells you the story of Indian media in America. Down and up. Resilience and renewal. Learning and adapting.

The downturn for all journalism - not just Indian ethnic media - has been caused by the ever-growing digital revolution. The 2008 economic meltdown was bad for the media too. Covid years were worse. Now, social media is the new villain in the journalism story. Many storied newspapers in the US have closed or curtailed operations.

Indian ethnic media has been more vulnerable because of a lack of promoters with deep pockets for sustaining operations and a dearth of committed journalists doing quality work to keep readers engaged. Surprisingly, the big media houses from India have not ventured here.

The need for quality journalism to serve the Indian community is greater than ever. For one, the community is growing - their numbers increased from about 3 million in 2010 to more than 4.5 million as per the 2020 census. Indian Americans make headlines as achievers in the US media and are referred to as a model minority.

But being new immigrants, the community cannot let its guard down. Knowledge is power. It is the job of



community media to bring to the notice of their readers issues that need collective action. And, becoming their voice, take their issues to officials and lawmakers concerned. For example, they need to keep hammering the US Congress to resolve the monstrous green card backlog for Indians.

A new, combustible case is Washington state passing a law (now under consideration in California) banning discrimination based on caste, a practice allegedly extended here from India. Some Hindu groups condemned the move as anti-Indian. The community papers should be explaining the implications of the bill and build a consensus - for or against.

Surely, all regions of the US with large Indian populations have community newspapers. But most of them have mainly ended up as aggregators compiling news and features available freely. In contrast, New York-based India Abroad once spawned editions in other

diaspora countries and a news agency.

India Abroad, under publisher Gopal Raju, even made press freedom history. They published a story linking megastar Amitabh Bachchan's brother, Ajitabh Bachchan, to kickbacks in a defense deal. Ajitabh sued in London and won 40,000-pound damages in 1990. Raju fought the enforcement at home. US legacy media including The New York Times filed briefs in Raju's support. Raju won.

Unfortunately, declining ad revenue while honor-bound to keep printing copies to serve its 20,000+ paid subscribers made the paper a hot potato eventually.

One contemporary of India Abroad was India West, a paper with big circulation on the West Coast. Its aging owners, Bina and Ramesh Murarka, shut it down when Covid struck.

Today, a new opportunity has arisen for the Indian media. With the greater visibility of South Asians in many spheres of American life, it is time to tell their story to the mainstream. But to achieve that you need some gumption and broader vision.

Indian Americans are well-educated and high earners. Rightly leveraged, this market can support a vibrant media.

So, what is blocking that from happening, and what is the way forward? Publishers and editors responded to reveal how they have been coping and the business strategies they have adopted.

BUSINESS MODELS IN THE MIX

Multiple mediums



**IndianEYE
TELEVISION**

**Sunil Hali, Promoter of
Radio Zindagi, and
Publisher, The Indian Eye**

high integrity," he recalls.

To compete with India Abroad, Hali distributed his paper free at temples, gurdwaras, and retail stores, setting a trend. In what he calls a "multiplier effect", he is now aiming to reach the community through different mediums: The Indian Eye print paper and TV, Divya Bhaskar in Gujarati, and Radio Zindagi.

Sunil Hali, an engineer by profession, entered the media industry in 2000. "It was the year of the Y2K scare, and Indian techies earned a good reputation in the USA. Feeling the story of a developing India was left untold by India Abroad, I started the North American edition of The Indian Express, a trusted name with

Coping with falling ad revenue



The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

**Kamlesh Mehta, Chairman
& Publisher of The South
Asian Times**

Ginsmon Zacharia.

Mehta's was the only Indian paper that did not suspend publication even during the pandemic. "We weathered the Covid-19 storm by tightening our belt and thanks to cooperation from our loyal team," he says. "We served the community further by establishing a helpline to respond to the urgent needs of people."

As The South Asian Times editor until last year, I expanded its editorial mix to offer a little more than other papers. To news from India and community affairs, I added a couple of pages on US affairs. I also aimed at neutrality, even as other papers tend to tilt right in Indian affairs and left in US affairs.

During Covid, federal, state, and NYC ads came as a godsend for papers on their radar. Now, some publishers

The sharp decline in ad revenue coupled with a rise in paper and printing costs has made the survival of print publications perilous.

Founded in 2008, The South Asian Times continues to print besides mailing an electronic replica (e-paper) to a large list. Under Publisher and Chairman Kamlesh Mehta, its policy to present clean content is a factor in holding a committed class of readers and advertisers to keep it in business. The Asian Era is a sister publication founded by

grumble that Mayor Eric Adams has not delivered on his promised support to ethnic media. Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, Editor-Publisher of The Indian Panorama, blames it on a lack of vision by the bureaucracy. He praises, however, CUNY's Center for Community Media (CCM) for their sustained push for government support for ethnic media. (Disclosure: This article was written under a fellowship from CCM)

When asked, José Bayona, Executive Director of NYC Mayor's Office of Ethnic & Community Media, stated: "The South Asian community is the second largest community represented in the Citywide Marketing Directory. Many South Asian publications continue to receive advertisements from the City." He explained the decreasing ad support to the end of pandemic federal funds flowing to the City and contingencies like the migrant crisis.

Should the Indian government support the community media here as it used to once release Air India and tourism ads? Prof Saluja says yes, but "I would prefer to do without it, so as to not be beholden to anybody."

Sunil Hali wants Indian businesses and organizations in the US to support quality media through advertising which will help them in turn. That support is coming only in a trickle. Big organizations like AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin), and GOPIO (Global Organization of People of Indian Origin) send out a steady stream of press releases but balk when asked for paid ads.

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BUSINESS MODELS IN THE MIX

The e-paper way



The INDIAN PANORAMA
OVER TRUTHFUL
Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja,
editor-publisher of The
Indian Panorama

Printing alone can rack up as much as half the cost of a small operation.

Sharanjit Singh Thind was the first to make the shift to an e-paper of his South Asian Insider over a decade ago. He believes investigative stories can break new ground today. Thind also foresaw video becoming the medium of the future. So, he started Josh India Web TV. With YouTube around, who needs a TV channel?

Prof Indrajit S Saluja founded The Indian Panorama in 2006 and added a Dallas edition in 2012. The publication, held in great esteem, has a huge readership. He is credited with having given to the Indian American community 4 Punjabi language, 1 Hindi language and 1 English language newspapers since 2004, and surely has a better understanding of the nitty gritty of managing newspapers than any other publisher of Indian American newspapers. He, too, saw the light and turned his paper digital in 2020 when Covid struck the US. His single survival strategy: "To stay focused on the local community and generate revenue from community businesses and organizations."

Website only

Asif Ismail had the foresight to start The American Bazaar 11 years ago as a news portal from Washington DC, with business as a special focus. He claims in 2016-17 they were netting a million page views a month. Yet, the ad revenue has not grown commensurately with it to pay for the news staff including an editor. To raise additional funds, they have been doing events.

Asif points out that most Indians here are comfortable with English and are net-savvy to get their daily dose of news from a paper back home such as The Times of India, which gets more traffic from the US compared to all the Indian sites combined here. In contrast, he says, communities such as the Chinese and Koreans patronize papers in their own language.

Going social

If you can't beat them, join them.

Preetpal Kaur is a next-gen media entrepreneur. She pushes Preetnama, a newspaper in Punjabi and English, and does video interviews and talk shows - all on social media. "People access everything on their smartphones. Who has the time to sit in front of the 'dabba' (TV box)!" she smirks.

In the final analysis

Running a media company requires commitment. "Promoters should take it seriously and not as a social calling card," comments Sunil Hali.

As for ad revenue, not all is lost. Neeta

Bhasin, President of ASB Communications, says she tells her clients that print may not be effective anymore, but advertise with the papers nonetheless to reach thousands of their database consolidated from digital presence and social media.

She cites a survey conducted by the Asian American Advertising Federation in 2016 which found that a large majority of Asian Americans, Indian Americans in particular, are heavy Facebook and YouTube users.

Lalit K. Jha, Chief US Correspondent of PTI (Press Trust of India) news agency, sums up the current scenario, "The Indian media in the US is passing through an evolutionary phase. It has challenges, but that comes with opportunities as well."

Immediacy with newsletters



New India Abroad
Rajeev Bhambri, CEO of
New India Abroad

All Indian papers have been weekly tabloids. But today if you cannot tell the news to your readers quickly enough, they will go elsewhere. Bringing people to your website, however, takes some doing. A cost-effective alternative is to send news to their inboxes.

New India Abroad does that by mailing out a daily newsletter to a list of thousands.

They may change their name to India Abroad but will find it hard to live up to the legacy of their namesake.

Rajeev Bhambri, long-time operations head of India Abroad now in CEO role at the new venture, and Sridhar Krishnaswami, a veteran journalist as editor-in-chief, have a strategy to suit the times: "We want to work in the language and medium our readers want." By medium they mean e-paper, website, as well as print and podcast. Also, posting e-paper on WhatsApp and Facebook community groups, which are sometimes thousands strong. They also have a Hindi edition of

New India Abroad.

Hindi is India's national language, but somehow Hindi papers don't do well here. Hum Hindustani, started by Jasbir Jay Singh about a decade ago, is now digital only.

Universal News Network (TheUNN.com) was started by the journalist Ajay Ghosh with a business partner. Now they send out a weekly newsletter to a large list. Yet, ads are very few and fresh funding alone can keep the lights on.

Paywall, anyone?

Turning publisher, Sunil Adam, former editor of India Abroad, aimed his website American Kahani at GenX and millennials. He has not introduced a paywall because you need to have "enough resources to create content that people will think it is worthy of paying for," he was quoted as saying in the Atlanta-based Khabar magazine.

Asif Ismail argues that "people will shell out money only for Netflix or Amazon Prime."

The Juggernaut wants to prove both wrong. Started in 2018 by Snigdha Sur, a Harvard Business School graduate, it has raised \$2.2 million as reported by Crunchbase. The subscription is \$9.99 monthly and \$72 annually. Their USP is in-depth South Asian stories with wider appeal by featuring people and themes familiar to the mainstream such as the latest on actress Priyanka Chopra and the rise and fall of the Hot Yoga guru, Bikram Chaudhury.

Not-for-profit model



IndiaCurrents
Your Stories. Your Community.

Vandana Kumar, Founder of
India Currents magazine

Watching the media landscape change, publisher Vandana Kumar transitioned India Currents in 2019 from a 32-year-old monthly magazine to a fully digital, nonprofit entity. Their mission is to tell critical and investigative stories for and about the diaspora in Silicon Valley.

The success of non-profit journalism, Vandana argues, is measured by the impact you create with your stories in the community, not by the number of stories you post.

India Currents saw growth in 2022. It received a \$100,000 grant from the State of California. They also scored with NewsMatch - a program by the Institute of Nonprofit News, which matches up to \$20,000 in your own fundraising campaign in a year.

When I started A Lotus In The Mud.com earlier this year as a wellness and spirituality web magazine, I also took

the not-for-profit route. Aimed at all communities, not just Indian, the Lotus site is run by American Center for Wellness & Spirituality, a 501-c-3 corporation registered in New York.



The TV Scene

Steadily losing viewers and ad revenue, South Asian TV channels are also struggling.



H.R. Shah,
Chairman of TV
Asia, has
founded World
On App

business is suffering.

Shah, honored with a Padma Shri by the Indian government, has embarked on a more ambitious project - World on App. They plan to package several Indian channels in various languages offering news, movies, sports, and religious content, as well as VOD (video on demand) of events. The premium package currently available in North America includes TV Asia and costs \$3.50 a month.

TV Asia was the first channel for the Indian community available coast to coast in America in 1993. Under businessman H.R. Shah since 1997, the information and entertainment network headquartered in Edison, NJ, offers programming in Hindi, English, and Gujarati. Their website claims they reach half a million households each month across North America. They won't admit it, but

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BUSINESS MODELS IN THE MIX



Dr Sudhir Parikh, Chairman and Publisher of Parikh Worldwide Media Inc.

ITV Gold claims to be the first 24x7 Indian cable TV channel in the US. It was started from New York in 1985 by Dr. Banad N. Viswanath, a cardiologist. Dr Sudhir Parikh, who has a network of asthma and allergy clinics in New Jersey and New York, acquired ITV Gold in 2018. His Parikh Worldwide Media also owns DesiTalk, News India Times, and Gujarat Times.

Dr Parikh says he is always willing to put in his own money and has recently built a \$1 million TV studio in Edison, NJ. ITV Gold

now shows programming from Doordarshan, the public broadcast network under the Indian government. They are also available on Sling.

"Media for me is philanthropy, not business," Dr Parikh, a Padma Shri awardee, asserts. "It has to be supported so our children and grandchildren continue to have a bonding with Mother India." He contends that media, particularly ethnic media, is not an easy business to be in unless you have deep pockets.

Another channel to make a

mark is Jus Punjabi, started by Penny Sandhu in 2007. It is on several cable TV platforms and DTH (direct-to-home) as part of the South Asian package.

For Indian TV channels, a major source of revenue has been satellite platforms, which charge subscribers a fee. But for some years now, cable has been hemorrhaging customers. And when did you last see somebody get a DISH installed on their rooftop? Sling, from DISH, is online.

Shomik Chaudhury, an old hand

in ad sales, faults community channels for lacking in the finesse of entertainment channels from India, whose viewership is many times more. Channels like Zee and Sony present glitzy family dramas and reality TV shows created in India and are choc-a-block with commercials.

(This story was produced as part of the Small Business Reporting Fellowship, organized by the Center for Community Media and funded by the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment)

Sunday May 21, 2023



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INDRA NOOYI TO BE HONORED WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE

BY MABEL PAIS

Graduation is one of life's most important and memorable milestones in the life of a student..... and teacher!

Congratulations, Class of 2023!

Seton Hall University (shu.org), while congratulating its 2023 graduates for a job well done, celebrates its 167th baccalaureate commencement ceremony on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 9 a.m. at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Delivering the commencement keynote address will be His Excellency Borys Gudziak, the Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. At the ceremony, Archbishop Gudziak receives an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters alongside Indra Nooyi, former CEO and chairman of PepsiCo from 2006 to 2019.



Rev. Borys Gudziak. Photo credit / shu.edu

HIS EXCELLENCY BORYS GUDZIAK

Learn more about the Archbishop at ukrarcheparchy.us/most-rev-borys-gudziak/archbishop-borys-gudziak-biography

INDRA NOOYI

A role model for women and



Indra Nooyi. Photo credit / shu.edu

immigrants, Nooyi is celebrated for her empowering messages on inclusivity. She is the author of the New York Times best-selling book 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future,' a memoir that offers insight and a call-to-action on how our society can blend work and family - and advance women - in the 21st century.

At PepsiCo, she was the chief architect of 'Performance with Purpose,' the company's mission to deliver sustained growth by making more nutritious products, limiting the company's environmental footprint, and empowering its associates and people in the communities it serves. Nooyi served as a member of the PepsiCo Board of Directors from 2001 to February 2019, and is now a member of the board of Amazon, where she chairs the audit committee.

MORE INFORMATION

For links to livestream and more information about the speakers and Seton Hall's 167th baccalaureate ceremony, visit shu.edu/commencement/index.cfm.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Learn more at shu.edu.

LIFT YOUR SPIRITS WITH SPA DAY: A DAY OF PAMPERING & RENEWAL

BY MABEL PAIS



Breast Cancer Awareness, symbol.

Photo credit / mmjccm.org

Would you like to lift your spirits with a free Spa Day.... those living with breast or ovarian cancer? A Free Day of Pampering and Renewal? This Annual Spa Day is available in-person for part of the day or all day virtually on Sunday, May

21, 10 am to 4 pm, and is hosted by the JCC Manhattan. The offer is presented by the

Shirley Kohn Spa Day for Individuals Living with Breast or Ovarian Cancer (mmjccm.org/programs/virtual-jcc-shirley-kohn-spa-day-women-living-breast-or-ovarian-cancer-free-day-pampering).

The free virtual spa day is designed to lift the spirits of those with cancer, and the lineup includes a sampling of spa experiences, including mindful movement, as well as nutrition and self-care.

PROGRAM

JCC Shirley Kohn Spa Day for Women Living with Breast or Ovarian Cancer: A Free Day of Pampering and Renewal

Sunday, May 21 from 10AM-4PM

Keynote: Author Maria Sirois

Drop in for part of the free, virtual event, or tune in for the whole day

Schedule highlights include Meditation, Zentangle, Positive Psychology, Self Care Massage, Health Harp Music + Yoga.

RSVP

If you'd like to attend, RSVP Lauren Magy: lmagy@mmjccm.org.

BROADWAY'S BEST FOR PD INVOLVES IN THE CHALLENGE

BY MABEL PAIS



Exercise Class for PD.

Photo credit / mmjccm.org

Broadway's Best for Parkinson's: When PD Enters the Relationship, is a free in-person event, with virtual streaming option, hosted by the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM) on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 PM. The final Broadway's Best event of the season will feature a panel of experts on how Parkinson's impacts a relationship, from intimacy to balancing needs of care partners, to communication strategies, and even the importance of dance in a relationship.

The experts joining the panel for May's Broadway's Best for Parkinson's include David Loud, Broadway actor, musical director, arranger (vocal arrangements: New York, New York), and author, who is living with Parkinson's; Rebecca Gilbert, M.D., chief scientific officer, American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA); and Gloria Lebeaux, LCSW, director of social work services at the Barry + Florence Friedberg JCC.

PROGRAM : Moderator: Caroline Kohles, MMJJC senior program director of Health + Wellness ; David Leventhal, program director of Dance for PD, featuring a movement segment, demonstrates how to improve communication and connection through dance. ; Matt Castle, Broadway actor - conversation & musical performances and his husband ; Frank Galgano, director, musical arranger, and actor ; Both are two years into their PD journey.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES : Ziyang Zhou and Xavier Cornell of David Loud's Manhattan School of Music give musical performances

DISCUSSION

The lively discussion will also feature personal stories from Rhoda Cahan and Sam Rudick, a couple living with PD for

nearly a decade.

REGISTRATION : Register for attendance in-person at (mmjccm.org/programs/person-broadways-best-parkinsons-when-pd-enters-relationship) and for virtual attendance at (mmjccm.org/programs/virtual-broadways-best-parkinsons-when-pd-enters-relationship).

BROADWAY'S BEST FOR PARKINSON'S

This free hybrid event is part of a groundbreaking MMJCCM Parkinson's program

(mmjccm.org/parkinsons) founded 15 years ago to improve the lives of those impacted by Parkinson's.

Broadway's Best for Parkinson's: When PD Enters A Relationship begins at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24 at the MMJCCM, in person, as well as online.

The initiative helps improve the lives of those impacted by Parkinson's. Through education, exercise, and other programs, and in collaboration with the medical and local communities, people impacted by Parkinson's remain active, connected, and empowered.

BIOS OF CO-HOSTS AND PARTICIPANTS

Learn about each co-host and participants Rhoda Cahan and Sam Rudick, Matt Castle, Frank Galgano, Rebecca Gilbert, M.D., Gloria Lebeaux, David Leventhal, David Loud at mmjccm.org/parkinsons.

Caroline Kohles is the senior program director, Health + Wellness, at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. In her 19 years at the JCC, she has spearheaded a progressive slate of fitness programming, creating 100-plus group fitness class schedules and health and wellness programs for populations ranging from tweens/teens to prenatal/postnatal moms and seniors. Her signature work includes developing a range of cancer care programs and she designed the nationally and internationally recognized Edmond J. Safra Parkinson's program at the JCC, now in its 16th year. She is also co-founder of NIA New York, a holistic lifestyle and fitness practice.

THE MARLENE MEYERSON JCC MANHATTAN

Learn more at mmjccm.org. Follow the JCC on Instagram - [instagram.com/mm_jccmanhattan](https://www.instagram.com/mm_jccmanhattan), Facebook - [facebook.com/jccinmanhattan](https://www.facebook.com/jccinmanhattan), and Twitter - twitter.com/MM_JCCManhattan

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

NJ PRIDES FIRST EVER NORTH 2 SHORE SUMMER FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

**TOO BIG FOR ONE CITY.
TOO BIG FOR ONE WEEKEND.
THE FESTIVAL ONLY NEW JERSEY COULD
CREATE: NORTH TO SHORE June 2023**

NJPAC produces first-of-its-kind celebration of music, technology, comedy, and film over three jam-packed weekends in June 2023.

Watch the promo video - youtu.be/u8o8pcvbspA
Listen to the announcements of the Governor & First Lady Tammy Murphy: youtu.be/yJtrwwZnJU0
(Photo N 1 here)

Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy



(left to right) - Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Governor Phil Murphy, Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, First Lady Tammy Murphy, NJPAC President & CEO John Schreiber

Murphy took the stage at NJPAC's Prudential Hall, earlier this year, alongside NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber, Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, and Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small to announce the North to Shore Festival, an extraordinary three-city celebration of arts and technology launching on June 7.

This inaugural, month-long festival will showcase the talent, diversity and creativity this great state has to offer. Hosted by three incredible and unique cities, Atlantic City (June 7-11), Asbury Park (June 14-18) and Newark (June 21-25), the North to Shore Festival will bring together 50+ venues for an unprecedented celebration of Jersey-wide excellence, aligned with Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision for a festival worthy of the Garden State's legacy

in the arts and innovation.

"Today, we are thrilled to announce North to Shore - New Jersey's first multi-city festival celebrating the very best of music, comedy, film, and technology," said Governor Phil Murphy.

"This superstar event, held over three weekends in June, will attract folks from all over, creating another great reason for tourists to visit the Garden State as well as opportunities for local businesses in three of our iconic cities to shine. These festivals will generate economic activity and have a significant impact on our region and we look forward to shining a light on the diversity, creativity, and energy that makes New Jersey unique this summer."

"Beyond our global superstar headliners, North to Shore will also showcase the headliners of tomorrow. From producers to artists, filmmakers to comedians, this month-long celebration will also serve as an opportunity to elevate dozens of local performers and talent," said First Lady Tammy Murphy. "We look forward to sharing New Jersey's exceptional culture with the rest of the country and enjoying a festival that will undoubtedly be like no other."

From concerts, to comedy, to movies, to presentations from leaders in tech and business, North to Shore's offers it all. Best of all, the festival will also feature New Jersey's homegrown talents who deliver their own brand of artistic excellence in the Garden State all year round.

NJPAC will produce this three-weekend extravaganza in collaboration with partners including Montclair Film, Newark International Film Festival, Tech United/Propelify and MediaSense.

Music and comedy programming will be produced in collaboration with a cohort of other presenters, including SJ Presents, Madison Marquette, Live Nation, Platinum Productions and Absolutely Live!

For cinephiles, a North to Shore Film Pass offers access to multiple screenings. Technology enthusiasts can use a Tech Pass to take in every one of the demonstrations of New Jersey's newest inventions from its next generation of Edisons, with a focus on those developing sustainable, Earth-friendly new innovations.

"Newark has a long history of launching brilliance into the world. It's the birthplace of passionate artists of every stripe, stellar innovators in industry and science, celebrated intellect in education and philosophy, and valiant hearts spearheading social progress," said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. "With so much celebrity

and inventiveness, Newark's vitality makes it the premier location for hosting North To Shore June 21-25.

"Asbury Park has a prolific arts scene - and while we are best known for our musical history, we are also home to a wealth of creators in all art forms including film, dance, theater and the visual arts. Asbury Park's creative spirit and diverse talent makes us the perfect place to show off both local artists and artists from around the great State of New Jersey," said City of Asbury Park Mayor John Moor.

"As I like to say, 'We Live, We Lit, We Outside!' in Atlantic City and this festival proves it," said City of Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, Sr. "We have such a rich history when it comes to arts and entertainment in the great City of Atlantic City. Not only is our city a prime location for filming award-winning productions, but our legacy is built upon groundbreaking artistry. We are honored to be chosen by Governor Murphy as one of the hosts of the North to Shore Festival and cannot wait to welcome even more diverse talents to our beautiful city this summer."

The North to Shore Festival is expected to both shine a spotlight on the state's artistic and technological prowess, and boost its economy at the start of the summer season.

"This festival aligns with Governor Murphy's mission to make New Jersey the best state in the nation to live, work, and play all while providing an economic boost to Newark, Asbury Park, and Atlantic City, by attracting visitors, generating spending, and showcasing the strength of New Jersey's arts, culture, and innovation scenes," said The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan.

"The diversity, the excellence, the breadth of artistic disciplines, the fun - North to Shore is a festival experience entirely unique to the combination of creativity, imagination and talent only present in New Jersey," said John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC.

TICKETS

Tickets for the North to Shore Festival are on sale at NorthtoShore.com. For the latest updates on festival concerts, screenings and more, follow the Festival on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok.

(More to come in coming weeks).

STRONGER TOGETHER: THE POWER OF ASIAN AMERICAN & BLACK UNITY

BY MABEL PAIS



Dr. Radhika (Krish) Sehgal

Over the last few years the United States has been ignited by a wave of social justice activism. Protests in

support of Black Lives Matter and against hate crimes targeting Asian Americans have been widely covered in the media, but what often remains out of the spotlight are the Black and Asian community leaders who rally for one another. Strong multicultural and multigenerational activism is at the core of realizing a better future.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, let's highlight important intersections between the Stop AAPI Hate and Black Lives Matter campaigns. The panel curated by the Fordham University AAPI Alumni Affinity Chapter will discuss the value and challenges of coalition building, and will share their suggestions for uniting all people.

PANELISTS

Kwan-Lamar Blount-Hill
assistant professor of criminal justice, arizona state university

Don Kao - Director, Cpc Project Reach
Victoria Pratt - Executive Director, Odyssey Impact
Kim Tran - Author; Activist

MODERATOR - Radhika (Krish) Sehgal
Clinical Psychologist; Dei Speaker/trainer

Discussion Guide

<https://www.njpac.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2023/04/American-Revolutionary-Discussion-Guide.pdf](#)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Register at <https://njpac.tfaforms.net/145?id=a2F8X0000087HnKU>
AU
Watch 'American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs' for free at home.
Join the team for a virtual panel discussion on Monday, May 22, at 7PM.
The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

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

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

HRW FILM FEST RETURNS TO NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

The Human Rights Watch Film Festival (ff.hrw.org), now in its 34th year, presents in New York a full edition of 10 groundbreaking new films available nationwide in the United States, from May 31 to June 11, 2023.

The New York festival will be back with a full program of in-person screenings at Film at Lincoln Center and IFC Center, with in-depth discussions with filmmakers, film participants, journalists, activists and Human Rights Watch researchers. The festival will continue to offer the opportunity to watch all 10 new films online nationwide across the United States with a full digital edition of the film festival from June 5 to June 11.

This year's edition highlights a broad diversity of themes and topics, including the Ukraine conflict, climate gentrification and justice, women's rights, transgender rights, freedom of the press, and access to healthcare in the United States.

John Biaggi, Director of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, said, "We are extraordinarily proud to present our program of 10 powerful films and conversations in person at Film at Lincoln Center and IFC Center. This year's selection covers expansive global ground, spotlighting urgent and timely human rights issues like the war in Ukraine, women's rights and bodily autonomy, transgender rights, health and human rights, environmental gentrification, and freedom of the press." He continues, "The festival is also committed to expanding inclusivity for audience members to enjoy the events together and is working to create features that more people can access. The majority of the festival films this year will be audio-described and play with captions, with live transcription for the conversations to follow."

2023 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM LINEUP

- Draw Me Egypt - Doaa El-Adl, A Stroke of Freedom, Nada Riyadh, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands
- The Etilaat Roz, Abbas Rezaie, Afghanistan
- Into My Name (Nel Mio Nome), Nicolò Bassetti, Italy
- Koromouso, Big Sister, Habibata Ouarme and Jim Donovan, Canada
- Pay or Die, Closing Night Film, Rachael Dyer and Scott Alexander Ruderman, USA
- Razing Liberty Square, Katja Esson, USA
- Seven Winters in Tehran, Opening Night Film, Steffi Niederzoll, Germany, France
- Theatre of Violence, Centerpiece Screening, Lukasz Konopa and Emil Langballe, Denmark, Germany
- We Are Guardians, Edivan Guajajara, Chelsea Greene and Rob Grobman, Brazil, USA
- When Spring Came to Bucha, Mila Tessaieva and Marcus Lenz, Germany, Ukraine

OPENING NIGHT

SEVEN WINTERS IN TEHRAN



Opening Night, Seven Winters in Tehran.
Photo credit / ff.hrw.org

The film is a haunting documentary about Reyhaneh Jabbari, a 19-year-old Iranian woman sentenced to death for killing the man who tried to rape her. The film focuses on the misogyny entrenched in the justice system, where men are in charge and women's voices are often silenced.

CENTERPIECE

THEATRE OF VIOLENCE



Centerpiece, Theatre of Violence.
Photo credit / ff.hrw.org.

'Theatre of Violence' viewers follow the modern history of Uganda with a charismatic Ugandan lawyer who is defending a former child soldier, Dominic Ongwen, as he faces trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. It becomes clear that this is a trial not just of one man, a victim-turned-perpetrator, but also of a European form of justice imposed on an African country.

CLOSING NIGHT



Closing Night, Pay or Die.
Photo credit / ff.hrw.org.

Pay or Die, along with two other films, delves into issues of health and human rights. The film follows three families struggling with the crushing financial reality of living with type 1 diabetes in the U.S. It looks at how pharmaceutical companies, bolstered by the government's lack of regulation, push the price of insulin to exorbitant levels, with devastating impact on millions of Americans.

The two other films delving into issues of health and human rights are Koromouso, Big Sister and Into My Name.

Koromouso, Big Sister introduces viewers to three passionate activists and survivors of female genital mutilation as they discover a wealth of strength, joy and love-both for their own bodies and for one another-while they work to remove stigma and to challenge

cultural taboos surrounding female sexuality, reconstructive surgery and, ultimately, ownership of their bodies. In Nicolò Bassetti's tender documentary.

Into My Name, executive produced by Elliot Page, we meet four young transgender men in Italy as they seek to determine their own gender identities while dealing with society's often rigid boundaries and navigating the labyrinthine medical system.

OTHER FILMS

The festival takes a close look at Ukraine with When Spring Came to Bucha by the renowned photographer Mila Tessaieva, which powerfully profiles the citizens of Bucha, Ukraine, after the Russian army has left, as they work to rebuild their lives and community while supporting one another and finding moments of joy.

The Etilaat Roz, explores the importance of a free press as a courageous Afghan journalist records his team at Kabul's largest newspaper while the Taliban takes over Afghanistan in 2021.

Draw Me Egypt - Doaa El-Adl, A Stroke of Freedom highlights the daily struggles of one of the most prominent cartoonists of the Arab world, Doaa el-Adl, who faces censorship, intimidation and death threats as she takes on the patriarchy through her art.

Two films focus on environmental justice and the effects of climate change: Razing Liberty Square and We Are Guardians.

TICKETS, UPDATES & ACCESS

Tickets are available for members of IFC Center, Film at Lincoln Center and Human Rights Watch and to the general public. Audiences will be able to purchase in-theater tickets online or at the Film at Lincoln Center and IFC Center box offices. For ticket prices and more, visit ff.hrw.org/newyork, filmlinc.org, or ifccenter.com.

Virtual tickets can be purchased online, for each film or a digital festival pass that will provide access to all 10 films online, for the general public and for members. Further discount information is available on ff.hrw.org.

The full festival will be available to rent on the festival streaming site from 9 a.m. EST June 5 until 11:59 p.m. EST June 11, 2023. For details and accessibility options for each digital presentation, visit ff.hrw.org.

To purchase tickets and to access program updates, visit hrw.org/newyork.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL

Through the Human Rights Watch Film Festival the organization bears witness to human rights violations and creates a forum for courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference. The film festival brings human rights abuses to life through storytelling in a way that challenges each individual to engage and demand justice for all.

FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER

For more information, visit www.filmlinc.org and follow @filmlinc on Twitter and Instagram.

IFC CENTER

For theater information, current and upcoming program details and more, visit www.ifccenter.com.

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

Know India Programme

KIP Application starts from 17 May 2023

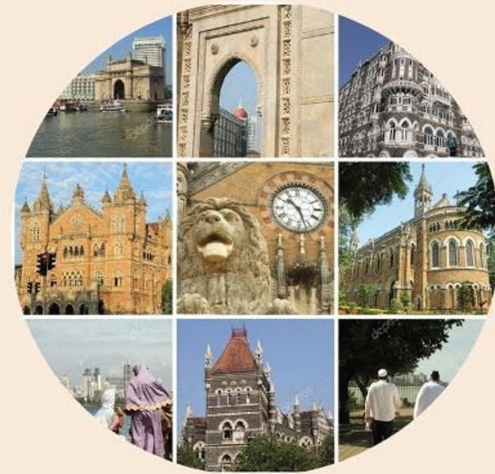
**66th Know India Programme
(30 July to 18 August 2023)**

Last Date for Applying: 15 June 2023



**67th Know India Programme
(13 August to 1 September 2023)**

Last Date for Applying: 01 July 2023



For details, visit <https://kip.gov.in>



विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS





Katrina wishes Vicky with 'a little dance, dher saara pyaar'

Actors Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif did some romantic steps as they danced their hearts out on the former's 35th birthday.

Making her husband's birthday special, Katrina took to Instagram and shared a few pictures from the celebrations.

The first image shows Vicky holding Katrina in his arms and dancing like no one's watching them. In the second photo, the couple is seen all smiles for the camera.

"A little dance, dher saara pyaar....Happiest birthday my," she captioned the post. The images garnered several likes and comments.

Fashion stylist dropped a string of white heart emojis in the comment section.

"Bless you both," a social media user commented.

Vicky and Katrina are one of the most adorable couples in Bollywood. The two have been exuding pure love ever since they tied the knot on December 9 in a private ceremony in Rajasthan.

Katrina spilled beans about her relationship with Vicky on the seventh season of 'Koffee with Karan'.

Source: ANI

SRK says he had no money after buying Mannat, so he turned to Gauri for the refurb

Shah Rukh Khan ranks among the richest superstars in the country, but when he bought his landmark house, Mannat, he says he was practically broke and didn't have any money to get it refurbished and furnished, so his wife Gauri Khan turned designer for the house.

King Khan, who made a spectacular comeback earlier this year with Pathaan, was interacting with the media during the launch of Gauri Khan's coffee-table book, My Life In Design.

Sharing the interesting story behind their house Mannat and how Gauri Khan entered the world of designing, Shah Rukh said, "When we bought Mannat, it was way beyond our means, and once we were done buying the house, we didn't have money to decorate it. We hired a designer, only to realise we couldn't afford him.

"So, I turned to Gauri, as she had artistic talent, and asked her to be the designer for our house. Mannat started like that, and over time, we earned and kept buying little stuff for the house. We even once went to South Africa to buy leather for the sofas, and I think that training ground got her into designing." Gauri Khan's book charts out her journey as a designer with exclusive pictures of her and her family. Unseen images of Mannat and the design thought processes that went into turning around the heritage property, and other key projects as well, are a part of the book.

Gauri Khan also spoke about her husband being the hardest to please. Her most challenging project has been designing the Red Chillies Entertainment office.

She said, "Every project is dear to a designer, whether you're working on something big or small, each project has



challenges, and we have to give it our best. I have been working for so many years, but I think Shah Rukh's project, the Red Chillies office, was a tough one to

crack. Our team was always struggling to get his approval because he would come up with a better design, at all times."

Source: IANS

Kangana says she lost over 20 brand endorsements, Rs 30-40 crore per year when she spoke against 'anti-nationals'



Actress Kangana Ranaut has claimed that she was dropped from over 25 brand endorsements and incurred Rs 30-40 crore loss every year as she spoke against "politicians, anti-nationals, tukde-tukde gang".

Kangana took to Instagram, where she shared an interview of Twitter head Elon Musk, which had the headline "Elon Musk: I'll say what I want, and if the consequence of that is losing money, so be it."

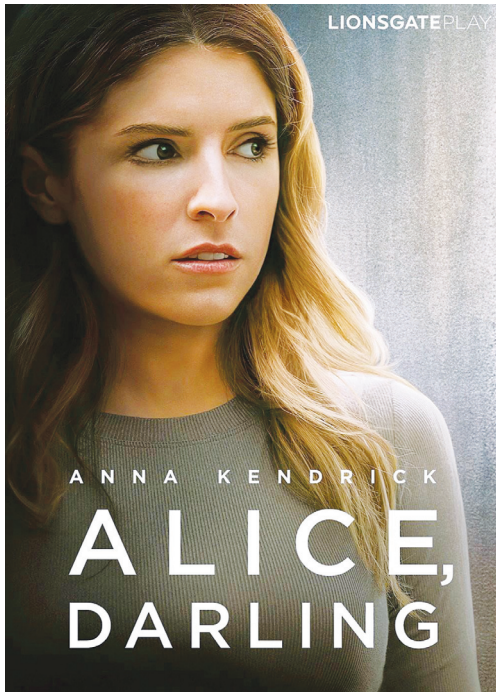
She captioned it: "This is a character, true freedom and success, speaking for Hinduism, against politicians/anti-nationals/tukde gang costed me 20-25 brand endorsements, they dropped me overnight and that

amounted to a loss of Rs 30-40 crore per year..."

Kangana said that nothing can stop her from saying whatever she wants.

"But I am free and nothing should stop me from saying what I want definitely not agenda-driven multinational companies and their corporate brand heads who hate India its culture and integrity.. I appreciate Elon because everyone displays only weaknesses, at least rich person should not care for money..I see those more rich they get deprived they become..."

On the work front, Kangana will be seen in 'Emergency', 'Tejas', 'Chandramukhi 2', 'Manikarnika Returns: The Legend of Didda' and 'The Incarnation: Sita'.



'Alice, Darling' to stream on May 26

Alice, Darling, will premiere on Lionsgate Play in India on May 26. The show stars Anna Kendrick alongside Charlie Carrick, Kaniehtiio Horn and Wunmi Mosaku. The film follows Alice through an abusive relationship with her boyfriend. When her best friends intervene, an unwitting Alice faces the harsh reality she was desperately running away from. The show touches on the subjects of emotional abuse and domestic violence.

Anna Kendrick said, "There was something about Alana's writing that felt so poetic. I was really interested in telling a story about a toxic, abusive relationship that didn't look the way it's always been portrayed in movies. And the way that Alana wrote about this woman's inner turmoil and the subtle but very rewarding journey that she goes on, very much intrigued me."

Johnny Depp cries as comeback film receives standing ovation after premiere at Cannes

On Tuesday, May 16, the 76th Cannes Film Festival officially began with Maiwenn's Jeanne du Barry, and it appears that Johnny Depp got the audience reaction he had hoped for. The actor received a 7-minute standing ovation, and even teared up as the crowd applauded him. A video of the moment is doing the rounds of social media.

Cannes Film Festival 2023 opened with the premiere of Johnny Depp's film, Jeanne du Barry, directed by Maiwenn, where the actor plays French king Louis XV. The period drama marks Johnny's first film after his high-profile trial last year with his ex-wife Amber Heard. Both parties had accused each other of physical and verbal abuse. Jeanne du Barry is being dubbed as Johnny's 'comeback' film.

Reacting to the video of Johnny tearing up at the film's Cannes premiere, which was shared on Twitter by Variety, a fan tweeted, "Well deserved! Bravo!" One more said, "Omg (Oh my God) I love every single moment of this day for him. Bravo, Johnny Depp!!" A Twitter user said, "So proud of him." A fan also tweeted, "Congratulations, Johnny! This is validation and vindication at its finest!"

However, some Twitter users were not happy to see Johnny being hailed at the prestigious festival. One tweeted, "So gross that you're featuring him." Some were not willing to forget the abuse allegations levelled against



Johnny by his ex-wife, actor Amber Heard. A Twitter user wrote, "I can smell the day-old whiskey and stale cigarettes from here." One more said, "It was a 3-minute (standing ovation) and he's teary-eyed because he's drunk and on dope."

Earlier, in an interview with Variety, Cannes chief Thierry Fremaux had addressed the potential backlash to

having Jeanne du Barry opening the festival. He had said, "I don't see Maiwenn's film as a controversial choice at all, because if Johnny Depp had been banned from working it would have been different, but that's not the case... We only know one thing, it's the justice system and I think he won the legal case in court. But the movie isn't about Johnny Depp."

Kim Kardashian's social media empire fuels a \$1.34 billion buyout blitz

In a dazzling display of entrepreneurial prowess, Kim Kardashian, the queen of reality TV turned cultural icon, is leveraging her social media empire to launch a debut private equity fund. SKKY Partners, the brainchild of Kardashian and former Carlyle Group executive Jay Sammons, aims to raise a staggering \$1.34 billion in a challenging fundraising landscape.

What sets SKKY Partners apart from the competition? It's none other than the millions of devoted fans who hang on to Kardashian's every post, tweet, and TikTok dance routine. With a jaw-dropping 432 million followers across Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok, the pitch boldly declares that Kardashian's social reach is the secret ingredient that will ensure SKKY's triumph.

But this isn't just a numbers game. The pitch highlights Kardashian's "demonstrated ability to identify and define culture." She's not just a reality star; she's a trendsetter, a tastemaker, and a force to be reckoned with in the world of consumer and media. With SKKY Partners targeting 10 to 12 investments in these industries, ranging from \$100 million to \$500 million each, the fund is poised to make some serious waves.

However, in a fundraising environment plagued by rising interest rates and recession predictions, even industry giants like Apollo Global Management and Carlyle are feeling the pressure. Yet, Kardashian's star power seems undiminished. Her shapewear company,

Skims, already valued at a whopping \$3.2 billion in 2022, showcases her ability to turn fame into fortune.

SKKY Partners plans to ride this wave of cultural relevance by tapping into a network of actors, musicians, artists, and athletes. With their fingers on the pulse of popular culture, they aim to stay ahead of the game and make strategic investments that resonate with the masses. And it doesn't stop there. The firm intends to mine social media for valuable insights into consumer attitudes, giving them an edge in understanding the ever-shifting dynamics of brand loyalty. As the launch of the fund approaches, SKKY Partners remains flexible, without setting a close date and open to adjusting their targets. They understand the challenges of the current economic climate and are determined to navigate them successfully. To bolster their ranks, the firm has been bolstering their team, adding professionals from across Wall Street. By the end of 2023, they expect to have a team of over 15 individuals, ready to conquer the investment landscape.

Kim Kardashian's foray into the private equity world is a bold move, but one that seems tailor-made for her unique blend of fame, influence, and business acumen. With her social media reach and SKKY Partners' ambitious goals, they're poised to disrupt the industry, one investment at a time. The world is watching as Kardashian sets her sights on a new frontier, where her financial prowess matches her cultural impact.

Source: HT



INDIAN FEMALE CLIMBER WITH PACEMAKER DIES AFTER FALLING ILL ON MT EVEREST BASE CAMP

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 59-year-old Indian climber, aiming to set a new world record of becoming Asia's first woman on a pacemaker to scale Mt Everest, died on May 18 after falling sick at the base camp of the world's highest peak in Nepal.

Suzanne Leopoldina Jesus was admitted to a hospital in the Lukla town of Solukhumbu district after facing difficulties during the acclimatisation exercises at the Mt Everest base camp, and died on Thursday, Yuvaraj Khatiwada, Director at the Tourism Department of Nepal, said.

Suzanne, fitted with a pacemaker, was asked to abandon the attempt to summit Mt Everest after failing to maintain a normal speed during the acclimatisation exercise on the base camp and showing difficulty climbing, Khatiwada said.

Suzanne adamantly refused the advice, asserting that she had to climb the 8,848.86 metres-high peak as she had already paid the fee for acquiring permission to climb the mountain.

Suzanne, who had climbed up to 5,800 metres, a little above the Mt Everest base camp, was forcibly airlifted on May 17 evening to Lukla town and was admitted to a hospital for treatment, said Dendi Sherpa, Chairman of Glacier Himalayan Trek, the expedition organiser.

"We had to take her back to Lukla forcibly," Sherpa said, adding that they hired a helicopter to evacuate her."

"We had told her to abandon the climb five days ago, but she was committed to ascending Everest," he said, adding that it was found during the acclimatisation that Suzanne was not qualified for further ascending the mountain.

Sherpa also wrote a letter to the Department of Tourism mentioning that Suzanne was not in a position to climb Mt. Everest as it took her more than 5 hours to reach Crompton Point, above the base camp, which is just 250 metres long.

Climbers can usually cross the distance in 15 to 20 minutes, but it took Suzanne five hours on the first attempt, six hours on the second attempt and 12 hours on the third attempt to reach the point during the acclimatisation exercise, Sherpa said.

"However, she wanted to set a new world record by becoming the first Asian woman to summit Everest with a pacemaker," he said, adding that she was having difficulties in her throat and could not even swallow food easily.

Suzanne's body was flown to Kathmandu on Thursday afternoon and taken to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital at Maharajgunj municipality for postmortem, Sherpa said. (PTI)

Pakistan police obtain a warrant to search former PM Imran Khan's residence in Lahore

LAHORE (TIP): Punjab Police on May 19 obtained warrants to conduct a detailed search at former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence here to find "terrorists" reportedly hiding there, media reports said.

The move comes after the Punjab government decided to send a team to hold talks with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, according to Geo TV.

An officer of the rank of a superintendent of police will lead the contingent, which will also include a female police officer, the report said.

The Commissioner of the Lahore Division will also be accompanying the team.

According to the statement, the search will encompass a thorough examination of both the entrance and exit points of the residence, with the primary objective of finding "terrorists" hiding at the place, the Dawn newspaper reported.

On May 18, the Punjab government claimed that "30 to 40 terrorists were hiding inside Khan's residence," and gave an ultimatum of 24 hours to his party to hand over the miscreants.

However, no action was taken after the deadline expired on May 18.

Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir said law enforcers will conduct a search operation at Khan's residence after his permission and in front of cameras to apprehend "terrorists", the Geo TV report said.

"We [the interim government] have decided that instead of a head-on collision, we will send a delegation to



Khan sahab under the supervision of the Lahore commissioner," Mir was quoted as saying in the report

"They will ask him [Khan] to allow them to conduct a search operation. A police party "comprising 400 personnel " will accompany the delegation as there is a reported presence of terrorists," he said.

Meanwhile, Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Saddique Kamyana claimed to have arrested six more "terrorists" attempting to flee from Khan's Zaman Park residence.

On Friday, an anti-terrorism court here approved pre-arrest bail till June 2 to Khan in three terrorism cases filed against Pakistan's former prime minister in the wake of violence that erupted after his arrest on May 9.

In a video-link address from his Zaman Park residence here on Wednesday, Khan, 70, said Pakistan is heading towards an imminent disaster and it may

face disintegration.

Khan on May 9 by the paramilitary Pakistan Rangers at the Islamabad High Court premises triggered unrest in Pakistan.

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the protesters stormed the army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and also torched a corps commander's house in Lahore.

Police put the death toll in violent clashes to 10, while Khan's party claims 40 of its workers lost their lives in the firing by security personnel.

On May 15, the top military brass vowed to bring the arsonists, who attacked the civil and military installations, to justice through trial under relevant laws of the country, including the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secrets Act. Law enforcement agencies have arrested over 7,000 PTI workers across Pakistan, 4,000 of them from Punjab. (PTI)

Myanmar says official death toll from Cyclone Mocha at least 145, says aid is being provided

BANGKOK (TIP): The official death toll from the powerful cyclone that struck Myanmar has burgeoned to at least 145, including 117 members of the Muslim Rohingya minority, state television reported May 19.

It said the figure applied to the western state of Rakhine, where Cyclone Mocha did the most damage, but did not say how many storm-related deaths there have been in other parts of the country.

The accounting of casualties from the cyclone has been slow, in part due to communication difficulties in the affected areas and the military government's tight control over information. The military government has said that unofficial death tolls surpassing 400 are false, but in the absence of independent confirmation, uncertainly remains about the actual extent of casualties and destruction.

Mocha made landfall near Sittwe

township in Rakhine state on Sunday afternoon with winds of up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour before weakening inland. The cyclone, the nation's most destructive in at least a decade, brought widespread flash floods and power outages, while high winds tore roofs off buildings and crumpled cellphone towers.

"Millions of people live in the path of the cyclone and a massive effort is now underway to clear debris and provide shelter to those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed," the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Thursday. "Coastal Rakhine took the heaviest hit from the cyclone with severe impacts across the northwest and some damage in Kachin (state) also reported."

May 19's report on MRTV state television said four soldiers and 24 local residents in Rakhine, in addition to the 117 Rohingya, had been killed, blaming the deaths on

people refusing to evacuate their homes despite warnings from the authorities before the storm hit.

The authorities evacuated 63,302 of the 125,789 Rohingya sheltering in 17 camps in 17 townships including Sittwe, starting last Friday, MRTV said.

Its reports identified the Rohingya as "Bengali," the official designation used for the minority group to suggest they immigrated to Myanmar illegally.

Rohingya have lived in Myanmar for generations, but they are not recognized as an official minority there and are denied citizenship and other basic rights. The Rohingyas caught in the storm lived mostly in crowded displacement camps, to which they were moved after losing their homes in a brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign led by Myanmar security forces. Their ramshackle housing on low-lying land was battered on May 14 by a storm surge. (AP)



Mega Beach Clean Up

8:30 AM - 11 AM; May 21, 2023

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**MORE THAN 100 DEAD
IN NIGERIA CLASHES,
THOUSANDS DISPLACED**

NIGERIA (TIP): More than 100 people in central Nigeria have died in several days of inter-communal violence that have destroyed hundreds of homes and caused thousands to flee, local officials said on May 19.

The clashes between cattle herders and farming communities in Plateau State are the worst in years in a region that has long struggled with ethnic and religious tensions and reprisal attacks.

The death toll from attacks by gunmen on farming villages in and around the district of Mangu since the start of the week has passed 100 after earlier reports said 85 people were killed, a local official said.

Plateau state security forces had said on Thursday that calm had been restored, but local sources said several villages were still struggling with violence and residents were fleeing.

"The number of people killed has exceeded 100 people from those attacks," Mangu district chairman Daput Minister Daniel told AFP.

"Up till now, there were reports of attacks and burning of houses in many places within the local government area."

A lawmaker representing Mangu and neighbouring Bokkos in the House of Representatives also said around 100 people had been killed and more than a dozen communities ravaged by attacks.

Lawmaker Solomon Maren told AFP on Friday that the situation was now calm, but access to some communities was still complicated.

Plateau State government has so far not given any death toll, only saying the violence "left many dead."

The state government convened an emergency meeting over the attacks and pledged security forces on the ground would stem further violence, a statement said on Friday.

"We are working to redeploy more men," said state police spokesman Alfred Alabo.

"We are also trying to know about the death toll, and properties destroyed."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said more than 3,000 people had been displaced and hundreds of houses destroyed. Police said five people had been arrested. Violence across Nigeria has been on the rise in the last few weeks after a brief calm period during the February presidential and March state elections.

Last month, gunmen suspected to be herders killed 33 people in an attack on a farming village in northwestern Kaduna state, where inter-communal herder-farmer violence is also common.

Nigeria's security forces in the northwest are also battling heavily armed bandit militias, as well as a 14-year-old jihadist insurgency in the northeast and separatist tensions in the southeast. (AFP)

Arab leaders, joined by Syria's Assad at a summit in Saudi Arabia, look to resolve other conflicts

JEDDAH (TIP): Arab leaders, joined by Syrian President Bashar Assad for the first time in more than a decade, were holding an annual summit on May 19 in Saudi Arabia, with a focus on Sudan and other conflicts.

The meeting comes as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pursues regional diplomacy with the same vigour he previously brought to the oil-rich kingdom's confrontation with its archrival Iran and regional proxies.

In recent months, Saudi Arabia has restored diplomatic ties with Iran, is ending the kingdom's yearslong war against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen and has led the push for Syria's return to the Arab League, 12 years after its membership was suspended over Assad's bloody crackdown against Arab Spring protests.

The Saudis have even offered to mediate between Ukraine and Russia, following a prisoner exchange deal they brokered last year.

As leaders from the 22-member league meet in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, attention is expected to shift to Sudan. The East African country's top generals — both of whom have been backed by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states — have been battling each other across the country for over a month, killing hundreds and sparking an exodus from the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere.

Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, leader of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces agreed to a pact in Jeddah last week that promised safe passage for civilians fleeing the fighting and protection for aid groups. Saudi



Arabia and the United States have meanwhile been leading international efforts to broker a lasting truce.

The fighting has killed over 600 people and caused tens of thousands to flee their homes.

The Arab League is also expected to reiterate its perennial criticism of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians at a time of soaring tensions.

In recent years, Assad's forces have recaptured much of Syria's territory from insurgents with help from Russia and Iran. Saudi Arabia had been a leading sponsor of the opposition at the height of the war but pulled back as the insurgents were eventually cornered in a small pocket of northwestern Syria.

"Saudi Arabia's push to bring Syria back into the fold is part of a broader shift in the kingdom's approach to regional politics," says Torbjorn Soltvedt, a leading Mideast analyst at the risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.

"The previously adventurist foreign

policy defined by the Yemen intervention and efforts to confront Iran is now being abandoned in favour of a more cautious approach," he said.

There are some Arab holdouts to Damascus' rehabilitation, including gas-rich Qatar, which still supports Syria's opposition. Qatar has said it won't stand in the way of the Arab consensus on readmitting Syria but would also not normalize bilateral relations without a political solution to the conflict.

Western countries, which still view Assad as a pariah over his forces' aerial bombardment and gas attacks against civilians during the 12-year civil war, have criticized his return to the Arab fold and vowed to maintain crippling sanctions.

That will likely continue to hamper any reconstruction. Years of heavy fighting involving Assad's forces, the opposition and jihadi groups like the Islamic State group left entire villages and neighbourhoods in ruins.

(AP)

Australian police use Taser on 95-year-old with dementia who held steak knife

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA (TIP): Police shocked a 95-year-old woman with a stun gun as she approached them using a walker and carrying a steak knife in an Australian nursing home, sending her to the hospital in critical condition after her head hit the floor.

The extraordinary police takedown of Clare Nowland, who has dementia, on Wednesday, prompted a high-level police internal investigation.

It also has sparked debate about how New South Wales state police use stun guns, which are widely known as Tasers after a major manufacturer. They are a less lethal option than firearms but have occasionally proved more dangerous than other policing options.

Police said Nowland received her injuries from striking her head on the floor, rather than directly from the stun gun's debilitating electric shock.

Two police officers went to Yallambee Lodge, a nursing home in the town of Cooma that specializes in residents with higher care needs including dementia, after staff reported that Nowland had taken a serrated steak knife from the kitchen. Police Assistant Commissioner Peter Cotter declined to say whether he thought a police officer with 12 years' experience used excessive force by firing a stun gun at Nowland, who is 1.57 meters (5 feet, 2 inches) tall and weighs 43 kilograms (95 pounds).

Cotter said police engaged in "negotiations" with Nowland for several minutes and used the stun gun when she approached the doorway where the officers were standing. "At the time she was tasered, she was approaching police. But it is fair to say at a slow pace. She had a walking frame. But she had a knife. I can't take it any further as to what was going through

anyone's mind," Cotter told reporters. Nicole Lee, president of the advocacy group People with Disability Australia, said she was shocked by the police response.

"She's either one hell of an agile, fit, fast and intimidating 95-year-old woman, or there's a very poor lack of judgment on those police officers and there really needs to be some accountability on their side," Lee said. Family spokesperson Andrew Thaler said Nowland's dementia "waxes and wanes." "The question will be, how was it appropriate to use this level of force on a 95-year-old woman?" Thaler was quoted as saying by The Sydney Morning Herald. Cotter described video from the two police officers' body cameras of the incident as "confronting footage." But he said the video was part of an internal police investigation and it would "not be in the public interest to be releasing that." (AP)

LGBTQ refugees suffer grave rights abuses in Kenya camp: Amnesty

NAIROBI (TIP): LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya are victims of severe hate crimes and abuses, including rape, says a report released on May 19 by Amnesty International and a Nairobi-based gay rights group.

Kakuma camp in northwestern Kenya hosts more than 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including hundreds of LGBTQ people who experience "extreme discrimination and violence", Amnesty and the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) said in a statement.

Perpetrators are able to "commit their crimes with almost total impunity, enabled by inaction on the part of the authorities", they added.

Researchers interviewed 41 people between 2018 and February 2023 who described facing "hate crimes, violence, including rape, and other serious human rights abuses".

Esther, a 41-year-old lesbian, told researchers she was raped twice in 2018 in the camp, the first time by two men threatening her with a knife, and the second time by four men during a burglary "in the presence of her seven-year-old son". Another lesbian Winnie said her shop was destroyed by vandals who also injured one of her children. She said police had done little to help her apprehend those responsible.

Such incidents showed that the camp, which is run by the Kenyan government, was "not yet safe for asylum seekers and refugees" who are LGBTQ, said Amnesty and NGLHRC.



'HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE'

The community faces "discrimination as well as homophobic and transphobic attitudes from government officials, the police and other service providers," said Irungu Houghton, Amnesty's executive director for Kenya.

"This is often reflected in delays to the processing of their asylum claims, harassment, violent homophobic attacks, threats, and intimidation, and extremely limited opportunities for local integration or third-country resettlement." Kenya's government must "urgently ensure the physical and psychological safety" of all LGBTQ asylum seekers and refugees in the Kakuma camp, they added.

The report comes as the LGBTQ community finds itself under attack in Kenya and neighbouring countries, with

governments and politicians taking an increasingly harsh line on same-sex activity.

Kenyan President William Ruto, a born-again Christian elected last August, declared in March that same-sex marriages could "happen in other countries but not in Kenya".

Homosexuality was a Western import that Kenya's "customs, traditions, Christianity and Islam cannot allow", he said. Gay sex is a crime under colonial-era laws in the East African nation. Penalties include prison terms of up to 14 years.

Nevertheless Kenya is the only nation in East Africa and the Horn region to offer "asylum to individuals who seek protection because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression and sex characteristics", Amnesty and NGLHRC said. (AFP)

MAN INDICTED IN THEFT OF 'WIZARD OF OZ' RUBY SLIPPERS WORN BY JUDY GARLAND

MINNESOTA (TIP): A man has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of stealing a pair of ruby red slippers worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz," federal prosecutors in North Dakota say. The shoes were stolen in 2005 and recovered in a 2018 FBI sting operation, but no arrests were made at the time.

Terry Martin was indicted on May 17 with one count of theft of a major artwork, prosecutors announced Wednesday. The indictment did not provide any further information about Martin and online records do not list an attorney for him.

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune reported that Martin is 76 and lives 12 miles south of the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. When reached by the newspaper, he said, "I gotta go on trial. I don't want to talk to you."

Janie Heitz, executive director of the museum, told The Associated Press she was surprised the suspect lived nearby but said no one who works at the museum knows him.

Garland wore several pairs of the ruby slippers during production of the 1939 musical, but only four authentic pairs remain. When they were stolen, the slippers were insured for \$1 million but the current market value is about \$3.5 million, federal prosecutors said in a news release.

The slippers were on loan to the Judy Garland Museum in the late actor's hometown when someone climbed through a window and broke the display case, prosecutors said when they were recovered.

Heitz said she and the museum's staff were "a little bit speechless" that someone had been charged nearly two decades after the slippers were stolen.

Over the years, several enticing rewards were offered in hopes that the slippers would turn up. Law enforcement offered \$250,000 early in the case, and an anonymous donor from Arizona put up \$1 million in 2015.

The road to the missing slippers began when a man told the shoes' insurer in 2017 that he could help get them back. After a nearly year-long investigation, the FBI nabbed the shoes in Minneapolis in July 2018. At the time, the bureau said no one has been arrested or charged in the case.

On Wednesday, a summons was issued for Martin. An initial court appearance was set for June 1, and it will be via video. Terry Van Horn, spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department in North Dakota, said he could not provide any information beyond what was included in the one-paragraph indictment.

The shoes are famously associated with one of the iconic lines in "The Wizard of Oz," as Garland's character Dorothy clicks her heels and repeats the phrase, "There's no place like home." They are made from about a dozen different materials, including wood pulp, silk thread, gelatin, plastic and glass. (AP)

Turkish candidate Kilicdaroglu hardens stance before runoff against Erdogan

ANKARA (TIP): President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main challenger in Turkey's presidential race shifted gear and adopted a more nationalist and hard-line stance on May 18, vowing to send back millions of refugees if he is elected and rejecting any possibility of negotiating for peace with Kurdish militants.

Voters in Turkey will head back to the polls on May 28 for a runoff election after neither Erdogan nor his rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, won more than 50 per cent of the votes in Sunday's first round.

The election will decide whether the country remains under the increasingly authoritarian president for a third decade, or can embark on a more democratic course that the opposition has promised to deliver.

Erdogan had faced electoral headwinds because of the cost-of-living crisis and criticism over the government's response to a devastating earthquake in February.

But with his alliance retaining its hold on the parliament, Erdogan is now in a good position to win in the second round.

Kilicdaroglu, the soft-mannered joint candidate of a six-party opposition alliance, had led a highly positive and uniting campaign, mostly on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding.

He had also campaigned on a pledge to repair an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.

Many of the rallies of his pro-secular main opposition party, the Republican People's Party, or CHP, had ended with Kilicdaroglu making a heart shape with his hands. This week, however, the 74-year-old politician hardened his rhetoric in an apparent effort to appeal to nationalist voters, including those who voted for a third candidate, nationalist politician Sinan Ogan. Ogan, who received 5.2 per cent of the votes and is backed by an anti-migrant party, has said he would consider sending migrants back by force if necessary.

"Erdogan! You did not protect the borders or the honour of the country. You brought in more than 10 million refugees," Kilicdaroglu said in an address at his party's headquarters.

"You have turned your own citizens into refugees. I declare that as soon as I come to power, I will send all refugees back home. Period." Amid rising anti-migrant sentiment in the country, Kilicdaroglu had previously said he intended to repatriate refugees within two years by creating favourable conditions for their return.

Turkey is ranked as the country hosting the largest number of refugees, including at least 3.7 million Syrians.

The CHP leader also hit back at Erdogan, who had portrayed Kilicdaroglu as colluding with "terrorists" after he received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party.

With Erdogan controlling mainstream media in the country, analysts say that narrative seems to have resonated with nationalist voters who shied away from backing Kilicdaroglu, fearing he wouldn't be tough enough against terrorism. "Unfortunately, an election process that should have been a democracy festival...was overshadowed by Erdogan's campaigns of lies and slander," Kilicdaroglu said. (AP)

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On

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Coconut-based face masks to try

The miracles and virtues of coconut oil in diet and skincare have been extolled extensively. But the coconut itself can be a fabulous source of nourishment for the skin. Here are three ways you can use this wonder ingredient to make DIY face masks.

Exfoliating mask

Take the soft inner pulp of a single tomato along with the seeds, and blend it in a mixer with two tablespoons milk. To this, add half a cup of grated coconut. Mix well with a spatula and then apply all over face and neck, exfoliating in gentle upward motions for about five minutes. Leave on for another ten minutes, then wash and pat dry. Grated coconut is the gentlest exfoliant possible, since the flakes are soft, and so it is ideal for sensitive skins. The tomato and milk moisturise without being too greasy.

Nourishing mask

The pulp of the tender coconut contains nourishing benefits, and is a natural source of SPF (approximately SPF 4) against the harsh UV rays of the sun, which is why generations of local fishermen have been using them. Blend the flesh of the tender coconut till it achieves a smooth creamy consistency, and then add a few drops of almond or wheat germ essential oil. Apply and massage gently over face and neck, leave on for 10 minutes, then wipe off with a washcloth.

Toning mask

Coconut water and coconut milk are the ultimate toners when applied onto the skin – and without shelling out big bucks too! Mix half a cup of coconut water or milk with a teaspoon of cucumber or pineapple juice, and 2 or 3 drops of aloe juice. Take a small ball of cotton wool, dip it in this mixture and gently run all over face and neck. Leave on for ten minutes, and then wash off with cold water.



Oatmeal Coconut Facemask for Acne Prone skin

Coconut oil is a great choice to help cure acne prone skin because of its anti-bacterial properties. This face mask is great for acne-prone skin as the oatmeal works to soothe inflamed skin by restoring its natural PH balance.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. coconut oil or Pure Fiji Bath and Body Coconut Oil
- 3 tbsp. oatmeal
- Warm water

Procedure

- Put oatmeal in a bowl and pour in enough warm water to create a paste-like consistency.
- Mix the coconut oil in with the oatmeal and mix well.
- Apply the mixture to your face, and exfoliate your skin by gently rubbing in a circular motion.
- Leave the mixture on for 15 minutes.
- Rinse with cool water and dry your face with a clean towel.



Easy ways for new moms to avoid injuries

Being a new mother is not only about a whole lot of joy and responsibilities, but also a few injuries that you have to handle. From carrying your baby on one hip to being the target of a tossed toy, there are a few things that can cause you serious harm. Here's how to keep yourself safe:

Wrist

De Quervain's syndrome or the mother's wrist is a common complaint among new mothers. It's caused by lifting your little one frequently, which leads to the soaring of the tendons in your thumb and wrist. To prevent this, hold your baby in a way that you keep your hand and wrist in the same line, that is least bending your wrist to hold their head.

Hip

Carrying your child on one hip and tilting your pelvis is how most mothers usually hold their children. What you should be doing instead is carrying the baby with your arms, with your body weight distributed equally on both legs.

Neck

Ever felt a twinging pain while breastfeeding your little one? That's because of the hunched position you sit in, which strains your neck and shoulder muscles. To prevent it, make sure to roll back your neck at regular intervals, and support it with a soft pillow while at the same time raising your child slightly higher.

Eyes

Be it a tossed playing object or the children's love for poking the eyes. Any hit to the cornea can cause a grievous injury. Make sure to keep your baby's nails clipped short at all times. Also only buy them toys with soft edges, no metal involved.

Back

Months of carrying the little one inside you can give you a lower back ache. Add to it all the bending and lifting later to either pick the baby up or their toys, and you know what you are in for. While a good rest is the ultimate fix for back aches, you must also remember to bend your knees, instead of your torso, to lift the baby. A cold or hot pack can also help.



FOOD CORNER

CHEESE PANEER BALLS

INGREDIENTS

200 gm grated cottage cheese, 1 tablespoon corn flour, 1 finely chopped green chilli, 1/3 teaspoon red chilli powder, 2 cup refined oil, 2 tablespoon gram flour (besan), 2 finely chopped onion, 1 inch finely chopped ginger, 2 tablespoon chopped, coriander leaves, 1 teaspoon salt

For Filling

50 gm cheese cubes

Method

- In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients except cheese and oil.
- Take a small portion of mixture, roll it and press it on your palm like tikki (make it flat).
- Stuff one cheese cube inside the paneer piece, seal the edges and make a ball by rolling it on your palm.
- Repeat the same process to make balls from remaining mixture.



- Turn on the flame and heat a pan, once the oil is heated, put the balls into the hot oil one by one.
- Fry it on medium flame till it turns golden brown from all sides. Take out on a kitchen towel to absorb extra oil.
- Serve hot with tomato ketchup and green chutney.

New AI model may soon help doctors diagnose heart attacks accurately

The UK researchers have developed a novel algorithm based on artificial intelligence (AI) that may one day help doctors diagnose heart attacks quickly and with precision.

According to researchers from the University of Edinburgh, the new algorithm, called CoDE-ACS, was able to rule out a heart attack in more than double the number of patients, with an accuracy of 99.6 per cent in comparison to current testing methods.

CoDE-ACS may also greatly help in reducing hospital admissions and rapidly identify patients that are safe to go home. The findings are published in the journal Nature Medicine.

"For patients with acute chest pain due to a heart attack, early diagnosis and treatment saves lives," said Prof. Nicholas Mills, who led the research.

"Unfortunately, many conditions cause these common symptoms, and the diagnosis is not always straightforward.

"Harnessing data and artificial intelligence to support clinical decisions has enormous potential to improve care for patients and efficiency in our busy Emergency Departments," Mills noted.

In addition to ruling out heart attacks, CoDE-ACS could also help doctors identify those whose abnormal troponin (protein released into the bloodstream



New algorithm, called CoDE-ACS, was developed using data from 10,038 patients in Scotland who had arrived at hospital with suspected heart attack.

during a heart attack) levels were due to a heart attack rather than another condition.

"Chest pain is one of the most common reasons that people present to emergency departments," said Prof. Sir Nilesh Samani, medical director of the British Heart Foundation.

"Every day, doctors around the world face the challenge of separating patients whose pain is due to a heart attack from those whose pain is due to something less serious," he added.

CoDE-ACS was developed using data from 10,038 patients in

Scotland who had arrived at hospital with a suspected heart attack.

It uses routinely-collected patient information, such as age, sex, ECG findings and medical history, as well as troponin levels, to predict the probability that an individual has had a heart attack.

The result is a probability score from 0 to 100 for each patient.

Clinical trials are now under way in Scotland to assess whether the tool can help doctors reduce pressure on overcrowded emergency departments.

Source: IANS



WHO advises against use of sugar substitutes for weight loss

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised against the use of non-sugar sweeteners to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

The recommendation is based on the findings of a review of the available evidence which suggests that use of non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) does not provide any long-term benefit in reducing body fat in adults or children.

The findings also suggest that there may be potential undesirable impact from long-term use of NSS, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mortality in adults, the WHO said.

"Replacing free sugars with NSS does not help with weight control in the long term. People need to consider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars, like fruit, or unsweetened food and beverages," said Francesco Branca, WHO Director for Nutrition and Food Safety.

"NSS are not essential dietary factors and have no nutritional value. People should reduce the sweetness of the diet altogether, starting early in life, to improve their health," Branca said in a statement.

The recommendation applies to all people except individuals with pre-existing diabetes and includes all synthetic and naturally occurring or modified non-nutritive sweeteners that are not classified as sugars.

These sweeteners are found in manufactured foods and beverages, or sold on their own to be added to foods and beverages by consumers. Common NSS include acesulfame K, aspartame, advantame, cyclamates, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia and stevia derivatives.

The guideline does not apply to personal care and hygiene products containing NSS, such as toothpaste, skin cream, and medications, or to low-calorie sugars and sugar alcohols (polyols), which are sugars or sugar derivatives containing calories and are therefore not considered NSS, according to the WHO.

Scientists create first humanised mouse model for rare genetic disease

Scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have for the first time developed mice with a defected human gene responsible for a rare genetic disease, an advance that may help to develop new therapies for people with the condition.

Although animal models for congenital adrenal hyperplasia exist, this is the first to reproduce the human condition in mice and able to survive without any treatments.

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) is a group of inherited conditions, which affects about 1 in 15,000 births.

In the most common form, called 21-hydroxylase deficiency, mutations in the CYP21A2 gene cause the adrenal glands—a pair of small organs located above the kidneys—to produce low levels of cortisol and excess amounts of androgen hormones, such as testosterone.



This leads to early puberty, girls having male features, and various health issues. Currently steroid hormone replacement therapy is used for treatment, but this may often have harmful side effects.

In this study, researchers from the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus in Dresden, Germany, replaced the gene Cyp21a1 in mice with the human gene CYP21A2 carrying a mutation.

They found that the genetically

modified mice at 20 weeks had enlarged adrenal glands while expressing the human mutated gene.

In addition, similarly to the human disease, the mutation caused both male and female mice to have low levels of corticosterone—the main stress hormone in mice that is the equivalent to cortisol in humans—and other hormonal imbalances.

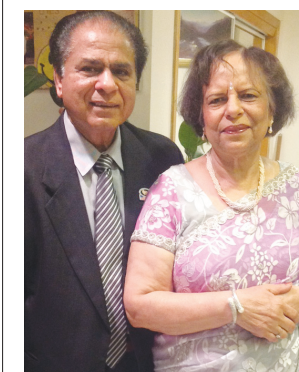
"Our mice accurately mimic the symptoms seen in human patients," said lead author Shamini Ramkumar Thirumalasetty, a biologist at the varsity.

"For example, the female mutant mice also have issues with fertility, which we believe is most probably due to the hormonal imbalances triggered by congenital adrenal hyperplasia," she added.

This mouse model will now allow the team to study the mechanisms of the disease and to find the most effective treatments. Source: IANS

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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



Google to delete all personal accounts inactive for 2 years

Google has said it will delete personal accounts and their content that haven't been used or signed in for at least 2 years.

The company said it will purge the content in inactive accounts within Google Workspace (Gmail, Docs, Drive, Meet, Calendar), YouTube and Google Photos.

While the policy took effect on Tuesday, it will not immediately impact users with an inactive account and the earliest the company will begin deleting accounts is December 2023.

"The policy only applies to personal Google Accounts, and will not affect accounts for organisations like schools or businesses," Ruth Kricheli, VP, Product Management at Google, said in a statement.

The update aligns Google policy with industry standards around retention and account deletion and also limits the amount of time Google retains the unused personal information.

"If an account hasn't been used for an extended period of time, it is more likely to be compromised. This is because forgotten or unattended accounts often rely on old or re-used passwords that may have been compromised, haven't had two factor authentication set up, and receive fewer security checks by the user," Google explained.

Microsoft's Phone Link for iOS now available to all Windows 11 users

Microsoft has announced that Phone Link for iOS is now available to all Windows 11 customers, allowing iPhone users the ability to make and receive phone calls, send and receive messages via iMessage, access their contacts, and view phone notifications right from their Windows PC.

"We are pleased to announce that Phone Link for iOS is now available to all Windows 11 customers," Microsoft said in a blogpost.

Phone Link for iOS on Windows 11 was released last month in 39 languages and 85 markets globally, with the company noting that it would take a few weeks to reach all customers.

Earlier, the Phone Link feature only worked with Android phones.

However, the Phone Link has got some limitations as the tech giant said that the messaging feature will be limited and session based and will only come through when the phone is connected to a PC.

To start using the new feature, simply start with the Search box on your Windows taskbar to look for "Phone Link".

Phone Link for iOS will require iPhone with iOS 14 or higher, a Windows 11 device, a Bluetooth connection and the latest version of the Phone Link app, the company noted.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Cyclones intensifying and retaining strength for longer duration

Scientists on Friday said cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are becoming more intense and lasting longer due to climate change.

The researchers attribute the changes in the cyclogenesis, particularly over the Indian Ocean, to the increase in the global mean temperature.

According to a study titled 'Changing status of tropical cyclones over the North Indian Ocean', the Arabian Sea saw a significant increase in the intensity, frequency, and duration of cyclonic storms and very severe cyclonic storms during the period of 1982 to 2019.

The study found a 52-per cent increase in the frequency of cyclonic storms in the Arabian Sea during the recent epoch (2001-2019) while there was an 8 per cent decrease in the Bay of Bengal.

"Cyclones nowadays can retain their energy for quite a long number of days. One example of this trend was Cyclone Amphan, which continued to travel over land as a strong cyclone and resulted in massive devastation. As long as oceans are warm and winds are favourable, cyclones will retain their intensity for a longer period," said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports.

Cyclone Mocha, which rapidly intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm, is predicted to make a disastrous landfall in Bangladesh and western Myanmar with wind speeds reaching up to 175 kmph. The World Meteorological Organization has warned of violent winds, floods, and possible landslides in Bangladesh, and inundations of low-lying areas in Myanmar.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' report titled 'Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region', climate model simulations project a rise in tropical cyclone intensity (medium confidence) and precipitation intensity (medium-to-high confidence) in the North Indian Ocean basin.

The report compared pre-1950 and post-1950 periods and found the number of severe cyclonic storms rose from 94 to 140 (a 49 per cent increase) in the Bay of Bengal region and from 29 to 44 (a 52 per cent increase)



in the Arabian Sea region annually.

Observations indicate that the frequency of extremely severe cyclonic storms over the Arabian Sea has increased during the post-monsoon seasons of 1998 to 2018. There is "medium confidence" in attributing this observed increase to human-induced SST warming.

"Sea surface temperatures are increasing. The mechanism behind the formation of cyclones does not change, but weather conditions are changing. Cyclones have been intensifying at a faster pace in the recent past. The reason behind this is not just an increase in the sea-surface temperatures but also rising ocean heat content," said Dr MM Ali, Meteorologist and Oceanologist, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority and Group Director - Atmosphere, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).

Around 90 per cent of the energy trapped in the climate system by greenhouse gases goes into the oceans. The ocean heat content, which measures this gain in energy, reached a record high in 2022, according to WMO's 'State of the Global Climate 2022' report.

Source: PTI

Saturn outshines Jupiter in 'moon race'; total count at 145

Planet Saturn has made a remarkable comeback to reclaim the title of the "planet with the highest number of moons", surpassing Jupiter, which temporarily took the lead in February with its 12 newly discovered moons. A new study have unveiled an astonishing 62 new moons orbiting the ringed planet, bringing Saturn's official count of natural satellites to a grand total of 145. In contrast, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has confirmed Jupiter's moon count at 95.

As reported by The Guardian, the newly discovered moons of Saturn have currently been designated with numbers and letters. In due course, these moons will be bestowed with names inspired by Gallic, Norse, and Canadian Inuit gods, following the established convention for Saturn's moons.



"Saturn not only has nearly doubled its number of moons, it now has more moons than all the rest of the planets in the solar system combined," an astronomer at the University of British Columbia was quoted as saying. He mentioned that their team would be seeking guidance from Inuit elders to gather proposals that could

subsequently be presented to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) for approval.

According to reports from the Associated Press (AP), Jupiter and Saturn are host to a multitude of small moons. Researchers believe that these moons are remnants of larger moons that collided with each other or with comets and asteroids.

Similar processes are thought to have occurred on Uranus and Neptune as well, but due to their significant distance from Earth, the task of spotting and studying their moons becomes even more challenging.

The Guardian's report further said that Nasa's upcoming Dragonfly mission, anticipated to be launched in 2027, holds the promise of enabling close-up observations of at least one of Saturn's smaller outer moons.

Byju's Alpha accused of hiding \$500 million in default lawsuit

Lenders accused one of India's hottest tech companies, Byju's Alpha, of hiding \$500 million as part of a fight between creditors and the self-proclaimed biggest education technology company in the world.

The allegation came out at a court hearing on Thursday, May 19, in Delaware, where Byju's Alpha faces a lawsuit over who should control the company. Lenders claim that because of a default earlier this year, they have the right to put their representative, Timothy R. Pohl, in charge.

The dispute is the latest setback for the high-flying startup founded by Byju Raveendran. Byju's had already been working to appease creditors trying to restructure a \$1.2 billion term loan when government investigators searched company offices in April. The Bengaluru-based company has been working toward an initial public offering of its tutoring unit for several years.

Earlier this year, as the two sides were in a standoff, a top manager at Byju's Alpha "admitted to transferring half a billion dollars out of the company," Brock Czeschin, one of Pohl's lawyers, said during the hearing, which was held by telephone.

Byju's Alpha was trying to protect the money from predatory lenders, Joe Cicero, a lawyer for Byju's Alpha, said during the hearing. The company had a right to transfer the money under the loan agreement, he said.

The company is current on all debt payments and any defaults should be considered technical breaches of the loan agreement, Byju's Alpha attorney Sheron Korpus said in an interview.



IndiGo back in black; posts Rs 919-cr profit

Fuelled by robust market demand and higher revenue, IndiGo Aviation on Thursday, May 18, flew into the profitability zone, raking in a net profit of Rs 919.2 crore in the March quarter. The parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, which had faced turbulence last year, had a net loss of Rs 1,681.8 crore in the three months ended March 2022.

The airline has reported its "best-ever fourth-quarter net profit of Rs 9,192 million for the quarter ended March 2023". The total income surged nearly 78% to Rs 14,600.1 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal. In the same period a year ago, the total income was Rs 8,207.5 crore.

Debit, credit cards not to be taxed for overseas spending up to Rs 7 lakh, says govt

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Union government tweaked the imposition of 20 per cent Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on transactions through international credit cards and debit cards under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) from July 1 by clarifying that the applicability will only be after a limit of Rs 7 lakh has been breached in a financial year.

Faced with massive social outrage, the Finance Ministry admitted that concerns have been raised about the applicability of TCS to small transactions under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). "To avoid any procedural ambiguity, it has been decided that any payments by an individual using their international Debit or Credit cards upto Rs 7 lakh per financial year will be excluded from the LRS limits and hence, will not attract any TCS," it said in a statement.

It also clarified that the existing beneficial TCS treatment for education and health payments will also continue.

The necessary changes to the Rules (Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions Rules), 2000) will be issued separately, added the Finance Ministry statement.

Earlier, several analysts had termed the blanket imposition of TCS as a disaster because it would have been a compliance nightmare for many traveling for tourism. They had pointed out that rather than being an indirect measure to support the domestic tourism industry which was the worst hit during the pandemic, it



would actually discourage many residents from travelling overseas.

Govt to get Rs 87,416 crore dividend from RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, May 19, approved Rs 87,416-crore dividend payout to the Central government for 2022-23, nearly triple of what it paid in the previous year.

The dividend payout was Rs 30,307 crore for accounting year 2021-22.

The decision was taken at the 602nd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India held under the chairmanship

of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The Board approved the transfer of Rs 87,416 crore as surplus to the central government for accounting year 2022-23, while deciding to keep the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6 per cent," RBI said in a statement.

The Board also reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and associated challenges, including the impact of current global geopolitical developments.

The Board also discussed the working of RBI during 2022-23 and approved the annual report and accounts of the central bank for the year.

S&P affirms India's sovereign rating; outlook stable

NEW DELHI (TIP)

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday, May 18, affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook and said sound economic fundamentals will underpin growth over the next 2-3 years.

The stable outlook on the long-term rating reflects S&P's view that India's strong economy and healthy revenue growth will support its weak fiscal settings.

"S&P Global Ratings affirmed its 'BBB-' long-term and 'A-3' short-term unsolicited foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on India. The outlook on the long-term rating is stable," the US-based agency said in a statement.

'BBB-' is the lowest investment grade rating.

"India's economy is performing well amid challenging global conditions. We anticipate sound fundamentals to underpin growth over the next two to three years," S&P said.

The government will likely maintain elevated fiscal deficits and a large debt stock despite ongoing consolidation efforts, it added.

Earlier this month, another global rating agency Fitch had affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook, citing robust growth and resilient external finances.

Stock markets turn volatile after positive beginning

Equity benchmark indices started the trade on a firm note



on Friday, May 19, amid positive trend in the global stock markets and foreign fund inflows but later turned volatile.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 205.08 points to 61,636.82 in early trade. The NSE Nifty advanced 56.2 points to 18,186.15 in initial deals.

Later, both the benchmark indices turned volatile and were trading marginally lower.

The Sensex quoted 48.29 points lower at 61,383.45 and the Nifty dipped 28.30 points to 18,101.65.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 22, 2023 TO MAY 28, 2023



Aries

ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, problems with your home and finances that have been bothering you for some time will be easily fixed, but your day won't be simple. This week, you're going to run across all the same problems that your erratic and irrational mindset caused earlier. Avoid panicking; all it takes is perseverance. Enjoy some fun conversation this week. Don't make any significant commitments this week. As a result of having time to yourselves separated, memories of past times will resurface, making you smile. This week, unanticipated blessings might come your way. Furthermore, you'll be able to make some definitive judgements in favor of the greater good. Don't consider the folks you disappointed.



Taurus

TAURUS : Ganesha says, this week should be enjoyable in theory, but your presence of compassion for others will enhance your partnership. You'll be in a good mood this week. This week, you should take precautions to prevent losing something of worth. In a professional sense, this is an excellent moment to consider establishing a new business connection. When it comes to business partnerships, have compassion for your partner and try to come to an agreement with them. Regarding your health, try to get sufficient fluids to last the majority of the day, and pay attention to who your children interact with this week. The week will generally get better this week.



Gemini

GEMINI : Ganesha says, this week, anything bad will not bother you. You will give your entire body and spirit to anything you do. This week, it is strongly advised that you deal with financiers, health providers, and other companies. Due to considerable fluctuations in your love relationship caused by your emotions, use caution. Any efforts by your companion to persuade you of a viewpoint you disagree with must be stopped. In terms of your wellness, you'll feel dizzy in the later part of the week. Make sure you are in a safe location. You should visit a sacred location this week to learn how to regulate your feelings of joy.



Cancer

CANCER : Ganesha says, you'll have a fantastic day this week since you'll be able to get in touch with loved ones again. This week, your connection with siblings will bring you happiness, yet friction will disrupt your peace. Someone will try to trick you on a corporate level, so be especially careful. You may now take advantage of commercial alliances on the overseas marketplace. This week, your partner will get attached to you feeling incredibly satisfied. You won't be able to go forward if you make a mistake this week. Due to your excellent health, you won't require to fret.



Leo

LEO : Ganesha says, this week has a lot planned for you, so it will be a hectic day. To tick everything off the list of tasks for this week, you'll have to race out, on and so forth. This week won't affect your health, so there's not any reason for you to worry about anything. In the context of your working life, you'll gain income if you supply finance in the firm this week. Individuals who work frequently will be distracted. This week will require you to be careful not to cause a commotion while working on crucial documents. This week, your spouse may be a little grumpy about your relationship, but when you have a genuine converse, they will understand.



Virgo

VIRGO : Ganesha says, this week will allow you to provide it all that you've gotten. You'll be looking for opportunities to show off your range as an innovator. You'll be in a bind in the afternoon, but all will work out in the end. Your business expenditure will increase this week, and you won't be able to handle your finances well. This week, you'll have a health problem with your abdominals. This week, having a discussion about your relationship with your partner won't be possible. This week, make sure you and your significant other are on the same page.



Libra

LIBRA : Ganesha says, this week, festivities disguised as unanticipated joy will make their way into your life. This week's conflicts at work will be brought on by government lawmakers. In this week's world, the appropriate personnel can also be located in the finance industry. You'll be able to win over your partner in a relationship. This week, they'll look into the depths of your heart. This week, back issues are likely to have an effect on your wellbeing. Avoid any physical exertion this week. Overall, your day will be nice, although it can be beneficial to be aware of any problems. No matter how great your day appears to be going, you still need to work on attracting positivity.



Scorpio

SCORPIO : Ganesha says, this week will require a little more stress from you. You'll strive to maintain authority over situations that will eventually have a significant impact. You'll achieve your objectives, but you'll first need to have a mind-clearing exercise. This week, try to avoid being sucked into your conflicts. This week, you and your companion or a partner will argue over money, which is fantastic news for your romantic relationship. It's not a good idea to allow financial problems to ruin your relationship. This week, you'll feel a little anxious about your well-being. This week's medications you are taking will have some unfavorable effects on you. This week, be careful to focus on finishing one assignment at a time.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, beginning this week, you will value both yourself and the people in your life. You'll also have a religious bent. You'll be able to control how your feelings are channeled. Conversely, engineers won't be under as much constraint as people in other industries. This week's purchases will increase the bar for you. Take advantage of Venus being in your favor this week. This week marks the start of an entirely fresh chapter in your relationship. You'll be more confident in yourself since you'll be more aware of your partner's goals. When it comes to your health, keep a watchful eye on your cholesterol values.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, you'll need to keep up with the most recent trends and recognize many opportunities. What you do today will shape the picture of what's to come. This week, you'll experience a lot of unease, making it challenging for you to place your faith in other individuals. Give it your all, people. You might feel somewhat detached from your lover this week as it will be challenging for you to get in touch with them. Keep waiting, and desire will come back into your life someday. Your ability to understand tomorrow will depend on what you accomplish today. Your earlier investments are starting to pay dividends now. Avoid letting temporary joys get in the way of living a better life.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, you don't need to worry; all of the tasks will be finished. You'll have some spare time to concentrate on your creative side. You will be perplexed by your daily obligations and the reliance on you by others but try not to be overly dependent on oneself. This week, be careful not to neglect anything. This week don't try to persuade your significant other to accept less. This week, steer clear of any contentious issues and be cautious. Moon is not on your side. This week's heightened irresponsibility will be damaging. Stay on the course you have outlined and watch out for detours. Avoid engaging in activities that could damage the joints or vertebrae. This week, be cautious and avoid doing any hard lifting.



Pisces

PISCES : Ganesha says, this week, problems with your home and finances that have been bothering you for some time will be easily fixed, but your day won't be simple. This week, you're going to run across all the same problems that your erratic and irrational mindset caused earlier. Avoid panicking; all it takes is perseverance. Enjoy some fun conversation this week. This week, unanticipated blessings might come your way. Furthermore, you'll be able to make some definitive judgements in favor of the greater good. Don't consider the folks you disappointed.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 22 , 2023 TO MAY 28, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 22 : Ganesha says some significant choices would be made this time. You would feel highly energized and prepared to put forth extra effort to accomplish your professional goals. You would have incredible financial success thanks to your enormous energy and fierce drive. By the middle of the day, any legal or property conflicts plaguing you will have been resolved amicably. The spouse would continue to be supportive and show your love and affection. A huge source of happiness would be having kids.

MAY 23 : Ganesha says today will provide you with a few exceptional possibilities, but you must seize them quickly before others do. Investments and even speculative activities would result in monetary advantages. While partnerships should be avoided, they would create new streams of income. Later, it appears likely that you'll take a trip to somewhere foreign. While the well-being of a family member may

raise worries and anxiety for you, your own health will continue to be fine.

MAY 24 : Ganesha says you would be at the height of your self-assurance and resolve. You would likely be promoted or transferred, and the organization where you work would experience significant administrative changes. At least two different sources would provide you with revenue. Midway through the month your financial situation would start to improve, bringing home prosperity and happiness. Significant help would come from your emotional companion. Adequate care may be required for a sibling's health.

MAY 25 : Ganesha says despite your best efforts and numerous odd jobs completed, your boss would be under a lot of pressure and may not completely appreciate your work. Your salary would increase, but you would also spend more on luxuries, making

it very challenging for you to plan any savings. Due to your busy job schedule, your romantic connection will suffer. Property conflicts will be resolved amicably. You will enjoy your day with your family and have a great time.

MAY 26 : Ganesha says several of the unexpected happenings would be to your advantage. Your financial situation would be comfortable thanks to past investment gains. You should solely focus on achieving your career objectives and not worry about rumors and gossip. Both business and leisure travelers would make long distance trips. Despite the extra hours you could work in the first several months, your health should be good. There are benefits to yoga and meditation.

MAY 27 : Ganesha says you would devote a lot of things to seeking out new employment. Being extremely motivated and imaginative, you could

quickly seize upcoming opportunities. Businessmen should expect a lot of high returns after signing significant agreements. Your emotional ties to your close pals would get in the way of any plans you could have with your spouse. You must arrange your social activities such that no one is harmed. Gains from the sale of real estate may not be completely excluded.

MAY 28 : Ganesha says the task you undertake this time will provide you with a tremendous deal of satisfaction. Your coworkers and colleagues would be supportive, and some of them would end up being your closest friends. Although you would make good money from your job, it would be difficult for you to keep your profits. It would be enjoyable to get romantically involved, and there would be a good potential that you may get married. Be prepared to receive gifts and delights in both cash and kind.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥



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contd from page 1

G7 countries call for world without...

A French government plane took Zelenskyy to the Arab League Summit in Saudi Arabia and will later take him to the G7 summit in Hiroshima, a source familiar with the matter said.

Ukraine wants its allies to be bolder in imposing sanctions on Russia, including by targeting banks that provide financial services to serving soldiers, a senior adviser said.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his government wanted pragmatic measures to prevent the circumvention of sanctions imposed on Russia.

G7 members are prepared to build "constructive and stable relations" with China while acting in their national interests, according to a draft version of their communique.

Siddaramaiah sworn in as Chief...

Ramalinga Reddy (Reddy), B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan (Minority-Muslim), The youngest minister in the group sworn in is Priyank Kharge, son of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Leaders of opposition parties present at the ceremony included, among others, Dr. Farouq Abdulla, Mahbooba Mufti, Nitish Kumar, MK Stalin, Sharad Yadav, Tejasvi Yadav, Kamal Hassan, Yechuri.

The top leadership of the Congress party was present. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress President Kharge were present as also were chief ministers of Congress ruled states, besides Congress leaders from many parts of India.

RBI to withdraw Rs 2,000 currency...

in other denominations became available in adequate number. It claimed that these notes were "primarily" introduced after demonetization to meet the currency requirement after the withdrawal of legal tender status of all Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes in circulation then. Therefore, the printing of Rs 2,000 banknotes was stopped in 2018-19.

CLEAN NOTE POLICY

The move comes amid concerns of the Rs 2,000 notes being used to hoard black money

The RBI had stopped printing Rs 2,000 notes in 2018-19 and the notes were rarely in circulation; cites its 'Clean Note Policy' to phase out the notes

Secondly, about 89 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes were issued before March 2017 and were at the end of their estimated life-span of four-five years, it said. Their withdrawal, therefore, is warranted under the RBI's "Clean Note Policy". Thirdly, the RBI observed that this denomination of notes were not commonly used for transaction.

The total value of these banknotes in circulation has declined from 37.3 per cent of notes in circulation in 2018 to 10.8 per cent as on March 31, 2023. "It may be noted that the RBI had undertaken a similar withdrawal of notes from circulation in 2013-14. Accordingly, the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes in their bank accounts or exchange these into banknotes of other denominations at any bank branch. Deposit into bank accounts can be made in the usual manner without restrictions and subject to extant instructions and other applicable statutory provisions," said the RBI in its statement.

Rs 6.73 lakh cr Worth Rs 2K notes on Mar 31, 2018 (37.3% of all notes in circulation)

Rs 3.62 lakh cr Worth of notes on Mar 31, 2023 (10.8% of all notes in market)

Meanwhile, the Opposition parties attacked the BJP government. "Typical of our self-styled Vishwaguru. First Act, Second Think (FAST). 2000-rupee notes introduced with such fanfare after that singularly disastrous 'Tughlaqi firman' of Nov 8 2016 are now being withdrawn (sic)," tweeted Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, targeting PM Narendra Modi.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the "ghost" of November 8, 2016, had come back to haunt the nation once again. "...the PM sermonized the nation on the benefits of the new Rs 2,000 notes. Today, when the

printing is stopped, what happened to all those promises?" said Khera.

RS 20,000 EXCHANGE RIDER

The RBI has allowed the maximum deposit or exchange of Rs 20,000 worth of Rs 2,000 notes at a time

The CPM, NCP and other parties also criticized the government over the withdrawal. Countering the Opposition's criticism, the BJP dubbed them as "fear mongers". "What does a desperate and issueless Opposition do when the RBI takes a decision to withdraw Rs 2,000 note, of which there (withdrawing and introducing currency notes) are several precedence in the past?" tweeted BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya.

No regulatory failure: SC panel on...

conclude that there has been a regulatory failure around the allegations of price manipulation," the committee said in its 178-page report.

Clarifying that its remit was not to examine if price rise was justified, it said, "It is apparent that SEBI was apparently engaged with developments and price movements in the market."

The panel, however, said there was evidence of a build-up in short positions on Adani Group stocks ahead of the Hindenburg Research report that alleged fraud, stock manipulation and money laundering at the group. Profits were earned from squaring off positions after prices crashed post publication of the damning allegations.

The committee recommended that "there is a need to develop a proper enforcement policy" and "laying down criteria, on the basis of which SEBI may choose the wide-ranging scope of measures available to it", including imposing monetary penalty and launching criminal prosecution.

As the news about the Supreme Court-appointed expert panel became public, shares of Adani Group companies rose by almost four per cent in the afternoon session. Justice Sapre panel was set up by the top court on March 2.

HEALTH**6 Medical Problems That Can Mimic Dementia - but Aren't****Medications, infections and sleep issues can cause you to feel foggy or confused**

their effectiveness are ongoing.) "Before you make that conclusion, you should rule out all the other things that can be confused with dementia - things that are easily reversible."

Here are some common medical problems that can be mistaken for dementia.

1. MEDICATION INTERACTIONS OR SIDE EFFECTS

If someone complains of memory problems, Hashmi says his first question is always, "Did you recently start a new medication?"

Older adults are more likely than younger people to develop cognitive impairment as a side effect of a medication, and drug toxicity is the culprit in as many as 12 percent of patients who present with suspected dementia, research shows.

two people inside a house with a heart above their heads. the woman has white hair and is older and her adult son has his arm around her in a protective gesture

Many types of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs can affect your cognition, but the most common include those for sleep, urinary incontinence,

pain, anxiety and allergies. Taking too many medications (called polypharmacy) can affect your ability to think clearly and remember things, Hashmi says.

An April 2023 report from the National Poll on Healthy Aging found that 82 percent of adults ages 50 to 80 take at least one prescription medication; 28 percent take five or more medications. The same report found that 80 percent of older adults taking prescription medication said they would be willing to stop taking one or more if their doctor said it was possible.

Even a prescription you've been on for many years can trigger confusion. The reason, Hashmi explains, is that your kidneys and liver become less effective at clearing drugs from your body as you get older, so a medication can build up in your system and cause problems.

2. A RESPIRATORY INFECTION (INCLUDING COVID-19)

Any untreated infection, Hashmi says, can cause delirium - a sudden change in alertness, attention, memory and orientation that can mimic dementia. When you have an infection, the white blood cells in your body rush to the infection site, causing a chemical change

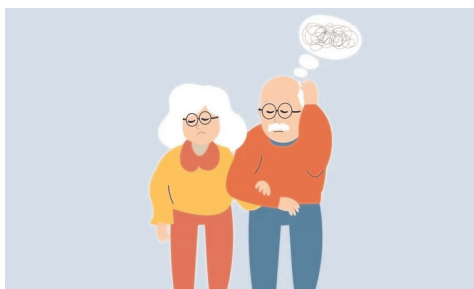
in the brain that makes some older adults feel drowsy, unfocused or confused.

Respiratory infections are harder to diagnose in people 65 and older because they are more likely to lack classic symptoms, such as a fever or a cough, Hashmi notes. In one study published in 2020 in JAMA Network Open, 37 percent of older COVID-19 patients who went to the emergency room with delirium had no typical COVID symptoms, such as fever or shortness of breath.

Delirium tends to come on suddenly, whereas dementia usually progresses slowly, with subtle memory changes that gradually worsen over many years, Hashmi says. "Dementia is almost never sudden onset unless caused by a stroke. If you see a sudden change [in mental status], always think about delirium as a first cause. It is eminently treatable if you get to the trigger or underlying source of it, which is usually an infection."

Patients have reported difficulty concentrating, memory slips and attention deficits after they recover from a COVID-19 infection. In most patients, those symptoms subside after a few months.

(Source: AARP Newsletter)



If you're an older adult experiencing memory lapses, lack of focus or confusion - or you have a loved one with those symptoms - it's natural to worry about dementia or Alzheimer's disease. A recent AARP survey found that nearly half of adults 40 and older think they will develop dementia - a share far greater than the condition's actual prevalence.

Other treatable conditions can cause similar symptoms, and they can be easy for doctors to miss, says Ardeshir Hashmi, M.D., a geriatrician and section chief of Cleveland Clinic's Center for Geriatric Medicine.

"Sometimes there's just a very superficial workup, and then [the doctor says], 'Here's a pill for Alzheimer's,'" Hashmi says. (Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, there are several federally approved medications that can help manage its symptoms. Two medications have made it to the market that could slow the progression of Alzheimer's, though studies measuring

Vat Savitri Vrat is a Hindu festival which is a special festival for married women. This festival is also called Vat Amavasya. This festival is celebrated by married women. In this festival, the married woman makes a symbol of her love for her husband by tying a ceremonial thread around a banyan tree. The festival is based on the story of Savitri and Satyavan. As described in the Mahabharata, this fast has become a symbol of idealistic femininity in Indian culture.

There is a lot of disagreement about this fast, according to Skanda Purana and Bhavishya Purana, it is a law to observe the full moon day of Shukla Paksha of Jyeshtha month, while according to Nirnayamrita etc. it is said that fasting on the new moon day of Jyeshtha month.

Even after differences in dates, the purpose of this fast is the same. Many women believe in observing this fast from Trayodashi of Jyeshtha month to Amavasya and likewise from Trayodashi to Poornima of Shukla Paksha. Most of those who worship Lord Vishnu do this fast on full moon.

In Vat Savitri fast, both 'Vat' and 'Savitri' have been considered to be of specific importance. Vat means tree to the banyan. Banyan tree is considered to be of special importance in Hinduism. It is clarified in the Puranas that Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh reside in the vat. Savitri is considered a historical character in Indian culture. Savitri also means Ved Mata Gayatri and Saraswati.

How to worship during Vat Savitri Vrat?

The idols of Savitri and Satyavan and Yama riding on a buffalo should be worshiped under the banyan tree and water should be given to the root of the tree. There should be water, Mouli, Roli, raw cotton, soaked gram, flowers and incense for worship. After irrigating the banyan tree with water, wrap a raw thread around the stem and circumambulate it three times. After this the story of Satyavan-Savitri should be heard. After this, after taking out the seeds of the soaked gram, keeping as much money on it as possible, give it to your mother-in-law and touch her feet.

Legend

Bhadra was a king of the country, named Ashwapati. King Ashwapati of the Bhadra country had no children.

He gave one lakh sacrifices daily along with chanting for the attainment of children. This sequence continued for eighteen years.

After this, Savitridevi appeared and said that 'Rajan you will be born a stunning girl. Because of being born by the grace of Savitri Devi, the girl was named Savitri.

The girl grew up and became very beautiful. Savitri's father was grieved because of not getting a suitable groom. He sent the girl to find the bride herself.

Savitri started wandering in Tapovan. King Dumatsen of the country of Salve lived there, because his kingdom was taken away by someone. Seeing his son Satyavan, Savitri selected him as her husband.

When Rishiraj Narada came to know about this, he reached to King Ashwapati and said, "O Rajan!" What are you doing? Satyavan is virtuous, righteous and powerful, but he is very young, he is young. He will die after one year.

After listening to Rishi Raja Narada, King Ashwapati was overwhelmed with great anxiety. Savitri asked him the reason, the king said, daughter, the prince whom you have chosen as your groom is a young man. You should make someone else your life partner.

To this, Savitri said that father, Arya girls vow only once to their husbands, the king gives orders only once and pandits make vows only once and Kanyadaan is also done only once.

Savitri started stubbornly and said I will marry Satyavan. King Ashwapati married Savitri to Satyavan.

Savitri started serving her mother-in-law as soon as her mother-in-law arrived. Time eloped. Narada Muni had already told Savitri about the day of Satyavan's death. As the day drew closer, Savitri began to get impatient. He started fasting three days in advance. Narada Muni worshiped ancestors on an alleged fixed date.

Like every day, Satyavan went to the forest to cut



Important information

Vat Savitri Vrat 2023

Friday, 19 May 2023

Amavasya Tithi Begins : 18 May 2023 at 09:42 PM

Amavasya Tithi ends : 19 May 2023 at 09:22 PM

wood that day as well as Savitri. On reaching the forest, Satyavan climbed a tree to cut wood. Then his head started hurting, Satyavan, distraught with pain, came down from the tree. Savitri understood her future.

Putting Satyavan's head in her lap, Savitri started caressing Satyavan's head. Then Yamraj was seen coming there. Yamraj started taking Satyavan with him. Savitri also followed him.

Yamraj tried to convince Savitri that this is the law of the law. But Savitri did not listen.

Seeing Savitri's loyalty and piety, Yamraj told Savitri that you are blessed, O Goddess. You ask me any boon.

1) Savitri said that my in-laws are forest dwellers and blind, give them divine light. Yamraj said that this will happen. Go return now

But Savitri followed her husband Satyavan. Yamraj said Goddess you go back. Savitri said, God, I have no problem in following my husband. It is my duty to follow the husband. Hearing this, he again asked her to ask for another groom.

2) Savitri said, our father-in-law's kingdom has been taken away, let him get it back again.

Yamraj also gave this boon to Savitri and said, now you return. But Savitri kept following.

Yamraj asks Savitri to ask for a third boon.

3) Savitri asked for the blessings of 100 children and good luck on this. Yamraj also gave his boon to Savitri.

Savitri told Yamraj that Prabhu I am a loving wife and you have blessed me to be a daughter. On hearing this, Yamraj had to leave the life of Satyavan. Yamraj disappeared and Savitri came to the same tree where her husband's dead body lay.

Satyavan became alive and both happily walked towards their kingdom. When both reached home, they saw that the parents had received the divine light. In this way Savitri-Satyavan continued to enjoy state happiness for a long time.

Rules and Benefits of Vat Purnima Vrat:

On this auspicious day, women take a holy bath in the morning. This holy bath is considered to be the purification of mind and body. Married women who wish to conduct this vrat and puja, wear new colourful clothes, bright bangles, and apply vermillion on the forehead. They put one leaf of Banyan on their hair. Women also offer Nine types of fruits to the Goddess Savitri. Wet pulses, rice, mangos, jackfruits, palm fruits, kendu, bananas and several other fruits are offered as Bhoga (offering) and the rest of the day is observed with Savitri Vrat Katha. Once ladies complete their vrat, they consume the Bhogal and take blessings from the husband and the elders in the family.

It is believed that Vat Savitri Vrat blesses married Hindu women with a better life and good fortune. If a married Hindu woman observes the fast with devotion, she will be able to bring good luck, long life, and prosperity for her husband. Women performing all the rituals of Vat Savitri Vrat, enjoy a happy and peaceful married life.

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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."

Sikh History This Week

MAY 19, 2023, TO MAY 25, 2023

19th May

1919: The British regime acknowledged right of the Sikhs to wear their religious sword and removed all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib. A long agitation against restrictions on Kirpan Sahib was successfully concluded. This agitation saw hundreds of Sikhs in Jails. However, upon its conclusion all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib (specifically in armed forces) were removed all over British India and Burma. Kirpan Sahib is the second Kakaar, out of a total of five Kakaars, mandated for GurSikh's attire. Others include Kaes (unshorn hair), Kanga (comb), Kasha (underwear), and Kadha (bangel).

1940 A meeting of all Sikh parties was held in Amritsar, to explore the issue of Sikh sovereignty and a sub-committee was set-up to explore the matter.

20th May



1606 The Mughal royal decree to apprehend Guru Arjan Dev Ji was announced.

1704 Anandpur Sahib was attacked unprovoked by the combined forces of neighbouring Hindus Rajas.

1912 Kahan Singh began compiling Mahan-Kosh, a Sikh Encyclopedia. KAHAN SINGH: is among the noted learned Sikh scholars. He was born on Bhado Wadi 10th sunmat 1918 (1861) in village Sabaj Banaera, Patiala, to father Bhai Narayan Singh and mother Mata Har Kaur Ji. As a child Kahan Singh was very active and thereby extremely close to his parents. He learned Gurmukhi from Bhai Bhup Singh. He was initiated to read Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the age of five by his father. At seven years of age, he was fluent in reciting Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Subsequently, Kahan Singh was sent to Delhi for Sanskrit education. He studies initially from Bawa Kalyan Das then Pandit Sri Dhar, Bansi Dhar, Bhai Vir Singh, Bhai Ram Singh, and Bawa Parmanand. He studied poetry from Bhai Bhagwan Singh Dughu. Subsequently, he learned music from Mahant of Gurusar Maharaj, Gaja Singh. At 20 yrs. he started learning Pharsi and english. By the age of 22, Bhai Kahan Singh had accomplished the basic necessary for understanding and analyzing Sikh literature.

1922 Harnam Singh Mehdiapur is assaulted by Chakravartis of Kishan Singh Gargaj group.

1923 Ralla and Dittu of Kaulgarh were murdered.

1930 Akali Jatha left Peshawar to help the Pathans.

Akali Jatha, led by Master Tara Singh, left for Peshawar to help the Pathan followers of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who had been fired upon in Kissa Khwani Bazar. Tara Singh was arrested in Lahore and incarcerated in Gujrat jail. The Akali volunteers were not permitted to proceed beyond Dina in Jhelum, where they were lathi charged till every one of them became unconscious.

21st May

1920 The Akali, a Punjabi daily newspaper, started

publication.

1921 The militant Akalis held a meeting and deputed Bela Singh and Ganda Singh to murder J.W. Bowring in Lahore. J.W. Bowring was was Police Captain during the Nankana Sahib massacre. Akalis were convinced that he had conspired and aided Mahant Narayan Dass in carrying of the Nanakana Sahib massacre. Since then, he had been moved to Lahore. Unfortunately the plan foiled by a government agent, Sadhu Singh, who has poised as a staunch Akali supported and worked with Akali newspaper. Both were arrested at the Lahore railway station on May 23, 1921 and tried under Babbar Akali Conspiracy Trial No. 1.

1923 Second declaration of the Babbar Akalis owning the Kaulgarh murders was issued in Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.

1924 Viryam Singh Babbar hanged until death.

1924 5th Shahidi Jatha of 500 valiant Akali Satyagrahies courted arrest on reaching Jaito.

22nd May

1606 The Mughals apprehended Guru Arjan Dev Ji under the Royal decree announced on May 20, 1606. Guru Sahib asked his family to leave for Dalla (in Doaba), yet he made no plans to either flee, or hide in the hills or in the jungles.



1710 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) killed Wajir Khan in Chapud-Chidhi and destroyed Sirhind. Then he established his capital at Mukhlis. Until 1720 everything was conducted from this capital.

1960 Punjabi Suba Convention was held at Amritsar. It was attended by Dr. Kitchlew, K.G. Jodh, Zaheer Qurashi and leaders of Socialist and Swatantra Parties.

23rd May

1606 Jahangir received false reports on Guru Arjan's blessing Khusrau.

1848 Maharani Jind Kaur exiled and sent to Banaras prison.



1914 Guru Nanak Jahaz (Koma gata Maru) reached Vancouver port, Canada. However, it was forced to return to India. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis

traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.

24th May

1606 Guru Arjan Dev reached Lahore for martyrdom in protection of the Dharam. For 6 days he suffered immense tortures. At the time of martyrdom, Sai Mia Meer and a priest from Puratgal, Saint Jaerom Jaevier witnessed the martyrdom.

1710 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur enters Sirhind city.

1960 Master Tara Singh and hundreds of Sikhs arrested.

25th May



1606 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Sixth, Guru Har Gobind Ji.

Patshahi sixth, Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji, ascended to Guruship of GurSikhism. Just after the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, Baba Budha anointed Hargobind as the sixth Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Arjan had sent to Hargobind, five paisas and a coconut through a messenger. Baba Budha put those in front of Hargobind and applied a 'tilak' (saffron mark) on his forehead, bowed to him and declared him to be the next Guru of the Sikhs. The Guru then asked Baba Budha to adorn him with a sword. Baba Budha who had not handled a sword before, tied it on the wrong side of the Guru. On realising his mistake he wanted to move it to the right side, but the Guru said not to remove that sword, but instead to put another one on the right side, which Baba Budha did. Thus the Guru wore two swords simultaneously. He declared that one sword represented 'Piri' (spirituality) or Bhakti while the other represented 'Miri' (Temporality or Shakti). He told his followers that in the Guru's house spiritual and temporal powers would be combined. He declared that his rosary would be the sword-belt and he would wear the emblem of royalty on his turban. Further he instructed the Sikhs to keep a sword and a horse and always recite the name of God from their lips.

1675 Kashmiri Panditsi, led by Kirpa Ram, arrive in Anandpur Sahib to ask Guru Tegh Bahadur for help in preserving Hindu dharam.

Rajasthan: The Land of Kings



With palaces that still evoke the grandeur of their regal past, in literally every hamlet, and the Thar desert's never-ending sand dunes that appear like golden-hued paintings, there's no shortage of places to visit in Rajasthan that provide an ideal backdrop to a romantic escape. The Land of Kings—Rajasthan—is well known for its stunning heritage sites, luxurious hotels, scenic lakes and picture-postcard desert stretches that look straight out of Arabian Nights. Hop on a camel to explore Jaisalmer's fabled dunes, explore the exquisite Jal Mahal in Jaipur, sail on Mount Abu's Nakki Lake on a paddleboat or have a candlelit dinner in Udaipur's City Palace—Rajasthan's palette of romantic experiences is kaleidoscopic. Here's your guide to some of the most enchanting destinations in India's largest state, for an unforgettable outing with your significant other.

JAISALMER

A magnificent fort looming over the city, picture-postcard vistas of sand dunes and an array of illuminated sandstone buildings—Jaisalmer is nothing short of a scene straight out of Arabian Nights. It attracts many couples, honeymooners and families with its erstwhile royal splendour. The Jaisalmer Fort (also known as the Golden Fort of Rajasthan) is the most splendid attraction of the city, perched on an elevated patch looking over the city. Surrounded by numerous golden-hued shrines, Gadsisar Lake is ideal for an evening picnic or a short paddleboat ride. The city's most popular activity is taking a camel ride over the desert sands; best enjoyed at sunrise and sunset, the ride gives an insight into Rajasthan's rural life and stunning vistas of the horizon. Jaisalmer's winding alleys are home to vibrant markets from where you can pick up quintessential Rajasthani souvenirs. Rajasthani cuisine, famous for its spicy veg curries, mouth-watering meat dishes and delectable sweets is the icing on the cake.

JODHPUR

The second largest city (after Jaipur) in Rajasthan, Jodhpur is an architecture-lover's feast for sore eyes. The older historic section of the city of Jodhpur is

located around the grand Mehrangarh Fort which is bounded by a wall and several gates. Winding streets and unending bazaars run throughout the city that are littered with shops and thronged by visitors throughout the year. Also referred to as the Blue City, Jodhpur is home to the magnificent Umaid Bhawan Palace. A five-hour-drive from the hill-station of Mount Abu, Jodhpur makes for a perfect getaway once the hill station's charms stop making an impression on you.

UDAIPUR

Take a walk to any place in this picturesque city and you will spot historic structures which ooze regal splendour. Home to the most intricately designed palaces, havelis, buzzing streets, and beautiful lakes, the city of Udaipur is also called the 'Venice of the East' and 'City of Lakes'. To accommodate the large influx of travellers each year, the city is well-equipped with a wide variety of hotels and lodging options that suit every pocket, bazaars that are popular for their handicrafts and restaurants that offer lip-smacking Rajasthani dishes. If you're going by road then the drive takes no more than four hours making it possible to make a hectic day trip. Make sure you include Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar Lake, City Palace, Jag Mandir and Udaipur Ghat in your Udaipur itinerary.

JAIPUR

The majestic courtyard of City Palace, the intricately-carved walls of Hawa Mahal, the striking beauty of Jantar Mantar and the magnificently built mahals of Amber Fort—Jaipur is an evocative showcase of regal Rajasthani architecture. Home to historic structures, world-class hotels and an array of multi-cuisine eateries, the Pink City is a great escape for couples, families and history-buffs. The exquisite water palace located on the Man Sagar Lake—Jal Mahal—is another spectacular example of Rajasthani architecture, seemingly floating in the middle of the lake. When you've had your fill of exploring these fascinating monuments, explore Jaipur's bustling markets that sell everything from spices, jewellery to household bric-a-brac. From gorgeous views of sunset,



entertaining folk dance and music, and thoroughly enjoyable elephant and camel rides, the capital of India's largest state, Rajasthan, will court you like royalty, and make you feel like one too.

MOUNT ABU

While you've had your fill of the magnificent cities Rajasthan is home to, a romantic escape to the state's only hill station might not prove as a bad idea. Offering an eclectic mix of experiences, Mount Abu lures you with the serene Nakki Lake, magnificent Dilwara Temples and numerous hilltop points that offer panoramic views. Best visited at dusk, Sunset Point offers a spectacular sight of the colour-

changing skyline against the Aravalli Hills. The Achalgarh Fort transports you to the 15th century with its intricately-carved buildings and temples, and offers stunning vistas of the hill station from its highest point. From small eateries that serve delicious street food to fine-dining multi-cuisine restaurants, Mount Abu has something for every kind of foodie. Go on a boat ride, carry your own hamper for a lakeside picnic, or walk up the cobblestone pathways along Nakki Lake, Mount Abu is a picturesque oasis amidst the desert plains of Rajasthan and is a pleasant retreat for couples, honeymooners and families.

Source: HappyTrips

TRIBUTE

On the 40th death anniversary
of Prithipal SinghBY
PRABHJOT SINGH

REMEMBERING THE HOCKEY WIZARD: HE WAS A REAL "KING."



Prithipal Singh

Last month I was in Nairobi to witness the Vaisakhi Hockey Tournament organized by Sikh Union, Nairobi, perhaps one of the oldest sports clubs in the world. The Club will be celebrating its centenary in 2026. One of several luminaries the Club proudly claims to have produced is Avtar Singh Sohal, "Tari" to his friends and fans the world over.

Tari belongs to a rare band of hockey Olympians who attended six Olympics, four as a player, one as a coach and one as a Technical Delegate.

Interestingly, he represented two "Kenyas" in the prestigious quadrangular Games. In 1960, his first Olympics, he represented British Kenya. Subsequently, he represented independent Kenya in 1964, 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games.

We often meet, exchange notes, talk hockey and share some interesting encounters/episodes on and off the hockey field.

Recently when I buttonholed him in Nairobi, I asked Tari who had been his favorite Indian hockey player. Overwhelmed, he smiled back : "those days, all Indian players were outstanding and great. I was always a fan of VJ Peter, Joginder Singh also known as Gindi, and of course the great Balbir Singh Senior. But my all-time favorite was Prithipal Singh, one of the greatest fullbacks the game has produced. He was an icon - ruthless, tough and the best penalty corner hitter of his times.

"Since I also played as a fullback, I used to watch him closely. I learnt so much from him. Besides being an outstanding player with whom I played in a couple of Olympic Games, including 1964 and 1968, he was a simple man, a thorough gentleman," recalls Avtar Singh Sohal.

There cannot be a better tribute from an Olympian to another Olympian, from an outstanding fullback to one of the greatest fullbacks of his time. They rubbed shoulders and opposed each other many times on the playfield

but remained great friends.

"I was deeply anguished when I heard of his untimely death in 1983. Hockey needed him for a much longer period," adds Avtar Singh Sohal.

Those who know "Bhaji" will fully endorse what Tari says.

Besides being an accomplished hockey player, he was a top administrator and was Director, Students Welfare, at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. He, himself, held a master's in agriculture.

His soul used to be in lush green playfields of Punjab Agricultural University. And those who ever invaded the playfields for activities other than sports knew the punishment. Hockey was his passion. He, however, never compromised on his principles.

Not many would have known that he refused to bow to the pressure tactics of the then hockey chief, Mr. Ashwani Kumar. To the great dismay of Mr. Kumar, he quit Punjab Police and joined Railways. He knew this step may cost him a place in the 1964 Olympic team. But for him his principles and ideals were higher than begging for a place in the team.

As expected, his name was missing from the initial list of players chosen for the Olympic Games camp. Prithipal was not traceable. He had gone underground. There was a lot of hue and cry in the media about his exclusion from the Olympic list.

The IHF relented and recalled him not only to the camp but also included him in the team. The mischief IHF played was quickly spotted by Prithipal Singh. He was categoric that he would go to Tokyo Olympics as a fullback and not a halfback as announced by the IHF selection committee.

The team left for some warm up games in New Zealand on the way to Tokyo Olympic Games without clarifying his position. He did not play in the first match that India lost badly. Criticism in the media back home was so loud that the team management led by the manager Inder Mohan Mahajan had to relent and named him in the squad for playing subsequent games. But he was not named as a fullback.

Prithipal refused to take field as a halfback and offered to be flown back home instead.

The team management was in a fix as it was aware that he was "stubborn" and would not compromise.

Ultimately, he was fielded as a fullback, and he helped India win with his penalty corner conversions. His awe was so much that India won the last Test match against New Zealand by a huge margin. The morale of the team after wins in the last two games touched a new high as it arrived in Tokyo.

Prithipal scripted history in Tokyo with his lethal strikes and helped India not only reach the final but also helped the former champions regain the gold they had lost to Pakistan in Rome. It was his penalty corner strike that got India a penalty stroke from which Mohinder Lal scored the match clincher. It was at Tokyo that Prithipal was crowned "Penalty King." He became the first



Prithipal Singh receiving an award

sports star to be awarded both the Arjuna award and Padma Shri.

In 1975 when Indian hockey was in doldrums after Ashwani Kumar had quit, Punjab offered to train the team. And India led by Ajitpal Singh won the 3rd World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Prithipal Singh was back in the limelight. The new IHF Chief, Dr MAM Ramaswamy, named him as Chairman of the Selection Committee.

But this did not last for long as Prithipal refused to compromise his position. After the 1976 Montreal Olympic games debacle, when Dr MAM Ramaswamy, decided to name Aslam Sher Khan as captain of the Indian team for participation in the Quaid-e-Azam invitation tournament in Lahore without consulting him, he resigned. He refused to take it back even after Dr Ramaswamy tried to persuade him. This was Prithipal, steadfast, and uncompromising. He always remained "bhaji" to those who knew him well.

I used to be one of his confidants. At times I would get a call from his personal staff for drafting letters or statements. His tone and tenor used to be straight, to the point and always in the larger interest of the sports in general and hockey in particular.

In one of the then popular Guru Nanak Dev Memorial Cricket Tournaments, I was declared second best wicketkeeper and Bhaji was the chief guest. "So, you play cricket also. I thought hockey is your game," quipped Bhaji at the prize distribution function.

Believe me, he was all sport when I persuaded him to play an exhibition cricket game between Hockey players (mostly Olympians) and the PAU cricket team. He was a superb hitter of the ball. It was fun watching Bhaji don white flannels.

Premier League teams must aspire to Man City's standards says Lampard

Interim Chelsea manager Frank Lampard described Manchester City as currently the greatest team in the world and said the rest of the Premier League have to aspire to the high standards set by Pep Guardiola's title-chasing side.

City are poised to wrap up their fifth league crown in six years and are also in contention to complete the treble this season, having reached the Champions League and FA Cup finals.

Guardiola's side have a four-point lead and a game in hand over Arsenal, who must win at Nottingham Forest on Saturday to realistically stay in the title race at least until City host Chelsea a day later.

"I don't know about the greatest ever but they are clearly a fantastic team and they have been for a good while now," Lampard told reporters on Friday before Chelsea's trip to the Etihad Stadium.

"Huge credit for that consistency. They're coming very close to becoming the greatest team, especially if they win the Champions League... In their form, you wouldn't want to bet against them on anything.

"I think they are the best team in world football. Is it good for English football? Yeah, why not? You've got to push the standard. The rest of the league have to try to aspire to that."

Lampard said he wanted to bring City striker Erling Haaland to Stamford Bridge during his first stint in charge of Chelsea between 2009-21 when he was the permanent head coach.

The Norwegian international, who joined City from Borussia Dortmund at the start of the season, has scored 36 league goals so far this term - as many as Chelsea.

"I think he's special, I thought he'd adapt straight away and show his level," Lampard said. "I don't know whether he would have decided to come here anyway but I was a big fan."

Neeraj Chopra looks to better silver effort in Paavo Nurmi Games

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will look to better his silver medal-winning effort in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku in Finland on June 13, which will be his third competition of the season.

The 25-year-old Chopra had won gold in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series in Doha on May 5 in his season opening event.

Before the Paavo Nurmi Games, he will take part in the Fanny Blankers-Koen Games at Hengelo, the Netherlands on June 4. German star Johannes Vetter, who famously failed to even qualify for the final round of the Tokyo Olympic Games after entering the quadrennial games as hot favourite, will renew his rivalry with Chopra in nearly two years. The Paavo Nurmi Games is a World Athletics Continental Tour gold-level meet.

Besides Vetter, Chopra will also compete against Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch, Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, European champion Julian Weber of Germany and European Championships bronze medallist Lassi Etelatalo of Finland in the event.

A year ago in Turku, Chopra threw 89.30 metres to bag silver, and later improved the distance to 89.94 metres to finish second in the World Championships in Eugene, USA.

IPL 2023

Royals beat Punjab by 4 wickets, keep playoffs hopes alive

DHARAMSALA

Devdutt Padikkal and Yashasvi Jaiswal hit crucial fifties as Rajasthan Royals kept their playoffs hopes alive with a four-wicket win over Punjab Kings in their final IPL league match here on May 19.

Sent in to bat, PBKS were reeling at 50/4 but Sam Curran (49 not out) and Jitesh Sharma (44 off 28 balls) revived the innings while M Shahrukh Khan (41 not out off) provided the late surge to power the side to 187/5. Playing in only his second match of the season, pacer Navdeep Saini (3/40) picked up the best figures of his IPL career.

A target of 188 was never going to be easy and RR needed to complete the chase in 18.3 overs to get ahead of Royal Challengers Bangalore's net run rate but they couldn't. But still RR got two points to stay afloat, with Jaiswal (50 off 36) scripting the chase, adding 73 off 49 balls with Padikkal (51 off 30) and another 47 off 22 balls with Shimron Hetmyer (46) as RR won in 19.4 overs.

With the win, RR moved to fifth spot with 14 points, same as RCB and Mumbai Indians, who both still have a match to play in the league stage. The loss meant, PBKS are officially out of the IPL.

RR suffered an early setback during their chase with Kagiso Rabada getting Jos Buttler lbw for



Rajasthan Royals' Navdeep Saini celebrates the wicket of Punjab Kings' Atharva Taide. PTI

his third duck. But Padikkal and Jaiswal batted with purpose to take RR to 85/1 in 9.4 overs. But RR lost Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson (3) in quick succession to leave them at 90/3 in the 11th over.

Jaiswal then found a perfect partner in Hetmyer, who slipped into the role of the aggressor with three sixes early on. Jaiswal completed his fifty in 35 balls before falling to a reverse hit off Nathan Ellis. RR still needed 51 off 33 balls and it was Riyan Parag (20 off 12 balls) who

slammed two successive sixes off Rabada to bring the equation down. PBKS skipper Shikhar Dhawan pulled off a sensational catch to end Hetmyer's stay but impact player Dhruv Jurel clobbered a six off the fourth ball of the last over to knock off the winning runs.

BRIEF SCORES: Punjab Kings: 187/5 (Curran 49*, Jitesh 44; Saini 3/40); Rajasthan Royals: 189/6 in 19.4 overs (Padikkal 51, Jaiswal 50, Hetmyer 46; Rabada 2/40).

Source: PTI

Rafael Nadal to skip French Open for first time, may retire next year

Rafael Nadal on Thursday, May 18, withdrew from the French Open because his hip injury has not healed and said he expects 2024 to be his final year in professional tennis. "It's not a decision I'm taking, it's a decision my body is taking," said the 36-year-old Spanish superstar, who has played at the claycourt major every year since 2005 and won it 14 times. Nadal said he was taking a few months off before starting to play again. "It's probably going to be my last year on the professional tour, I can't say this 100 percent because you never know what's going to happen," he told a news conference.

Since his swashbuckling title-winning debut in the French capital in 2005, he racked up 14 titles, winning 112 matches and losing just three.

Two of those came against Novak Djokovic -- in the last-eight in 2015 and semi-finals in 2021.

Sweden's Robin Soderling had been the first to pierce the Nadal armour in 2009. Nadal avenged that last-16 loss 12 months later in the final.

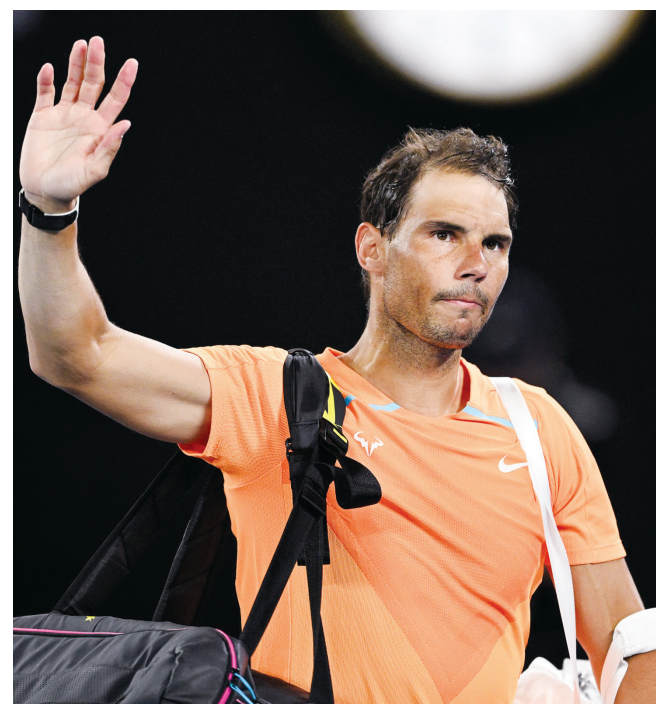
The only other time Nadal was thwarted in Paris was 2016 when a wrist injury forced a withdrawal after the second round.

His combined successes at Roland Garros swelled his bank balance by more than \$26 million.

In 2005, when he won the French Open at his first attempt, he was just two days past his 19th birthday.

When he captured his record-extending 14th in 2022, he was the championship's oldest champion at 36.

Nadal made his Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon as a raw 17-year-old in 2003, but it was his maiden



appearance in Paris that had fans drooling.

His 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-1, 7-5 win in the final against unheralded Mariano Puerta of Argentina made him the first man since Mats Wilander 23 years earlier to triumph at the first attempt.

History This Week

MAY 19 - 25, 2023

MAY 19

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.



Birthday - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens." In 1945, he proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and served as president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. He led the longest and most costly war during the 20th Century against the French and later the Americans. On April 29, 1975, six years after his death, the last Americans left South Vietnam. The next day the city of Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Birthday - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X (1925-1965) was born in Omaha, Nebraska (as Malcolm Little). While in prison he adopted the Islamic religion and after his release in 1952, changed his name to Malcolm X and worked for the Nation of Islam. He later made a pilgrimage to Mecca and became an orthodox Muslim. He was assassinated while addressing a meeting in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21, 1965.

Birthday - African American playwright Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) was born in Chicago, Illinois. She is best known for *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) a play dealing with prejudice and black pride. The play was the first stage production written by a black woman to appear on Broadway. She died of cancer at the age of 34. A book of her writings entitled *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black* was published posthumously.

MAY 20

May 20, 325 A.D. - The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of Catholic Church was called by Constantine I, first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire. With nearly 300 bishops in attendance at Nicaea in Asia Minor, the council condemned Arianism

which denied Christ's divinity, formulated the Nicene Creed and fixed the date of Easter.



May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.

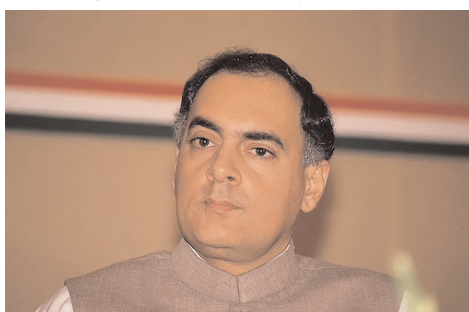
May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.

Birthday - Founder of modern Zionism Theodore Herzl (1860-1904) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He advocated the establishment of a new land for the Jews rather than assimilation into various, historically anti-Semitic, countries and cultures.

MAY 21

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.

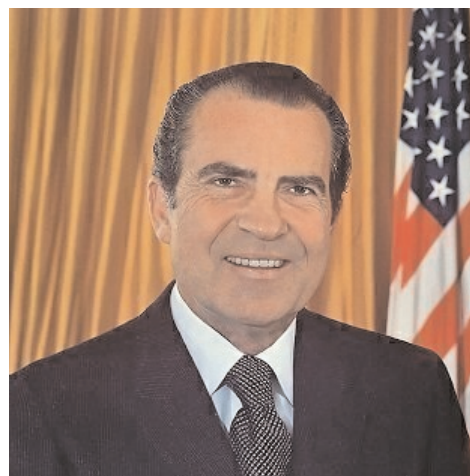


May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated

in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.

Birthday - Russian physicist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989) was born in Moscow. Although he helped construct the first atomic and hydrogen bombs for Soviet Russia, he later denounced the Soviet government and was exiled from 1980 to 1986. He was instrumental in formulating the political reform concept called perestroika and in encouraging glasnost (openness) in restrictive communist countries.

MAY 22



May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

May 22, 1947 - Congress approved the Truman Doctrine, assuring U.S. support for Greece and Turkey to prevent the spread of Communism.

Birthday - German composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883) was born in Leipzig, Germany. He made revolutionary changes in the structure of opera and is best known for *The Ring of the Nibelung*, a series of operas based on old German myths which include: *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walkure*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*.

Birthday - Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also deeply interested in and lectured on spiritualism.

Birthday - Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) was born in Dorking, England. Considered one of the most influential actors of the 20th Century, he was honored with nine Academy Award nominations, three Oscars, five Emmy awards, and a host of other awards. His repertoire included most of the major Shakespearean roles, and films such as *The Entertainer*, *Rebecca*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Boys from Brazil*, *Marathon Man* and *Wuthering Heights*. He was knighted in 1947 and made a peer of the throne in 1970.

MAY 23

Birthday - Journalist Margaret Fuller

(1810-1850) was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. She became the first American woman to serve as a foreign correspondent, reporting for the New York Tribune. Her book *Women in the Nineteenth Century*, published in 1845, is considered the first feminist statement by an American writer, and brought her international acclaim. Sailing from Italy to the U.S. in 1850, she died, along with her husband and infant son, in a shipwreck off Fire Island, New York.

Birthday - The first American female attorney Arabella Mansfield (1846-1911) was born near Burlington, Iowa (as Belle Aurelia Babb). She was certified in 1869 as an attorney and admitted to the Iowa bar, but never practiced law. Instead she chose a career as a college educator and administrator. She was also instrumental in the founding of the Iowa Suffrage Society in 1870.

MAY 24



May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to Baltimore.

May 24, 1881 - A boating disaster occurred in Canada when Victoria, a small, double-decked stern-wheeler carrying over 600 passengers on the Thames River keeled over then sank, killing 182 persons.

MAY 25

May 25, 1994 - After 20 years in exile, Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to his homeland. He had been expelled from Soviet Russia in 1974 after his three-volume work exposing the Soviet prison camp system, *The Gulag Archipelago*, was published in the West.



Birthday - American author and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include: *Nature* (1836), *Essays*, *First Series* (1841), *Essays*, *Second Series* (1844), *Poems* (1847, 1865), *Representative Men* (1850), *English Traits* (1856), *The Conduct of Life* (1860), and *Society and Solitude* (1870).



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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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revelation of a society's soul
than the way in which it treats
its children". - Nelson Mandela



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